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# Dick Dargie Durie Clydesdales

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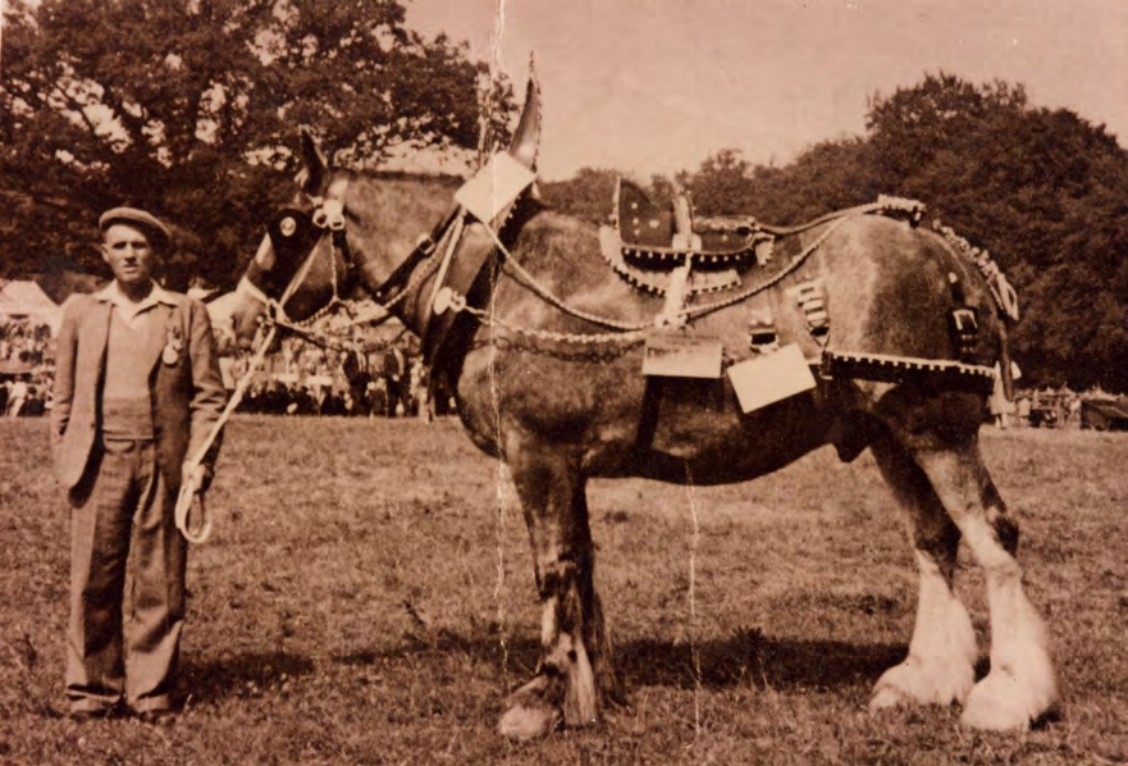
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...then all. ... told me that it  
... under Albert Road to another large  
... house—I think it was called Airlie Park  
—but having been warned not to go  
there, I never found out if it did, in fact,  
lead to the other side of the road.”

## John Smith rhyme

JOHN DORWARD of Arbroath has  
emailed with regard to the recent piece  
about a rhyme told to children, possibly  
when putting their shoes on, and which  
began: “John Smith, Fallow Fine . . .”

“There are quite a few versions of this,” he  
says, “but it seems to be one of those  
rhymes for children, the origins of  
which have been lost in the mists of  
time. The one my wife used was the  
Robert Barnes one, tapping the baby’s  
feet, and it ran:

*‘John Smith, fallow fine,  
Can you shoe this horse o’ mine?  
Aye, indeed, and that I can,  
As well as ony man!  
There’s a nail upon the tae,  
To make the powny speel the brae;  
There’s a nail and there’s a brod  
-a horse weel shod.’”*

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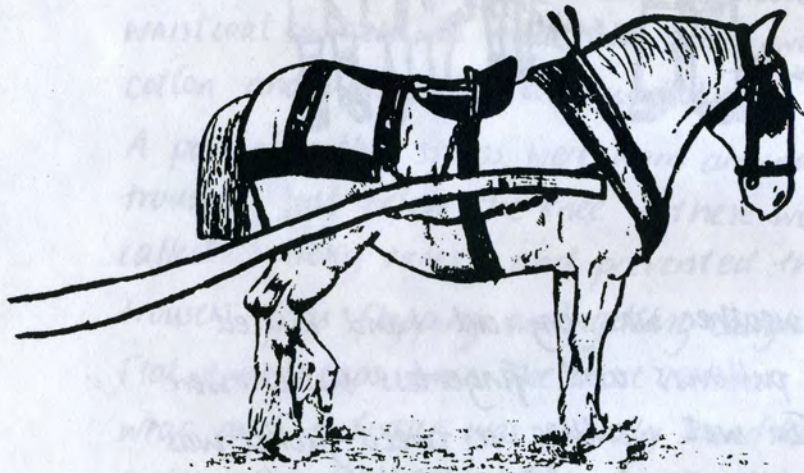




# Horses

Five horsemen were very proud of their charges. The teams were well organised and great care was taken of the harness and brasswork.

