ESSEX IS FOWL PEST AREA.
"None in Billericay" - .
Essex has been declared a
Fowl Pest area. This means that
chickens cannot be moved out of one
area into another without special
permission.
A small poultry owner told
the "Observer" that there was no
fowl pest at present in Billericay.
The nearest places affected are
Wickford and Gallywood. He also
told the "Observer" that despite
compensation, a small poultry owner
could be ruined by fowl pest.
When there is fowl pest at a
poultry farm all birds have to be
slaughtered.
RANGER GROUP FOR BILLERICAY.
It is proposed to form a
Ranger Group in Billericay, to meet
every Friday in the Archer Hall
Annexe. An inaugural meeting will be
held on February 6th.
BUSH ROAD "SPREAD-OVER" SHIFTS.
Busmen of the Eastern
National Bus Co at the Bull Road,
Wanstead Garage have agreed to work
the spread-over shifts system.
By this method busmen work
for a few hours in the morning and
return to work a few more hours in
the evening.
Busmen feared they would
not get paid sufficient money for
the time between shifts and refused
to work the system.
Now the dispute has been
settled and buses in the area are
again running normally.
HIGH STREET ACCIDENT.
Mr John Hodge of St Mary’s
Avenue, Billericay was detained in
St Andrew’s Hospital last Tuesday
after a car accident in the High
Street. He was crossing the High St
when the midguard of a car hit him
and threw him over the bonnet onto
to the road.
JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY.
Christ Church, Perry Street,
Billericay Junior Sunday School
and a party on Saturday January
24th. About 60 children were present
at the party.
FAMILY SOCIAL.
The Billericay district North
Thames Gas Board held a family
social at the Archer Hall, Billericay
on January 24th.
ANNUAL JUBILEE SALE.
St Johns Old Boys Cricket Club
held their annual jumble sale in
the Women’s Institute Hall on Saturday
January 31st. A considerable sum was
raised.
SOUTH GREEN PARTY.
Boy and girl convenancers of
South Green Chapel had a very enjoy-
able party on Saturday January 24th.
TALLY-HO!
The Editor’s garden was very
nearly invaded by a fox hunt on
Saturday. The fox came into the bot-
tee of the ed’s garden and went into
short bushes. However the dogs lost
the scent of the fox and the hunt went
away while the fox retrived its step
and went into Millfield Woods.
CONGREGATIONAL PARTY.
Children of the Primary
Department of Billericay Congrega-
tional Church were entertained at a
party arranged for them in the
Mayflower Hall on Saturday January
26th.
Each of the thirty five
children that attended the party
received a present and there was a
film show.
LAKE THAWS.
The lake in Lake Meadows Park
is now free of ice. During the recent
cold weather the lake was frozen for
a long period and notices were poste-
red stating that persons went on at their
own risk as the ice was considered
unsafe.
POINTS - AT LAST.
Norsey Rangers F. C. have at
last secured some points in the Basil-
don Football League. Recently the
Rangers have had 0 points and 148
goals against them. Now they have won
their way from the foot of the league
table.
Norsey Rangers play in Lake
Meadows. This is their first playing
season.
PERRY ST PROGRESS.
Work on Perry St is now
proceeding rapidly. Paths have now
been laid up to Long Meadow Path.
Juniors of Sunnymede Congrega-
tional Church had a party on
Saturday January 26th.
NEWTOWN HILL SOCIETY.
When the Monday Nighters’
young people’s club existed it
ceased last year - a popular event
in their programme was the annual
agricultural show.
Many people have inquired about
the horticultural show and from this
a new society has been formed - Cray
Hill Horticultural Society.
At a meeting held to form the
new organisation people felt that
the show should go on. The provisional
date for this year’s has been booked
as August 29th. It is hoped that many
people will come forward with entri-
tes for the show.
Essex suffered badly during the Civil War between the King, Stephen and Matilda the daughter of Henry I.

It was at this time that the Barons were given permission to erect castles on their estates, those at Rayleigh and Hadleigh being the nearest to Billericay. Accounts still in existence mention timber being carted from Billericay for the building of Rayleigh Castle and perhaps the timbers now in the museum at Prittlewell and formerly at Rayleigh may have once been growing in the Billericay Woods.

Geoffrey de Mandeville, grandson of the Norman of the same name, held large estates in the centre of Essex, where he possessed the Castles at Pleshey and Saffron Walden. He was also Constable of the Tower of London and was related by marriage to the powerful de Veres of Hedingham Castle. Created by Stephen in 1141, the first Earl of Essex, he changed over a few months afterwards to the side of Matilda who confirmed his Earldom and granted him more rewards. On the tide turning in favour of Stephen, the Turn Coat, once more changed sides and was again rewarded. In 1243, however, Stephen seems to have his suspicions aroused about even another change, and the Earl was arrested and charged with treason. It seems strange that his life should have been spared after all, but spared it was after his two castles had been taken from him, and he was killed in the Isle of Ely the following year.

