

Mon. 1st July 1957**Kingussie. Creag Bheag 1593ft**

After tea, D, A and I climbed Creag Bheag 1593ft. On the way up, we had lovely views across the strath and watched the fascinating changes of cloud patterns and shadows. Visibility was good and we had a fine prospect over to the Cairngorms. From the top we had a superb view of the hills to the south and saw some fine tops. We saw a large train leave Kingussie with two engines and sixteen coaches! It appeared to crawl along towards Newtonmore. We went over all the small tops and came down towards the golf course. We found a mixture of heather and bog myrtle and set up a few grouse.

Thu. 4th July 1957

Cromdale. Point 1500ft app. on Carn a' Ghille Chearn

After tea, D, A and I set off to the long spur of Carn a' Ghille Chearn 2329ft which comes down towards Dalvey. This is the highest of the Cromdale hills. It was a lovely evening with good, though hazy views. The hills in all directions were gently rounded. We could see the Spey winding about for a long way. We climbed to a high point about 1500ft and sat to enjoy the evening sunshine. We were intrigued by a white building on the top of a hill to the north west. On the hill we saw a lot of hares, five all together and set up a lot of grouse. We had an easy walk up and back again.

Sun. 17th Nov. 1957

Abington. Unnamed top 1407ft; Castle Hill 1586ft; Raggengill Hill 1556ft.

We went to Abington and had our picnic lunch beside the pine wood at Southwood Farm. Then, D and A and I went up to the unnamed top 1407ft SE of the wood. It was a very grey day of continuous heavy cloud without any relief. The distance was hazy and all hills, although free of cloud, were blotted out, except the nearest ones. The wind from the SE was fresh. From the top we looked down to Abington on one side and Crawford on the other. The Clyde disappeared into the haze. Then we walked on to Castle Hill 1586ft and had a brief halt. We followed the ridge to Raggengill Hill 1556ft and looked over to Tewsgill Hill and Rome Hill. Then we made a beeline for the Southwood farm and came down over easy grass which was very pleasant walking. We joined the car again by the wood. We were away about 1-1/2 hrs. We saw a lot of grouse on the hill. Also a pair of Carrion Crows. The hill was very dry in spite of an almost continuously wet autumn.

Sun. 1st Dec. 1957

Glendevon. Ben Thrush 1497ft; Unnamed N. 1556ft; Unnamed NE 1556ft 1537ft; Sim's Hill 1583ft; John's Hill 1500ft app.; Unnamed ESE 1350ft app.

We went to Glendevon and stopped at the Youth Hostel. We changed into our boots etc., then set off up the Auchterarder footpath. It was a wonderful day of brilliant sunshine and blue sky with no cloud whatever. At the end of a spinney we left the path and set off up Ben Thrush, while Kathleen went down to the Borland Burn to walk back to the car. It was very hot going and there was not a breath of wind. We saw a horse and sheep grazing on the hill and heard a couple of carrion crows and that was all the wildlife we saw throughout our walk. We stopped for a few minutes on Ben Thrush to rest, eat and admire the view. There was haze in the far distance, although we could just see Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin. The nearer hills were superb, both in outline and colour. There were a lot of trees between P1431 and the Dunning road, comprising Glendevon Forest, and we were glad we had chosen this route. While on the top we heard a lighthouse foghorn, so it must have continued foggy at the coast, as it was in the morning. We walked on easily, following the wall, to the unnamed top P1556. This was pleasant, with the sun behind us and easy going on short grass. From the end of the wall, a wire fence continued in a few yards on the top. Again a few minutes stop. It was now much more hazy in the west. Craig Rossie and its group looked attractive and we planned a walk over them. Then, following the fence we went down to the highest point of the Auchterarder path and up to the unnamed point 1537ft. The fence follows the parish boundary and goes over all the hills we intended to follow. We carried on to Sim's Hill. There were a lot of sheep on this hill. The descent on the north side was very steep, and at the col we came to the junction of the three parishes of Auchterarder, Glendevon and Dunning. D and A rejoiced on finding a drop of running water and we continued on up to John's Hill, instead of going down into the Corb Glen which was now in shade and would consequently be cold. We walked ESE to a lower hill, then still in sunshine turned NE for Corb Bridge and the car, where K had come to rendezvous. As we got down near to the bridge we suddenly got into a pocket of cold, chilly air. We soon had hot drinks and some food and watched the sunset glow on the hills which were all crystal clear.

Thu. 2nd Jan. 1958

Gargunnoch Hills. Lees Hill 1349ft; Carleatheran 1593ft; Unnamed 1/2 miles W Carleatheran 1525ft; Unnamed 1/2 mile E. of Carleatheran 1500ft app; Unnamed 1-1/2 miles E of Carleatheran 1300ft app.

We left home at 9:30 in order to take advantage of the fine, frosty morning for our walk over the Gargunnoch Hills. We picked up Duncan who was staying at Boquhan, then went round the back Fintry road to the Ballochlinn road end, to start our walk. We started up the track at 10:30. It was a glorious day — hard frost underfoot with the grass carrying festoons of crystals, a clear sky and the hills looking a warm ruddy brown colour. Ben Lomond and the Crianlarich hills carried a light covering of snow. We left the track above the farm and made for the rake running up to the skyline. The slope steepened, but was short and firm underfoot. Instead of going across the rake we scrambled up easy rocks and grass to the wire fence which runs along the top of the crags. Then in a few minutes we were on Lees Hill. From the dead calm below, we emerged into a light wind which was bitterly cold in spite of a bright sun. The view was superb, stretching from the Cowal Hills round by the north to the Ochil Hills. There were streamers of light mist coming out of the west and radiating like a fan, but all very high like cirrus cloud. We carried on eastwards, first by following a broken-down wall and then across the moor. We soon found that the undulating top was made up of tussocky grass and peat bog, but not so much of the latter. However, all was frozen hard and there was no thought of picking the way. The undulations were not deep, so we made good progress. To the south, Meikle Bin was the only hill visible. We made the next top, with a tiny cairn in good time. By now we were getting a better view of Kippen and the surrounding farms and were able to pick out plenty of places. It was interesting to see the huge area of frost in the lowest lying places. We had another halt for a bite of food and then went on to Carleatheran. From here we got the first view across Stirling and into Fife, round to the Cleish Hills.

The high cloud streamers had continued to spread, but the sun was still bright, though not brilliant. However, to the north visibility was superb with a blue sky. Unfortunately, the hills were too distant for me to photograph successfully, without a telephoto lens. Ben Lawers and Meall [G...?] (32 miles) were now added to the view, but with only a light covering of snow. In the far distance we could see some Grampian hills. The route now lay downhill all the way, with of course, the exception of the small undulations. Route finding was easy and we made good progress. We had no watch, so had no idea of the time. The prospect

was wonderful, Callander, Doune and all the villages being clearly visible. Over Stirling lay a pall of haze with only the Wallace Monument and the Castle showing, and oddly enough, the pit bing at Cowie! From this direction the Ochils lose their identity, taking on a most unfamiliar shape.

We proceeded from one small top to another, gradually descending and then, somewhere opposite Gargunnock House, decided on descending near to the main road. We had had a glimpse of a part of the Carron reservoir, and saw the smaller waterworks schemes. Beyond the three masts on Touch [Muir?], Duncan could pick out the TV masts at Shottskirk (21 miles). The descent now became progressively worse as we got among heather and bracken and passed the many outcrops on this side of the range. The sun was now behind the hill and we found it much colder with the ground iron hard. We twined around, climbed walls and fences, wallowed through dead bracken, dodged tussocks, scrambled over old tree stumps and brushwood and finally picked up the track which at last took us down to the Cambusbarron road at the spot so frequently admired. The last mile had been no fun. We learned soon after that we must have reached the road at 2:30, which gives 4 hours for the walk — a very good effort for Duncan and Allison. By the prefabs at West Carse, a car stopped to give us a lift to Gargunnock station, and when only 200 yards from the station we saw Kathleen go down towards Cambusbarron, but could not attract her attention. We walked all the way back to East Lodge. The walk was most interesting, but in no way spectacular, although as a grandstand it would be difficult to surpass. It was essential to walk under frosty conditions as the interminable bog and soft ground would be most trying under summer conditions. The only direction for any degree of comfort is west-to-east, owing to the difficult start at the east end, complete with the endless undulations before reaching high ground. In a future walk, it would be better to cross over to the Touch Hills reservoirs and descend to Cambusbarron by the road.

Sun. 20th Apr. 1958

Cleish Hills. Cult Hill 865ft

We had our picnic lunch near Powmill on the Queensferry road, at a point due north of Cult Hill. After lunch, D, A and I went on up the hill, which of course is neither high nor difficult. We soon reached the NW top, then crossed over to the SE top which carries the Trig. point. The view was extensive and fairly clear. The sky was completely overcast (not uniformly) and rain showers were frequent over the Ochils. We soon got back to the car.

Sun. 11th May 1958**Manor Water Hills.** Posso Craig 1858ft

We were picnicking in the Manor Water glen, south of Peebles at P829 near Posso. It was a lovely day of sunshine and cloud. After lunch, Duncan and I walked up Posso Craig 1858ft. The hill was of nice short grass and equally short heather which was very pleasant to walk on. From the top we had a most extensive view. Dollar Law dominated the south, Pykestone Hill and The Scrape, the west, the Glenrath Heights, the east, and beyond the Glen, to the north, the Moorfoot Hills. There was not much colouring on any of the hills, which showed that spring was very late, as everywhere else this year. We saw a wood pigeon, grouse and one or two small birds only on the hill. Also, a hare. We were out for 1-1/4 hours.

