

1 OCT 1958

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

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"FLOOD FUND NOT MAKING ENOUGH HEADWAY".

It was reported to the Council, at their last meeting, on October 9th at the Council Chambers Billericay by B.U.D.C. chairman Councillor Tanswell, that the Council's Flood Relief fund was not making enough headway. The Flood Relief Fund stood at the moment, at a level of £1,600, including the £500 donated by the Council. Contact and talks had taken place with the Ministries of Housing and Local Government and the Ministry of Agriculture about the flood situation in the district. "Money was needed to help the suffering", said Councillor Tanswell. "Although this may seem hard", he continued "The major problem at the moment is not fund-raising but flood precautions, as it would be no use the people re-organising their homes with the money to be flooded again and have to start all over again". "There would be a push for a full enquiry", he stated. The final date for Flood Fund contributions was arranged as October 16th.

SHOULD C. D. VOLUNTEERS BE COMPENSATED FOR LOSS OF EARNINGS?

It was enquired at the Council Meeting on Thursday whether Civil Defence volunteers could be compensated for loss of earnings when out on an emergency such as the recent flood. The Basildon U.D. Council, it was said, regretted that this was not the case. It was suggested that employers' could compensate C.D. volunteers separately.

PROVISION FOR PAYING OF RATES IN BILLERICAY WHEN B.U.D.C. MOVE TO BASILDON?

Part of presents buildings to be reserved for a Museum?

Suggested at Residents Association Committee meeting.

At the September committee meeting of the Billericay Residents Association it was stated that it was hoped that provision for paying of rates in Billericay was made, when the Basildon U.D. Council moved to Basildon. It was also suggested at the committee meeting, which was held on September 29th that part of the present Council Offices in Billericay be reserved as a museum, as it was understood that a considerable amount of material had been collected but could not be exhibited due to lack of a proper building.

It was decided to once again approach the appropriate authorities regarding traffic lights at Sun Corner.

It was agreed that a number of roads and paths are not yet adequately lighted e.g. Stock Road, Noak Hill Road, Cromwell Avenue, Tye Common Road and Long Meadow Path. It was said that the Residents Association was informed that these will be lighted later but how long will we have to wait? Although the Litter Act had been in force since August 7th no more litter bins had been provided in spite of many requests by both Press and Public.

The B.U.D.C. have been asked to fix name plates on all roads at present without these plates. So far a few have been fixed but there are still a number of roads without.

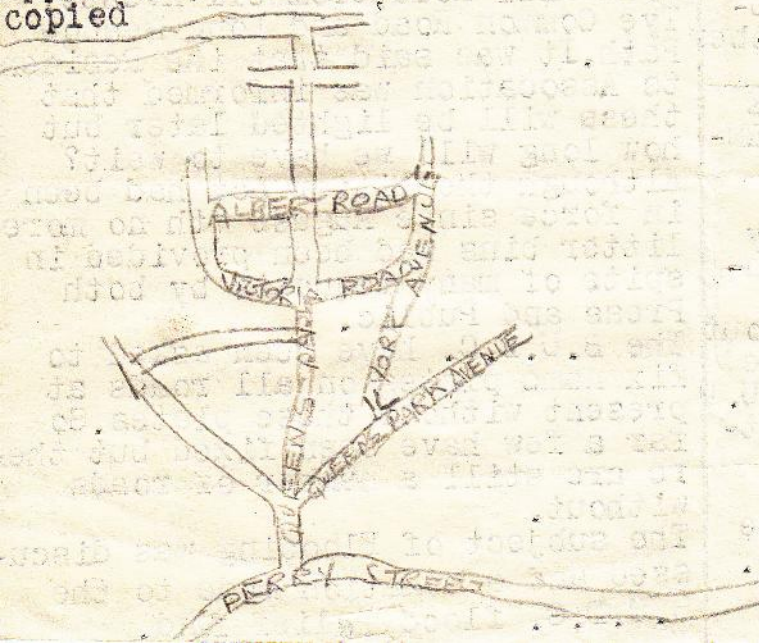
The subject of Flooding was discussed and a donation made to the B.U.D.C. flood relief fund.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
'WANDERER'.

