

2 SEP 1958

WOMANS BODY FOUND IN LAKE MEADOWS LAKE.

The body of a woman was found in Lake Meadows by a fisherman on Thursday August 28th evening. He was searching for fish in the lilies and reeds by the first entrance from Perry Street into Lake Meadows, when he discovered the body. The body was hidden under the reeds in the water. The Police have investigated. It is not yet known who the woman is or how long she has been in the Lake. It is either a case of suicide or foul play which cannot at the present be ruled out.

ACRES UNDER WATER IN YEARS WORST FLOODS.

Floods have severely hit the Billericay area due to the heavy rain. Acres are under water at Buttsbury Wash and the road to Buttsbury Church, via the ford is impassable. The railings, which are 4ft high are not visible over the water. Buttsbury is not the only area that has suffered. Other parts of Billericay have been affected. The footpath between Perry Street and Billericay was impassable for a long period on Friday morning. Gardens at the rear of Perry Street had fast flowing large streams running across them. Earth, plants and vegetables were washed away and garden paths were impassable.

play of model fire fighting appliances by Victor Sutton Esquire. The stalls were: Bowls, Darts, Beetle Drives, Roll-A-Penny, Coconut Shies, Roll Ball, Burst The Ballon, Buried Treasure, Guess the Cake Weight, Flower Stall, Grocery Stall, Bookstall, Gun Stall and Tomboing. About 150 people attended and there was a admission charge of 6d. The Dance commenced at 8.p.m. and the orchresta was the Embassy Dance Orchresta.

CHILD ANIMAL LOVERS RAISE £1 FOR P.D.S.A.

Young animal lovers living in the Lakeside, Perry Street area raised over £1 for the P.D.S.A. recently. For several days they arranged a display of flowers, greenery and ornaments making a general attractive appearance in the footpath between Perry Street and the Railway Station. You could either contribute with money towards the P.D.S.A. or buy some of the flowers. Many people using the footpath gave a donation and over I pound was raised.

4th BILLERICAY SCOUT GROUP HOLD FETE AND DANCE IN EBBORT TO RAISE £100 FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS.

It was a hot, sunny, dry day for the fete of Billericay 4th Scout Group on Saturday August 30th. They also held a dance in the evening as part of the effort to raise £100 for the new H.Q. fund. The fete was to have been opened by C. Thomas head of Ramden Hall School but his wife was seriously ill. Mr Walker deputised. He spoke of his childhood when he was a member of a London cub pack and he was a founder member of the 21st West Ham Scout Group. He said that Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies should set an example to others. There was to have been a flying display of Keil-Craft model aeroplanes but unfortunately this did not take place. There was a display of model fire fighting appliances by Victor Sutton Esquire. The stalls were: Bowls, Darts, Beetle Drives, Roll-A-Penny, Coconut Shies, Roll Ball, Burst The Ballon, Buried Treasure, Guess the Cake Weight, Flower Stall, Grocery Stall, Bookstall, Gun Stall and Tomboing. About 150 people attended and there was a admission charge of 6d. The Dance commenced at 8.p.m. and the orchresta was the Embassy Dance Orchresta.

ROUND AND ABOUT by 'WANDERER'.

You will have read in the previous edition of this newspaper in the headline news story about the increased annoyance of the public against the secret conducting of parts of Council Meetings and the Council Committee Meetings. Other Councils open all their Council Meetings to members of the Press and Public and the most important or all Committee Meetings or all of them at least to the Press, if not the public. However Basildon U.D. Council have taken an EXTREME STEP IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. Of late every Council Meeting after Minute II has been closed to the Press and Public. Our Socialist friends in their recent Local Council Elections leaflets claimed that the Socialists would be "open about their business in the local council". If they call the holding of meetings behind barred doors open I don't. If the Council and Council Committee meetings are being conducted in a fair and honest way there is nothing to hide.

WHEN is something going to be done for a Zebra Crossing in Billericay High Street. The High Street can be very dangerous. Also sometimes you have to wait for periods of up to three minutes to cross. The Cyclists on the two Perry Street to Station footpaths are becoming very, very dangerous. Local residents don't object to them using the footpath if they ride very slowly and respect the rights of pedestrians over them. Several people using the Footpaths have narrowly escaped serious injury from cyclists recently. The cyclists are now travelling at speeds of up to 30.m.p.h.

