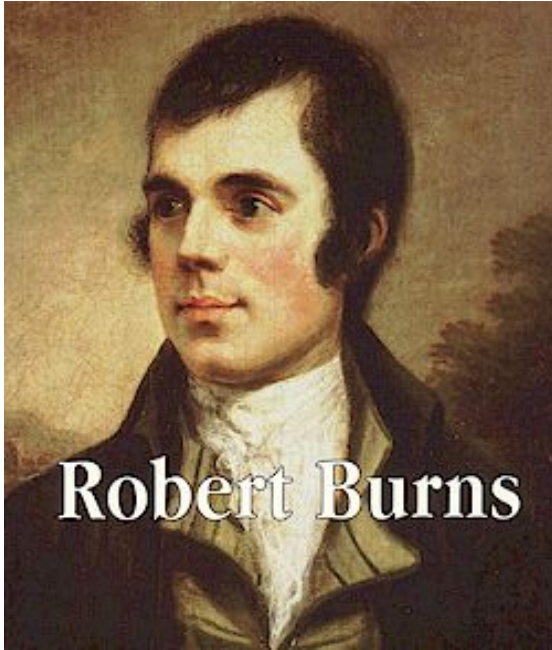




The Grange Courier

Singing for their Supper



The John Mitchell Burns Supper was held on the evening of Tuesday January 25th at the Inchyra Grange Hotel, Polmont. Around 60 customers, suppliers and friends joined us to celebrate our national bard's day. On arrival guests were piped in by Pipe Major Jim Stewart and the evening's proceedings were chaired by local Burns expert, Ian Campbell. Prior to the traditional Haggis, Neeps and Tatties meal, a welcome and grace were provided by host Iain Mitchell.

Afterwards, the Immortal Memory was orated by Willie Lyall, songs were sung by Ian Robertson and the toast to the lassies was by Jim Robertson, who has spoken at Burns Suppers all over the world. To conclude this fine evening which was enjoyed by everyone, Ian Campbell recited Tam O' Shanter and Duncan Weir gave the rendition of Holy Willie's prayer.

The Weigh Ahead!

As part of our phased redevelopment and enhancement of our depot facilities, a new 50 tonne public weighbridge was installed adjacent to our container control office, early in the New Year. Supplied by Schering's of Dunfermline these new 'super scales' will benefit our customer service levels by offering very accurate loading and weighing of tankers prior to deliveries. Another enhancement is the ability to check any load or container at any time, freeing us from the restrictive opening hours of the previous facility that we used.

The weighbridge can also be used by any member of the public on payment of a standard fee.



Company News



Compared to previous years 2005 will be a fairly quiet year for new trucks, but we are already looking forward to our Golden Jubilee in 2006 and we have a number of special events and vehicles in the pipeline! Watch this space for future news and developments for our special year.

One unique vehicle which has recently joined the fleet is our new Kalmar ST-122 Terminal Tractor. This truck is a specially designed piece of equipment, which will never leave the yard! It is manufactured for the sole purpose of the safe and quick shunting of trailers and with approximately 200 John Mitchell examples of various types contained within our 10 acre

premises; it's been a very busy machine already. Early indications are showing this 'super shunter', with low operating costs and small turning circle is improving our efficiency levels and helping to keep the yard look tidy with everything parked up neatly.

Other news and developments include our 3000 square metre warehouse, which is now up and running to a very high standard. The recently completed high bay storage facility includes a super level floor, complete weather insulation, fire and security alarm, CCTV and a covered, drive thru' loading bay. This building has been so successful; we are considering erecting another at the south eastern corner of the yard.



The ongoing depot resurfacing is almost complete, with just a few small sections of gravel areas to be covered soon. This hard standing concreting, which features environmentally friendly drainage, has made a huge improvement to premises and vehicle cleanliness.

After months of preparation we launched our implementation with The Working Time Directive, which became law on Sunday April 3rd. Our drivers have attended seminars and presentations held by The Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association, so they are already well acquainted with the new regulations. All our employees will now work an average of a 48 hour week, with a maximum of 60 hours allowed in any 7 days.



A Pizza Rugby History!



The Scotland / Italy rugby international at Murrayfield stadium on Saturday 26th February was a proud day for our Fleet Administrator; Angela Roncone and her husband Marco. The event was chosen as the debut for Michael Lemmetti's newly designed Italian tartan with young Luca and Natalia Roncone (aged 7 & 5 years respectively) being chosen to be amongst the Italian mascots, who led their heroes onto the pitch in front of a huge crowd.

The whole family enjoyed a great day out with mum and dad enjoying some excellent hospitality, the children were gifted their special

outfits and were able to meet both teams and obtain all the player's autographs!

