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Professor J.H. Connell (1923–2020) at Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, Scotland

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The following Short Note was prompted by the chance find of two photographs I had taken of the world-renowned ecologist Professor Joe Connell on one of his occasional return visits to Farland Point, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, Scotland to review the status of littoral barnacles at “his” classic site (Fig. 1). I know of no other photographs of him at this work site. Given his recent passing, I thought it would also be appropriate to remind readers of his local connections and provide some colour to the biographical details in his American obituary (Anonymous, 2020) and Wikipedia entry (Wikipedia, 2023).

Joseph Hurd Connell was American. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with an M.A. in Zoology but came to Scotland to study for his Ph.D. under the (relaxed) supervision of Professor C. Maurice Yonge (1899–1986) at the University of Glasgow and the Millport Marine Station, which at that time was managed by the Scottish Marine Biological Association (S.M.B.A.). His chosen topic was competition between the common littoral barnacles *Chthamalus montagui* (then known as *C. stellatus*) and *Semibalanus* (formerly *Balanus*) *balanoides*. His Ph.D. work resulted in his classic papers on barnacle competition and its mediation by predation (Connell, 1961a,b), which drew praise worldwide and represented landmarks in the field of competition ecology. He went on to equally important prize-winning work on tropical rain forests and coral reefs (Connell, 1978).

His detailed biography and accomplishments have been covered elsewhere (see above), but I wanted to add some local reminiscences of Joe at Millport, where, incidentally, he met his wife. She was Margaret Harvey, an Exeter girl, who was also studying zoology and was the daughter of zoologist Professor Leslie A. Harvey (1903–1986) at the University of Exeter and another devotee of islands, in his case the Isles of Scilly, England.

While engaged upon his researches on Cumbrae and having only limited means, he lived in a tent in the garden of the late Mrs Plant's house - “Ashgrove” - in



Fig. 1. Professor Joe Connell studying barnacles at Farland Point, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, Scotland in 1982 or 1983. (Photos: P.G. Moore)

Marine Parade, Millport, which became known within Marine Station folklore at the time as “the Plantation”. I was once told the following anecdote by the late Alex Elliott, the Chief Technician at the Marine Station when it was under the management of the Universities of London and Glasgow. One foggy morning when Joe was crouched on the rocks surveying his barnacles, a

MacBrayne's steamer heading for Millport Old Pier loomed slowly out of the murk with a crewman leaning anxiously over the bow peering forward. Seeing Joe on the rocks, he hailed him "Where are we?". Joe, righting himself, yelled back in a broad American drawl "Nantucket!". I once taxed Joe with this piece of Millport folklore but, as he could not remember the incident, it may be apocryphal.

When Joe came back to Millport every few years to re-survey his sites, I had the privilege of assisting him on several occasions, hence my photographs. His pink plastic-rimmed spectacles became his trademark.

I thank Professor Richard Warwick for the dates of Professor Harvey.

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