BLESSED EASTER

HAPPY SPRING

(OR FALL FOR OUR FRIENDS DOWN UNDER)
Update on Commander Iain

I had a wonderful conversation with Commander Iain last weekend. He sounded great, like his old healthy self. They had recently moved him from the rehabilitation facilities at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow to the rehab unit at Kingussie Hospital, which is very close to his home and is a short drive away.

He was somewhat disappointed in his progress because he felt he had been making great progress in his rehab until he spilled scalding tea on his leg a few weeks ago. The burn was so bad that he wasn't able to participate in his normal rehab routine for some time. However, he feels his left leg is now reacting normally, and his left arm is also greatly improved, although his right leg and arm are still proving quite stubborn, though they, too, have greatly improved over time.

Bobby tells me he is bright and cheerful, as usual, and seems quite happy where he is. His middle son, Ronnie and wife Sheila with their boys, live nearby and had just visited him when I talked to him and he was very happy about that.

He tells me the food is excellent. They have a chef and four assistants who prepare excellent meals for twenty patients...so that is a plus.

He continues to be very thankful for all the cards, calls and Facebook good wishes he is receiving from Clan members everywhere.

He is very enthusiastic about the upcoming Gathering and Parliament in September and asked me to encourage everyone to try and attend. It has been his goal for the past year to be there!

The Parliament will be in a beautiful area with Stirling Castle a short walk away, and the William Wallace (Braveheart) Statue in site from the campus grounds.

We also have much to talk about at the Gathering since there are some exciting prospects afoot for the Clan that should garner active discussion.

Lorraine and Finlay McFee are coordinating the Gathering and Parliament activities and reservations. It would be very helpful for them to have an idea of how many Clan members will be attending. Will you please reply back to me or Lorraine and let us know if you are planning on coming. Even if you're not certain, we'd like to know that, too, so please let us know. We'd also like to know if you're considering on continuing on to Colonsay after the Parliament with many other Clan members. Even better, you can send a note to Lorraine at: http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk/clanhome/gathering_2017.php. Additionally, there is a preliminary Registration Form included in this Clan News.

Our Illustrious Commander Iain masquerading as Santa Claus with Donald McPhee & his son Christopher who visited from Germany in February
Iain, as well as Lorraine and Finlay, want to encourage all of you to book your rooms as soon as possible! Additionally, if you are planning on going to Colonsay from 10 September to 13 September with other members of the Clan, you should book your rooms as quickly as possible as this is the same week as the Colonsay Music Festival, which is the busiest time of year in Colonsay.

(Editor's Note: There are a couple of good websites you can access for Colonsay accommodations, but I've had the best luck with:
http://www.colonsayholidays.co.uk/cottages/

This is an additional booking service, and I'm sure you'll be able to find others:
https://www.holidaylettings.co.uk/isle-of-colonsay/)

Iain is very hopeful we have a good showing in both Stirling and Colonsay in the coming year.

Also, Iain asked me to wish you all a blessed Easter on behalf of him and Fiona.

The Editor, on Behalf of
Iain Morris McFie
Ceann Cath

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A Message from our
Scottish Society President
Bob McFie (17 March)

Spring...so I’m told. According to my Celsius equipment, Polar Bears would be quite comfortable ambling around Scotstoun. Like many locals, I’m reasonably happy when snow is on the ground. Keeping warm just means putting on more clothes. Now, in other areas, where it is hot, removing clothing can only go so far, otherwise the local constabulary may take some action.

During the month of May, “The Society’s AGM” shall be held on the beautiful Isle of Bute. The writer has had many adventures on Bute. In the past, a fair bit of singing and dancing was attempted, pipes were played and even some time was spent wielding a shovel and various sized trowels while on a number of digs of an "archaeological nature," in and around Kilchattan Bay. Let’s hope lots of islanders read the Buteman and respond to our invite to attend our Society Dinner in Rothesay.

