Sawmill Cottage – Peter and Norman Beaton 2008

Sawmill Cottage was built when Archie McVicar was an Apprentice Mason

Peter and Normal Beaton went there in 1957 or 1958.

Sam Keith (Head Forrester) and Mrs. Keith had put on the fire for them when they arrive.

Walter Beattie had gone up by fort William with the Estate lorry to do their flitting – and had overnighted with them there.

They were Kenny and Rachel Beaton – he was from Lewis, had worked in the tweed mill and had been in the Merchant Navy in the War. Rachel was Glasgow Lewis.

The Sawmill was in constant use, driven by water-power from the dam above. Bobby and Anne Callander were living in the house above, which is now Jackie and Mark’s.

Peter, 18 (had already been at work – with his father, for 3 years) came as gamekeeper to work with Colin MacCallum and Willie Manson.

Norman was 12 and went to school at Inveraray, and then when he was 14 to Dunoon Grammar, stayed in the hostel during the week, cycled to and from St. Catherines (or Strachur) to catch the bus.

Morag and Tina went to Kilmorich School, walked to school, used to call in at Betty Mansons on the way back for a jam piece and because she had the telly, and was so nice to children.

They had no car, till Peter bought one when he was working constructing pylons in later years.

The kitchen and bathroom and minor “dormer” windows upstairs at the back had been recently added before they came. Kitchen to the left of the back door, bathroom to the right.

Peter and Norman shared a bed, and the girls another in the other upper room. Kenny and Rachel’s room was to the right of the front door as you came in and sitting room to the left.

He used his bike to get up the Glen Fyne or Kinglas, also to go to dances etc.

Peter played the accordion.