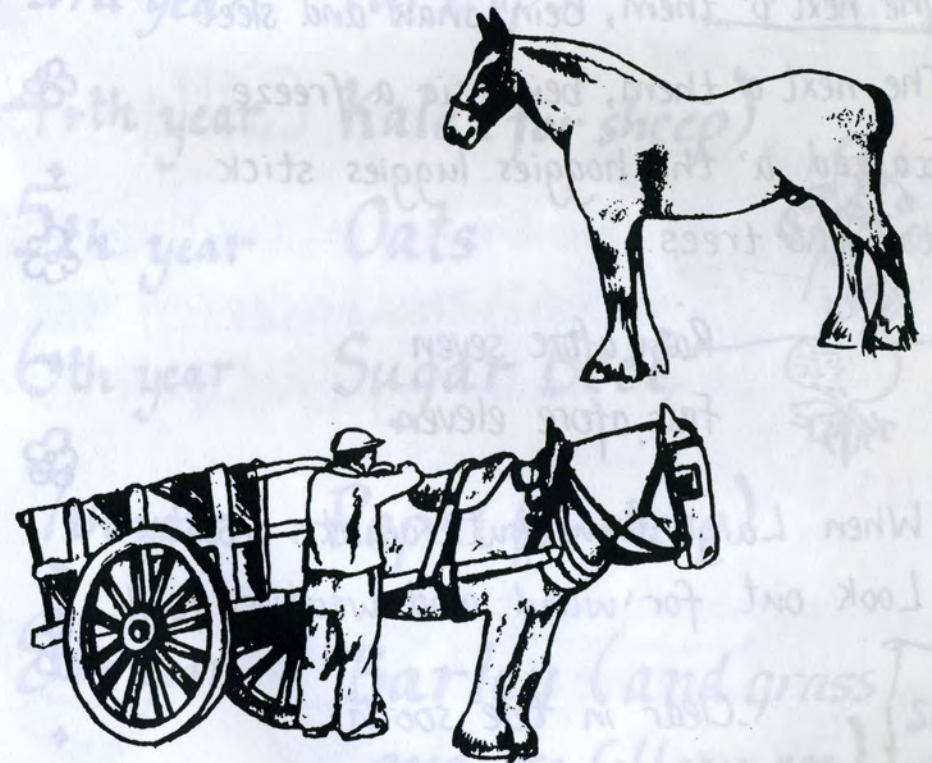
One pair of horses - a team - was used for about every 100 acres of land. A farm with about 500 acres of ground would have 5 pairs of horses (10 horses in all) and another 2 or 3 single 'orra horses' for pulling carts.



Competitions and parades were held to encourage an interest in the upkeep of the horses, and there were prizes given for the best turnouts.

Horses were decorated for special occasions, such as Sunday School trips, with pom-poms and ribbons.

The breeds of heavy horses most commonly worked were Clydesdale and the Belgian Draught. The horses were either bought from local breeders or more often at Perth Market as youngsters and broken into harness on the farm or by a breaker.





# The Daily Routine

- 5:00am Rise, Feed and  
Water Horses.  
Muck out.
- 6:00am Groom and Harness  
Up Horses. Eat Breakfast.
- 7:00am Get orders from  
the foreman
- 7:10am Go to work in the  
fields
- 9:00am 'Piece Time' (tea break)  
taken in the field
- 12:00 noon Go home for lunch  
Horses fed
- 1:00pm Working in the fields
- 5:00pm Home for tea  
Horses fed
- 8:00pm Horses watered and  
given hay (this was  
done by each man in  
turn, on a rota.)





















# THE CLYDESDALE INTERNATIONAL

SPRING 2011

68



& SHIRES  
[www.clydeshire.co.uk](http://www.clydeshire.co.uk) TODAY



# DUNCAN & CAMERON



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**BIG ATTRACTION:** Jim Aitken was the judge of the Clydesdale harness classes at Perth Show which is always a popular event for the visitors.

or a previous Kildy Jeweller Erica. First at Royal Highland and in native group of three.