The Two Minute Interview

Running a safe and clean fleet of vehicles is of paramount importance to us and Ron Buchanan our Wash Bay Supervisor is a key member of staff who makes this happen every day. Let's see what washes over his interests!

Briefly describe your job: Although varied, my job is mainly to ensure that all the trailers in our fleet are maintained to a safe and aesthetically pleasing standard.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work? I couldn't put my finger on any one particular aspect of my work, although the smile on my youngest daughter's face at Friday tea-time, when she receives her pocket money, must rate highly.

Where is your favourite place / holiday destination? Anywhere in the Highlands.

What are your hobbies and interests? Playing musical instruments and canoeing.

What tape / CD are you listening to at the moment? Debussy preludes, books I & II, disc 1.

What was the last film you saw at the cinema? Casper, when the girls were young.

What's the best book you've read in the last 12 months? The Good Book.

What's your favourite TV programme? Horizon.

If you won £10 million on the lottery, what would you spend it on? Apply for a day's holiday and count it.

And finally, who would you most like to be stuck in a lift with? Rastas, my pet goldfish; so that depending on how long it took to be rescued, I know that at least I would have food and water!



Rear View Mirror



Its back 25 years to 1970 for this edition's Rear View Mirror and the start of the new decade proved to be a very interesting time indeed. Firstly in fashion, one of the year's highlights? Was footballer George Best who introduced us all to the delights of a skin tight satin suit? A sad time for music lovers as sixties super group The Beatles announced that they were to split up and Dana's 'All kinds of Everything' made the top 5- Jimmy Saville's Top of the Pops show would never be the same again. At the pictures the Ali McGraw launched the term 'Chick Flick', with the movie 'Love Story'; Across the country women cried and men yawned. Comedy was the name of the game on TV with The Goodies and Monty Pythons Flying Circus pulling the biggest audiences.

And back in Bonnie Scotland, John Mitchell's fleet was now up to a dozen lorries with the addition of this magnificent ERF artic named Grange Princess. This vehicle would be the first of many Sandbach built trucks to join our fleet and at the time was the Rolls Royce of HGV'S. Caught by the camera of Geordie enthusiast, Geoff Milne; it is pictured with a fine load of timber in Gateshead lorry park.

The Competition

This time round we're offering our readers the chance to win a top quality Car Care Kit, supplied courtesy of Dennison Trailers.

The Question: What is the highest vehicle fleet number we currently have in use? (The fleet list section of our website may help you!)

Please e-mail your answer to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk before July 31st.

The winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries and the result will be announced in newsletter number 9.



Congratulations to Woody Spiers of Grangemouth, whose winning email was pulled from the mail sack for the Corgi Collectables John Mitchell model truck competition in newsletter no. 7. The correct answer was 'The Falkirk Wheel'. Thanks to all who entered the competition and for those who have not won yet, keep trying! Next time it could be you!

John Mitchell Merchandise

We are pleased to offer the following official company products for sale; all prices include postage and packing. If you require any further information on these goods, please contact Lyn Sharpe at our office (tel. 01324 496308).

Painting



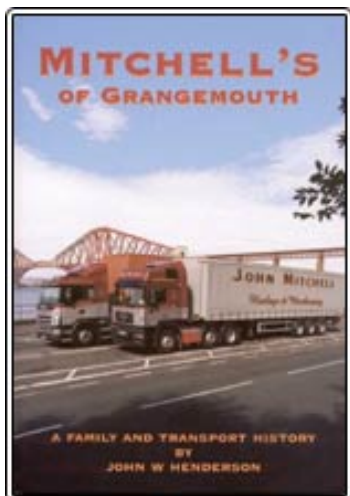
We have a small number of prints of Alan Spillett's classic painting available for sale. These Giclee fine art prints are produced to a very high standard and the image size is 10" x 14" with surrounding border. The cost per print is £40. Please allow six weeks for delivery and note that cheques sent will not be cashed until 1 week prior to despatch.

Model

To commemorate our success back in 2002 as 'Motor Transport UK Haulier of the Year', we commissioned top model makers Search Impex Ltd. To produce a detailed 1:43 rd. scale model of one of our MAN trucks. This model is a limited edition and the cost is £95.



Book



A book on our family firm was first published in November 2000. "Mitchells of Grangemouth ", a family and transport history, is a 48-page well illustrated history of the Mitchell family's carting, haulage and local involvement in the area's heritage from 1892 right up to present day. The cost of this publication is £12.

Send your orders to: John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing, Earls Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth. FK3 8XA. Please allow 28 days delivery for the Book and Model.

Thank you for reading the Grange Courier, if you have a story or picture that you think would be suitable for our magazine, please mail us at newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk
