

Obituaries

Walter Waldie

News of the passing of well-known Souter Mr Walter Waldie in Australia on Saturday was received with widespread sorrow by his many friends in Selkirk. He was 57 years of age.

A former pupil of Philiphaugh School and Selkirk High School, Walter served his apprenticeship as a printer with James Lewis, in the High Street. At the age of 19 he emigrated to Australia and, after many ups and downs, he started a printing business in Whyalla. Later he founded the weekly newspaper, the "Whyalla News" which afterwards became a bi-weekly and is now published thrice weekly.

Although resident in Australia for many years, Walter never lost his love for his native Selkirk. He paid occasional visits home and liked nothing better than renewing old friendships and treading familiar haunts and ways. The Common Riding was always the highlight of his visits, and he had a deep love for this peak period of the Selkirk calendar. It was a proud moment indeed when he cast the Colonial flag in 1958.

Of a kindly and ever pleasant nature, Walter Waldie was well liked and held in the highest esteem by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will long be remembered in his native Selkirk.

Mr Waldie is survived by his widow, Mollie, and by his three sons, Richard, Donald and Craig, to whom deepest sympathy is extended.

Appreciation

Selkirk Colonial Society could not allow the death of Walter Waldie to pass without a public appreciation of his support of the Society.

Since his first visit home in 1958 when he was Colonial Standard-bearer at the Common Riding, Walter took a keen interest in the affairs of the Society and kept in touch with its activities throughout each year. One of his tangible acts was to present annually a commemorative medallion to the Colonial Standard-bearer.

Although each nook and cranny of Selkirk was dear to him—the very mention of the name was enough to bring the tear to his eye—it was the folk he cherished most dearly. He loved to meet old friends, and exchange memories of those they had known lang syne.

When time has suffered the blow of his death, we will remember him with the same pleasure with which he remembered them. That, I think, would have pleased Walter.

JACK HARPER,
(Selkirk Colonial Society).

Colonials select Marcus — a third 'Waldie'

MARCUS Waldie, of Southern Australia, will become the third generation of his family to cast the colour of Selkirk Colonial Society on Common Riding morning (June 13).

Both his father Donald (1976) and his grandfather, the late Walter (Wattie) (1958), have been similarly honoured, but another remarkable fact about the family we know as Waldie is that their surname is actually Willson.

It was in the thirties that Wattie Willson set off for Australia to seek his fortune, having been brought up since infancy by the Waldie family and having been widely known in Selkirk by that name.

When he returned to carry the Colonial flag he chose to use the name by which he was best known locally and, when he brought his three sons to visit his native town, he always introduced them as Waldies.

Now Marcus, with equal pride, writes the name into the Society's annals for the third time.

At present back home in Australia, Marcus has been resident in Scotland for the last year or two, working in the hotel trade, but he intends to return to Selkirk in May in good time for the "warm-up", not to mention the casting practices. He has yet to name his Lady Busser.

One of the Wattie Waldie's legacies to the club is the medal given annually to the Colonial Society Standard Bearer, an act carried out by Marcus last year when he presented the Walter Waldie Memorial Medal to 1996 incumbent Bill Rathie, the pinning being performed by Marcus' sister Hannah.

This year Marcus will be the recipient of that medal — and dad Donald will be in Selkirk to follow the flag "doon the Green".

THREE GENERATIONS — (Top) Marcus Waldie — 1997 Selkirk Colonial Society Standard Bearer. (Below left) Walter "Wattie" Waldie — did the honours in 1958. Donald Waldie — cast the Colonial flag in 1976.