Reserve: Jamie Rettie, 3

eron, Balbuthie, Kilconquhar, with 23-month-old in-calf heifer Baldinnie 1 Dom Lass 13. By Baldinnie 1 Ori-

at Kirmemuir.

### Simmental

Scottish (National Club Show) Boddington Estates



One of the main anniversary attractions at Perth Show on Saturday was an outstanding horse harness display, with nine beautifully decorated Clydesdales forward for judging in the main ring. Organised by Dick Dargie, Errol, as a special tribute to his local show, this record entry is unlikely to be matched anywhere. The champions were David and Enid Proctor, West Idvies, Forfar, with their harness carried by Knowehead Jock (above). *Picture Louis Flood.*



Mr Dick Dargie. The Rowans West Grange, By Errol Perth  
Farming Yesteryear.

The clydesdales should never be forgotten. The horse harness showing today was last shown in 1952, and was shown by the late McLean family of Mains of Fintry and Whitfield Mains, Dundee. It was also made by Bell of Cupar in the late 1940s. It was then purchased by the Archie Doig family, Balmossie Mill, then by the Dargie family.

The decorations were made by Geordie Wilson of Dunfermline, during the 1950s. Geordie Wilson is most noted for his woollen decorations. The florals were mostly made by W. Copeland of Glencarse, in the Fife, Perth and Angus areas.

The clysdale carrying the harness today was bred by Dick Dargie of The Croft, West Grange, By Errol Perth

This year there was: 11 sets of clydesdale horse and harness at the Perth show, 5 sets at the Kinross Show, 3 at the Highland show, 2 sets at the Fife Show, and 1 at the Aberdeen show, also known as The Croft .

Three white legs goes round about you, four white legs goes away without you, colours does not make a good horse for working.