Sun. 8th June 1958

Abington. Arbory Hill 1406ft; Unnamed top 1550ft app.; Tewsgill Hill 1867ft; Hawkwood Hill 1750ft app.; Priestgill Rig 1361ft; Unnamed top 1300ft app.; White Hill 1350ft

Duncan and I were having a day out. We went to Abington and crossed the river and railway by Southwood Farm, to park the car at the foot of Raggengill Burn. We left the car about 12 o'clock. We went up to Arbory[?] Hill and were surprised to find a very well-preserved earthwork. The four ditches and ramparts were still intact. Only the upperwork, though, had the stones fully exposed. The circles are very accurately made, too. We continued along the ridge to the unnamed top at about 1550 ft. There was no view because of thick haze. The sky was heavily overcast and showed no prospect whatever of clearing. There was a light wind coming out of the west. We went on to Tewsgill Hill and found shelter behind the wall while we ate our lunch. We watched a pair of skylarks carrying food to their nest, but did not disturb them. Then we went over to Hawkwood Hill. We now deliberated on which way to go and decided in favour of circumambulating the Coldchapel glen. We descended to Priestgill Rig and walked westwards into the wind to White Hill. We now had a few bursts of weak sunshine, but nothing prolonged. However, it was warmer and very pleasant walking. The grass on these hills is short and contributes a lot to the pleasure. From White Hill we descended to Cold Chapel and walked back along the road to the car. On the hills we saw numerous skylarks, which thrilled us with constant song. Curlews and Peewits contributed. Even on the tops, to our surprise we saw lots of Rooks. There were very few small birds. We saw two rabbits as we descended to Cold Chapel. We arrived back at the car at 3:30.

Tues. 8th July 1958**Port na Blagh, Co. Donegal.** Ridge above Sessiagh lough

We were staying at Sheephaven Hotel, Co. Donegal. Above Port na Blagh is the Sessiagh lough and behind this a long low ridge, giving a panoramic view across Sheephaven Bay. After lunch we went up to the ridge and walked along very slowly. It was a glorious day of bright sunshine and cloud with long views in all directions. The colouring everywhere was superb. Unfortunately, we had a number of barbed wire fences to negotiate and then got a straightforward walk. Of the big hills, Muckish dominated all, but later we got a view of Errigal. For the remainder of the prospect, we saw innumerable hills and undulations, all very green, broken around the coast by bays and gleaming strands. We walked along the ridge for about a mile, to the highest point and then turned down towards, at first, Dunfanaghy, then across to Port na Blagh. We picked up a hill track, which took us down through several crofts on to the main road. We were out about three hours.

Sat. 12th July 1958

Between Dunkineely and Glenties, Co. Donegal. Unknown hill

On a run from Killybegs to Glenties, we stopped the car a few miles north of Dunkineely and D and I walked up a spur to a high spot on a shoulder of a larger hill. We did not know the name or actual location as we had no small-scale map. We were only away for about three quarters of an hour. It was a peat hill, typical of all this part of the country and all around the neighbouring hills there was extensive activity. There were a number of freshwater lochs. There was no sunshine, except in the extreme west on Aran Island and the Rosbeg peninsula. To the south lay huge masses of black clouds. In the north, the hills were all clear except Errigal and we got a long view. The east was cut off by the nearer and higher hill, which we were already on.

Sun. 27th July 1958

Fife. Saline Hill, E top 1150 ft app.; Saline Hill, W top 1178 ft

While we were out for a run we decided to climb Saline Hill and made for the ruined house of N. Steelend, just off the Saline-Lochgelly road. D, A and I walked over the hill while K took the car round to the road end of Killernie Farm. It was a warm sunny day, but for a little while the sky had been clouding over, so that we did not get any sun on the hill. The views were hazy. We just saw across the Firth of Forth and the Ochils. There was no detail anywhere. An easy grass slope, up beside a fence, soon took us to the east top; then the continuation, beside a plantation of spruce, soon brought us to the west and higher top. After a few minutes halt we carried on down to Killernie. We saw five species of birds, two of butterflies and several moths, also a good variety of flowers. There were quite a lot of sheep grazing the hill. A rough road from the farm took us down to the main road to rejoin the car. It was about an hour's very pleasant walk.

Sat. 23rd May 1959

Knapdale. Unnamed point 250 ft app. SSW Ballimore

We were at Kilmory, Knapdale and were anxious to see the Point of Knap. We left the car at Ballimore and D, A and I walked up the small hill which we thought would give us a view of the Point. However, we did not see the Point, because of a wood of natural oaks, but we were rewarded with a grand prospect of Loch Caolisport and the Kilberry peninsula and the coast of Kintyre all the way down to Campbeltown. Gigha was clear and farther west was a long line of the Antrim coast. Islay and Jura were clear, but northwards the coast was cut off by near ground. The glen we were in looked most attractive and the hills, although small, very fine.

Sun. 24th May 1959

Loch Awe. Point 1400ft app. east of An-t Inbhair

We had moved our caravan to the east side of Loch Awe to a point by the Allt Beochlich burn at An-t Ibhair. After tea, Duncan and I walked up the hill to get a better view of Cruachan and the loch. It was terrifically hot, there not being a breath of wind at all. The hill was grassy and carried a lot of sheep and lambs. We crossed one sub-ridge after another and did not get a view eastwards; so stopped (as the sun was already near setting) at about 1400 ft, near Lochan Cruarike Bige looking at Cruach Mhor 1932 ft and Am Creachan 1585 ft. We returned easily to the loch and enjoyed our walk.

Wed. 8th July 1959**Roundstone, Connemara. Urris Beg 987 ft**

After breakfast, Duncan and I walked up Urris Beg to get the view from this isolated hill. The hill is rough grass and rocks with outcrops in profusion. However, it was an easy ascent, with any amount of variety according to taste. It was a beautiful sunny morning with only a moderate breeze. The cloud masses were of all forms and sizes and very delightful. The summit consists of a large number of small tops, most of which we visited. The prospect was very extensive. The Twelve Bens and Maamturks were all clear and prominent and formed a fine skyline. To the north lay the flat moor studded with lochans in large numbers. It was on this moor near Clifden where Alcock and Brown landed after their first Atlantic flight. Beyond were the hills of northern Galway. The coast was particularly attractive, being completely indented and broken and studded with sandy beeches gleaming white. The sea was various shades of blue. We could see the Aran Islands quite clearly, with The Burren beyond and the Clare peninsula beyond that. In fact, we thought we could see the coast by Kilkee, about 50 miles away. The Burren hills were, of course, quite prominent. We came down slowly and easily.

Sun. 19th July 1959**Ettrick Forest.** Mountbenger Law, 1784 ft

We had a picnic lunch beside the Newhall Burn in the Quair valley and afterwards drove on towards Mountbenger Inn. We parked on the roadside at about the road summit 1170 ft and D, A and I walked up Mountbenger Law. It was just an easy walk over grass and short heather, but was a grand viewpoint and gave an excellent 360° panorama. All the hills were clear, but there was a lot of cloud shadow; too much for photographs. On the way up, Duncan almost trod on a hare which was sleeping under some heather. It had made a smooth hollow in the grass and must have fitted in almost unseen. We raised some peewits, grouse, snipe and various small birds. On the summit there was an Ordnance Survey man taking angles from a colleague on Blackhouse Heights (2214 ft, six miles west). We chatted with him for some time, then came down again. Also, on the hill were two decomposed sheep carcasses (the usual testimony of neglect).

Mon. 20th July 1959

Ochil Hills. Seamab Hill 1442 ft; Commonedge Hill 1539 ft; Unnamed, 1 mile app SW Commonedge 1448 ft

We had a picnic lunch just above Dollar on the back road, then went along to the Yetts of Muckhart and turned up the Glen Devon road. We left the car at Woodside. D, A and I went up to Seamab Hill and K arranged to take the car round to Dollar to meet us. It was easy going, at first on a hay field, then a pasture and then over a deer fence completely covered with wire netting higher up. However, we negotiated without damage and were on the upper sheep grazing, but we had quite a lot of fences to follow!

It was a nice afternoon, mostly cloudy with occasional sunshine giving fairly long views. All the hills everywhere were clear, but the far distance was hazy. There was a light breeze which made walking very pleasant. We had a short stop on Seamab Hill, which like all the Ochils is a nice grassy top. Then we went on slowly and pleasantly to Commonedge Hill, which was our highest top. We went on along the watershed to the unnamed top 1448 ft and descended towards Castle Campbell. We picked up the path which goes from Castle Campbell to Glendevon via Glenquey and easily walked down to the castle. We stopped for a minute by the burn and continued below the castle. D took the west path, A and I the east one and we met again in the gorge. Then easily down to the Burnside where K was waiting for us. Our walk took 2-1/2 hours and measured 4 miles.

Sun. 2nd Aug. 1959

Edinburgh. Arthur's Seat 822 ft.

The car was left on the hill road, by the small loch, at the foot of Arthur's Seat. It was an easy and pleasant walk up the hill on the sheltered side. On the top, the west wind was quite fresh and cool. There was no sunshine, no long views, everything being enveloped in a dark grey haze, but no reek! However, it was fine and dry and enjoyable. There were a lot of people on the hill.

Sat. 29th Aug. 1959**Edinburgh.** Arthur's Seat 822 ft

After an afternoon in Edinburgh we had a meal at the Beehive then drove round to the Kings Park. We left the car beside the wee loch and D, A and I walked up Arthur's Seat. The view was quite good, particularly north, and east, although we could clearly see Ben Ledi. The sun was getting down — the time was about 8 o'clock, but there was too much cloud for a spectacular sunset. There was only a slight breeze and it was quite warm. As usual, there were a lot of people on the hill.

Sun. 6th Sept. 1959**Strathyre. Beinn an t-Sidhein**

We had our picnic lunch in Glen Buchie and afterwards went along to the end of the road at Innereon. D, A and I went up Beinn an t-Sidhein. It was an easy route which we chose, beside a dried-up burn. The ground everywhere was very dry after weeks of glorious sunny weather. Unfortunately, the sunshine of the morning had been superseded by thick haze and now cloud completely covered the sky, with odd spots of rain to remind us that the weather can change. However, the rain did not materialize. There was a light breeze on the top. The views were limited and Ben Ledi carried a cloud cap. The other hills were clear. The prospect was just grey and featureless. We did not stay long, but came down without delay. We came down farther south and did not have such a good route. However, it was not long before we were back at the farm and the car, where K had the tea ready. Our time up and down was 1-1/2 hrs.

