

JAMES GREY NICOL .

Was born on the 23rd of March 1882 at The Wairds Downies an Arable farm near Portlethen Aberdeen .

Mr. Nicol never married , and left us in the year 1982.

During the First World War Jimmy served with the Gordon Highlanders .

Having survived the war Jimmy returned home , purchased Mains of Clashfarquhar Portlethen , and began a remarkable career in Farming , whilst making a goodly amount of money on the Stock Exchange ..

Mr Nicol was short of stature and could hardly be seen behind the steering wheel of his large Humber Car , which he drove around Aberdeenshire markets , or on his way from Portlethen to the Mart at Kittybrewster Aberdeen .(I believe that in the past there actually was a Kitty Brewster who owned a public Bar in the area)

Mr. Nicol was a very successful breeder and judge of Aberdeen Angus cattle and had a rare family in his herd. The Luxury Blood line which was very much in demand and earned him very high prices for his Heifers when they were sold abroad .

In 1952 , Jimmy showed a heifer “Euroma 4th of Clashfarquhar at the Royal Smithfield show London which not only won 1st in her class (in competition with 15 other heifers) but went on to win the Aberdeen Angus Championship .

Prior to the judging Mr. Nicol had been concerned regarding the disturbing effect of the Smog in the Cattle Lines. Jimmy had remarked that the Vets were just young loons “boys” in their broon (brown) coats and the beasts were haein (having) an affa time breathin .Jimmy sent one of his farm hands to (awa and get a hirn bag and a bottle of Johnnie Walker”s whisky)

He then soaked the bag with Whisky and put it ower(over) the beasts heid (head) and after a guid (good) rub doon the beast was in perfect shape to win the Cup..

On returning home to the Downies Jimmy asked his friend Bill Hall where the cup was ? Mighty , the last time I saw it was in a pub in Laurencekirk . The cup was found later on safe and sound .

As well as travelling to Argentina with B.O.A.C on one of his Judging trips , Jimmy”s travels took him to

Moscow in 1964 where he was introduced to Nikita Krushchev at the British Agricultural Exhibition .

Mr Nicol's judging also took him to New Zealand where he enquired of the porter at this rather Posh Hotel in Christchurch , how he could make arrangements to see the then Governor General Sir Bernard Fergusson , a fellow Gordon Highlander .. As a batchelor , Jimmy was never the epitomy of sartorial elegance and the sniffy porter rather looked down his nose at him . However, very shortly the Governor General's Rolls Royce drew up at the hotel and whisked Mr. Nicol away . On his return the port er was all over Jimmy asking if he had served under Sir B. Fergusson during the war ?? Jimmy never broke his stride (NO he served under me) he curtly replied . It turned out that Sir Bernard had joined up as a private and did indeed serve under Jimmy who at that time had reached the dizzy height of Corporal .

Mr. Nicol served for many years on the Aberdeenshire Council representing North Kincardine , and it was due to his efforts that the fishing village of The Downies were FINALLY provided with a proper Water Supply ..

In 1968 Mr. Nicol purchased the prestigious BAY Hotel in Stonehaven for £50,000 , and presented it to The Church of Scotland on the condition that (It was converted into a Nursing home, and that he could spend his latter days there .) The building was called Clashfarquhar House and is still a Nursing home today in 2018 .

In 1970 James Nicol of Clashfarquhar Farm (A Church of Scotland benefactor) purchased Auchlunies House Maryculter , it was subsequently sub- divided into four flats .