Durie Clydesdales West Grange, By Errol Perth























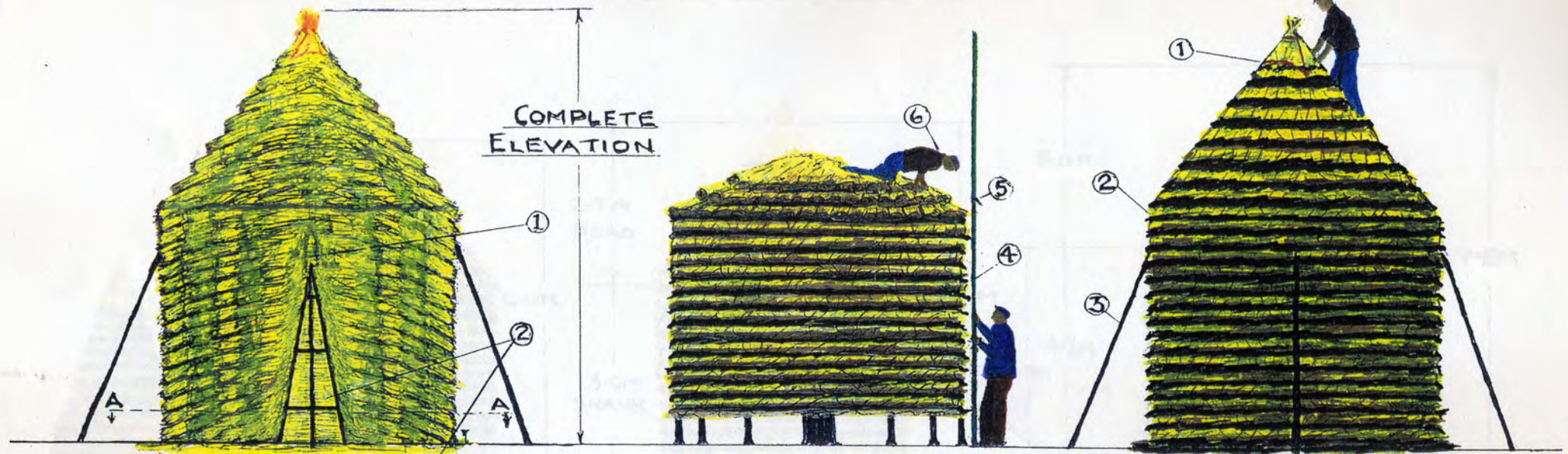




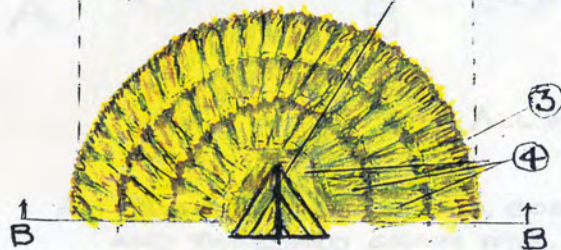




# BUILDING ROUND GRAIN STACKS

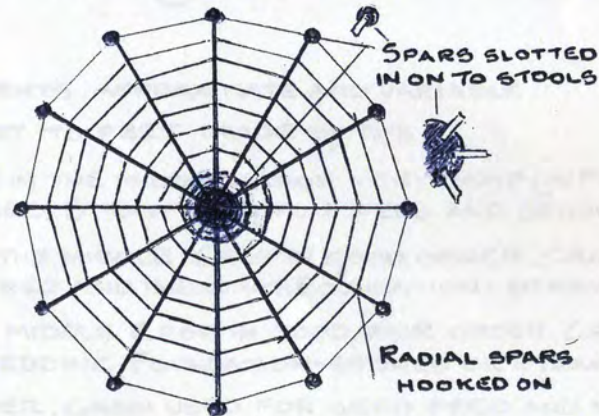


VIEW "BB"



VIEW "AA"

WHEAT STACK  
BEING BUILT ON IRON STATHEL



PLAN OF IRON STATHEL

OAT STACK

- 1-HOLE- AN ARMS LENGTH DEEP TO AVOID STACK SETTLING ON TOP OF THE BOSS (TRIPOD)
- 2-BOSS - MADE OF WOOD
- 3-OUTSIDE LAYER BUILT WITH A GOOD SLOPE TO PREVENT WATER SEEPING INTO THE STACK.
- 4-ALL INSIDE LAYERS (THE HEART) BUILT FIRMLY AND ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE RESPECTIVE OUTER LAYER. HEADS OF SHEAVES ARE KEPT SLIGHTLY BACK-MOST.

- 1-STANDING UP SHEAVES BEING TIED IN USING ESPARTO GRASS ROPE.
- 2-EAVES.
- 3.WOODEN PROPS,
- 4.WOODEN LADDER.
- 5-PIECE OF STRING TIED TO RUNG OF LADDER. HEIGHT OF EAVES IS MEASURED THIS WAY TO ENSURE ALL STACKS SETTLE DOWN TO A UNIFORM HEIGHT.
- 6-STACK BUILDER CHECKING THE STRING AGAINST SIDE OF STACK.



## BUILDING ROUND GRAIN STACKS

ON A VERY HOT SUNNY DAY STRAW COULD BECOME VERY SLIPPY ESPECIALLY BARLEY AND WHEAT SHEAVES. THE STACKER HAD TO KEEP A GRIP - "BUILD BARE" TO PREVENT THE SIDE OF THE STACK SLIPPING OUT COMPLETELY,

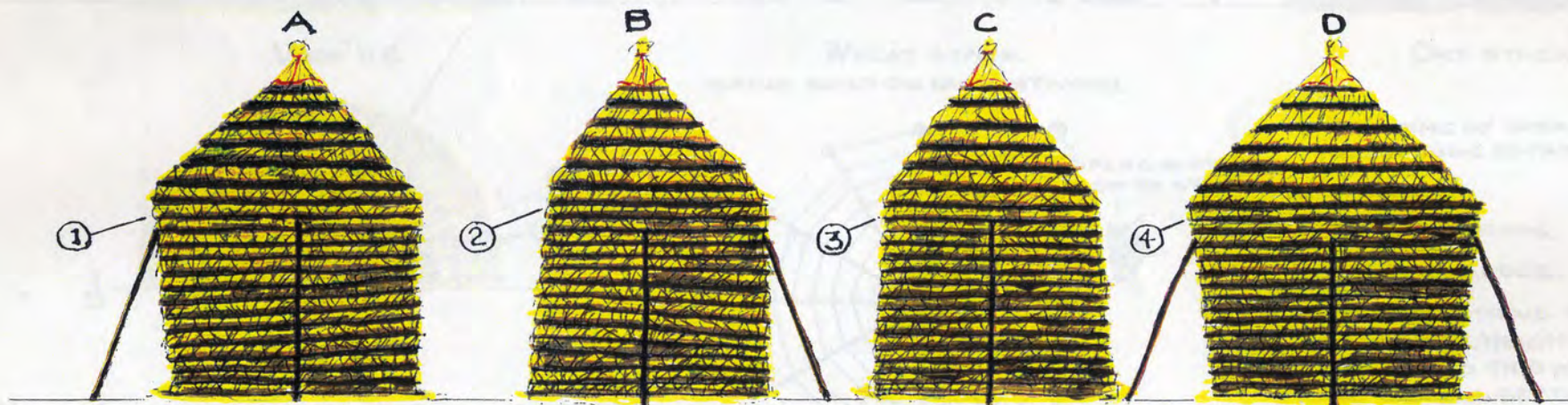


A SET IS MADE UP OF ONE STACKER, CARTERS AND IN THE FIELD, FORKERS AND CART BUILDERS. ON LARGE ARABLE FARMS THREE OR FOUR SETS WERE COMMON.