All this changing about could not have simplified matters for the people of Essex who must have been rather puzzled to know for certain whose side they were on at any particular moment, especially as the barons were rather inclined to use any excuse for plundering the countryside from their Castle headquarters. We have no evidence that Billericay suffered in this way to any great extent, but the district could not have escaped altogether.

The end of this century brought about a more peaceful state of affairs which, in Billericay’s case at least, led to a long period of prosperity.

In 1172 the great Thomas a Becket was murdered in his own Cathedral at Canterbury, and the real days of the Pilgrims began. There had always been pilgrims to the Holy Land, of course. Even the famous St. Helena of Colchester had travelled there in Roman times and discovered the True Cross represented ever after in Colchester coats of arms. Now it became popular with all classes this Pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury, as may be found by reading the Tales of Chaucer.

The age old road through Billericay was used by just the same kind of Pilgrims on their way from the north to Canterbury, the Inns and Hostelries becoming hives of industry on the arrival of a fresh party of these travellers in our town where they would spend the night.

OBSERVING HOLIDAY ADVICE.
Island holidays are ideal. There is something different about an island holiday. Around our coast and abroad there are hundreds of these holiday paradises. As a rule you have beautiful scenery and lovely weather. However let us have a look at the islands round our coastline. I don’t call places like Hayling and Shopney true islands.

Off the South Coast you have the Isle of Wight. The crossing can be made from several points and is not a rough one, the sea crossing is the only disadvantage of island holidays. As an alternative you can go by air. The Isle of Wight is an island with large resorts and sandy coves, beautiful chines and quiet, picturesque villages. Also with its wooded creeks, it is a paradise for the Yachtsman. Sandown and Shanklin (Continued next column).

the twin resorts hold the British Isles sunshine record. Around the Devon and Cornish coastline there are several islands that are worth a days outing, for example Lundy and St. Michael’s Mount. Anglesey is the island for a quiet, restful holiday. Inland of fun, safety and life!

The Isle of Man! Horse races at Douglas. Apart from being a riotous island it has many quiet resorts and also villages, and the natural beauty of the plains, the view from Snaefell. All this with the T.T. races combine into an ideal holiday. Further information available from Tourist Board, Douglas, I.O.M.

We have not space here to deal fully with holidays, we can only whet the appetite and suggest but the place to write to for information is British Holidays and Travel Association, Queens House, 84-85 St James St, London, S.W.1.

More next edition!
EDITORIAL CORNER.

Summing up our appearances in the Press and on TV I find that altogether the "Billerica Observer" has appeared in five Press articles, "Southend Standard", 3, and one in the "Essex Weekly News" and the "Essex Chronicle" and of course our appearance on B.B.C. Television.

Owing to costs we have found it necessary to rise our charge per copy to 1d. This is not to make a profit; we do not intend to make one. Compared with other newspapers run by young editors this charge is reasonable. One journal charged 3d for 8 pages, and these pages were about a size of ours. We do not like making this charge and when we get some advertisers we may return to a 1d per copy. However just to prove that the rise is necessary I will quote some costs.

Stencils - 15/- for 24.
(4 needed for every edition).
Paper - 17/3 for 500 sheets.
(2 sheets needed for every copy)
Ink, 1lb. - 15/-.
All plus 20% purchase tax.
Then there are the staples, postage, notebooks and all the other costs.

Yours Sincerely,
W.P. Grant, Editor.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

Ed's note. 'Paper published late due to illness of editor. Next paper out on Feb 17th as pre-arranged.'

LETTERS.

Stop those subsidies!

May I through your letter column voice my opinion on council houses. I quite agree that they should be built and occupied by families, but I do object to the people who are buying their own houses, having to subsidise the rents, when most of the council house tenants are earning a much bigger wage. If the subsidy were dropped the rates would be much lower and this would help those who are helping themselves. Schedule A tax, is another tax which should be discontinued. If the two reforms I mentioned were carried out it would greatly help the house buyer and the house owner.

P.S.N. Perry Street, Billericay.

Cozy seat election.

It seems that nowadays the candidate who wins an election is the one who is the most glamorous, the most famous, the best-looked for, the one who arranges to drive you up to the polls. It is what the candidate offers, not if he has a car.

'Democrat' Billericay.

Advertising is the way to sell your goods. Advertise your wants, sales and announcements in the Classified Columns. Make your Jumble Sale or Pet or Dance go with a swing. Advertise in the "Billericay Observer". Very cheap advertising rates enable you to reach about 250 people.

SPORTS OBSERVER.

Recently referees have often taken players names or given them a black card for a trifling offence. Let me quote an example of this.

At a football match recently a player had a foul awarded against him for the second time running. The foul was a pure accident, however the referee took the name of the player as it was his 2nd foul of the match. Also the Football League are awarding severe penalties for minor breaches of rules. I say this is spoiling the game. People do not pay to see somebody's name taken. This Big Brother attitude is done the game a lot of harm.