According to Basildon U.D. Council you should belong to three voluntary organasitons before you criticise them. This is utter and absolute nonsense. Any local resident is entitled to have his opinions about the affairs of the district and criticise the B.U.D. Council if he wants to. They are denying people the right of free speech. Anyway, everbody has not the time to join even one voluntary organasition let alone three. Many people are doing good work on one organasition and to tell them to divert their time to others would be a disaster. Anyway, not all the members of the Council work for ONE voluntary organasition. The Council need criticising anyway. All their moves are not entirely FAULTLESS OR BLAMELESS. I can recall many occasions when the Basildon U.D. Council have needed criticising. If they were not criticised and challenged, what would Billericay be like?

The Council and Stationery Office need to correct their maps. On the Basildon Council and the local Barnett's map both show a road that does not exist, together with some other faults in the same district. Apparently, according to the map, below copied



Round and About by Wanderer.
Continued from the preceding column.

a York Avenue connects Queens Park Avenue and a certain Victoria Road and Albert Road. I have searched and searched for this road but it DOES NOT EXIST. The map shows a road going up the centre with the Victoria and Albert roads crossing it. This is not how so. Part of Victoria Road still exists; in fact it appears to be the continuation of Queens Park. Of the rest of Victoria Road there is no trace and of Albert Road none at all. The road up the middle is a footpath with a grass verge at the side, which is, at the moment, being improved into a semi-cart track. The Albert and part of Victoria Roads were grown over years ago though the diligent searcher may find some trace and probably faint traces of the roads could be seen from the air. Years ago great changes took place and they should be shown on the map. Surely by this time the Basildon U.D. Council has relaised. Below is the corrected version of the map.

All for now,

Wanderer



Our last chapter dealt with the troubled period before the Romans had time to introduce their own forms of law and order, never quite the same in this country, however, as in other parts of the Empire. The Romans here were mainly soldiers and officials, with retired veterans who had decided to settle in Britain as landowners living a cultured life among the native people, who were allowed to develop their own way of living, introducing their own ideas of Roman culture without having it forced on them.

During the centuries of Roman occupation, Billericay seems to have been of some importance, although its name at that time has long been lost. Some people have suggested it as Villa Erica, the town on the heath, and this guess seems as good as any. We have seen there was a fort at Blunt's Walls, whose moat and ramparts were to be seen there during the early part of the last century, with traces of mounds inside the walls which covered an area of about 4 Acres. This was erected to protect the road to the Thames and Kent, and on to the Continent, a road which existed, although changed slightly in route through the centuries, before the days of the Romans, as it does today.

In 1877, parts of a Roman pavement were found when preparing the site for a Gas Holder on the west side of Laindon Road, with urns, and broken Samian ware one piece of which bore the word DACMUS, as on a similar piece found at West Tilbury.

On the opposite side of the road, below the Little House, some reputed Roman pottery was discovered a few years ago, and as we all know, Burial urns of the Late Roman pottery were dug up last year in the Secondary School grounds not far off.

Not very many months before, a schoolgirl came across the fragment of an urn in her garden in Crays View below this last discovery, and on the same hill near the windmill have been found pottery, and coins of Hadrian, Trajan, Faustina, Helena, Pius and Constantine. The writer has a coin of Valentinian, (364 / 375 A.D.) found locally, and of course the various finds in the region of Norsey Woods and Stock Road have already been mentioned. Some of these latter may be seen in the Museum at Colchester. Coins have turned up on many occasions, in the grounds of Dr. Rilstone's house in the High Street, though not of late years.

Even in the railway cutting between Norsey Road and Jacksons Lane, urns and pottery have been found, and as far away as the Cowbridge Brook in Queens Park some Roman tiles, about 1914. Add to these the stone coffins from the Old Meeting Burial Ground in Chapel Street, the re-used bricks in the walls of Mountnessing Church, the probable origin of the name Perry Street - STRATA ? - and the possible Romano - British type pottery from a site off Noak Hill Road, discovered only this year, and you will see that it would not be too unlikely for you to find some relic of this important period of our town's history.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

THE BILLERICAY OBSERVER.

Address 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex.

RAILWAY REPRESENTATIVE HOPED TO BE PRESENT AT MEETING.