SETS WORKED IN PAIRS. TWO FORKERS WOULD PASS SHEAVES TO TWO STACKERS (A STACK EACH) FROM THE SAME SIDE OF THE LOADED CART.

STACKS WERE OFTEN BUILT IN FIELDS NEAR A GATE. IT ALLOWED THE THRESHING MILL EASY ACCESS TO THE STACKS WHICH WERE ALWAYS BUILT IN TWO ROWS WITH A ROAD IN BETWEEN, TO ALLOW THE THRESHING MILL TO THRESH OUT THE STACKS FROM BOTH SIDES.

STACKYARDS WERE USUALLY USED FOR WHEAT STACKS BUILT ON STATHELS, SOME OAT STACKS AND HAY STACKS.



A GOOD STACKER WOULD HAVE NOTICED WHEN BUILDING A STACK.

A1 - HEAVY SIDE WOULD BE LOWER, THE STACK WOULD BE LOSING ITS ROUNDNESS AND BE OFF CENTRE.

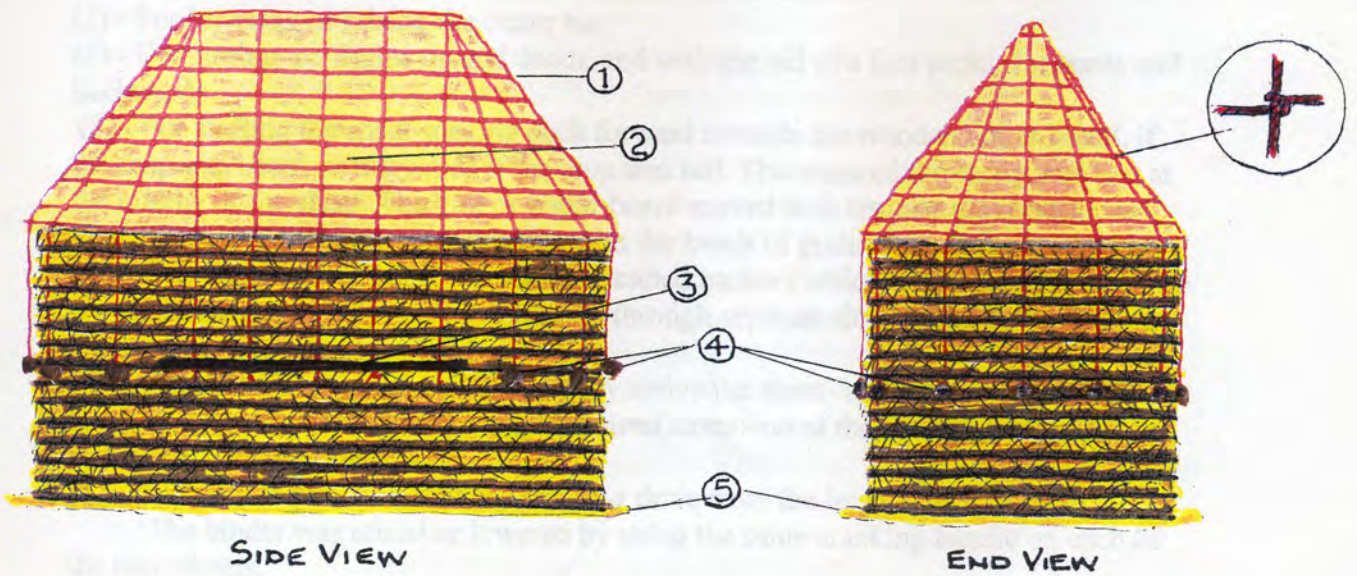
B2 - LIGHT SIDE WOULD BE HIGHER. THE STACK WOULD BE LOSING ITS ROUNDNESS AND BE OFF CENTRE.

C3 - BARE OR LIGHT ALL ROUND. THE ROUNDNESS (CIRCUMFERENCE) IN SIZE WOULD BE DECREASING.

D4 - HEAVY ALL ROUND. THE ROUNDNESS IN SIZE WOULD BE INCREASING.

