

14th April 1959.

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

EDITOR W. GRANT.

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Price 1½d.

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

HOME-BOUND RAIL PASSENGERS ARRIVE IN BILLERICAY HOURS LATE.

Home-bound rail passengers from Liverpool Street, on Thursday, arrived in Billericay up to three hours late, after a parcels train was derailed at Chadwell Heath, just before 5.0 p.m., blocking the lines to East Anglia and Southend and bringing down the electric cables. Within a hour the lines to East Anglia were cleared but it was not until the next day that the slow lines were clear. Even then trains proceeded with caution.

Trains were run to Ilford where buses were layed on to Romford, where services commenced. Steam trains and diesel units were run on the line.

Passengers travelling to Southend were advised to use the Fenchurch Street line.

FIRE STATION OPEN DAY.

An open day was held at Billericay Fire Station on Saturday April 4th and the public were able to view the appliance and equipment.

An "Observer" reporter who visited the Station saw the new equipment recently installed there. When a person makes a fire call in Billericay they are connected to Grays headquarters. Then the siren and bells of Billericay Station are rung and if the fire is not a known grass or chimney fire, another brigade, usually Brentwood but in the Ramsden-East Billericay area Wickford are alerted.

The purpose of the open day was to let the public see "what they are getting for their money."

The open day was much more attended than last year's open day.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The next B.U.D.C. Council Meeting will be on April 14th in the Council Chambers, 94, High Street, Billericay.

FOR BETTER,

FOR WORSE.

The Billericay Folk Players presented the comedy, "For Better, For Worse", at the Archer Memorial Hall, last week. Proceeds go to the Parish Church extension fund.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

RADIO PROGRAMME RECORDING WAS MADE AMONG STORES IN A SHED.

or-"The tale of a tape recorder". A most unusual setting for a recording for the B.B.C. sound programme 'Town and Country' was a stores shed at the back of Squires in the High Street. The microphone was held among the packing cases by Patricia Brent of the B.B.C. And I expect you've guessed who was the interviewed.

Patrica Brent arrived at the offices of the "Billericay Observer" on Wednesday with tape recorder. But would it go? NO. So a long, expensive phone call to London while tests were carried out. No go. So to Billericay in a taxi and the tape recorder was left in the hands of Squires.

On return Squires were asked, "Had they a quite room?". Well, there was the stores shed and that is how the headline came about.

The editor was asked several questions and excerpts were read from the "Observer".

COMPLAINS OF LITTER.

A member of the C.P.R.E. (Council For The Preservation of Rural England) living in the South Green area, has written to the General Committee asking for suggestions re the litter problem, in South Green which she thought probably the most untidy part of Billericay, the bus stop itself being beyond all description.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAY.

Children of Christ Church, Perry Street, Sunday School presented a play, "Children of Galileo", at Christ Church last Thursday and Friday.

JOINING MUSEUM ASSOCIATION.

The C.P.R.E. are joining the Museum Association in connection with their project at 74, High Street, part of which will be the future Billericay Museum.

TREES PLANTED.

It was reported to the General Committee of the C.P.R.E. at their meeting last Tuesday, that, following a suggestion from the C.P.R.E., and interviews on the spot with the County Officer, trees have been planted in the Laindon Road between Noak Hill Road and Kennel Lane. This section of the road had been a rather bleak patch since widening took place a few years ago.

Two schoolboy members of the C.P.R.E. have been elected to a sub-committee

Thursday April 16th. Three days
Jack Hawkins and Gia Scala in
"The Two-Headed Spy". This is a tense
and exciting story of an exiled
Englishman who lived an incredible
double life in the shadow of the
swastika. When the British Agent to
whom he passes his information he
has gained as a top-level Nazi
officer, and a girl replaces him, the
complications start arising. Also
Apache Territory (U). L.C.P. 7.05.

Sunday April 19th.
The Big Combo (A) and Shotgun
(A). L.C.P. 7-15.

Monday April 20th. Three days.
James Stewart, Kim Novak in,
Bell, Book and Candle (U) at 5-20
and 8-25. Also The Shadow On The
Window (A). L.C.P. 7-00.