The Billericay Residents Association are arranging a public meeting for October 29th, at which a representative of the British Railways is expected to attend. He is expected to answer questions on facilities and amenities at Billericay Railway Station, and on the proposed increase in fares.

EDITORIAL CORNER.

143, Perry Street,
Billericay.

Dear Readers,

Last week in the 'Billericay Observer' I outlined the aims and progress of the 'paper. I am pleased to announce that Part A of our modernisation plan has been completed. This was to purchase a stapler to speed-up the process of producing the paper. I hope you enjoy this newspaper and all the news and articles in it.

W. Grant
Editor.

DISGUSTING STATE OF NOAK HILL RD.

It was commented on at the recent Council Meeting on the disgusting state of Noak Hill Road. "The lighting was inadequate and the road full of potholes which had contributed to a serious accident recently".

COUNCIL ADVICE: JOIN THREE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS BEFORE YOU CRITICISE US.

At the Council Meeting on Thursday, the advice was given that critics of the Council should join three voluntary organisations into which they would put their heart. "Then", it was said, "The Council would listen to any criticisms they had to make."

GRANGE ROAD SHOPS.

It was reported at the Council Meeting on Thursday that work had now commenced on the much needed shops in Grange Road, Billericay.

FAIRFIELD RISE DELAY QUERY.

At the September Committee meeting of the Billericay Residents Association the question of Fairfield Rise was raised. Although tenders have been approved for the making-up of this road, objections dealt with this road was still in a disgusting state. "Do the inhabitants have to wait for another winter to pass before work commences

Footpaths.

The attention of the Basildon U.D.C. is being drawn to specific cases of footpaths being obstructed by overhanging branches.

Electricity Supply.

The Residents Association understood that the electricity supply in the area would be improved in the next few months.

PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR MODEL-AIRCRAFT FLYERS?

It was suggested at the Basildon Council meeting on Thursday that a piece of ground be set aside for the sole purpose of the pursuers of the model aircraft hobby in which to fly their aeroplanes. One member of the Council stated that he had been having talks with the Model Aircraft Clubs concerned.

COULD TENNIS COURTS BE BOOKED MONTHS AHEAD?

It was enquired at the Council Meeting on Thursday, whether under the revised regulations regarding tennis-courts owned by the B.U.D.C. courts "could be booked for months ahead". It was stated that the maximum ahead booking for a tennis court would be three weeks and that some courts would be kept "open all the time". The idea was that a person could book for a convenient time the next week.

'LONGSIGHT'

Through the medium of this valuable newspaper I must strongly protest to those concerned in the upkeep of the path adjacent to Billericay Railway Station. It is not only wet and muddy but highly dangerous, more so on wet days, especially so, now the daylight is shorter and means of lighting are so poor, travelling by night is in itself a nightmare (excuse the pun) as the aforementioned path is narrow and U shaped. Pedestrians using this path have to try to be contortionists to try to keep their feet out of the mud and water by walking feet astride on each sloping and slippery side. I myself have nearly done the splits in recent rainy weather trying to keep my feet dry. I have also witnessed an elderly couple in daylight trying to negotiate this horrible path with feet astride one each side on the slippery earth, with more luck than judgement they did not adopt the prone position.

Perhaps our worthy editor will try and ascertain who are actually responsible for this unhappy state of affairs. Then a polite letter requesting immediate restoration of this offending path, failing the first suggestion then we all send DAILY bundles of letters of protest to those concerned.

Longsight wants to know.
Where do the flies go in winter?
Longsight has just found out.
In the glass factory and come out
Blue Bottles!

Promoters Association) about the Pool's rights to produce their Football Fixtures Lists free of charge. The Leagues want to prove the copyright of their fixtures and obtain big licence fees from the pools for the right or re-producing the fixture lists. I am with the Leagues. Why? Because the fixture lists ARE their copyright. More important because they say they would spend the money on improving the game. This would be an excellent thing because standard of play would improve and larger crowds would result. Thus the money put in would come back threefold and then again the money could be spent on improvements, until we were the best footballing country in the World. Money could be spent on raising our International Standard. Yes, I support the Leagues.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

CYPRUS! That six-letter word is never far from the headlines. Almost every day we read headlines in the national press like NEW TERROR WAVE IN CYPRUS and MAKARIOS ATTACKS NEW BRITISH PLAN or FRESH GREEK V. TURKISH CYPRIOTS RIOTS. The reason that we want Cyprus is that it is a very important Mediterranean base. The Cypriots want freedom. To add to the trouble Turkish and Greek Cypriots have their own ideas about it and both want Cyprus to become a colony of their mother country.