The Gathering is getting closer. Please make sure that you get in there and give our marvelous co-ordinators, Lorraine and Finlay McFee, assistance if they need a hand.

*The Commander is still in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Editor's Note: He has since been moved to Kingussie Hospital.) He is cheerful, still has his sense of humour, and looks OK. Mind you, until he had his beard trimmed recently, he was a ‘ringer’ for a certain Mr. S. Claus. Unfortunately, he still has problems with his right hand. The left hand functions considerably better. During a recent visit, I gave him a writing pad and large diameter felt-tipped pen. It was suggested that he draw circles and other different geometric shapes. Next visit, his
efforts were examined. He even had written his name! (Iain is right handed). It was noted that most of the shapes were reasonable...I gave him 7 out of 10 for his handiwork.

The latest information is that he shall return to Kingussie Hospital sometime soon. He then expects to be transferred to a Nursing Home in Newtonmore. (For those not familiar with the geography of this part of the world, Kingussie is only a few miles from Coulintyre where Iain and Fiona live. Newtonmore lies a further ten miles or so south of Kingussie.) Please note that Kingussie and other places mentioned are on the map, but local transport is not quite like that in more populated areas. Unfortunately, Fiona doesn’t drive, so hospital visits can be a problem. However, it seems there is residential accommodation within the Newtonmore set-up so Fiona could be close to Iain for a few days at a time.

During my next visit, may I, on your behalf, pass on your collective good wishes and mention that he takes care when whizzing around in his electric wheelchair.

Note: I can’t be everywhere so, please take great care of each other. If you are solo, give yourself a wee treat now and then, but remember to take your medicine...I’m lucky my medicine says 75 proof on the label.

Bob McFie
Scottish Clan Society President

(*Editor: Bob's update on the Commander was supplied in March so the update on Page 1-2 is the most recent.)

The Vale

"Pat and Mac" McFee
Remembering Patricia Sullivan McFee and Martin Joseph McFee
Pat passed away on November 4, 2016 and Mac on October 17, 2004
by Vicki McFee

(Editor’s Note: This was to be a remembrance of our Mother, Pat, but upon reflection, we decided it was impossible to write about Mom without Dad...they were an inseparable team.)

They were a remarkable couple. Patricia Sullivan and Martin (Mac) McFee were born and raised in St. Maries, Idaho (U.S. Pacific Northwest). They were friends from early childhood...going to the same school, swimming in the St. Joe River together, spending time with mutual friends. When World War II broke out they were in high school, and after graduation in 1943 Mac joined the Army. He was 18 and Pat was 15 and they were in love. In time of war, one doesn’t put off major decisions so two weeks after her 16th birthday Pat boarded a bus in Spokane, Washington, with a
permission note from her Mother and her wedding dress in a small suitcase. She crossed the continent en route to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, where Mac was in Paratrooper training, and they were married. Thus began an adventure that saw them through 60 years of marriage.

After the war, they settled in Spokane (in the Pacific Northwest of the United States), where their two daughters, Vicki and Linda, were born. But they were always open to a new adventure, so when the girls were grown and graduated from high school, they upped stakes and moved with all their belongings to San Jose, California. They enjoyed the California scene, the warm weather, and being so close (50 miles) to San Francisco with its variety of entertainment and beautiful sights. Mac joined Hewlett Packard where he had a successful engineering career and was honoured for developing and installing the first solar panels at a Silicon Valley site. He also installed solar panels at their home and had one of the earliest residential solar panel installations in California. He was honoured and received awards state-wide, and also spoke at the California Legislature on the importance of solar heating/cooling. Pat worked as a cosmetologist and went to college, proudly receiving her Associate Arts degree.

