

MR + MRS DONALD MACKAY, CUAGACH, ISLE OF EIGA.

Mr Mackay came from Stoneybridge on S. Uist, and his wife from Lochmucka on N. Uist. He was about 70, and she was somewhat younger.

The Pin Reel: Mr Mackay remembered this dance about 55 years ago on S. U. where it was known either as The "Pin Reel" in English, or in Gaelic; Ruidhleadh.

Mrs Mackay remembered the same dance on N. Uist, danced about 50 years ago, where it was called Ruidhleadh na.

The dance was performed by any number of couples, who joined hands and danced round in a ring, with one odd lady, the "pin" in the centre. The music stopped & the ladies stepped in front of their partners, joined hands in a ring, and, the music resuming, they danced round the "pin". When the music stopped for a second time, the ladies moved for a partner, the odd one out becoming the new pin. This was repeated once or more times. The lady left without a partner on the last occasion then sat down, & a man took her place as "pin". The dance was then repeated as before, save that the men now form the inner ring round the pin. While the men were dancing round, "some of the girls would go away & hid & then there would be several pins."

Mrs Mackay said that she used the chasse step (go hop), but that the side change-of-step was also used - it was up to each dancer to suit himself or herself.

Morag bheag nighean Muraich an thoir
 S' meather a glane é, S' meather a glane é
 Morag bheag nighean Muraich an thoir
 S' meather a glane é a posadh

Wec M'arag, M'udoch the joiner's daughter
 Light she would go, Light she would go.

Light she would go to his wedding.