Sun. 4th Oct. 1959**Loch Lomond.** Rowardennan to Inversnaid

We picnicked at Rowardennan and after lunch Duncan and I walked through to Inversnaid. It was like a hot summer's day. There was no wind, the sky was clear and it was hot. The temperature at home was 75°! The first half of the walk is through trees and on a good path. This was always most enjoyable. Sometimes the path climbed up high, other times it skirted the shore. It was all so quiet and peaceful. When the path went out onto the open slopes, the heat was terrific and we were soon glad of the shade again. We saw a man coming down off the ridge between Ben Lomond and Creag a' Bhocain. Somewhere we passed the ruins of an old farm steading. Later we reached the farm of Rowchoish, now deserted, and from then on the route was rather damp and moist in parts. For about a mile we scrambled along the edge of the loch and it was delightfully pleasant. From Cailness the path at first was a good track, but deteriorated and at times was difficult to follow and even boggy. On the ground above Inversnaid Church, we lost it but were soon down to the burn which we crossed quite easily. It would have been a much more difficult proposition lower down. We walked down the road to the hotel and were glad to join K and A for tea. The distance measured 8-1/2 miles and our time 3-3/4 hours.

To sum up, the first half was dry and very pleasant, the second half, would be very wet normally, at times the path is difficult to follow. These characteristics are a result of the geology. The walk however is well worth while.

Sun. 11th Oct. 1959

Glenartney to Callander

We went into Glen Artney and stopped at the foot of the Glenartney Lodge hill by the Rights of Way signpost. Duncan and I changed into our boots and set off up the track by the Water of Ruchill. K and A with Mary Templeton, turned down the glen again to go round to Callander to meet us. Just as we started, two Boy Scouts came up behind us to do the same walk, but we pressed on and soon made a long gap between us. It was about 12:40 when we started and we carried luck with us. It was a grey day of drifting cloud and an east wind, with odd hints of possible sunshine. The views were limited as it was hazy too. We crossed the river by the ford, but it was very easy as the prolonged dry weather had left the burn with only the minimum amount of water. The river bed was interesting, being conglomerate of a large size and worn in places to remove some of the pebbles or leave others sticking up out of the other rock mass. We continued then WSW underneath Tom Odhar by a good track. It was just moorland and carried a large number of grouse which we were setting up all the time. We saw a pair of carrions, but not much else. It was evidently a shooting ground as there was a large number of butts all along the route. Also, Land Rover tyre marks were fairly continuous along the track, too. At first, we had a fine view of Am Beannan and Uamh Bheag and for a long time this grand hill held our attention. We seemed to be making good time (the wind was behind us) and soon arrived at the ford below Arivurichardich. It was very pleasant here and we enjoyed quite a lot of hazy sunshine while we sat to eat our lunch. Although bright, it was too poor for photography. Just as we arrived here we saw four soldiers in uniform moving off. However, by the time we had finished our lunch, the wind had cooled us down and we were glad to be on the move again. From now on we had a good road to follow. It was very easy walking and we made good time. Below Luingeann we soon came on to a tarmac road which went all the way to Callander. The Kellie Water is quite interesting. At first it comes off the moor and then starts to cut a deep channel for itself, to finally go into the gorge-like ravine of the Bracklin Falls. As it goes, it seems to gather up more and more trees on its banks and the lower woods look very fine. The road then bears away from the river and descends through the woods to the Golf course and Callander. We went straight across the road to the Roman Camp Hotel for our rendezvous. We arrived early and had three quarters of an hour to wait. Our walk was 7-1/2 miles and took exactly 3 hours. It was very enjoyable.

Sun. 17th Jan. 1960

Glen Lednock. Melville Monument

From Glen Lednock, Allison and I walked up to the Melville monument. The ground was slightly frozen, but the slight thaw had melted the light covering of snow. The bigger hills all carried a good covering. Near the top we scrambled over and under a lot of blown trees. The views were good and distant, although the sky was completely overcast except a little in the southwest. We had a good view of the new dam in Glen Lednock.

Thu. 21st Apr. 1960

Ballater. Craig Coilich 1400 ft app.

After our run round Deeside, we stopped at the bridge at Ballater. Duncan and I walked up the Forestry path, then up through the plantation to the cairn at the top of Craig Coilich. The time was about 7:45 pm. The hill gives a glorious prospect, both up and down the valley and shows a tremendous lot of detail. Visibility, of course, was very clear. Lochnagar looked really magnificent. We came down to the bridge and walked back to the caravan.

Sat. 25th Jun. 1960

Auchterarder - Ochils. Craig Rossie 1349 ft; unnamed top 1/2 mile SSE Craig Rossie 1350 ft app; Unnamed top "Fort" 1/2 mile SSW Craig Rossie 1100 ft app

Duncan and I started up from Pairney Farm to climb Craig Rossie. It was very hot and we found the effort very tiring, especially where the hill was sheltered from the slight breeze and had the full sun. Unfortunately, it was too hazy for good views. The distances from here to the other hills is very considerable. On the top we sat and basked for a long time, before moving on southwards over the top. The east face of the hill has quite a high outcrop on the summit. We followed the fence towards Beld Hill, then turned westwards to the pap with the remains of the ancient fort. Again, we sat and contemplated the prospect for a long time. By now the haze had cleared a lot and we could pick out much more detail. We came down slowly towards Upper Coul Farm, but had a bit of difficulty in deciding where to cross the burn. However, we found a delightful spot and sat in the shade and watched the cascades and pools. Needless to say, we drank a lot too! We climbed a steep bank on the other side, then reached the farm easily and followed the road down past Coul to join the main road. An easy walk, still very hot, took us back to the caravan park. We were very pleasantly surprised to see such a large variety of flowers on the hill, and also birds. We had a good exhibition of a stonechat whistling then tapping a stone. We took 4 hrs. over our walk.

Wed. 29th June 1960**Bathgate Hills. Knock**

After tea we went over to Bathgate, after which we went up to the Knock. Visibility was superb in all directions. The day had been one of blue sky and white cloud with no haze at all. From the indicator we could see from Arran to Cruachan in the west, to the May Isle and Bass Rock in the east, a spread of about 100 miles. The detail everywhere was amazing. We reluctantly came away and very much enjoyed the sunshine and cloud all the way home.

Thu. 7th July 1960**Radnorshire.** Glascwm Hill 1718 ft

We were on holiday in South Wales and during an afternoon run, stopped to climb a hill for the view. The Grid reference is 170525 and is located south east of Glascwm in Radnorshire. We ascended from the road at a point near Sychcwm and had an ascent of about 500 ft to point 1718 ft. The hill was bracken and heather and dwarf bilberries which were rife. We had a fine view throughout 360°. All the hills were clear and the view very distant. There were no near hills to detract from the prospect. There was broken cloud everywhere with the brightest sky and most sunshine in the northwest. The most noticeable feature of the landscape was the large number of fields covering the valleys and the small hills. We were soon down to the car again. There was no sun suitable for photography.

Fri. 8th July 1960

Black Mountains. Waun Fach 2660 ft; Pen Trumau 2320 ft; Pen y Manllyn 2500 ft app.; Y Grib tops 1800 ft app.

The morning was bright sunshine with broken cloud. Visibility was good and the Black Mountains looked inviting. We went by car to Talgarth and along the Crickhowell road. At Crickhowell we turned north into a glen going through a district called Llanbedr Ystrad yw as far as the "Private Road" sign at Danen and Hermitage. Here K and A left D and I and at about 12:30 we set off up the glen to Tal-y-Maes to climb Waun Fach, the highest point of the Black Mountains. We followed a good path all the way up the glen of the Grwyne Fechan. About half way up the glen we stopped for a bit of lunch. A few spots of rain when we started had only been a threat or warning. However, it had kept dry so far but the cloud cover was fairly continuous, although we could see sunny patches and bright sky elsewhere. The hills were just long featureless slopes except for occasional "steps" of horizontal sandstone strata. To the south was a prominent hill called Sugar Loaf near Abergavenny. We followed the path to the top of the pass at 2023 ft. Here we struck off northwards to Pen Trumau 2320 ft. We were struck by the large number of ponies in addition to sheep, on the hill. The ponies grazed in groups of 5 or 6 and were scattered all over, and sometimes quite high too. The hills, of course, are almost entirely grass, except for bracken and heather lower down. Birds are numerous too, particularly the Wheatear or Stonechat. We carried on by a good sheep-cum-walkers track to the summit of Waun Fach. The weather had continued variable and we enjoyed bursts of sunshine and watched the sun alternate with showers all round us. After a short rest on the top, we set off for Pen-y-Manllyn and the descent by Y Grib. I thought it advisable to hurry as we had heard a bang of thunder from the north side of the hill and black clouds were piling up. We carried straight on down Y Grib. Lower down we came onto a well-defined grass ridge which was easy and very enjoyable. Duncan seemed impressed. On the last hump the rain caught us and we had a heavy shower down to Genffordd and the main road. We got down at 4:15 after 3-3/4 hrs. walking. The rain passed over and K came along to take us back to the caravan at Felin newydd for a glorious evening's sunshine and warmth.

Sun. 10th Jul. 1960

St. Davids Head. Carn Llidi 595 ft

From Whitesands Bay, Duncan and I walked up Carn Llidi, the small outcrop on St. Davids Head. The top was craggy and gave easy scrambling. The view was not extensive as there was a lot of haze and low cloud. At first the only trace of sunshine was out over the sea, but later we did get a glimmer. The coast is rocky and is almost a continuous line of low cliffs. The farming is crofting with small fields and mostly grazing. The hill gives a fine view of Whitesands Bay.

