

"TOP O' THE ROAD" PINWHERRY

THIS CORNER, JUST OUTWITH PINWHERRY VILLAGE, AT THE JUNCTION OF THE GIRVAN-NEWTON STEWART AND THE BALLANTRAE/COLMONELL ROADS, IS KNOWN LOCALLY AS "TOP O' THE ROAD".

NEARBY, THE RIVER STINCHAR, FLOWING SOUTH FROM DALJARROCK, BEGINS ITS LONG, CIRCULAR SWEEP AND, BEING WIDENED BY THE RIVER DUISK, CONTINUES ON ITS WAY WEST. PAST POUNDLAND AND COLMONELL TO THE SEA AT BALLANTRAE.

THE LOWER STINCHAR VALLEY IS WIDE AND FERTILE, THE RESULT OF ONCE BEING UNDER WATER WHEN THE LAND WAS MUCH LOWER THAN IT IS TODAY.

PICTURE TOP LEFT :
VIEW LOOKING WEST FROM THE HILL ABOVE HERE, CIRCA 1937
PINWHERRY STATION IS CENTRE FOREGROUND,
THE SIGNAL BOX IS LEFT FOREGROUND,
A DIED WAGTAIL, FAR LEFT, AND A MALE PHEASANT LOOK ON.



THE ARRIVAL OF THE GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY, IN 1877, BROUGHT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO SMALL, RURAL COMMUNITIES, LIKE PINWHERRY AND PINMORE, STIMULATING CHANGE AS NEVER BEFORE.

VERY NEAR HERE, THE SMALL RAILWAY STATION BECAME THE FOCUS FOR NEW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

BEYOND THE STATION STOOD THE SIGNAL BOX AND BEYOND THAT, WAS A BUSY GOODS YARD.

IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, LOCAL FARMERS COOPERATED TO BUY THE NEWLY BUILT HALL ON MAIN STREET.

THERE BEGAN PINWHERRY CREAMERY, A VERY SUCCESSFUL, LOCAL BUSINESS, MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A COMBINATION OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAILWAY.

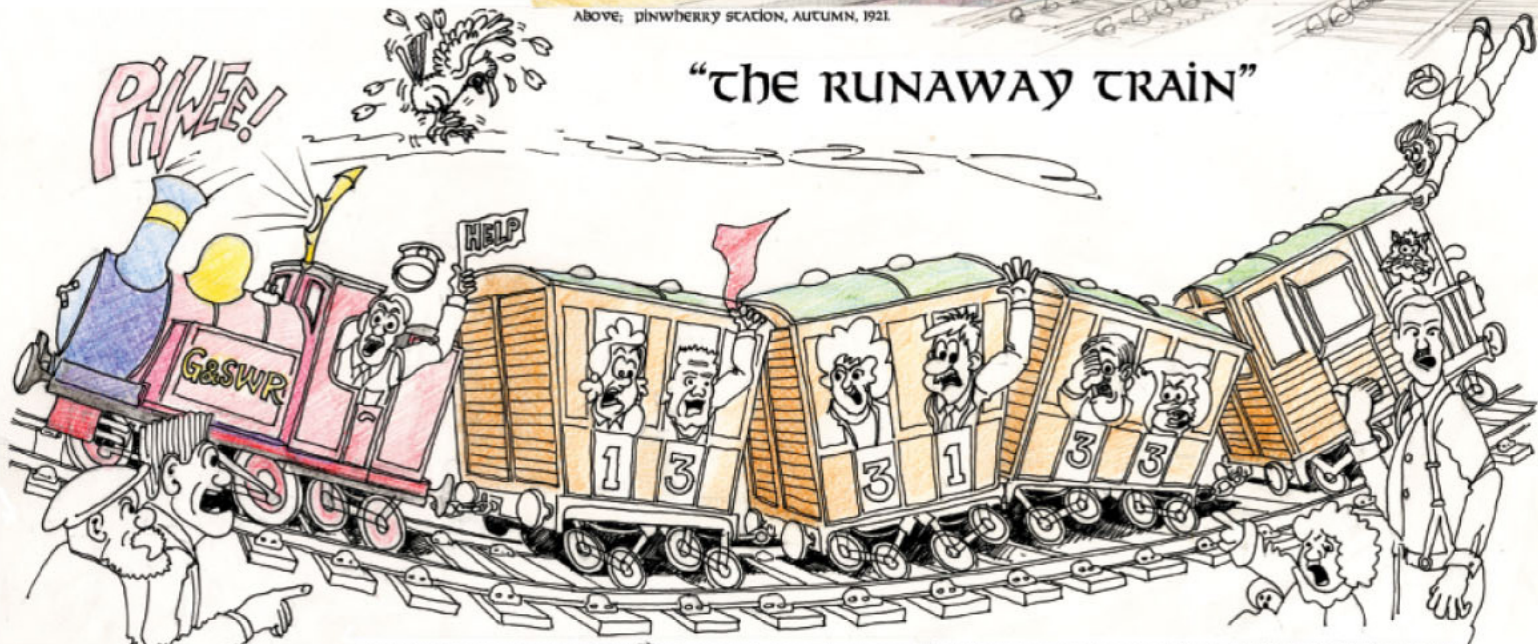
THE RAILWAY STATION WAS CLOSED IN 1965 AND PINWHERRY LOST ITS RAIL LINK.

THE STATION IS NOW A PRIVATE HOUSE.



ABOVE: PINWHERRY STATION, AUTUMN, 1921

"THE RUNAWAY TRAIN"



AROUND THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY, A TRAIN FROM GIRVAN TO STRANRAER DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT UP TO THE TOP OF THE HILL ABOVE BARRHILL. ITS BRAKES FAILED AND IT CAREERED BACKWARDS THROUGH PINWHERRY AND UP TO THE HILL ABOVE PINMORE, ONLY TO FAIL TO REACH THE SUMMIT THERE. IT FREEWHEELED BACK DOWN THROUGH PINWHERRY, GATHERING SPEED AS IT DID SO. AFTER YO-YOING SEVERAL TIMES THROUGH THE VILLAGE, IT EVENTUALLY DERAILED. THIS EVENT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE SONG,

"THE RUNAWAY TRAIN CAME OVER THE HILL AND SHE BLEW!"