They enjoyed scuba diving, and this led to a scuba diving vacation with their daughters and sons-in-law where they stayed at a quaint resort on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands...Cottages by the Sea. They decided this was just the kind of place they had dreamed of...situated on a white sand beach with 6 modest cottages. They were told it wasn’t for sale, but when you have a dream you don’t let minor issues get in the way. They stayed in touch with the owners, found out the resort was for sale the following year, and within the year they had sold their home, furniture, cars and other belongings and were on to their next adventure. Mac was just 55 years old. Over the next twenty years, while making life-long friendships, they bought more land, built a home, and tripled the number of cottages...all while weathering four major hurricanes!

Mac was very proud of his Scots' heritage and always insisted we pronounce our last name "Mac"Fee, no "MucFee" for him! He wanted us to accentuate our Scottish heritage. While convalescing in England from injuries sustained in the Battle of the Bulge, he took a train to Scotland to see what he could learn about the McFees. All he found was a record of a Macfie who was hanged as a horse thief, and that’s the tale he shared with his girls as they were growing up. Years later, in 2003, Linda found out about a Macfie Clan Gathering in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Linda, her husband, Jim Gilcrest, and Vicki got together there, met the Clan Commander, Sandy McPhie, who took them under his wing, and they were hooked.

Pat and Mac sold their resort and moved back to the Bay Area in 2000 to be close to family again. Mac passed away in 2004, and when Pat, plus the three who had gone to Gatlinburg, attended the Gathering in Scotland in 2005, Pat brought Mac’s ashes. She was bringing him home, and the family left a part of him on Colonsay in Kiloran Bay. In a poignant moment, Vicki took a
photo of Pat standing on a butte above the Bay with her arms akimbo and looking out to sea. When asked what she was thinking, Pat responded, “I was claiming the island for Ireland.” She was as proud of her Irish heritage as Mac was of being a Scot.

Pat passed away this last November with her daughters, grand children, and great grand children at her side, and when the threesome of Linda, Jim and Vicki return to Colonsay this coming September, they’ll bring her ashes to join Mac’s in Kiloran Bay. Pat and Mac will be proud and happy to see their family share in joy and gratitude for their loving, indomitable spirit.

Marcella Marie (McDuffee) Staggs

Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to Thomas McDuffee (President of the MacDuffee Clan Society) and Family in the unexpected loss of his sister Marcella Marie (McDuffee) Staggs, a Life Member of the MacDuffee Clan Society, who passed on April 13, 2017.

Support our Fellow McPhee

The Commander would like to invite everyone to go to Strathclyde Park, outside of Glasgow, on May 27th (International Macfie Day), to cheer on our good friend Donald McPhee, from Germany, as he takes part in the triathlon! Donald has successfully competed in many triathlons over the years. Donald is the sponsor of the Heidelberg Band and performs often throughout Germany and Europe with he and his band mates wearing the Macfie Tartan as their uniform. Donald is also the proprietor of Kilts & More, a store than specialises in tartan clothing and all things Scottish, and they also carry Scottish Society President Bob McFie's book of bagpipe music which contains only music written by Bob. You can find Kilts and More at the following website: https://kiltsandmore.com
Scottish Clan Macfie Society 2017 AGM

The Clan Macfie Society will hold their AGM (Annual General Meeting) at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, 16th May 2017. The venue is The Victoria Hotel, 55, Victoria St., Rothesay, Isle of Bute, PA20 0AP. The hotel is situated a short walk from the Rothesay Ferry Terminal, with views across gardens to the water.

Room rates have been agreed with the hotel and if you would like to attend, please email membership@clanmacfie.co.uk for details.

A group dinner will be held at the Victoria Hotel on the evening of the 16th May after the meeting.

There are many sights to see on Bute. Mount Stuart House and Gardens are a delight, Ascog Fernery is fascinating and St. Blanes Church at Kingarth is a must for any Macfie.

Further details and an Agenda will be sent out to attendees in early April. We would be pleased to see a good attendance at this meeting. We have been without an Editor for the Galley and a Membership Secretary for a year and now need to make some decisions regarding the future direction of the Society.
Today's Laugh

Courtesy of Bob Hickethier of our Canadian Society

One day a Scotsman, who had been stranded on a deserted island for over 10 years, saw a speck on the horizon. He thought to himself, "Certainly not a ship." As the speck got closer and closer, he began to rule out even the possibilities of a small boat or raft.