Fri. 15th July 1960

Lleyn Peninsula. Mynydd Mawr. N Top 524 ft; S Top 300 ft app.

After lunch we went westwards along the Lleyn Promontory to visit the most westerly point of the mainland. We entered the National Trust property and parked the car, then walked up the south top of Mynydd Mawr, a short distance only by an excellent grass path. From the cairn there is a good view of Bardsey Island. We walked back again and went straight up to the top of Mynydd Mawr. Again, a good viewpoint, with a better view of Bardsey, which is about the same height. The lighthouse on the west side is quite prominent. The ground falls away steeply, not sheer, from the top and is quite spectacular. Unfortunately, the weather was not too good, being only just fine after rain and the sky completely overcast. The view inland showed all the hills clear, except the Rivals which were in cloud. There was no possibility of photography. There is a used Coastguard Lookout cabin on the top, made from the wartime station. We soon walked back to the car.

Sun. 17th July 1960

Lleyn Peninsula (The Rivals). Yr Eifl 1849 ft; Unnamed S Top 1200 ft app.; N Top 1458 ft

After lunch we went from Nevin to Llithfaen on B4417 and from P888 beyond the village, Duncan and I set off up to the main top of The Rivals. We first crossed an unnamed top and carried on over grass, heather and large scree to the top 1849 ft. The views were restricted as the sky was overcast and the lower ceiling at about the height of the hill. However, we saw something of the coast and the smaller hills in the peninsula. The hills of Snowdonia were all obscured. We descended to the Bwlch yr Eifl and walked up on the west side of the quarry to the north top. Again, the prospect was the same. The wind throughout was quite rough. We came back to the Bwlch and descended by a track, then a path and finally a road to Trevor, where K and A met us.

Sat. 30th July 1960

Cumberland, Vale of Lorton. Whin Fell 1000 ft app.; Hatteringill Head 1248 ft.; Fellbarrow 1364 ft.; Smithy Fell 1250 ft app.; Sourfoot Fell 1336 ft.; Low Fell 1350 ft app.; Darling Fell 1282 ft

We were camping at Lorton. After lunch, Duncan and I walked up to Bank and High Bank, on or up the Mosser road to near the highest point at about 600 ft. We went over onto the fell and up to several small knobs (not big enough to call tops). There was a man with a tractor cutting bracken and a girl with a scythe. It was a lovely day of bright sun and blue sky with lovely pieces of small cumulus cloud drifting over. There was only a light breeze and it was pleasantly warm. The prospect was excellent although the far distance was hazy. We could easily see the Solway and Criffel beyond, also the atomic energy power station near Annan, but not the Isle of Man. We crossed Whinfell (the collection of small knobs) and went on to Hatteringill Head, then to Fellbarrow. All the time we had a grand view of Lorton with a background of Kirkfell, Whinlatter and Skiddaw. It looked very fine. Whiteside and Grasmoor became more impressive as we went along. We passed on to Smithy Fell and Sourfoot Fell and the Buttermere hills became more prominent. The sky was filling up now with cirrus wisps in addition to the cumulonimbus and was very pretty. For a time, the sun was hazy, but this cleared off later. From the north end of Low Fell we had a fine view to Great Gable and Scafell Pike. We walked along the top ridge of Low Fell and retraced our steps to go down to Beckhead Moss, which was not too wet, but wet enough. We were rather surprised at finding all the hill so dry after a long period of doubtful weather with showers. We went up to Darling Fell, our last top. Then over the top and down in a straight line to the loch side in a south-westerly direction to join K and A who had gone round to meet us. We had a picnic tea by the water. The sky had now cleared, and the rest of the afternoon and evening continued gloriously bright with superb colouring everywhere. The hills were all crystal clear in detail. Walk 2:00 to 5:45 pm app.

Sun. 31st Jul. 1960

Vale of Lorton. Swinside 1650 ft app.; Ladyside Pike 2325 ft app.; Hobcarton Crag 2525 ft; Whiteside 2317 ft

Kathleen took D and I up Whinlatter and turned down the Scales road. At the junction with the Swinside road we started up the fell to Swinside top. At first, we went over dwarf heather, then got onto the grass. In the heather, we found quite a bit of white heather and took some for luck. We had an easy walk and followed the wall continuously, first on the Whinlatter side, then we crossed over to the Lorton side. We did not stop and went over the top and up the long slope to Ladyside Pike. The ridge was now well defined, though grassy, but the height was becoming more interesting with views of Grisedale and Whiteside. Over the top, Hobcarton looked very fine, its "crag" being most impressive. The final scramble brought us out on the top. We waited for some time, but the sunshine never reached us. Grisedale was the only hill in sunshine. We saw a number of people on it, also on Grasmoor. Beyond the hills the sun was brilliant and sported the same variety of cloud forms as yesterday. We were still unable to see the Isle of Man. The sun still eluded us, so we followed the ridge to Whiteside. Again, we waited in vain for the sun. We did see a rain shower over Thackthwaite and Low Fell, but that was the only one and it missed us. Crummock Water looked very black as did the hills. On the descent we went too far west, but easily retraced to make the descent to Whin Ben, the prominent knob above Langthwaite Green. This was very rough going over scree and tall heather with plenty of large stones everywhere. Eventually, we found a track which took us down easily over Whin Ben and down to the Gasgale Gill track. We saw the car and soon joined K and A. We left at 2:30 and arrived 5:25.

Fri. 5th Aug. 1960

Lorton. Kirkfell 1450 ft app.

I arrived back at Lorton on Friday evening and after tea, D and I walked up Kirkfell by High Side. It was a lovely evening with no wind and was warm. We took 40 minutes to the cairn and another 3 minutes to the top. The view was limited by haze. We could see the Solway and just make out the outline of Criffel. Skiddaw had a cloud cap and occasionally a wisp of cloud settled on Grisedale and Hobcarton. The outline of a full moon was visible before we came down. We descended to the Rising Sun and were soon back at the caravan. 1/2 hr. down.

Sat. 6th Aug. 1960**Lorton. Lamplugh.** Knock Murton 1462 ft.; Murton Fell

The morning was brilliant, but clouded up later and afterwards brightened up again, but was hazy. We went to Lamplugh and stopped for a picnic lunch below Murton Fell. We had David Flint with us, so he, D and I went up over Harris Side and to the top over easy grass. From the summit we had good views, but hazy and no detail. Grasmoor was only just visible. We came down in a few minutes — up and down 45 minutes.

Sat. 24th Sept. 1960**North Berwick.** Law 613 ft

From the caravan site at North Berwick we went round to the foot of the Law and walked up the path to the top. It was a lively day with good visibility and bright sunshine and colour everywhere. The sea looked calm and blue. The multitude of islands quite chequered the sea. There was a good breeze. The summit indicator showed a wonderful panorama, and distant too. Ben Lomond was the farthest at 78 miles. We soon came down to the car.

Sun. 16th Oct. 1960

Glen Artney. Hill 1250ft app.; Beinn Odhar 2000 ft app.; Un-named top 1 mile ENE 2072 ft

We had our picnic lunch in Glen Artney, beside a delightful burn and waterfall. There was broken cloud and sunshine which made the glen very colourful. Duncan and I left the road near the small church and followed the road up towards the Findhar Glen burn. The bridge is a splendid example of the packhorse type. We then went straight up over grass, heather and occasional rushes towards the unnamed top P2072 above Creag Beinn nan Eun. The hill was not very wet and the ascent very long, except that I was suffering from a head cold and breathing was a bit of a struggle. In the bottom of the glen, there was excellent evidence of moraine deposits. The top of the hill was cut up by peat hags, showing tremendous evidence of erosion. This extended right across to the top of Beinn Odhar. In places the channels were up to 10-12 feet deep and cut down to the glacial drift or moraine below. The sky had now clouded over and there was no trace of sunshine. The larger hills were in cloud and a lot of the smaller were affected too. There was no relief in the colouring. The hills were losing the first flush of autumn colouring with the grass bleaching to its winter whiteness. We crossed over to Beinn Odhar, but did not stop and came on down the NW spur to cross Achnashelloch Hill. This is just a hump of rough grass with no feature of merit. On the way down, we heard a stag roaring across the Uamh Bheag. We came down to the road at the bridge over the Ruchill Water, then walked along to the end of the road to rejoin K and A. Time 2-1/4 hrs.

Wed. 28th Dec. 1960**Kintyre, Southend.** Beinn na Lice 1405 ft

After visiting the lighthouse at Southend, Duncan and I left the car at The Gap and walked up Beinn na Lice, 1405 ft. This is the highest hill in the south end of Kintyre, but not the last viewpoint, as it does not give a view to the south and south-west, being overshadowed by Torr Mor 1358 ft. However, the glorious sunshine during the day had now given way to cloud and visibility was being reduced rapidly. The Antrim hills carried a covering of snow, same as the mainland. They had been clear all day, as was Rathlin and now carried cloud caps, looking like long sausages under a nimbostratus sky. Arran we could see in cloud. Ailsa Craig, which we had seen earlier, had now disappeared. We did not stay long and soon retraced our steps to the car for the return to the caravan at Southend.

Fri. 30th Dec. 1960

Crinan. Moine Mhor. Dunadd 176 ft

Duncan and I climbed Dunadd to see the remains of the ancient fort and its curious rock relics. It was a sunny morning with a cold south-east wind. The hills were either in shadow or cloud, but across Loch Crinan the sun shone brightly. There were plenty of meanders and oxbows across the Moine Mhor. The colouring was warm and attractive.