I have received several letters on the subject of a Resident's Association which I discussed in my last article. A spot check reveals that:

65% are in favour of a Residents Association.
35% are against a Residents Association.
I think Perry Street & District needs one.
All for now,

THE WANDERER WELCOMES IDEAS AND COMMENTS
ON HIS ARTICLES.

THE 'SPORTS OBSERVER'.

Once again the Football Season is with us and people are clashing over who will be champions and who will gain promotion and who will be relegated and what will happen in the new Fourth Division. Well here is my opinion; First division. WOLVES might carry off the championship again though W.B.A. AND SPURS could be very dangerous. And watch out for ARSENAL, they have regained their old spirit and could be very strong challengers. The danger light is on for NEWCASTLE UNITED and PORTSMOUTH might be in the 2nd division this time next year. However LEEDS and LECIESTER shouldn't feel safe.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY have a habit of operating a shuttle service between Division I and II so they are promotion possibilities. LIVERPOOL might at last return to the First Division next year. However don't take CHARLTON ATHLETIC, SHEFFIELD UNITED and MIDDLERBROUGH too lightly. I think ROTHERHAM U., LINCOLN, SWANSEA and

BRISTOL C. are likely candidates for relegation to Division III. I name SOUTHAMPTON, DONCASTER, BRENTFORD AND ACCRINGTON for promotion to Division II. WREXHAM, TRANMERE R. CHESTERFIELD AND QUEENS PARK R. look like

a trip to Division Four. YORK CITY, HARTLEPOOLS, WATFORD AND CRYSTAL PALACE may escape from the new 4th Division.

THE HISTORY OF BILLERICAY by H. Richman.

Chapter I - IN THE BEGINNING.

You will find the origin of Billericay by walking from the Coach & Horses, in Chapel Street, through the old Crown Yard to the High Street and glancing at the buff coloured sand and pebbles beneath your feet.

The oldest layer of rock in Essex is the Chalk which comes to surface at Grays and Purfleet. Over this is a layer of sand and then the so-called London Clay, in places more than 500 feet deep, containing fossils formed during a period of tropical heat when this was probably the estuary of a great river. On this clay in some places is a bed of buff coloured sand and pebbles known as the Bagshot Beds.

The tropical forest, then here, was overwhelmed by an Ice Cap which spread from the Pole, and when this melted there was left behind the loams and boulder clays which make Essex one of the best corn growing areas in the country, on top of this again are the valley gravels and, last of all, the alluvial soil on the banks of the Thames.

After the Ice Age the land took on more of its present appearance though much of Essex was under water, with broader estuaries and wide marshes on the low lying ground. Some of the old Rock Formations pushed their way through the surface to form Islands which became the first inhabited places of the people who crossed from the Continent to Kent and the south shore of the Thames and then, by means of rough boats - probably hollowed out tree trunks - to Essex.

There they found three Islands, now forming the high grounds known as Horndon-on-the-Hill, Laindon Hills and Billericay. On the slopes facing South-East, less than a mile from the centre of the present High Street some burnt bone, pottery and a Flint Axe Head has been found to show the site of the settlement formed by these first inhabitants of Billericay, but beyond this nothing is known for certain of this earliest part of our town's history.

TRAINS UP TO HOUR LATE.

Trains from Liverpool Street to Billericay were running an hour late on September 1st. Some trains were cancelled.

NEW STORY SERIES.

Hammond the hotel manager, dived for the telephone and put his mouth to the old-fashioned mouthpiece. After a pause he shouted with all his might through the mouthpiece, "Jones The Telephone wake up"....."Number", croaked a voice from the other end. "I want the Corporation Bus whatever route it may be on," said Hammond The Hotel. "Right" replied Jones The Telephone. "Dacham-On-Sea 8." "Is that you Craigh The Bus." "Aye" it is. "Well" get the Corporation Bus going on Route I". Continued next column.

NEW STORY SERIES.

(continued from preceding column)
"Theres a customer waiting for you, a visitor and all". "Right ho" said Craigh The Bus.