My cup hopes! The fourth round played only three teams remain from my five choices. These are Spurs, W.B.A. and BOLTON.

All for now.

(I apologize for the bad spacing between lines but our typewriter is ancient.)

FOR THE GARDENER.

There is not much that can be done in the garden at this time of the year. When the weather is not frosty some digging can be done. Also the vegetable garden could be prepared. This time of the year is a fine opportunity for burning the garden refuse.

I have tried out a special method for lighting bonfires, and keeping them burning. Put a flower pot upside down on three sticks and pile your refuse on top, and then light the bonfire. Keep piling your refuse on but on no account disturb the bonfire. A bonfire treated in this method, if you put more refuse on to burn, will burn for several days.

GARDEN ADVICE.

We offer a free Garden Advice service by experts. Send your gardening problems or query to the editor at I45, Perry Street, Billericay. We will either publish the letter in our columns with an answer, thus aiding other gardener readers or we will send you a reply.

Happy Gardening!

ADVERTISING RATES.

Classified.
1d per five words. Box no's 6d extra. Addressed Box No's counted as five words. 10% discount for ad in 3 weeks running.
ROUND AND ABOUT

BY "WANDERER".

Unfortunately it is only too obvious that we need a police dog and handler to patrol our parks. Take a walk through Lake Amadeus and my words are proved. You are almost certain to see some damage being done or some by-law being broken. However, I have one suggestion that might (in fact almost certainly) improve matters. The notice board with by-laws on it should be replaced and the notices with larger writing — anybody with even fair eyesight cannot read the present writing — and the laws written in everyday English. The present print-well — the Council would do just as well to write the notice in everyday French, at least more people would understand it. Let me give you an example of the hopeless language to trippers to Lake Amadeus (this not an actual by-law)."The Council resolves that any person (a) discovered propelling a missile or any odd-angled object through any solid structure or tool belonging to the above said Council will be liable to a fine of £2. I know the Council officials like it, and I am not suggesting that our beautiful English words which are also used too little should be disregarded altogether, but it means little to trippers, and it is better to word it in more simple language than to have the law broken. The law could be re-worded similarly — any person found throwing, or otherwise propelling anything through the buildings belonging to the Council or any tool is likely to be fined £2.

Also I think it would be helpful if notices relating to various laws were erected, e.g., litter Act and throwing stones at the swans etc., as visitors may not study the notice board.

You may have noticed in the last edition about a petition to the B.U.D.C. about the path being placed on the wrong side of Perry Street. I now repeat what I have said many times before that the Perry St area needs a Resident's Association. This growing area of about 5000 people has many problems to sort out. I think it would be settled much better if there was a Perry St Resident's Association.

When is Buttsbury C.P.School extant going to be ready for occupation? I recommend that in future the E.C.C. make a clause in their school building contracts that the work be completed in a certain time.

All for now, "Wanderer."

"LONGSIGHT".

The Soldier of the Queen?

Re. Terry Dene or should it be Nellie Dene. What a farce after six days of medlile cannoning in the Army and about three-quarters of that in hospital 1 or N Dene is to be discharged or demobbed unfit. Yet this very nineteen-year old squarker and guitar player was strong enough to hurl an iron police sign through a plate glass window for fun. True, he was heavily fined for his follies — a couple of drinks was blamed for this lapse. Now is poor N's heart is almost broken, sobbing and crying because he was lonely and had to scrub barrack room floors. He doubts misses those young misses who crowded around the gates squealing Terry, darling on his arrival.

I would suggest an excellent cure for loneliness; plenty of scrubbing barrack room floors also keep boots, uniform etc clean. By that method he would sleep well, eat well and be happy.

I am sure our late Regimental Sergeant Major R. Brittain would agree with me and he would certainly administer a cure for T or N D and make a man of him. Please don't misjudge me, for I am most sympathetic to any young soldiers whose physique is not quite up to standard, for as an ex-sergeant myself I have had youngsters to train, and with sympathy and undue harshness they have turned out to be fine healthy youngsters to be proud of. I am for T and N D wanting to do his National Service, all nonsense and humbug, he was not even given the Army a fair trial. I think the change from £350 to 30/- a week is due to this "emotional crisis."

I suppose we must be fair, for if all we consider the above were we in that £ and position, I too would suffer from emotional distress, what do you think clumsy?

The Comparison

Some time ago a young man called up for his National Service and having buried recently his father, a widowed mother with others tried in vain to obtain his discharge on compassionate grounds, proving he was his mother's main support, would they release him, not on your Nellie (Dene)!

Do you know?

To prevent salt getting damp and clogging salt cellars as is often the case in cafes and some homes, put a few grains of rice in the salt cellars; result easy running salt. This method can be used in your sugar ditter with excellent results. In a large sugar jar a handful of hard dried peas will help the sugar from getting damp. "Longsight."