Sat. 26th May 1962

Moffat. Hart Fell 2651 ft; Arthur's Seat 2398 ft; Point 1 mile SW 1330 ft; Point 1 mile SE of Hart Fell 2373 ft; Swatt Fell 2388 ft; Point 1 mile SE 2373 ft

After lunch we went up the glen to the north of Moffat, as far as P542. K and A left us here and went up to the end of the road to turn the car. We took the track up the hill, over P1330 to the north of the ghyll which has the sulphur spring. The walking was easy over fairly close-cropped grass. Most of the way were Land Rover tracks, which made a good path. All day there was a strong north wind and it was very cold. We crossed Arthur's Seat 2398 ft and went on to Hart Fell 2651 ft. There was negligible shelter on the top, so we did not stay too long. The views were good. To the south we could see the Solway and Criffel. Further west, but faint in the haze was Screel and Ben Gairn. Nearer and very prominent was Queensberry Hill. Then, between it and the Lowther Hills was Cairnsmore. To the north was Tinto and Culter Fell, with a mass of smaller hills — lower, and dividing the groups was Tweedsmuir. Then Dollar Law and Broad Law, before the quite spectacular top of White Coomb and its magnificent corries. The fine-looking hills to the east of the Selkirk road completed the panorama.

On the summit we did not have much sunshine, but the whole prospect was very bright, especially to the south and west. The ascent took 1-1/2 hours. We left to the SE over the top of Hartfell Craig to P 2373. We then followed the line of crags to P2373 over a large plateau which normally could be very wet. This is Swatt Fell. The wind was blowing hard out of the east and the force as it came over the top of the crags was considerable. It was very cold too. We kept moving to keep warm. From P2373 we kept to the crags and came down in a line for Bodsbeck. Near the bottom we came over a rise and what a prospect! At our feet, below a steep grass slope, was Capplegill with a beautiful background of hills. The sun was full in the valley and it looked so charming. We were soon down at the road and then walked along to Roundstonefoot where we had arranged to meet K and A. The time was 5:20, It was an enjoyable walk, full of interest. On the hill we saw Violet and Rose of Sharon. Very few birds, but strangely enough some homing pigeons. We saw snow beds under Hartfell Craig - facing east.

Sat. 16th June 1962

Ardgoil. Tom nan Gamhna 1277 ft; The Steeple 1257 ft

From the Ardgoil Caravan Site, Duncan and I walked up the path into the Donich Glen. The trees hereabouts are particularly worth mention, because of their size, variety and form. at about 500 ft we walked up the hill over grass and heather to P1257 and on to P1271 Tom nan Gamhna. From here, Duncan continued to Cnoc Coinnich 2497 ft. I lazed around, admiring the prospect which was very fine. It was a lovely day, too. Very warm, in spite of a light haze. All the Cowal hills are magnificently shaped and colourful. The Broch[?] and the Cobbler looked very fine. There was a good view of the loch across to Carrick.

After a while I returned to the top end of the path and in a few minutes was rejoined by Duncan who had completed the traverse. The hill was very dry. There had obviously been little rain for a long time. On the hill I passed a very large perched block. We walked gently back to Ardgoil. Sheltered by the trees, it was very hot.

Sun. 29th July 1962

Ochil Hills. Innerdownie 2004 ft; Whitewisp Hill 2110 ft; Tarmangie Hill 2117 ft; King's Seat Hill 2111 ft; Bank Hill 1128 ft

Duncan and I left Glendevon road by the bridge which carries the private road to Glendevon House and struck straight up the hill for Innerdownie. It was a lovely summer's day, not too hot, a gentle breeze, and masses of cumulus clouds with an overall veil of light haze. It was easy going, but we had frequent stops to look down into the glen which was most attractive. Gradually the hills flattened out and we went up. A wall follows the crest of the ridge right to the top, which we reached in 55 mins. There were no distant views. We could just see the Forth and nothing beyond and, very faintly the West Lomond Hill. We went on over Bentic Knowes, which may be well named. The [bents?] are very prominent and a bit rough in places. The top was easy walking though. We were a bit surprised to see the walls and fences in such good condition. On the way up to Whitewisp Hill we passed a herd of about 30 cattle, including a large black bull with a ring in its nose. We were on the opposite side of the dyke! Whitewisp is a fairly large plateau top. Then followed an easy walk across to Tarmangie Hill. We now had a good prospect of Ben Cleuch. There were occasional patches of black cloud, but these seemed to disappear as rapidly as they came. The sky was still bright everywhere. Walking was quite comfortable in short sleeves. From Tarmangie we descended to the Burn of Sorrow below the Maddy Moss and refreshed ourselves in the burn before the ascent to Kings Seat Hill. A short steep pull soon brought us up to the plateau. We had another sit on the top and again enjoyed the prospect which had cleared slightly. We descended easily in the direction of Dollar, crossing all humps in order to get the best of the views. From Bank Hill we got a splendid view of Castle Campbell. Just before reaching this top we crossed a lot of fissures which were the geological beginnings of large gullies. It was surprising to find them on a nicely rounded hill. The final descent to the golf course was very steep over smooth grass. Then followed an easy walk back to the caravan in the Market Park. Walking distance about 8 miles.

Sun. 23rd Sep. 1962**Glenmore.** Cairngorm 4084 ft

We were at Glenmore with the caravan, camping in the park in front of the old Lodge. About 1 o'clock, K took Duncan and I up the ski road to its top. D and I then continued on foot up the rough road to the foot of the ski lift, then up the hill. It was a fine day, but completely overcast and grey. The slopes were easy. We went up the left-hand edge of Corrie Cas to a point above the top of the ski lift, then up to the summit of Cairngorm. There was no difficulty at all. Easy walking all the way. On the top the wind was quite fierce and cold. It took 55 mins. to reach the cairn. It was a popular hill. At one time there were 17 people together at the summit. The higher hills, Braeriach and Ben MacDhui were in cloud, but the other tops could be fairly seen, but none was spectacular. It was easy to see the plateau formation. Conspicuous were a large number of tors on different hills. After 20 mins. we walked over to a tor on the east side and were rewarded with a view into Glen Avon and the north end of Loch Avon. The head of the loch and Shelter Stone were hidden. It was just wild country. We then walked across the hill in the direction of the chair-lift, soon reached it and came down by the old path on the hill. There were no distant views, everything being too hazy. For a time, a patch of sunlight had stayed in Strathspey and although the clouds sometimes broke, it never reached us. As the day went on, the wind freshened still more. We came down to the road just above the hairpin bends. There was a lot of traffic using the road, which is really quite spectacular. We walked on down, cutting off the zig-zags, and took our time to walk back to the caravan. The river was interesting, showing a good example of the force of erosion, where the bank had continually been washed away, causing landslip and the product [?] of the moraine and alluvium being washed out with the larger boulders spread over the valley bottom, now the river bed, when in spate. The trees too were fascinating. Predominantly Scotch Pines, but all so nicely arranged (by nature) with the seemingly inevitable heather. Juniper, too, was very common. I don't remember seeing so much elsewhere in the Highlands. We reached the caravan at 4:00 o'clock. Time 55 mins. up, 1h. 40 mins. down. Given ample time and decent weather, the hills would provide good walking.

Sat. 13th July 1963**Benderloch.** Barcaldine, Parish of Ardchattan. Beinn Bhreac 2324 ft

From Benderloch we went to Loch Etive and Ardchattan and turned up to the head of Glen Falloch. We left the car near P476. Duncan and I walked up Beinn Bhreac. It was just easy grass slopes all the way. There were a few tiny outcrops here and there — nothing conspicuous. At about 1750 ft there was a small loch, very much hidden in a hollow. Most noticeable was the profusion of flowers, mostly Rose of Sharon. These extended right to the top. There were lots of birds, too. On the top we saw some Carrion Crows. It was a hot day with only a light breeze. The sky was a perfect blue, with flecks of white cloud and only hazy in the far distance. The hill being of modest height and isolated, gave a super prospect. We could see all over Scotland. From Arran to Glen Shiel and possibly beyond, although the mass of hills to the north makes identification most difficult. Ben Nevis was prominent, but today, far from being the main feature. To the east, Ben More and Stobinian, all else was cut off by Ben Bruach and its neighbours. Seawards, Jura, Islay, Mull, Eigg and Rum. We were able to identify the nearer hills without difficulty. The summit of our hill was embellished by a large circular cairn. We spent half an hour on top and could easily have stayed longer, but Kathleen was waiting for us, so returned to the car by the route of ascent. The ascent took 1 hr. 10mins. and the descent 35 mins.

Sun. 12th July 1964

Carron Reservoir to Boquhan Lodge

We left home after lunch and went to Denny and the Carron Reservoir. At the west end, at the road end to Carnoch Lodge, Duncan and I left the car with K and set off to walk to Kippen. We started at 3:45. At first, we walked up through the woods and out onto the hill on the road to Crongate Farm. This is now just a sheep farm. It was a fine clear afternoon with occasional bursts of sunshine and nice cloud patterns. Visibility was good. The view across the loch to Meikle Bin was good. A large area of land is now planted with trees and looks much more attractive than the former rough grass and bog. From Crongate we walked over rough grass to Burnfoot, now a derelict farmhouse, inhabited only by sheep. We then followed a rough track north-westwards under the foot of Ling Hill and in due course picked up the road to Ballochleam. There was only a little water in the Spout of Ballochleam. The view to the north was extensive but slightly hazy. We could identify most of the hills. We had a long trudge down to the main road, then continued along to Fourmerk, to descend to Boquhan House and along the drive to the Lodge. We arrived at 6:25. 7-3/4 miles; 2 hrs. 40 mins.