Thursday April 23rd. Three Days.
Houseboat, (U), starring Cary
Grant and Sophia Loren, tells the
story of a Washington worker who is
separated from his wife. When she
dies in a car accident, he takes over
the care of the three young children
much against their wishes. Hilarious
sequences follow with the father
getting the worst of it. It is not
until he engages a maid (Sophia
Loren) that things on the Potomac
River houseboat begin to quieten
down. Also Three Crooked Men (U)
L-C-P 7-0.

Sunday April 26th.
Gunpoint (U), also For Better,
For Worse (U).

Monday April 27th. Three days.
The Missouri Traveller (U),
starring Brandon De Wilde and Lee
Marvin tells the story of a sturdy
14-year old orphan, Biarn Turner,
who runs away from an institution
determined to make his own way in
the World. There is plenty of stiff
opposition before he gets his own
farm. Also Walt Disney's immortal,
The Vanishing Prairie. L.C.P. 7-00.

Thursday April 30th. Three days.
One of the most closeky guard-
ed secrets of the last war was the
fabulous impersonation of General
Montgomery during the weeks prior
to D-Day. John Mills, Cecil Parker,
Clifton James the actual impersonat-
or star in "I was Monty's Double".
The film and its authentic story
uncovers the truth behind the
operation that fooled the German
High Command into believing that
the invasion might come from North
Africa. The film includes sly touches
of humor and moments of suspense. The
"Ob" Film of the Fortnight. At 5-15,
8-30. Mat Sat. 2-15. Also Frank Lovejoy
in Cole Younger, Gunfighter. All U.
L.C.P. 7-0. (Fuller information from
the ed).

ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER".

A reader, who lives near the
Hill House Drive entrance to Lake
Meadows has complained to me about
the crowds, who during the weekend
want to use her phone.

Hearing of a phone outside
the park, they come to her and when
permission for them to use the phone
is refused they give her dirty looks.
The phone is in fact in Lake Avenue.
Surely something could be done about
this state of affairs. Perhaps notice
-s could be erected.

While on the subject of
phones I must mention the lack of a
public telephone box in the area
round our offices. The populous area
which embraces Lakeside. Part of Perr
-y St, Upland Rd, Queens Park have to
go to Lake Avenue or Norsey View Dr.
corner for the nearest box. These are
over $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile away. I am sure a
telephone box in the area would be a
great help to all. I also think that
several other parts of Billericay
could do with a phone box.

Once again I must apologise
for the extremely bad spacing. We have
tried all sorts of experiments but
so far no success.

Readers often wonder how
long it takes me to write this arti-
cle out beforehand. Well I don't. I
type it straight on to the typewrite
-r.

I would like to see some-
thing definite done about a pedestrian
crossing in the High Street. We have
now got our traffic lights at Sun
Corner - shortly to be erected. So let
us kno strive to get the much-needed
crossing.

Often it is now two or even
three minutes before you can cross
in safety.

The Church has been sugges-
ted as a site, but this is much too
dangerous a place for a crossing,
because of the Chapel-High Street
almost blind junction.

My site is Woolworth's and
to my mind this is the safest and
the most convenient site.

Some action ought to be
taken quickly about the proposed
Police Dog and ex-policeman handler
-r. Damage continues to be done in
the local parks. The sooner we get
dog and handler the better.

As a matter of interest for
readers, people motor to Lake Meadows
from as far away as Devon and the
Manchester area. On a good day about
6,000 to 8,000 people are in Lake
Meadows and cars numbering up to
the 800 region.

Stock village was featured
on B.B.C. T.V., on last Wednesday.
Residents are trying to prevent
"undesirable development" in the
village. It would indeed be a shame
if rural Stock were spoilt.

Unfortunately, no view of the old Billericay Market House is known to exist, and even the site is a matter of guesswork.

On a map dated 1681, however, a building is shown in the centre of the street where it widens out by Basson's present shop, about that time the Magpie and Horseshoe Inn. This position occupies just the same kind of site as market houses in other towns, and there is not much doubt that the building shown was Billericay's Market House which stood till about 1830. Another map in the Essex Records Office shows the High Street in this year of 1830, when the road is quite clear of any obstruction at this point, and the well known view of Billericay in 1832 has likewise no sign of a building there. It is easy, however, in studying this picture to imagine the scene of only two or three years' before.