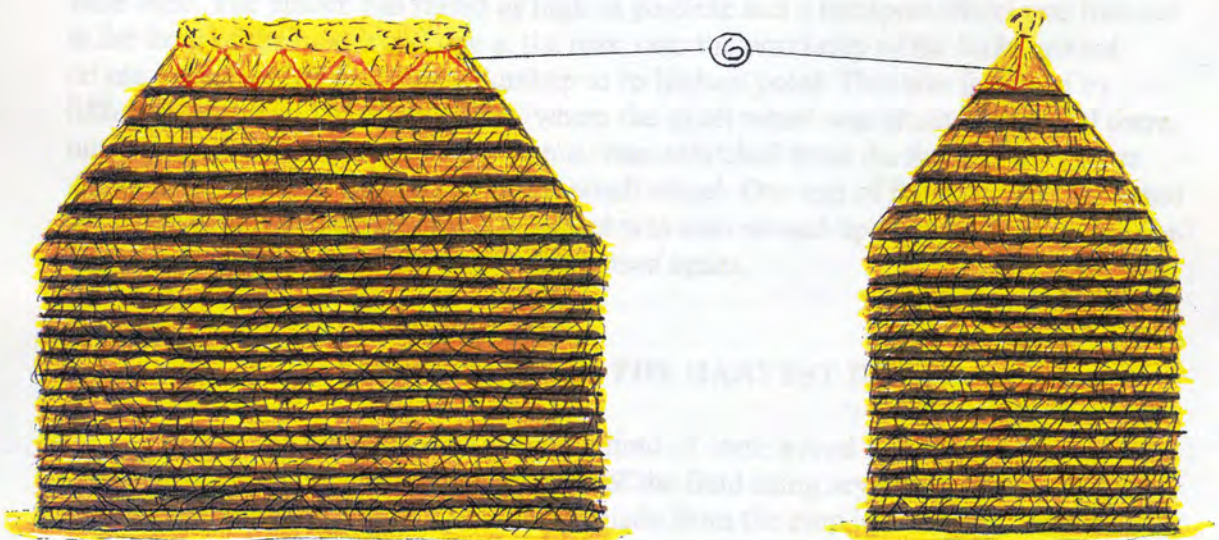


# OBLONG STACK (LEET) THATCHED RING ROPED AND PROPS REMOVED

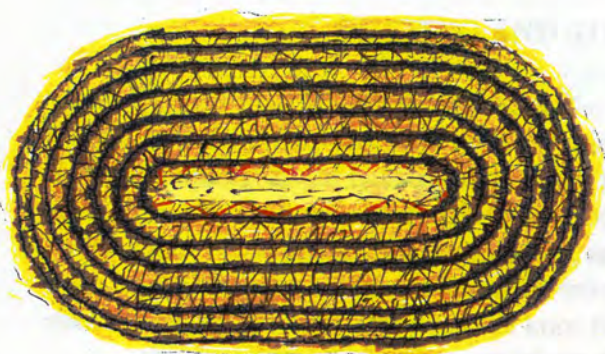


SIDE VIEW

END VIEW



LEET UNTHATCHED



PLAN VIEW

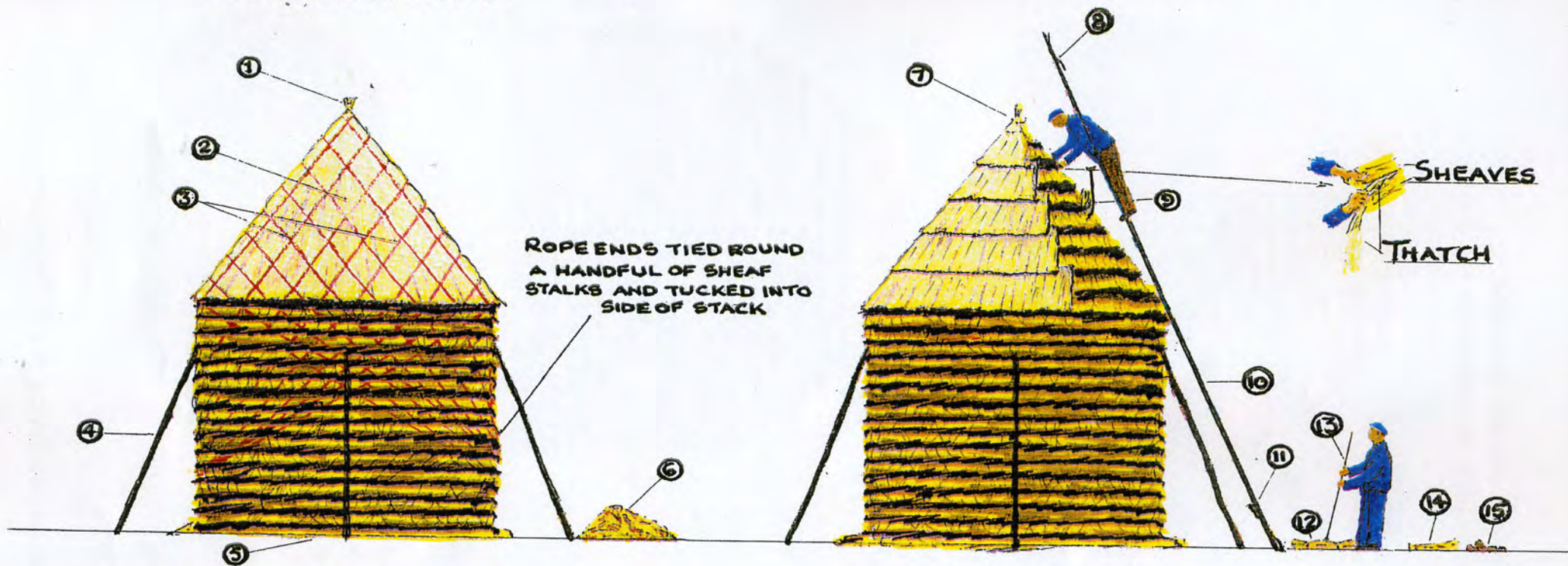
- 1- ESPARTO GRASS ROPE.
- 2- THATCH - WHEAT STRAW.
- 3- ROPE ENDS TIED ROUND PROPS, WHICH ARE USED AS WEIGHTS
- 4- ROPE ENDS TIED ROUND BRICKS OR STONES WHICH ARE USED AS WEIGHTS.
- 5- FOUNDATION. LOOSE STRAW.
- 6- STANDING UP SHEAVES TIED IN WITH ESPARTO GRASS ROPE.

