THE DISCO.

You may not know that probably the first Disco took place in a wash-house in Woolfords about 1950. I was living with my Aunt Mag at No.13 at the time & she had a wind-up gramophone with a big horn for the sound. There were a number of wash-houses to be shared by several people who were each allocated a certain day or half-day & the key was passed from person to person. In those days nobody would dare to do a washing on a Sunday so guess what day my Aunt had the key? Yes, it was Saturday, so I asked her if I could borrow the gramophone on a Sunday & she agreed. Us lads, Wullie, Neil, the Jamiesons & me took records & played them. The girls soon got wind of our activities & wanted a part of the action, Margaret, Alexa, Doris, Ruby, Sally are some of the ones I remember. This was in the winter as we played football in the summer & had nothing to do when the dark nights arrived. We lit candles in the wash-house, but one night Wullie blew out the candles & the girls screamed the place down – all good clean fun in those days. This was in the days before we had electricity, hence the need for candles! The electricity arrived in 1953, just before the Queen’s Coronation. My aunt was a forward-thinking woman & actually purchased a T.V. set about a year before she had electricity & on the day of the Coronation had a full house to watch it. After the inside was choc-a-bloc the others crowded on to the pavement outside the window & watched from there.

This prompts a memory from the same era about the time that Cobbinshaw Loch was frozen over & we were able to play a game of football with our jackets for goalposts. Cars & a tractor also drove across it, & at night people from Edinburgh drove out & shone their headlights across the large loch to let their children skate on it.