Sun. 19th July 1964

Broughton Heights. Unnamed top 1153 ft; Trahenna Hill 1792 ft; Unnamed top 1757 ft; Unnamed top 1634 ft; Hammer Head 1673 ft; Broomy Side 1642 ft; Green Law 1793 ft; Broughton Heights 1872 ft; Wether Law 1829 ft; Lochurst Hills 1632 ft

We went to Broughton, then SE to Muirburn and stopped at the top of the small road, opposite the Fort 898 ft. After a picnic lunch, Duncan and I set off to walk to Kishurd School and Kathleen would go round to wait for us. We left at 2:30. It was a miserable day with mist low down on the hills and visibility poor. At first, we followed a track up above the Muir Burn, along a ridge over a nameless top 1153 ft, then northwards towards Trahenna Hill. There was an agreeable amount of wild life and this we enjoyed throughout the walk. At first, we saw curlews, peewits, starlings and other small birds. There were plenty of sheep too. We did not climb far before we were in the mist, and from then on did not have any view until we were low down at the other end of the ridge. From Trahenna Hill we followed the ridge as well as we could. For a time, we were helped by a fence and were on the parish boundary. Sometimes there was no fence and we cast about for a lead — not always successfully, and found ourselves at the bottom edge of the mist and obviously in the wrong place, which meant ascending again and following a general compass direction. At one place we came upon a rabbit crouched below a wall. Elsewhere we set up a family of grouse: the young ones could only just fly. We eventually reached Broughton Heights 1972 ft and its cairn and trig. point. After this we followed a fence which took us over Wether Law and Lochurst Hill to below the mist. We were put out by the ground and the map. The map did not show at least one contour and possibly two around P1340, so instead of going over this we went down towards Breyland and finally skirted round the old plantation of Gallowberry Wood to arrive at the school. The walk was easy going over fairly short grass and heather. Due to the wet mist, and the grass holding the moisture, our feet and lower legs were soon soaked. No doubt on a fine day there would be good views. Also, I think we walked in the best direction. 6-1/4 miles.

Sat. 25th July 1964

Tinto. Tinto 2335 ft; Lochlyoch Hill 1734 ft

We left home after lunch and went to Tinto cafe; where we joined Arthurs for a walk up Tinto. The party consisted of Duncan, Allison, George, Kay and I. We left at 3:10 and walked easily up the path. It was a nice clear day, with long views, but not much sunshine, although the cloud was very broken. To the north we could easily see the Campsies and beyond, but fainter Ben Lomond, Ben Venue, Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin and later and fainter Ben Chonzie, 60 miles away. From about halfway upwards we were intrigued by a roadway made by a bulldozer, but could see no purpose in this although it extended to within a few feet of the summit. There was a light breeze, which made walking very pleasant. Tinto is a fine viewpoint, giving a good view in every direction, which is unusual in a large, isolated hill. We stayed a few minutes only — 1 hr. 20 mins. up, then walked down the west ridge over Lochlyoch Hill to Howgate Mouth. This was a delightfully easy walk beside a fence on the parish boundary, giving an excellent prospect of the Lowther and upper Lanarkshire ward hills. At Howgate Farm we met Kathleen and Rosemary who had brought the car round. After a picnic tea we came home.

Views from Tinto:

Ben Chonzie	60 miles
Ben Lomond	56 miles
Ben Vorlich	56 miles
Stuc a' Chroin	56 miles
Meikle Bin	35 miles
Ben Cleuch	41 miles

Sun. 22nd May 1966

Clermont Ferrand, Massif Central, France. Puy de Dome 1465 metres, 4820 ft; Toll house at foot 930 metres, 3040 ft; Ascent of hill 1780 ft; Road 5 km long

A fine, clear, sunny day. After breakfast and quite early we went to the Route Automobile du Puy de Dome. This is a fine motor road which circles the mountain at a uniform gradient of 12%. Near the top is a huge car park. We walked up the final 100 ft to the tower, which is a weather station. We had an unlimited view in every direction. Most conspicuous of all was the Puy de Sancy, which carried some snow. For the rest it was a tremendously long view disappearing into the haze. All round the viewing of the tower is an indicator giving tremendous detail of the country. The old volcanic plugs and cones were quite conspicuous. We spent a long time on the summit before the descent and return to Royat, near Clermont Ferrand.

Thu. 2nd June 1966**Chilterns.** Ivinghoe Beacon

From Hemel Hempstead, we went with the Gunn family to Ivinghoe Beacon in the Chilterns. We walked up a very chalky hill with an excellent view in all directions. It was a hot sunny day and very enjoyable.

Mon. 19th June 1967**Wyoming, Grand Teton.** Signet Mountain 7731 ft

After an exciting trip on a raft down the Snake River, we had a run round the Teton Park and ended a glorious day with a run up to Signet Mountain. From the car park it is only 50 ft. to the summit, but gives an extensive and exciting view. There is nothing spectacular; you don't see the exciting Teton Range, but a wide expanse of hill and forest, magnificent trees and pasture. Down by the river — the Snake — a small herd of buffalo grazed. They had calves with them. A bright sun, blue clear sky and white clouds completed the picture.

Fri. 30th June 1967**California, Yosemite:** Sentinel Dome 8100 ft app

After visiting Glacier Point in Yosemite, we concluded the day with a short climb up to Sentinel Dome. From this very fine viewpoint we saw a large expanse of the Sierras, and enjoyed a wonderful sunset with its accompanying alpine glow.

There was just enough snow on the hills to give this good effect. Even the Jeffrey Pine on the top — the most photographed tree in the world responded to the effect. The prospect of trees was remarkably good. We slowly descended over this glacier-worn and rounded hump in the welcome cool of the evening.

Sat. 26th Aug. 1967

Bathgate Hills. Cairnpapple Hill

A fine clear day with moderate views and a pleasantly warm breeze. We took Bessie and Mary Crossley to see the cairn on Cairnpapple Hill after visiting the Preceptory at Torphichen.

Fri. 10th Oct. 1969

New Hampshire, Mount Washington 6288 ft

During our tour of New England, we visited the White Mountains in New Hampshire and had a choice of routes up Mt. Washington, either road or rail. We chose the cog railway, as being more fun. The base station is at 2800 ft and the summit 6288 ft. The average gradient is 25% and the maximum gradient 37%. It took just over an hour to reach the top. At first the antiquated engine belched clouds of black smoke, but later eased off and we got good and extensive views. We did not go up until 4:25, so really lost the best of a super clear day. However, we did get an excellent view and, on the descent, saw a spectacular sunset. The summit is crowned by a Met. Station and a cafe and other buildings. In 1934 a wind speed of 231 MPH was recorded! Just below the summit is the car park with the road coming up on the opposite side from the train. The summit is on the Appalachian Trail, extending 2025 miles from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mtn. in Georgia. The view to the east was lost in haze, which in 20 mins. spread all round the horizon, leaving only the hilltops projecting. The temperature was well down and a cold wind blowing. The hill only enjoys about 60 clear days a year.

Sat. 12th Sep. 1970**Gower Peninsula. Cilifor Top 386 ft**

We parked the caravan at Wern Halog, near Llanrhidian in the Gower peninsula, and Duncan and I went off to the nearby isolated hill. We left the road after about half a mile and went up through bracken, crossed a low fence and were soon on the top which carried a trig. point. Nearby were the remains of a hill fort which was conspicuous from the lower ground to the southwest and west. The views were very good, clear and distant. Hills and undulating ground to the Black Mountain and beyond.

Sat. 10th Oct. 1970

Cape of Good Hope S.A. Cape Point 500 ft app

We participated in a bus tour from our campsite at Muizenberg to the Cape Point. The road went for the most part along the shore of False Bay, finally going inland through the Nature Reserve, and along the crest of the peninsula towards Cape Point. We passed the Cape of Good Hope, supposedly the southern tip of Africa and came to the end of the road. A walk up about 400 ft took us to the lighthouse where we looked out over the Atlantic and Indian oceans. Due to the differences of air and water temperature, there was sea mist and cloud forming on the hills to the north. It was a wild, windblown spot!

Fri. 11th Dec. 1970**Galloway. Murray's Monument 598 ft**

We left the car in the car park at the Grey Mare's Tail and walked up the path to the monument. It's a memorial by his countrymen to Alexander Murray D.D. 1775-1813, Minister of Urr and Professor of Oriental languages at Edinburgh University 1812-1813. It is a large granite needle surmounting a large square granite base. It was a grey day with Cairnsmore in cloud and no appreciable view, although the little isolated hill is a good viewpoint.

Wed. 12th May 1971

Denmark, Jutland. Himmelbjerget 157 metres

In the afternoon we went to climb the Himmelbjerget, Denmark's highest hill. We left Silkeborg and motored a few miles into their lake district. We left the car at the hotel car park and walked the 200/300 yards to the summit, along a well-made path. The summit is surmounted by a high tower which gives a long view in all directions. The country is mostly wooded, interspersed with lakes and rivers. Today was very clear and we had a good view. There was no wind and the sun made it warm and pleasant.

Thu. 20th July 1972**Dumfriesshire, Moffat Water. Dob's Linn**

While not a true hill climb, it is worth recording. Duncan, Alasdair and I went for a walk up Dob's Linn. This is the narrow little valley on the west side of the Selkirk road A798 just up past the Grey Mare's Tail. It is here that Charles Lapworth discovered the Graptolites which gave the key to the geology of the district. The plaque on Birkhill cottage commemorates this. It was a lovely warm sunny afternoon and we strolled up beside the burn — the Moffat Water which goes through the glen, having drained the hill above. The outcrop of rocks is curious in the variety. A lot of rock weathered and shattered into tiny fragments. Other outcrop of more solid looking material. A lot of it folded with distinct lines of folding. Some way up it becomes very narrow and there are two branches. We took the left (west) one first and went up a tiny gorge to find a high waterfall! This is the main stream draining the hill above Loch Skene. We returned and took the other branch which goes up fairly steeply, the burn eventually petering out about the crest of the ridge. We just scrambled up the last few feet to get out onto the grass. We then walked down the grass to Birkhill. The walk took us just over an hour, but was an interesting and enjoyable one. Alasdair did well for a 3-year-old.