In my opinion the British partnership plan for Cyprus is on the whole a good idea and should be peacefully adopted.

Education.

I really must criticise the Socialist education policy. They say that we ought to do away with the Grammar Schools. This is just stupid. How on Earth, Sputniks and Moon Rockets can you possibly do without some advanced level of school. You just cannot mix intelligent and dull children in one school. Besides many of these Grammar Schools were founded over 400 years ago. What a stupid idea.

SPORTS OBSERVER.

The Scottish League and the Football League may go to court over their dispute with the P.P.A. (Pool's

Association) about the Pool's rights to produce their Football Fixtures Lists free of charge. The Leagues want to prove the copyright of their fixtures and obtain big licence fees from the pools for the right or re-producing the fixture lists. I am with the Leagues. Why? Because the fixture lists ARE their copyright. More important because they say they would spend the money on improving the game. This would be an excellent thing because standard of play would improve and larger crowds would result. Thus the money put in would come back threefold and then again the money could be spent on improvements, until we were the best footballing country in the World. Money could be spent on raising our International Standard. Yes, I support the Leagues.

LETTERS.

Letters should be sent to our offices or handed to the Editor. Letters can be signed with signature or suitable nom-de-plume. Letters intended for publication should be marked as such.

To the Editor
Billerica Observer.

Dear J.K. Wall Esq.

In reply to my recent article you kindly suggested trunks, divers outfit, etc, for our national costume. In my suggestion (Souwesterkoilskin coat, gumboots and lifebelt) I bore in mind those poor folks and brother sufferers. This includes my poor self who are rheumatic sufferers, indeed I would look well walking along with trunks on etc and two walking sticks to help support my poor knobboly and rheumatic knees. Mr Wall have a heart! I still think souwesters etc the best since this glorious weather continues.

'Longsight'.

Sir,

As a regular reader of the Billerica Observer I always look forward to the next issue. I would like to see all dogs in main roads on leads, as many are injured and accidents caused by a dog not under control. ALL dog lovers should take their dogs for walks in quiet road -s or parks. However I think it is the unwanted dogs who are left to roam the streets at random and fend for themselves, this should be an offence, do you agree Ed?

Bill Seemore.

Ed: Yes, definitely.

Sir,

As a reader of your newspaper I know you do not have a Womens' Page but I feel sure many of your readers are women, so they would be interested to know through your letter page, the honest opinion of to-days fashion. I am interested in fashion and like to be up to date, but I think anyone who spends money on the silly fashions one sees publicised, must have money to throw away or don't care what they look like. It is still possible to buy lots of nice clothes, with the smart touches, as I see when window gazing but the extreme; NO. Why not more Women designers not just mere men who encourage us to go around looking like fools.

"Mere Woman."

Do YOU agree with

"Mere Woman".

Do you agree with her.
What would YOU like in a Woman's page. Write and tell us.

DISCUSSION POINT.

Children's Television.
Everybody knows that is an hour of entertainment on television for children between 5.0. and 6.0. Yet do children watch it? 70% of children prefer adults television. Why?

One main reason is because in the programmes the children viewers are treated as CHILDREN. There

are "Uncles" and Junior thisses and thats with a coating of Cowboy Films. First of all I say the programmes should be divided into Under 10's 4.45-5.20 and Over 10's 5.20 - 6.0. The Under 10's

could be similar to the present children's programmes. The Over 10's could however be revolutionary. No games in which teams from London, Bristol and Goodness-knows compete or "Uncles" doing tricks. I say that the CHILDREN ought to more or less "run the programme". Child actors, commentators, School

societies, Junior Enterprises, Child Sport Reporters and Comedians, Acrobats, Selection by the children. Discussions on subjects which children are interested in. Favourite topics are Sport, ~~General~~ Features on say Air Transport when children interview the pilots etc etc.