Suddenly, there strode from the surf a figure clad in a black wet suit. Putting aside the scuba tanks and mask and zipping down the top of the wet suit stood a drop-dead gorgeous blonde!

She walked up to the stunned Scotsman and said to him, "Tell me, Laddie, how long has it been since you've had a good cigar?"

"Ten years," replied the amazed Scotsman.

With that, she reached over and unzipped a waterproof pocket on the left sleeve of her wetsuit and pulled out a fresh package of cigars and a lighter.

He took a cigar, slowly lit it, and took a long drag. "Aye, Lassie," said the Scotsman, "that is so good! I'd almost forgotten how great a cigar can be!"

"And how long has it been since you've had a wee dram of good Single Malt Whiskey?" asked the blonde.

Trembling, the Scotsman replied, "Ten years."

Hearing that, the blonde reached over to her right sleeve, unzipped a pocket there and removed a flask and handed it to him.

He opened the flask and took a long drink. "Tis the nectar of the gods!" shouted the Scotsman.

At this point the gorgeous blonde started to slowly unzip the long front of her wet suit, right down the middle. She looked at the trembling man and asked, "And how long has it been since you played around?"

With tears in his eyes, the Scotsman fell to his knees and sobbed, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph! Don't tell me that you've got golf clubs in there, too?"
What's Happening Around the World in Our Clan Societies?

We'd like to hear the latest news on what's happening in the Clans around the world. Please write me with the latest information on what's happening in your Clan Society. Also, will you please look at the home page on the Macfie Clan website and make sure your Society information is up-to-date. I can see some of it hasn't been updated in some time. I've attached the link: http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk/clanhome/societies.php. If you have changes or need to update, send them to Robin McFee at: rob@robmcfee.co.uk

Courtesy of the MacDuffee Clan Society of America
by Thomas P. McDuffee FSA Scot, NHSSAR
President MacDuffee Clan Society of America

The MacDuffee Clan Society of America has been extremely busy in the past 3 years and also has come upon some very effective strategic plans to increase membership. (The Editor)

Clan Society Strategic Actions Taken

In 2013 we met with Clan Society members on Grandfather Mountain, which has been our gathering place for over 60 years, to discuss how best to lead the Society to an even better place. Our primary goals included the attraction of additional members, engage the youth, and provide value for families to join, all in the context of celebrating our Scottish History.

Following is a recap of actions we have taken starting in 2014.

We decided to focus on service, scholarship, and leadership for our younger Clan Society members. To attract more families and engage younger members, we introduced the MacDuffee the Younger Heritage and Service Award Scholarship, opened a non-voting position on our Society Board for youth aged 16-18, and established leadership opportunities at the Games for the youth such as organizing the members into a neat formation for the Parade of Tartans, assisting visitors and keeping tents in order. These student actions present opportunities for future inclusion on applications to colleges and universities regarding their leadership.

We have also added an officer (Vice President) to specifically identify and develop our next Clan Society officers.

Genealogical research continues as our core service with certain members identified as experts in key family lines.

Clan MacDuffee Society marching in the Parade of Tartans with President Tom McDuffee's twin granddaughters, Audrey and Ella McDuffee, holding the Banner
Our membership has grown very nicely over the last 4-5 years as reported to our Commander Iain. We reached a peak of 60 members in attendance at Grandfather Mountain Games 3 years ago, with 35-45 attending the last couple of years.

Additionally, to improve membership, we added the Loon Mountain Games in New Hampshire 4 years ago due to the significant concentration of McDuffee/MacDuffees located in New England. This worked well as we have three active new members from New England that are potential officers, and we have had about six members work the Clan Society tent each year at the Loon Mountain Games.