A little nearer the church on the 1681 map is shown what appears to be the old Pillory etc.

The ancient Market House was probably very much like those still to be seen in various parts of the country, open on the ground level with perhaps a small lock-up for offenders against the law, and a small room for the Market Clerk etc. Above would have been a larger room used for various matters to do with the market itself, as well more general purposes dealing with the good order of the town.

In 1684 Samuel Bayly founded a Grammar School at Billericay, endowed with the rents of Watch House Farm, Laindon. This was to be held 'in the room over the Market House' and did so until it removed to the new building of 1830. We also have the evidence of the 'Markett Rentals' and 'accounts of the Market & Stalls' etc in the Essex Records Office for other details.

In 1700, for example, there is mentioned 'The Market House Chamber' which was then let to 'One Thompson a Malster', and in 1708 a certain 'Willm. Marloe', trade unknown, rented the same 'Chamber'. In this latter year are given rents paid by :-

'Jeremy Reynolds for a little Room under the Market House' and 'Edwd. Marrel for a standing by the well'.

This ancient Market House lasted until 1830, when the newly formed Town Hall Company, headed by Sir John Tyrell, erected the more substantial building near the prosperous 'Crown Inn' and the lesser known 'Maiden Head'. To this building which included a Corn Exchange and Assembly Room was transferred the Grammar School which was given a room of its own. Fuller details of the so called Town Hall and its construction can be read in the old 'Estimate Book' of Bassons Bro's which is now in the Essex Records Office at Chelmsford. The Assembly Room later became a Police Court and is now the Urban District Council Chamber.

When the place was taken over by the Police slight alterations were made to the exterior which, on the ground floor originally had a central doorway with a tall window at each side - a complete reversal of its present appearance - whilst at roof level the original statues were replaced by the Balls to be seen today.

In some of the Market accounts a place called 'the shambles' is mentioned, and the 'three tilted stalls between the Salt bins & the George'. On the map of 1593, these so called salt bins are shown near the 'Croune', (site of Clark's butcher's shop) and the 'George Inn' was what is now the three shops occupied by Ashley's and Howard's. Among the stallholders are to be found 'Gingerbread men', Butchers, Patten makers, Edgetoolmen, Pedlars, Hardwaresmen and, about 100 years ago a stall for Staffordshire China is mentioned as a popular feature of the now vanished Billericay market.

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Excitement from the B.B.C. T.V. visit is still with us. With all the publicity we are "burning the midnight oil". On counting we find our total publicity is:-16 news stories (including two national appearances, and one in the "Singapore Standard"), two television appearances, and photo-journalist stories taken. Shortly to appear:-News Article in Japan, Radio, Town and Country, and Cinema Newsreel.

I hope you like our new articles.

We do not think we are getting "magaziney". Our Page 1 is our news page, Page 2, Cinema News, and the topical "Wanderer".

W. Grant, Editor.

SPORT.

The Editor would like to contact all local sports clubs secretaries.

FOR

THE

GARDENER.

Garden Planning-5.

We have not yet dealt in this series with the vegetable garden.

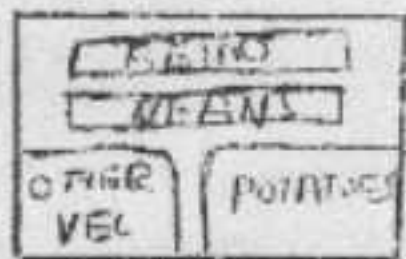
There is a very small outlay, on vegetable gardens if you go about it the right way and in return you get a supply of fresh vegetables.

I said "if you go about it in the right way". Do not spend too much on plant foods and composting quickeners. In a corner of your vegetable garden dig a hole and place in it lawn mowings etc. This will provide a cheap compost. Bonfire ash can also be used as a compost.

What is grown is a matter for the individual taste and need, but potatoes should certainly be grown, for they are very expensive. A row of beans should be included and tomatoes are always welcome.

The vegetable garden should be well dug and fertilized in the winter. Today's plans are for vegetable gardens.

A revolutionary fruit picker, the Pickwick, will shortly be on the market and embraces many new features. Made by Engineering Drawing Design, 150, Brighton Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey.



