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50 Years Ago

September 2, 1960

A large crowd on the banks of Loch Shin recently watched a thrilling display of water ski-ing by Mr Colin Campbell, Balblair, who was operating behind a speed-boat driven by Mr W R Sutherland, Rostellan, Golspie. It is to be hoped (writes our correspondent) that next season will see this and other aquatic sports developed to the full. With so many summer visitors at Lairg, such facilities would prove very popular if they got the backing of the Scottish Tourist Board. Mr Campbell is chairman of the Sutherland Tourist Association.

Mr D R Fasham, planning officer, warned Sutherland Planning committee at Lairg last week that there might be "a flood" of prefabricated houses, which had been "scrapped" in the south by other local authorities, into Sutherland. The committee were considering an application by Mr W Louttit, of Strathy Point, for planning permission to erect a prefabricated house to the west of Strathy Bridge.

Mr Fasham opened the debate by saying this was a question of "considerable importance". They had actually already given planning approval for a similar house in Bettyhill. These prefabricated houses were sub-standard. The point was that they were not apparently satisfactory to other local authorities in whose area they had been erected. They would suffer in being taken down and then transported away to their new site. He knew there were two more applications pending to erect this type of house in Sutherland. "We may have a flood of them up here," he said. Despite Mr Fasham's concerns, the committee later agreed to give Mr Louttit planning permission.

Sutherland County Council, at a special meeting, recently agreed, after a vote, to tell Mr John G Mackintosh, Embo Mains Farm, and Mr John Gillie, Embo, to stop using the council's pier at Embo on Sundays for commercial boating and to restore the pier to its original structure and state. They had used the pier without authority, it was claimed.

The council also agreed, after a vote, that if these instructions were not obeyed they would take legal action. At the council's meeting at Lairg last Monday, it was stated by the clerk, Mr A J Macrae, that counsel had been consulted and that his written opinion was awaited.

In the meantime, Mr Mackintosh, who has defied the council's instructions and who has continued to carry on Sunday boating at Embo pier, has told the council in a letter that he also intends to take legal opinion and that he reserves all his rights "including those in respect of my land which surrounds the access to the pier."