We have received two Clan Society awards from the Loon Mountain Games. The first was the 2015 Best Clan Tent Award...with over 70 Clans represented, and the second was having a Clan Society member named the Best Dressed Highlander for the 2016 Games, which was presented to that member by the Lord Lyon King of Arms himself. My wife and I sponsored one of the trophies for Best Pipe Band on behalf of the MacDuffee Clan Society.

To improve awareness and have a location for our history and future member access to applications, we added a position 2 years ago titled Technical Officer in order to build a website for our Clan Society. We use this site to post current Clan Society photos and our newsletter, as well as other general information. Please visit: [macduffeeclansociety.org](http://macduffeeclansociety.org) and check out the site and the last issue of Clan Chatter.

We encourage Society members to also use the Grandfather Mountain Games for vacation time, mini-family reunions and exploration which allow for a scheduled family activity that all can enjoy.

Scholarships

Our first scholarship recipient was Kent Andrews (McDuffie) Zeigler. Kent's mother, Bookie Zeigler, and grandmother, Norma Lockwood, were present at the presentation. Kent's great grandfather was one of the first MacDuffee Clan Society officers in 1962, serving as Vice President and Counsel for the then named MacDuffee Clan Society.
Clan. Kent is now 19 years old and has attended the Games on Grandfather Mountain 18 times. He started college that fall and continues to join us at Grandfather Mountain.

Our second scholarship winner was Loch Star McFee. Her father is a former competitor of the heavy athletics at the Games. Loch is very involved in the environment and competed in Harp Competition at the Games. She is from Rhode Island. The McFees join the Society on Loon Mountain.

All of these actions have been identified, created and supported by our officers and members. Their engagement, along with having a great time on Grandfather Mountain, make it all work. We also schedule all "official" toasts for whatever we are celebrating at high noon at the Games on Sunday.

Respectfully, Tom
Thomas P. McDuffee FSA Scot, NHSSAR
President MacDuffee Clan Society

McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand

A Kiwi in the Cairngorms

A Kiwi, Kirsten Gilmour from Temuka, has been running the Mountain Cafe in Aviemore since 2004. Aviemore is a mere 13 km. up the road from the Clan Commander's house.

Kirsten's skills and abilities are well known in Scotland as the cafe has won "The Scottish Baking Awards 2014" for Best Cafe in Scotland and "Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards 2015" for Best Informal Eating Experience.

Kirsten just released her cookbook, The Mountain Cafe Cookbook: A Kiwi in the Cairngorms, with over 130 tasty recipes straight from the kitchen.

Well known Kiwi chef Peter Gordon writes:
"Kirsten has been serving her Kiwi-inspired food for many years, and here she shares her secrets for those delicious breakfasts, meals, cakes and drinks. As a fellow New Zealander, I'm proud of her achievements."
Sourced from: http://www.stuff.co.nz and http://www.strathspey-herald.co.uk

Upcoming McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand Annual General Meeting

The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 30, 2017 at the Manfield South Street Fielding. This is an important meeting for the Society as they call for nominations for the Executive Committee.

Come One, Come All to the 20th International Clan Gathering and 12th Parliament of Clan Macfie!!
September 6th through September 9th, 2017 in Stirling, Scotland

It's been mentioned earlier in this issue, but it bears mentioning again as it is very important that all of you who are planning on attending the Gathering beginning September 6th, even if you are in the "might attend" category, advise our Gathering planner, Lorraine McFee, at: gathering2017@clanmacfie.co.uk. Please provide your email address, and give full details of who will be attending, where they are staying and a contact email address so that we can send out updates about the schedule etc., as things become finalised. She needs an estimate of numbers attending so she can plan for rooms, dinners, etc. Also, will you tell her if you're planning on going on to Colonsay after Parliament. This includes everyone from all countries...even if you've talked or emailed Lorraine so you think she knows you're coming.

Preliminary Registration Form included in this Clan News.