"Observer" Plan No 5

"Observer" Plan No 4. CONDITIONS VARY FROM GARDEN TO GARDEN SO THESE PLANS ARE NOT CONCLUSIVE

"JANUS".

India has expressed her sympathy with the oppressed Tibetan's. But it will not be easy to assist refugee Tibetan's on a large scale. Apart from the danger of provoking the Chinese Communists, India is having trouble in working out her industrial improvements. But even Pacifist Pandit Nehru, may find appeasement disillusioning.

Already part of S. India is under Communist control. If she could only settle her differences with Pakistan over Kashmir, it would be better for both India and Pakistan.

I would like to have heard that the Metropolitan of India (The Arch Bishop of India) had offered prayers and a special appeal for this at the Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

After all, the Arch Bishops throughout the free countries, have the power to use their influence, why not try to do so at the risk of creating a precedent unpopularity. A thought for today from "The Times" Of India.

- "No malice was his aim; he lashed the vice, but spared the name. No individual could resent, where thousands equally were meant" -.

Suggestions for Preventing Illness.

Master the main facts of body maintenance in the same way that is necessary to be a good motorist, cyclist or horse owner.

First oxygen is essential so form a habit of holding the breath as long as possible and slowly exhaling. Take a few deep breaths on rising. Then swing the arms four times outwards and four times inwards to inflate the lungs. Next twist your body round once or twice to flex the spine muscles. Lastly twist your head up, down, to left and to right. Finally blink the eyes open and shut and try to follow an imaginary fly round the room with your eyes, whilst remaining quite still - "Janus".

STRIKE ME PINK!

The above rather amusing caption is found on a "Finnish" Match-box label and folk are often saying similar things and equally amazed at the variations to be found on the small compass of this domestic item. Credit is due to John Walker, a chemist, inventor of the first friction match in 1829. The first label appeared in 1830.

To date there are about 100,000 different labels, produced by over 300 factories. Every conceivable and representative and knowledgeable object, be it flora, fauna, historic events etc, dating from the Sphink Era to the Atomic Age, leaves a large field for the Philumenist - J. Wyld.

COMMENT.

Objects of derision in a Sunday newspaper recently were a group of Essex Sixth-Formers (70 of them) who throughout the school holidays are pushing a pram round Chelmsford in an attempt to break the World's unofficial pram-pushing record. In this they have succeeded but are going on, so as to make the new record 500 hours.

When one of the pram-pushers travelling to a take-over point was involved in an accident, the Police informed the pram-pushing organisers so that a relief could be sent out!

However, not everybody thought so highly of their capers as the Billericay Police did, for the Sunday Newspaper included a photo and the caption, "Meet Eastern prize idiots".

Pushing a pram round the town isn't doing ANYBODY any good. I am sure the head prefect would be more highly thought of if he helped the elderly, or at least didn't push a pram.

BUDGET.

A fairly good one. The post-war credit reforms are very good and were much needed. Also the Income Tax Reduction is a very good move. But not so the Purchase Tax and Beer reductions.

Schedule "A" should have been abolished. After all you can't have a T.V. etc without a house. The beer move is a voteatcher. Something should be done to help the O.A.P.'s who don't LIVE but just EXIST on a measly Pension. Which is more important a beer reduction or O.A.P. increase so they can live.

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Growing Hopes.

Great oaks from little acorns grow,
That is a fact which all folk know;
And many a famous man has found,
Success meant climbing from the
ground.
So may we hope, with utmost fervour,
Fortune will guide the young
"Observer".
Long may it give that great elation
Of over-increased circulation!

Bill O'Ricky.

LETTERS.

In the Editor's recent
interview with Mr A. Hatt, Clerk of
Basildon U.D.C. (who now receives
a copy regularly) asked the Editor
if letters were published. "No", was
the ed's answer. We like to read
people's views so would you ask
readers to write letters?

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printed this time). Send your letter
by post to our office or hand them
to the Editor.

BOOKS, GUIDES ETC RECEIVED.

The handy guide to Paris,
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guide includes lists of recommended
hotels and restaurants visited by
the author himself. It also includes
useful information relating to
travel and customs. Also included
are lists of theatres and excursions
in fact everything that a guide to
Paris should include. (See Advert on
Page 5.)

Today (Monday) the
"Billericay Observer" is being
filmed for Movietone Cinema News.

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