Fri. 5th Jan. 1973

Ceylon. Mihintale. Missaka Mountain about 600 ft

The car was left at the foot of the hill, the Missaka Mountain at Mihintale. This is a sacred hill with a temple and dagoba on its twin tops. I ascended the 1840 stone steps interspersed with flat areas. The final ascent was in stockinged feet up a fairly steep rock, sometimes necessitating the use of the hands, but always with a guard rail. The top was about 8 to 10 feet square and gave good views over the flat country, particularly to the north. There was a lot of woodland and jungle. A few isolated hills here and there completed the prospect.

Mon. 8th Jan. 1973

Ceylon. Sigiriya about 500/600 ft

A large isolated lump of rock. We walked up seemingly endless steps, first to see the frescos, then on to the large platform on the north side. From here I went up very steep staircases, always with a necessary handrail because of the exposure to the top of the Sigiriya Rock. Here were the ruined remains of the royal palace and other buildings. The view was clear and extensive. Woodland, jungle, lone hills and flat land in all directions. It was comfortably warm with a good breeze and sunny. The descent was quite spectacular!

Wed. 25th July 1973**Perth.** Kinnoull Hill 729 ft

We motored up past the Hospital and along the road which traverses the foot of the hill above the new housing scheme. Then parked at the highest point and after a picnic lunch I walked up to the indicator and cairn of Kinnoull Hill. It was a gloriously clear, sunny day with the most extensive views. The walk up through the trees was delightful and quite easy going (for me!). On the top are two indicators, one detailing all the places of interest in the city and the other one a toposcope. The view of the Tay is striking as the eye follows its meanders above and below the city and sees it empty out into the Firth. Kinfauns Castle is very prominent nearby. A lovely walk.

Thu. 18th Oct. 1973

Malvern. Worcestershire Beacon 1395 ft; Herefordshire Beacon 1115 ft

We were camping at the Blackmore site near Malvern. After shopping in the town, we drove up to the Wyche Cutting where we parked the car and proceeded up to the Worcestershire Beacon. It was a lovely sunny day of broken cloud, clear sky, long views and cold. There is a roadway all the way to the top in about 3/4 mile. However, you can pick your way over the grass and it is easy, enjoyable walking. The hill is isolated and gives views in all directions. The indicator on the summit pointed out the many features, most of which were new to us, or just known by name, although we did see the Black Mountains, which we climbed years ago. Then we walked back to the car. From here we motored along the west side of the hill to the British Camp at the south end. A short, steep walk soon took us up to the ancient British hill fort and the summit of the Herefordshire Beacon. The earthworks round the hill are tremendous and easily the largest in Britain. There are several rows of ditches, all deep and symmetrical. The fort must at times have accommodated a lot of people. The sky was now quite overcast and the views not so extensive, but nonetheless very impressive.

Thu. 30th May 1974

Angus. Brechin. White Caterthun 978 ft

We were en route to a rally at Stonehaven. It was a fine, clear day but cold. We travelled the back roads and gently drove through a quiet, beautiful countryside. We digressed to visit the Caterthuns, the prehistoric hill forts. We parked at the foot of the path and I walked quickly and easily up to the White Caterthun. The stone wall completely encircles the summit of the hill, but through the years has, to a large extent, deteriorated, but nevertheless is still well defined. Also, it is huge, enclosing an area I would estimate of over two acres. From the top there is an extensive 360° view. The Brown Caterthun appears to be slightly lower.

Sat. 17th Aug. 1974**Gartocharn.** Duncryne 462 ft

From the caravan rally at Croftamie we went the short distance to Duncryne Farm. From here it is an easy walk up the hill, although it entailed crawling through a fence. It would be better going up from the SW corner, as there is a stile and a path. The hill is quite isolated and affords a fantastic 360° panorama. The eye-catching prospect is of course up Loch Lomond. The loch is broad at the south end, tapering towards the top, and the effect of this, flanked on both sides by big hills, is to take the eye into a magnificent mountain region. There was sunshine and cloud and, up beyond Ben Lomond, a rain shower. To the east a heavy shower was falling in the Balfron-Buchlyvie area. The Campsies were all clear and the view down the Vale of Leven was brilliant, right to the Renfrew hills. Everywhere was so clear — a vivid picture of detail in a rain-washed atmosphere. The hill really is a wonderful viewpoint.

Fri. 30th May 1975

Angus. North-east of Forfar. Unnamed hill 700 ft app; Hill of Finhaven

From Forfar we went along B9134 to Aberlemno, turned left up narrow hill road to the Hill of Finhaven. At the summit of the road (550 ft), I walked up the hill to the old Stone Age Fort. It is oval in shape and large and most of the rock walls still stand, as they were vitrified. There is a deep hollow in the centre, presumably dug for a source of water. The wind was out of the north and very cold, but the air was clear and the skies wonderful in all directions. The Grampians present a very broad front. The hill was infested with Rabbits.

Mon. 9th June 1975**Dumbarton.** Rock 240 ft

We were camping at Kippen and went out for a day's trip to Dumbarton to visit the castle. We arrived about 10:30. It was a very hot day. The ascent up the rock is mainly by steps, but one gets a good close-up view of the volcanic plug of basalt, which has weathered only in colour. Both tops are easily reached. On a really clear day the prospect will be magnificent, but today it was so hazy that Port Glasgow and Ben Buie were the limits. Even the town below was hazy. However, it was warm enough to sit out in comfort! We spent quite a long time on the rock.

Sat. 20th Sep. 1975

Staffordshire. Mow Cop 355 metres, 1162 ft

It was a lovely summer's day and so warm. We left Knutsford and travelled by Congleton to Mow Cop. The road goes to within a short distance of the top of the hill on which is a "folly", built like an old castle ruin. Actually, it was built by a landowner to mark a boundary after a dispute with a neighbour. Also, it is more famous as a meeting place for organisations, and witnessed in 1807 the religious revival in Primitive Methodism. A stone records this. The view from the top was tremendous. Across the Potteries, Stoke-on-Trent, etc., other industrial towns, villages, hill features and the tremendous expanse of the Cheshire Plain.

Wed. 8th Oct. 1975

Gloucestershire. Belas Knap 300 metres, 984 ft

From Notgrove in Gloucestershire, in a pleasant part of the Cotswolds, we went a run round the district, and from a point close to Winchcombe on an unclassified road, climbed a hill, which was really a long ridge to the Belas Knap Long Barrow. The day was bright and sunny with a little hazy cloud and the views were extensive. The Long Barrow is claimed to be one of the longest in the country. It was about 1-1/4 miles from the road and some sort of track went across fields and was well signposted by the Ministry of Works.

Mon. 9th Feb. 1976

Texas. Austin. Mt. Bonnell 775 ft

From Austin, Texas State Capitol, we returned to our campground by a devious route and stopped at the foot of a small hill which gave a good view over the city. This is spread out over a wide area, and is a pleasant mixture of houses and trees, backed by the high buildings of the downtown area where the beautiful Capitol building is located. At the foot of the hill is the Colorado River (not the Grand Canyon one). This now is dammed to form Lake Austin, near our campground. For the rest of the circle, the view is of steeply undulating small hills. The sun was going down in a cloudless sky, and it was turning cool after a lovely warm day.

Sat. 31st July 1976

St. Fillans. Dundurn 600 ft app.

With Duncan and Alasdair, I took them across the golf course to Wester Dundurn farm, and along the road to the sewage plant, to climb Dundurn. The hill is like a volcanic plug, not the shape of crag and tail, although it must have been in the path of a good-sized glacier in the last Ice Age. It is a short, sharp climb on a path winding round the hill. It is a very good viewpoint in the centre of the glen, giving a complete circle panorama, also a view of the Loch. Unfortunately, it was too cloudy for pictures, but nevertheless, I will be back again. It is only a short walk from the house. The hill is the site of a large Pictish fort, but there are no visible remains.

Mon. 2nd Aug. 1976

Perth. Kinnoull Hill 729 ft

With Duncan and Alasdair and Neil, a nice easy walk up from the car where we picnicked. There was heavy cloud on the big hills, but we got a good view.

Sun. 8th Aug 1976**St. Fillans.** The Girron

Before breakfast, about 7:30, I walked up the hill behind the house in order to get some photographs of St. Fillans. It was a perfect day and very colourful. I climbed to the foot of the crags below the summit of Boltachan Hill.

Mon. 16th Aug. 1976

St. Fillans. Dundurn 600 ft app (alt. Dunfillan Hill; alt. St. Fillan's Hill)

After lunch I walked over the Golf Course to Dundurn and this time had a clear sunny panorama. It was hot in spite of a breeze. The top is a wonderful viewpoint. The weather continues very dry and the grass on the hill was brown and dying, and there were very few flowers. It was an excellent photogenic day. I took it all very leisurely and was away for two hours.

Fri. 3rd Sep. 1976

St. Fillans. Meall nam Fiadh 2000 ft app.

It was a perfect day. The heat-wave had passed, so the temperature was lower and very agreeable. There was blue sky and a lot of flecks of white cloud. Visibility was very good. After lunch I walked across the Screes path to the Hydro road, then up the hill. At the junction I took the left fork (in error) and instead of going up towards Loch Boltachan, followed the road north-westwards, climbing out of the plantation onto the moor much higher up. After another half mile or so I left the road and scrambled up through the heather, past some shooting butts and onto Meall nam Fiadh. Only near the top did I put on my jacket as the wind was cool. Up until now it was shirt sleeves and bare arms and so comfortably warm. The views were extensive. After years of absence I could only identify a few of the hills. What an admission after the day of being able to identify everything with ease. Nonetheless, the view was extensive and very enjoyable. The hydro road by this time had probably changed its name, continued to the top of the glen, the head of the Allt an Fhionn and disappeared over the top. I understand it is not continuous to Loch Tayside. The hill was amazingly dry, not a drop of water anywhere. Also, there was way few birds. Just a few small ones which I could not name and a Carrion Crow. Not a single Grouse! I waked along to a small top, then made my way back to the road. The hills are almost completely covered with heather and bracken lower down. I was away 3 hours.