This information on the Gathering and Parliament has run previously, but we're including it again in hopes that some of you who may be on the fence will make plans to join us!
(Editor's Note: I'll be there along with my husband and sister and we hope to see you there!)
**Preliminary Schedule:**

**Wednesday 6th September:** Arrival of delegates. Commander's Reception.

**Thursday 7th September:** Opening of 12th Parliament; Clan Session, half day outing (this will probably be to the smallest whisky distillery in Scotland), or time on your own. **Friday 8th September:** Day tour or your own plans. Clan Dinner that evening.

**Saturday 9th September:** Clan Society Session. Half day tour on your own.

**Sunday 10th September:** Depart for Colonsay (most return on 13 September).

This is a preliminary schedule and open to suggestions and change. If you have something that you think would be interesting for others to do or see, please let us know as we always appreciate your comments and ideas.

We have a deal with the Stirling Court Hotel ([www.stirlingcourthotel.com](http://www.stirlingcourthotel.com)).

This hotel is on the University campus. We have no special deal with any other hotels. If attendees choose to stay elsewhere they will not be on the campus. All the Parliament sessions and evening events will take place at the Stirling Court Hotel on the campus.

There are many other accommodation options in and around Stirling, hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, etc. We have not listed them, but they can be found online by searching Stirling Accommodations. Travel from the centre of Stirling to the University Campus, and the Stirling Court Hotel is apparently very easy by a regular bus or a short distance by taxi.

The "villas" mentioned are not really villas but a sort of self catering student accommodation. This is not available to us at the time of the Parliament because the University is in session and the students will be in residence.

Sincerely,

Finlay and Lorraine McFee

Start making your plans now to join your fellow Clansmen in the fascinating and historical area of Stirling. We will continue to update you on information and plans in the future.
Close Proximity to:

Stirling Castle

Spend a day exploring the town of Stirling and visit the famed Castle that was once the center of art, culture and celebrity in the 16th Century. Take the time to walk through the many hallways and rooms that only the nobles frequented and learn more about their history and how they spent their time.

Edinburgh

Visit Edinburgh, Scotland's capital and second largest city. Home to the University of Edinburgh, this city was once one of the major centers of the Enlightenment and earned the nickname "Athens of the North." While in Scotland you may visit Edinburgh's Castle and relive Edinburgh's dark past.
Glasgow

Glasgow, Scotland's most populous city, is located along the River Clyde. It is well known for its friendly residents, latest fashions, local music scene and beautiful parks. With its impressive Victorian buildings, vibrant theatre life and array of restaurants, there is a lot to see and do.

Highlands & Loch Ness

Spend a full day traveling through and exploring the beautiful Scottish Highlands, visiting the picturesque town of Fort William along the way. Then make your way up north to the mysterious Loch Ness. Once there, you may explore this vast Loch by boat and hear the fabled stories of the lucky few who have caught a glimpse of the elusive monster, Nessie.
Clan Macfie  
20th International Gathering and 12th Parliament Stirling 
6th September – 10th of September 2017  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING

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ELEMENTS OF GATHERING REQUIRING PAYMENT

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| GOING TO COLONSAY AFTER THE PARLIAMENT | CHILD | ADULT | ATTENDING |
| Transport to Oban for the Ferry required | N/A   | N/A   | YES / NO |

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PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE VIA E-MAIL TO: gathering2017@clanmacfie.co.uk

OR BY POST TO: MR & MRS McFEE, BRAE HOUSE, KILCHREAN, ARGYLL, PA35 1HD, U.K.
Robert McFie of Airds

By Mhairi Livingstone

The Heritage Hunters group was set up as part of the Rockfield Centre Project to gather, archive and preserve memories, photos, documents and artefacts of Oban. Eventually, these will be displayed in our new, user-friendly heritage centre within the restored building, giving a fascinating and comprehensive insight into the development of our town.

