

Roll: **19760824-6430**

Camera: **Zorki 4: ZO4**

Film: **Kodak Tri-X**

Subject:

Caledonia Trip

People:

Maggie Hughes, Clifford W Fulford

Notes:

We set off for Glasgow after work with Brian Cooley, leaving from Clissold Crescent on the afternoon of Friday 20th August. I'm pretty sure that we had to push the car to a garage right at the start, presumably because we were out of petrol.

We were in the Morris 1100 that my brother had given me and that we had spent several weeks repairing. I'm not sure whether it was before or after this trip that I took the head off for a decoke. I was working on the kitchen table at Clissold Crescent but found I could not get the valves out. Brian had then revealed his training as an engineer and showed me that the tops of the valve stems had spread and how to file them round by hand until they slipped easily through the valve guides.

I drove right through the night and we got to Glasgow at 4.30 on the Saturday morning and parked outside the tenement buildings where Brian's mum, his sister and nephew lived, Maggie thought that this was in Gorbals but Brian tells me it was in Springburn, North Glasgow with a view of the Campsie Hills from the balcony.

It had been, I think, about a 10 hour drive of around 450 miles. Every time I closed my eyes I saw the road rolling toward me an effect continued for days and still occasionally comes up in dreams.

Not wanting to disturb the household at that hour we all settled down to sleep as best we could in the car. When Brian thought his mum would be up we went to meet her and she cooked us all breakfast. I think we spent the day with Brian in Glasgow and stayed the Saturday night. Maggie records in her diary that on the Sunday we went to Fort William along Loch Lomond.

On Monday 23rd we went for a walk in the morning. We had a rough and ready tourist map. I think I had tried to get an Ordnance Survey map from a tourist information centre but they had none in stock. We were climbing fairly innocuous foothills on a pleasant sunny morning. The number of people following the same footpath was increasing and I tried to work out where they were all heading. Then it dawned on me that we were ascending Ben Nevis. We weren't equipped for any serious hiking but I never could resist a hill and although I was wearing open toed sandals and I think Maggie was wearing trainers we decided to give it a go. We kept thinking we were reaching the summit and those descending were quick to assure us we were. "Not much further, just over the next ridge" but each successive ridge only revealed another climb. I was convinced we were genuinely close but Maggie had had enough and decided to stop. I desperately wanted to reach the peak so Maggie opted to wait for me where she was while I went on. It must have been another 500 feet or more of ascent. When I got to the summit I was vertiginous and scared and wanted to be back with Maggie. I stayed only a few seconds and headed back down to find her.

Even going down hill it was much further than I thought. I had been transfixed on the way up and hadn't noticed the hours slip by.

Reunited we both were pretty tired, Maggie had become anxious because I had been away so long and I wanted to avoid returning down the steep ascents we'd climbed to get there. Looking at our map, such as it was, there appeared to be a gentler but longer route that would take us back toward Fort William but we thought that once on the roads we could easily walk back to our camp.

It was an error of judgment. The route was slightly marshy and the tussocks of grass were dreadful ankle twisters especially for open sandal wearers. After an hour or so I was pretty done Maggie, as was always to prove the case, was more robust. We came upon a tarn and although towelless I took a swim to cool down and rest and ease my ankles. We didn't see another soul on that route.

By the time we got down to the town it was getting dark so I would guess it was around 8.30 or 9.00 at that latitude at that time of year. We didn't think we could make it back to the camp so looked for a Bed and Breakfast. There were many guest houses but having no luggage made landladies suspicious that we

weren't married and we were turned away even where notices in the window said that there were vacancies. Happily we came on one lovely woman who oozed sympathy and concern and welcomed us in. I suspect we still claimed to be married, I'm not sure. Maggie may have still had the ring from her marriage to Barry which she could swap hands/fingers with but I may have made that up.

Energetic buggers that we were we walked back to our camp the following morning and set off on the Road to the Isles that same day Tuesday 24th August. It was with out doubt the most beautiful drive of my life, Now I regret not stopping to take any pictures on that drive but then I liked to think that I lived very much in moment and unlike "typical" tourists enjoyed the stunning scenery while being a living breathing part of the landscape not as a disconnected observer who's vision was filtered by a camera lens. (Also I enjoyed driving at speed on challenging roads without stopping.)

Dates:

The dates and the time of arrival in Glasgow, are confirmed by Maggie's diary.

19760824-6430 (1)



19760824-6430 (2)



19760824-6430 (3)



Frames:

- ZO4-A0013 19760823 10:30:00 Boulders - Glen Nevis.
- ZO4-A0014 19760823 10:31:00 Boulders - Glen Nevis.
- ZO4-A0015 19760823 10:32:00 Maggie - Glen Nevis.
- ZO4-A0016 19760823 10:33:00 Maggie - Glen Nevis.
- ZO4-A0017 19760823 10:34:00 Maggie - Glen Nevis.
- ZO4-A0018 19760823 10:35:00 Igneous Rock - Glen Nevis.
- ZO4-A0019 19760823 10:36:00 Igneous Rock - Glen Nevis.

Z04-A0020	19760823	10:37:00	Igneous Rock - Glen Nevis.
Z04-A0021	19760823	10:38:00	Igneous Rock - Glen Nevis.
Z04-A0022	19760823	10:39:00	Maggie - Glen Nevis.
Z04-A0023	19760823	10:40:00	Maggie - Glen Nevis.
Z04-A0024	19760823	10:41:00	River Nevis.
Z04-A0025	19760823	10:42:00	Maggie - Boulders.
Z04-A0026	19760823	10:43:00	Maggie - Boulders.
Z04-A0027	19760823	10:44:00	Igneous Rock.
Z04-A0028	19760823	10:45:00	Waterfall.
Z04-A0029	19760823	10:47:00	Waterfall.
Z04-A0030	19760823	10:55:00	River Nevis.
Z04-A0031	19760823	10:56:00	River Nevis.
Z04-A0032	19760823	10:57:00	River Nevis.
Z04-A0033	19760823	11:00:00	River Nevis.
Z04-A0034	19760823	11:05:00	Maggie - The Water Carrier.
Z04-A0035	19760823	11:06:00	Maggie Scrambling Nevis Gorge.
Z04-A0037	19760823	12:00:00	Maggie - Ben Nevis.
Z04-A0038	19760823	16:30:00	Lochan Meall an t-Suidhe.
Z04-A0039	19760823	16:35:00	Ben Nevis.
Z04-A0040	19760823	16:36:00	Ben Nevis.
Z04-A0041	19760824	16:30:00	Herring Gull - Mallaeg.
Z04-A0042	19760824	16:31:00	Mallaeg Harbour.
Z04-A0043	19760824	16:31:00	Gulls - Mallaeg.
Z04-AA000	19760824	16:31:00	Gulls - Mallaeg.
Z04-AA001	19760824	16:32:00	Gulls - Mallaeg.
Z04-AA002	19760824	16:33:00	Mallaeg Harbour.
Z04-AA003	19760824	19:34:00	Mallaeg Harbour.
Z04-AA004	19760824	19:35:00	Mallaeg Harbour.