Fri. 28th Jan. 1977

St. Fillans. The Girron 1700 ft app.

It was a bright, clear sunny day without a speck of cloud, following a night of hard frost with temp down to 21°F. After lunch I walked across the Screes path and up the hydro road, taking the right fork to the hydro works. It was all very beautiful and warm among the trees. The hills were clear and colourful. The smaller hills had only patches of snow, but the big hills were white all over and gleamed brilliantly. From the surge shaft I walked straight up the hill to the top of The Girron. At first, long difficult heather, then shorter, and finally small heather, all interspersed with small snow patches, which helped walking. The snow was frozen hard. This winter we have had a continuous succession of snowstorms since the end of November with only the occasional thaw.

The aggregate snowfall so far is 26". From the summit there was a grand panorama of white, covering all the hills. Meall nan Ptarmigan, Ben Chonzie, Ben More and Stobinian, and other big ones, were all dazzling. Even the Ochils were well covered. Loch Boltachan was frozen over. There was only a light wind, but it was cold and coming out of the north. I descended in a bee line for the house. At first, rough and steep, giving way to more even ground. The bracken was no problem, as it was all flattened by the snow. Even a lot of the heather was quite flat. There was not much water about. Walking was easy. In a few minutes i was home. Time 1-1/4 hrs. I saw two Grouse only. No animals.

Mon. 22nd Aug. 1977

St. Fillans. Dundurn 600 ft app.

I took Jim and Lilian Gunn for a walk, up Dundurn Hill. It was a lovely summer morning and warm. Everywhere was very dry after a long hot, dry period beginning in early May. The views were good and everything very enjoyable.

Sun. 21st Aug. 1977

Comrie. Glen Lednock. Dundas Monument

From Glen Lednock I walked with Jim Gunn up to the monument. A superb summer's day gave glorious views of all the surrounding countryside, all of which was so colourful.

Wed. 30th May 1979**Tiree.** Beinn Hough 398 ft

We were visiting Walter and Jenny Dickson on Tiree. It had been a wet and miserable day, but cleared about tea time. After dinner we went out in the hope of seeing a sunset. Walter took us round the north shore road, as at this time of year the sun sets in the northwest and, of course, gives an unbroken outlook across the Atlantic. We drove up the road to the radar station on Beinn Hough, where we left the car. Walter and I walked up the few remaining feet to the summit of the hill. Although there was a wide panorama, there was no distant view. Immediately below us on the west side there was a lot of neat crofts and farms, with their orderly, tidy fields. The clouds were breaking up and gave some prospect of a good sunset. The wind, though, was cold.

Sat. 16th June 1979

St. Fillans. Dundurn 600 ft app.

Walked up Dundurn with Duncan, Neil and Alasdair. It was a lovely warm and sunny day with good views.

Wed. 20th June 1979**St. Fillans. Glen Artney Forest**

A lovely, warm sunny day. Duncan and I left about 2 o'clock, walked across the golf course to Wester Dundurn. By the sheep fold we left the road and, keeping low on the hill at first, picked up the path beside a large rock. The path took an easy line up above the burn and waterfall and into Glengoyan. It was a pleasant walk up the glen. Higher up, the path became faint where it crossed the river, but the line was definite. At about 1000 ft. and before the ground falls down to Glen Artney, we turned SW up a well-defined humped ridge. I went as far as the first big hump, while Duncan went to the top of the unnamed hill at 2317 ft. This is shown as the Forest of Glenartney on the map. When he returned, we crossed the burn, climbed over a deer fence and walked along a ride to a roadway which skirted round the foot of Mor Bheinn. This was a delightful walk, right to the bottom near Dundurn House. At the end of the forest road we went over a couple of fields to the Dundurn farm road, then onto the main road at Tynreoch and finished along the main road to home.

Sat. 30th June 1979 & Sun. 1st July 1979

St. Fillans. Dundurn 600 ft app.

Sun. 3rd Oct. 1982

Scone. Murrayshall Hill 918 ft

Went for a walk with Allison and Anya. It was a lovely day and quite warm after a week of heavy rain. We drove past Murrayshall House and parked the car at a convenient point below the Hill. We walked up a track, more or less, all the way to the top. The views to the south and east were superb, but unfortunately cloud was building up on the Grampians. After a half hour's enjoyment and a good look at the obelisk, we went down to the car. The inscription on the Obelisk says simply: "In memory of Thomas Graham Lord Lyndoch."

Sat. 13th Nov. 1982

Perth. Kinnoull Tower 700 ft app.

Again with Allison and Anya, drove to the Forestry Commission Jubilee car park behind Kinnoull Hill. We walked up a good path through the woods of beech and fir to the tower below Kinnoull Hill. The wind was strong and cold and the view limited. The view down the Tay was excellent, but hazy towards Dundee. We descended by another path. It was quiet and very enjoyable. Shortly after leaving in the car the rain came on.

26th Jan. 1985

California. Anza-Borrego Desert, Palm Canyon. Unnamed hill

Jane and I with Jamie were camping at Palm Canyon in the Anza-Borrego Desert. For a walk and a view of the surrounding desert and mountains, we climbed a small hill beside the campground. An easy trail led to the top. The vegetation was the usual variety of scrub plants, cactus and grasses. As it was early in the year, wildflowers are few in number. The mountains seemed to form a rim right round the closest view, except to the east. They had very little vegetation on them and interestingly showed a variety of colourful rocks and the different strata, bedding planes, folding, massive erosion and so on. The weather was superbly warm. Ascent app. 3-400 ft.

25th Feb. 1985**Arizona.** Coronado Peak 6864 ft

We visited Coronado National Monument in southern Arizona. After driving up a steep, rough road to the foot of the peak, we parked the motor-home and walked on up the trail to the summit. It was a beautiful morning, and with a good visibility. The mountain is located on the Mexican border. In every direction were mountain ranges. The hill was covered with Piñon Pine and Juniper and low shrubs. On the top there was no wind, and the air was so clean. It was still, too: not a sound to be heard. As the hill is isolated, there was a 360° view. A few small traces of winter snow remained beside the trail.

6th Jan. 1986

Alabama. Cheaha Mountain 2407 ft.

We were camping at the Cheaha State Park in Alabama near the top of Cheaha Mountain, the highest point in Alabama. The night had been clear and cold with perhaps a slight touch of frost. We were up early to a clear blue sky and bright sun. We walked up a road for about half a mile to the summit to get a 360° view of hills and forests, green valleys filled with mist and a limitless prospect. There was no wind. The hill was quite isolated. On the summit is a stone tower and a broadcasting station.

21st Oct. 1987**Georgia.** Fort Mountain 2954 ft

We were camping at Fort Mountain State Park on Georgia Rt. 52 about 7 miles east of Chatsworth. The night had been cold, but not frosty after rain the previous day. The morning was clear and bright and put brilliance in the Autumn colours of the trees. We drove about 1-1/2 miles to the end of the road, parked the motor-home and walked for about half a mile up the trail to the summit of the mountain. Just below the summit are extensive earthworks, including a stone circle and pit dwellings. The stone wall is over 800 ft. long and does not encircle the hill. The origin is a mystery and there is much folklore, legend and speculation as to its original purpose. Strangely enough, it has a lot in common with hill forts in Scotland. We continued to the top which is surmounted by a tower, but even from the top of the tower there was no view, as the trees were all higher than the tower. There was no doubt that the hill is fairly isolated and could command a good view of the country round about. The ascent was estimated at 200-250 ft. in elevation.

22nd Oct. 1987

North Carolina/Tennessee. Great Smoky Mountains. Clingman's Dome 6643 ft

We camped at Cherokee in the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. The night was frosty and the low temp. was 17°F. The morning was crystal clear. We were off early and took the road to Newfound Gap. Then up the mountain to the car park at Clingman's Dome. The path goes for half a mile with an ascent of 330 ft. to the top of the mountain. It goes straight with a uniform grade. There were views of the Appalachian ridges through the gaps in the trees and the early sun created delightful shadows and effects. On the summit there is a spiral tower which rises above the trees and gives a 360° prospect. Visibility was very good for 15-20 miles, then slightly hazy beyond that. It was impossible to guess the most distant horizon. It was a wonderful prospect, but not spectacular, as it is the highest mountain in the area. At this elevation the deciduous trees had already lost their leaves, but in the valleys the colours were still vivid.

7th Oct. 1988

Pennsylvania. Hawk Mountain 1251 ft

We were camped at New Tripoli in Pennsylvania, just north of I-78 near Allentown. We left immediately after breakfast for the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. The morning was cloudy and cold with only a touch of weak sunlight. From the Visitor Centre we walked up the path to the North Lookout. This is about 3/4 mile over a mixed path, mostly rocky. The summit is a large mass of broken rocks, not easy to scramble over. We arrived at 10:00 and already a fair number of people were there to see (?) the hawk migration in progress. Fortunately for the "lookers" there was no wind, but since birds prefer to take advantage of a following wind, there were none to see. We saw only 3 or 4 hawks in an hour's watch. The view from here is very extensive and is typical of the Appalachian ridges, without any special features. However, it was hazy and there was no detail to be seen. We returned to the car park and on the way down met crowds of people going up. There is not enough room on the top for so many. The day continued cold.

4th May 1992**Ohio. Fort Hill**

We were having a trip in southern Ohio and, apart from seeing the glorious spring flowers, especially the hillsides of Dogwoods, were visiting a number of Indian and primitive peoples' remains. We were at Fort Hill State Park. Here on top of a hill about 400 ft. high is a large fort built round the summit of the hill, in the fashion of the Scottish hill fort. We followed the trail up the hill — 400 ft. in a 1/4 mile. Unfortunately, the summit and wall are very badly overgrown with trees, shrubs and vegetation. The outline of the wall (rampart) was clearly defined and there was an occasional clearing to give a long view and show the hill's isolation.

END OF DIARY