LENGTH OF LEET ABOUT 7M (23 FT) OTHER MEASUREMENTS SIMILAR TO A ROUND STACK



## ROUND STACK THATCHED AND "DIAMOND" ROPED

## ROUND STACK BEING THATCHED



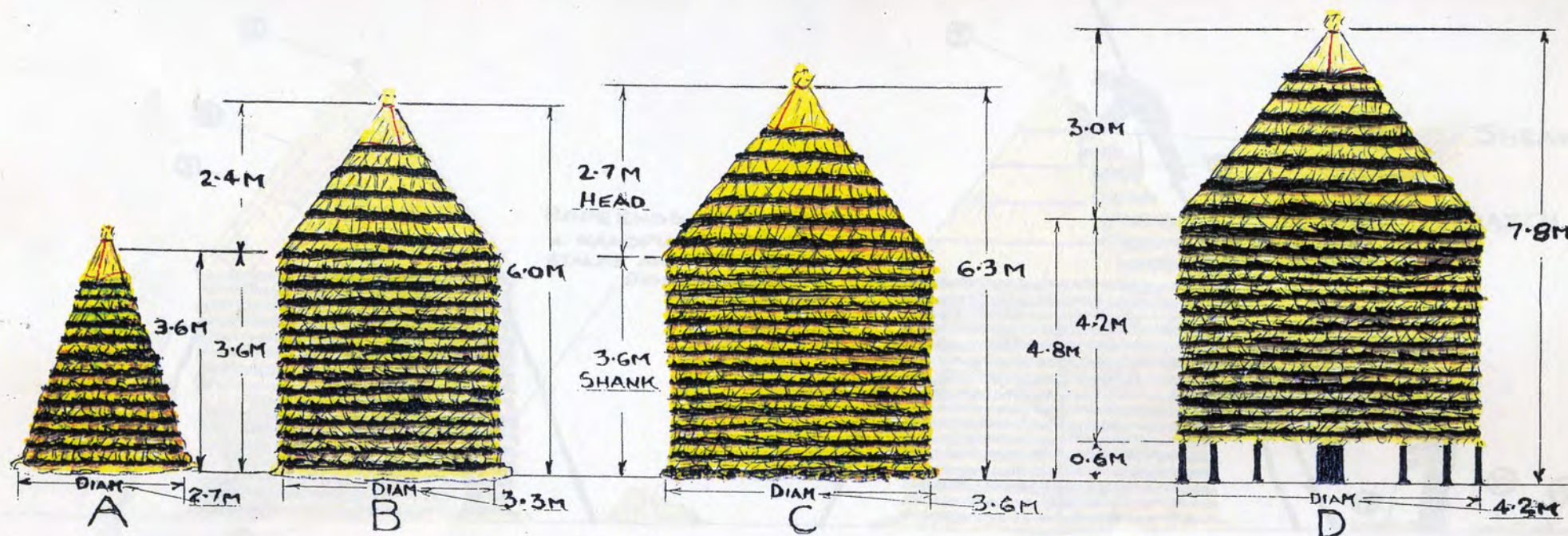
ROPE ENDS TIED ROUND  
A HANDFUL OF SHEAF  
STALKS AND TUCKED INTO  
SIDE OF STACK

- 1-TAPPIE - MADE OF WHEAT STRAW.
- 2- THATCH - WHEAT STRAW.
- 3- ESPARTO GRASS ROPES.
- 4- PROPS- WOODEN. 4 TO EACH STACK.
- 5- FOUNDATION- LOOSE STRAW.
- 6- LOOSE STRAW SWITCHED OFF THATCH.
- 7- BAND OF CHAIN-DISCARDED WHEN THATCHING COMPLETED. PIECE OF STRING THEN TIED AROUND THE TOP OF THE THATCH.