If you find yourself standing beside the sea wall in Oban, it only takes a little imagination to visualise it as it originally was. Built to coincide with the arrival of the railway in 1880, Sir Robert McFie of Airds demonstrated his vision, generosity and public-spiritedness by building this crenellated, sandstone ‘briest’ wall.

It ran originally along George Street when built in 1879 but was extended 10 years later round the new station concourse and along the front of Shore Street. McFie lengthened the newly-built Albany Street and continued his road up the contours of Drui Mor – what we now call Pulpit Hill. This road provided access for those wishing to build family homes and fine villas on the side of the hill overlooking the bay. He also donated £1,000 to the construction of the new municipal buildings in Albany Street.

Who was Robert McFie and how did he come to be a generous benefactor to Oban? He first came to Argyll around 1850 when he acquired, among other properties, the Airds Estate at Port Appin, which he purchased for £26,000. A member of the third generation of the wealthy McFie sugar-refining dynasty, he not only inherited a vast wealth from his father, but also married into another prosperous family – the Fairies – who had also made their money in sugar.

Airds House had been a Campbell property, having been built a little before 1745. The estate extended to nearly 4,000 acres and had a grand factor’s house, many farms and cottages and superb...
seascapes on three sides. Once established at Airds, he continued to invest in property and on November 9, 1861, is recorded as having bought 'the lands of Oban and Glenshellach with the houses and buildings in Oban thereon—the ferryhouse, miller's croft and loch (and salmon fishings), the Mill of Glenshellach or Oban with the croft, grass and pastureage belonging to the mill [the mill had been working as recently as 1851], two portions of shore ground below high water mark (about 3 acres) situated at the back of Cawdor Place and Shore Street and about one third of an acre at the rear of Argyll Square'.

As well as that, he bought, also from Campbell of Sonachan, a large part of the lands of Glencruitten Estate and Ardoch, stretching from Ardoch Hill in Oban's north-east to Connel.

In the valuation roll of 1878-9, Robert had at least 158 tenants living in 'Glenmore, Glasdrum, Lochside, Drimvargie, South Pier, Cawdor Place, Shore Street, Back Shore Street, Argyll Square, Back and Front High Street and Lochside Place'.

There was a bakehouse, a boatyard, coalyard, stores, workshops and sheds. Among the population were masons, joiners, nurses, cooks, washers, merchants, waiters, quarriers, druggists, salmon fishers, labourers, carters, a drover of cattle, skin merchant, painter, weaver, ironmonger, hawker, coachman, post master, photographer, carpenter—all named—and Donald MacMillan, the town crier.

Robert McFie and his family were staunch adherents of the Free Church and he contributed to the building of the Free Church Hall in Stevenson Street. All the while he was selling leases in High Street-Argyll Square, Queen's Park Place, the Royal Hotel and Station Hotel were built on his land.

The railway arrived in 1880 and, later, the railway pier was built on reclaimed land that McFie had bought. The South Pier was acquired by the burgh from McFie and, 'indeed, his name was on almost every deed for houses on Pulpit Hill and Gallanach Road.' When the pier was constructed around 1890, part of his beautiful seawall had to be demolished but what remained is still an attractive feature in Station Square and George Street.

His legacy to Oban is immense. Airds Crescent and Airds Place commemorate the man, the little known McFie Road bears his name and, every year, the McFie Gold Medal is still presented to the Dux of Oban High School.

When Robert and his wife celebrated their diamond wedding anni-
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Your editorial staff: Editor: Linda McFee Gilcrest; Photos, captions and layout: Jim Gilcrest; Mailing: Vicki McFee.

I am often asked by our readers where I live. My husband Jim and I live in the small oceanside county of Santa Cruz, California. We're on the coast about 50 miles south of San Francisco, and 20 miles inland is the famous high-tech centre known as Silicon Valley. Santa Cruz is considered a "bedroom community" for Silicon Valley. My sister Vicki lives in the well-known city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, which is in the northern part of the U.S. Midwest.

McDuffy, Jim and BonneeBelle

Linda and Vicki at the Braemar Gathering