In five minutes a converted Army Vehicle of 1925, Dacham-On-Sea Corporation Bus pulled up outside the Dacham Bay Hotel. This is an extract from a new story series which will commence shortly in the 'Billericay Observer'. It is the story of a seaside small town off the beaten track efforts to turn itself into a large seaside resort. True it has lovely sands and an old pier. We meet Craigh the Bus and Ellis the Pier. The trails and incidents make a very amusing and interesting story.

EDITORIAL CORNER.

We are very pleased to present to our readers the story of Billericay's history. We hope that our readers will find it very interesting. We as usual have various features and news which we hope will interest you. We also have the second of 'Longsights' articles.

As many of my readers know I am going to a School shortly which will take a lot more of my time than my previous one. Now, the 'Billericay Observer' will continue to be published and will not grow any smaller.

Many of my readers keep on pressing me to make a charge. Now perhaps it has not occurred to them that there is one large obstacle in the way. Many readers share a copy. In other words I collect and deliver the paper between them. Therefore many of the 'Observer' readers do not have their own copy. Also we are not the only newspaper that does not make a charge and we are not out to make a profit.

Yours Sincerely,

W. Grant
Editor.

" TIME SPENDER " WINS A PRIZE FOR LANCASTARIAN IN 'BILLERICAY OBSERVER' COMP. A visitor to Billericay was waiting on a wet morning to return home. To pass away the boredom he entered for the 'Billericay Observer' competition in Edition Number 15. As a result Master John Hall of Heaton, Nr Bolton, Lancashire has won a prize.

STOP PRESS.

'LONGSIGHT'.

In passing I must point out again wanton destruction done again by some of those so called anglers, namely breaking off branches from the willow trees that adorne the edge of the Lake in Lake Meadows. These branches are used as as Rod Rests. I do not think local residents are responsible; please anglers bring your own rod rests and your own worms and remember Lake Meadows is opened for everybodys pleasure. Parkeepers in the summer have their work cut out. Cannot all beauty sport lovers help parkeepers by at least warning these vandals that severe action will be taken if this state of affairs continues.

Agony Column.

WHO is the senseless fool or fools who has smashed the glass of the Lamp Post just past the second park gate, on the footpath leading to Billericay Station. Remember ratepayers you pay for this unnecessary damage. Keep a sharp lookout and note the offenders. A £1 fine will help to deter offenders.

Jokes & Riddles.

Q Why is a ship called SHE and like a woman?

A. Because; she's always smoking, is well painted, goes in for sails (sales) is fond of ports, runs into squalls, runs onto the rocks, sends out signals of distress and finishes up by clinging to a buoy (boy).

Happy Hunting,

'Longsight'

'Longsight' is NOT THE EDITOR.

FOOTBALL MATCH.

Billericay Town Reserves played Old Maldonians on Saturday August 30th at Archer Hall Field, Laindon Road, Billericay.

GYMKHANA.

Tyelands Riding Club held their 7th Annual Gymkhana on August 30th at New Lodge, Tye Common, Billericay commencing at 2p.m. There were over twelve jumping and gymkhana events included in the programme.

Address for correspondence, The 'Billericay Observer', 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

Part Five. By Wynford Grant.

The story so far; Bill and Tony, two youths of eighteen run their own radio station in the village of Little Bigglesworth. They are accused by Major Burt of Little Bigglesworth Manor of interrupting his 'Archers' with their own programmes just as, just as, just as, that exciting, exciting moment when the cows brake loose. This is due to a technical fault which they rectified. However, Major Burt calls for the Law in the person of P.C. 22, of Little Bigglesworth. P.C. 22, after an amusing interview dismisses Major Burt's charge. Bill and Tony think the trouble with Major Burt is over but it isn't. They broadcast a programme on boxers and the Major claims that it was particularly directed against HIS boxers. In the afternoon there was a lot of coming and goings at the Manor but Bill and Tony did not take any notice. In the evening Bill yelled to Tony, just as the programmes were due to start and pointed to the strangest sight Little Bigglesworth had ever seen; now read on.