- 8- SWITCH-PIECE OF TREE BRANCH FOR SWITCHING.  
(SWEEPING) LOOSE STRAW OFF THATCH.
- 9- GRAIP FOR HOLDING BUNCH OF WHEAT STRAW.
- 10- LONG WOODEN LADDER.
- 11- GRAIP FOR SECURING LADDER.
- 12- BUNCH OF WHEAT STRAW.
- 13- PITCH-FORK USED FOR PASSING BUNCHES UP TO THE MAN THATCHING THE STACK.
- 14-TAPPIE - MADE OF WHEAT STRAW.
- 15- BALLS OF ESPARTO GRASS ROPE.



# ROUND STACKS WITH THE PROPS REMOVED



ALL MEASUREMENTS APPROXIMATE AND VARIABLE  
TO CONVERT TO FEET DIVIDE BY 0.3

- A - FRANDIE - BUILT WITH A BOSS (TRIPOD) IN THE MIDDLE. CROP VERY DAMP (IN POOR ORDER) WHEN DRIED AND THRESHED GRAIN WILL DO FOR FEED. STRAW USED FOR FEED AND BEDDING. FOUNDATION - STRAW
- B - BARLEY STACK - BUILT WITH A BOSS IN THE MIDDLE. CROP IN GOOD ORDER. GRAIN USED FOR SEED, FEED AND MALTING (BREWING). STRAW FOR FEED AND BEDDING. FOUNDATION - STRAW
- C - OAT STACK - BUILT WITH A BOSS IN THE MIDDLE. CROP IN GOOD/FAIR ORDER. GRAIN USED FOR SEED, FEED AND MILLING. STRAW FOR FEED AND BEDDING. FOUNDATION - STONES OR STRAW.
- D - WHEAT STACK - CROP IN GOOD/FAIR ORDER. GRAIN USED FOR SEED, FEED AND MILLING. STRAW USED FOR THATCHING STACKS AND COVERING POTATO PITS (CLAMPS) TO KEEP THE CROP FROST FREE. WAS USED FOR BEDDING AFTER DISCARDED FROM PITS AND STACKS. FOUNDATION - STATHEL OR STRAW. BOSS NOT NORMALLY USED.

NOTE - IF STACK SETTLED DOWN EVENLY, ALL PROPS COULD BE TAKEN AWAY. HOWEVER, PROPS WERE USUALLY LEFT IN. TIGHTENED OR SLACKENED WHERE NEEDED. FRANDIES DIDN'T REQUIRE PROPS



## ABOUT THE AUTHER

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I was born in the year 1936 into a family that eventually became made up of six boys and six girls, Father was a lorry driver with William Calander of Forfar, and also had a farm at West Braehead Letam Angus. Unfortunately died when I was six years old.

My mother had to give up the farm, she then got a job with a house, doing the milking and looking after the poultry seven days a week at Mains of Ravensby by Carnoustie. I helped mother when ever possible Learning to hand milk the cows and other tasks on the farm at a very early age.

As I got older I did other jobs such as carting turnips and taking the cans of milk to the co-operative dairy in town also some field work with a fordson tractor when on school holidays. I did seasonal work such as planting potatoes in the spring, picking berries in summer, then in the autumn the potato lifting.

At the age of twelve I got a job with the local co-op shop as a message boy in which they kept me until I left school.

After leaving school I took on my first full time job working for James Thom The Byres Farm Guildtown I was employed to do orra work and drive the orra horse, eventually was driving a pair of horses,

At the age of 18 I was called up to do national service in which was for a period of two years in the airborne Signals. That lasted just over the two years period due to the Suez, After getting demobbed I restarted back at the farm this time the horses were gone and replaced by ferguson and fordson tractors, after a short spell back on the farm, I left and started work for City Of Perth Co-operative Society First job being to drive a lorry round the farms collecting ten gallon milk cans and take to the creamery after eight years I was transport Supervisor responsible for lorries which were on farm collection of milk to Perth Creamery.

I then moved to central East Fife Co-operative Society to as Transport foreman, then assistant to the transport manager Then as Transport Manager of Fife and Forth Co-operative society Ltd.

Also took over responsibility of the operation of farms which were in the fife area Abden Farm Kinghorn the other three outskirts of Dunfermline to Crossford