

Dr Kennedy McCreath

Doctor in Gatehouse 1969 - 1981

**Dr Kennedy McCreath, General Practitioner
born September 28, 1915, died May 24, 2000**

The following is based on an obituary ex Glasgow Herald 13th June 2000

DR KENNY McCREATH was born in Dailly, Ayrshire, the son of John and Georgina McCreath, his father being the estate joiner on the Bargary Estate. He attended Dailly Primary School and Girvan High School and on completing his schooling went into banking in Girvan. At the outbreak of war he joined the 1st Armoured Division of the RASC, seeing service in France with the British Expeditionary Force.



He married Peggy on September 24, 1940 - the marriage was to have taken place on September 11 but a note on the back of his wedding photograph says: "should have been married 11th September, leave cancelled 10th September, wedding off."

Following a serious motorcycle accident in 1943 in which he sustained head injuries, he was sent home with little hope of surviving. Kenny was a fighter and with the help of Peggy, who was a district nurse in the village of Barr, Kenny's health improved and he resolved to begin medical studies, graduating in medicine from Glasgow University in 1949.

He was very athletic in his youth and was a PT instructor in the Army. He became an accomplished weightlifter and enjoyed fishing. Above all he was a man for the hills and mountains, Schiehallion and Glencoe being his favourite haunts over the years.



He was a primary member of the forerunner to what has since become the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team. He was a keen piper but found little time to practise after his move to Gatehouse. Kenny was very respected by his patients who had the greatest confidence in his diagnostic ability, as did the consultants at the Dumfries infirmary. They recall not only his kindness and advocacy but also his resorting to a colourful turn of phrase.

In the 1970s he was called to an emergency at Ravenhall shore when a holiday maker got into difficulties in the water after his boat had capsized. Kenny stripped to his underwear and swam to save the man from drowning.

He loved Scotland, with its hills and lochs, and Gatehouse in particular for its people and beauty.

He became an assistant medical practitioner in Stranraer from 1949 till 1953 under Dr John McInroy. Kenny moved to Kirkcaldy to practise until 1969 when he moved to Gatehouse of Fleet following a car accident which necessitated the insertion of metal rods into his spine. Following the death of Peggy in 1979, a loss which devastated him, and experiencing continued problems with his spine injury, he decided to retire in 1981.



In retirement Kenny continued his interest in things medical: he was an avid reader of the BMA Journal and helped to set up the Alexandra Unit at the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

Kenny was not a man for the Kirk. However, he had a friendship, from his weightlifting days, with a miner from Seafield Colliery who later became a lay preacher. Kenny conceded: "There must be something in this religion."

Kenny is survived by his daughter Pat, and grandchildren Sarah and Alistair Jacques.



1. Colin Jardine 2. Stanley Grieve 3. James Finlay 4. Hamish Holmes 5. Kennedy McCreath 6. Paul Jacques 7. Pat Jacques (née McCreath) 8. Jimmy Dent 9. ??