Bill and Tony could see Major Burt and about one hundred of his army pals advancing towards the barn waving pickaxes, garden rakes, hoses, old-fashioned guns, flags and banners with slogans like 'DESTROY THE TRAITOR RADIO STATION' and 'PRESERVE MAJOR BURT'S BOXERS AND ARCHERS'. They were also shouting and singing. Above to aid to the general confusion an aviation friend of Major Burt's flew a 1917 'plane. There was also a band with instruments such as rusty trumpets and a staff major. Unfortunately the Staff Major was not experienced with staves and the staff landed on his nose which gushed red blood. He fell into the trombone, the player of which collapsed on the trumpet player who fell into the drum and the drum player was hit by his sticks and every player fell down the last one however falling on the mascot goat had a lift to the aeroplane. Tony said to Bill "Its obvious they are going to attack us." "Come on prepare our defence" said Bill. They looked around the loft for things to bombard the attackers with. Tony went downstairs to bar the door. The attackers were now three yards away. Bill handed some apples to Tony and started bombarding the 'Army' and told Tony to do the same. Yells of surprise and anguish greeted the bombardment but quickly a spray of water from hoses arrowed towards the window and drenching Bill and Tony. The attackers by this time had found it was no use trying to break down the securely barred door. Major Burt then got up and made a speech outlining terms for Bill's surrender. "We won't surrender" said Bill. "Bah" said Major Burt "We'll show you" and he stamped his foot and disappeared through the soapbox. Bill and Tony pelted him with apples. More hoses were turned on the window but there was no one there. A ball fired from a blunderbuss smashed the window. The battle raged for hours and Bill and Tony's chances were quickly lessening. Then all of a sudden a messenger on a Penny Farthing came up to Major Burt and talked to him. Major Burt's face burst into a frown and he ordered the trumpeter to blow a retreat. In quarter of an hour there was no sign of one of the Major's army. "Well what made Major Burt retreat just when he was on the point of victory" said Tony. "Perhaps it was time for their Ovaltine" quipped Bill.

The next morning Bill and Tony walked into the Village. Everybody was talking about the fight. Another topic was the cause of the sudden retreat. The Major's boxers had disappeared.

TO BE CONCLUDED.

LETTERS.

Letters intended for publication in the 'Billericay Observer' should be marked 'Letters For Publication' and sent to our offices or handed to the Editor. You may either use your name or a suitable nom-de-plume.

Is 'Wanderer's' Time Expired?

Dear Sir,

You now have two correspondents dealing with local topics in your newspaper. I believe that series or regular articles should not run for more than twelve editions as the novelty (except in the case of Editorial Corner) has worn off and some new similar series started. It is obvious that 'Wanderer' articles get worse every edition and his old sparkle is lost. I say that 'Longsight' should move into his column.

J. K. Wall.

Ed; We always like to keep our old articles. 'Longsight' articles are of a different nature from 'Wanderers' and we will continue with both correspondents. Our regular articles are 'Round and About by Wanderer', 'Longsight' and 'Editorial Corner'. 'In The Garden' and 'Political Landscape' are unperiodical.

WARDLE.

Dear Sir,

I congratulate you on your article on the 'Wardle Dispute'.
'Satisfied'.

ED; Thank You.

Dear Sir,

Wardle's conduct was a disgrace to the cricketing world. Yorkshire can well do without a boasting, hothead and jealous Wardle. As for the newspaper articles RULES ARE MADE TO BE RULES. The M.C.C. has taught a spoilt child right by not taking him on the tour of Australia. Yorkshire's captain is a fine man and has his heart in the game. I wholly disagree with the article.

Yours Sincerely,
Cricketer.

ED; I disagree with you.

Dear Sir,

Although you may not realise it you clinched the whole Wardle affair in one sentence in your article - "The most important thing is the game". If only Wardle, the M.C.C. and Yorkshire were to realise this - for they are all to blame - perhaps there would never have been so much trouble as there was and is.

Yours Sincerely,
'Common Sense'.

Dear Sir,

Your article about the Socialist policy on schools was excellent and pointed out to the public the grave consequences which would result if the Socialists were in power.

'Independent Anti-Socialist'.

Dear Sir,

Private Schools are horrors. Grammar Schools are out of date. State Schools & Comprehensive Schools are paradises. Higher Leaving Age is essential.

'Socialist'.

Ed; Well, I hold with the article.