

committ the lyke in time coming” :-

“Therefore the said Justice deput be the mouth of John M'Vurich dempster of Court ordained and adjudged the above named Margaret Campbell alias Guineach the pannell to he taken upon the twenty fourth day of Apryll instant betuixt tuo and three of the clock in the afternoon and then and there to be hanged upon a gibbet till she die the death and ordained her whole moveables to be escheat which was pronounced for Doom”.

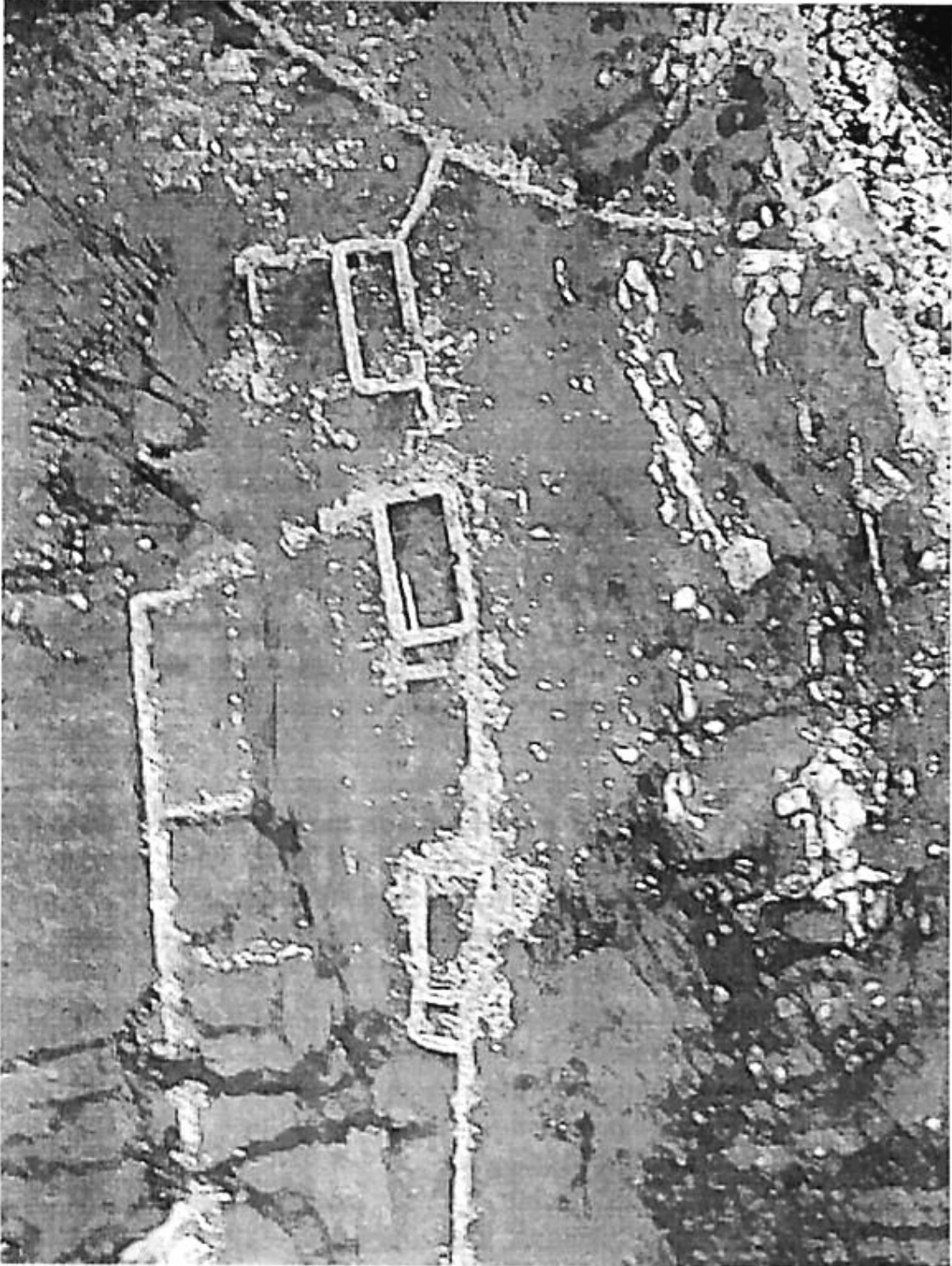
COLL REMOTE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

by J D

The 'spy in the sky' (a.k.a. The C.R.A.P. project) is the realisation of a long-standing ambition. I have been a keen builder and flyer of radio-controlled model aircraft for a good many years now (I took up the hobby when I was twenty and I'm now just the right side of fifty - work it out for yourself). I have long wanted to have a go at aerial photography, using one of my planes to carry the camera. Until recently, cameras were a bit bulky and heavy and used film, so consequently the project never got off the ground (pun intended). Today things are different and at last I felt the time was right to have a go.

The equipment

A cheap digital camera about the size of a credit card and weighing only a few ounces is mounted in a pod, which is attached to the underside of one of the plane's wings. The camera's power is turned on by a small servo motor mounted alongside it and the same servo also operates an arm which pushes the camera's shutter button to take the picture - all controlled by me from the ground with my radio transmitter. The plane itself is purpose built for the project and is a 2.2 metre (88 inch) wingspan electric motor-powered glider. Again, the motor and the flight of the plane are all controlled by me from the ground via the same transmitter.





The technique

The battery for the plane will only run the motor for about 5 minutes so when I launch, I run the motor for one or two of those minutes for the initial climb to height. The motor is turned off and the plane glides under my control into position and then the camera is turned on. When I think I am over the target zone I operate the camera's shutter several times to take a series of photos. I can fire up the motor again for another 'burn' to reposition the glider and gain height if I want and repeat the process. Although the battery will only last about 5 minutes on a single charge, the flight usually lasts around 10 - 20 minutes in still air. In the summer I hope to pick up the odd thermal (a bubble of warm rising air) and then the plane could well be carried to thousands of feet if I let it and the flight duration might be measured in hours.

The pictures

The pictures are downloaded from the camera into a computer for immediate processing (a distinct advantage over conventional film). Mostly, I want to photograph ancient ruins and settlements around the island, though modern dwellings and other features can also be accommodated. The pictures should complement the activities of the newly formed Archaeology Group here on the island. The composite image above has been assembled using digital image processing – a clear advantage over traditional photography. The images shown are just two examples from my rapidly expanding collection!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CO-OP IN DUNOON

by Michael Davis

When Co-op Manager, Garry Hay began to look into the history of the Co-op in Dunoon, he knew that the “Dumbarton Equitable Co-operative Society” had a long tradition of serving the people of Dunoon. But he was in for a surprise when he discovered just how long the Co-op has been around in the town.

At first, records suggested that the original shop in Edward Street had been opened in the 1920s. But suddenly when he began to dig deeper, a whole fascinating but mysterious history began to emerge. Firstly, ploughing through the Local Collection (in Library Headquarters at Sandbank), he found a listing for the Society's shop in Edward Street - in 1907.

Eventually, he found an advert in a 1928 programme for Dunoon Civic Week, which surprised him; it clearly said that the Edward Street Branch had opened on 22nd April 1898, with a membership of 50! This, of course, made 1998 the centenary of the Co-op in Dunoon.

But little enough has been uncovered regarding the early years of the Co-