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“ ARE YE DANCIN’?”

The translation for those who are not familiar with Francie & Josie is “May I have the pleasure of this dance?”. That was usual when I was young but if the gentleman was very shy he would cross the hall, stand in front of you & simply stretch his hand out in invitation. Most local dances had Jamieson’s band, but Grace Bruce would come and play her accordion. Once I remember a dance at Auchengray where Will Hannah’s recording band played. As I have mentioned before we had a good youth club in the old hall at Tarbrax & about 1955, I think, I had a friend who was a T.V. engineer & he converted an old cabinet gramophone to work off the electricity, so as I had a collection of 78’s (records) with dances in strict tempo (mostly Jimmy Shand) I organised wee dances which were well attended by the teenagers & adults. We charged 1/6 (7 1/2p) & we had a tuck shop. The cabinet had 2 doors on the front which opened to let out the sound & I remember when the record finished I had to abandon my partner & dash to put the needle back to the start, or change the record. I kid you not, but what fun we had then. When Jimmy Osmond had his hit with Long-haired Lover from Liverpool & The Slosh was born I learned how to do it & taught it to the youth club & the local teenagers were first to show off their skill before any of their schoolmates. The hall had a cloakroom & toilets inside for the females, & outside toilets beside the boiler room for the gents. One of these days I will run out of memories, but if you get fed up of them just let Margaret know & maybe one of you could take over, but as long as I am able I feel that at my age (87) I am helping to record some local history, with a little humour thrown in.

Grace.