HOMEBOUND 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 delayed at Chadwell Heath. Just before 9.00 p.m., blocking the lines to East Anglia and Southend and bringing down the electric cables within an hour the lines to East Anglia were cleared, but it was not until the next day that the slow lines were cleared. Even then trains proceeded with caution.

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

Passengers travelling to Southend were Advised to use the Benchurch Street line.

FIRE STATION OPEN DAT.

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 said that the new equipment recently installed there. When a person makes a fire call in Billericay they are connected to Gravesend 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, is on the scene. 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 H.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 store 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 interviewed.

Patricia Brent arrived at the offices of the 'Billericay Observer' on Wednesday with tape recorder, but would it go? No. So a few expensive phone calls 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, "Has the tape a quite room?" Well, there was the stores shed and that is how the headline idea was born. The editor was asked several questions and excerpts were read from the "Observer."

COMPLAINTS 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 untidiest part of Billericay, she said a bus stop itself being beyond all description.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAY.

Children of Christ Church, Perry Street, Sunday School presented a play, "Children of Galilee" 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 Officers, trees have been planted in the lainsby Road between Noah 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
CINEMA DIARY.

RITZ, BILLETICAY.

Thursday April 16th. Three days. Jack Hawkins and Gina 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 passed his information he gained as a top-level Nazi officer, and a girl replaces him, the complications start arising. Also Apache Territory (U), L.C.P. 7-06.

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.
Housecoat (U), starring Cary Grant and Sophia Loren, tells the story of a Washington worker who is operated upon by his wife. When she dies in an auto 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 quiet down. Also Three Crooked Men (U), L.C.P. 7-00.

Sunday April 26th.
Cuckoo (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, Brian 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 closely guarded secrets of the last war was the fabulous espionage of General Montgomery, during the weeks prior to D-Day. John Mills, Cecil Parker, CliftonJames the actual impersonator star in "I Was Monty's Double". The film and its authentic story uncover 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 "Oh" film of the Fortnight. At 8-16, 8-00, Nat Sat. 2-15. Also Frank Lovejoy in Cole Younger, Gunfighter. All U, L.C.P. 7-00. (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. Reading of phone outside the park, they come to her and when permission for them to use the phone is refused, they argue dirty looks. The phone is in fact in Lake Avenue. Surely something could be done about this state of affairs. Perhaps notice could be erected.

While on the subject of phones I must mention the lack of a public telephone box in the area. Around our offices, the populous area which embraces Lakeside Park, Perry St., Upland Rd., Queens Park has to go to Lake Avenue or Norsey View Dr. corner for the nearest box. These are over 1/4 of a mile away. I am sure a 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.

Long it takes me to write this article out beforehand. Well, I don't type it straight on to the typewriter.

I would like to see something definite done about a pedestrian crossing in the High Street. We have got our traffic lights at Sunnyside shortly to be erected. So let crossing.

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

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

My wife 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 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 10,000 to 8,000 people are in Lake Meadows and cars numbering up to the 800 region.

Section of village was featured on B.B.C. T.V. on last Wednesday.

Residents are trying to prevent "undevelopable" development in the village. It would indeed be a shame if rural Stock were spoiled.
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 Bassam'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 still 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 obstructions, and this at this time, 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 Billory 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 for 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 'Market Account' 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 Thomas Malster' and in 1708 a certain 'William Marley', tradesman, rented the same 'Chamber'. In this latter year are given rents paid by:

- 'Jordan Stokelby for a little Room under the Market House'
- 'Edward Berd for a standing by the well.'

This ancient Market House lasted until 1830, when the newly formed Town Hall Company, headed by Sir John Tyrrell, 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. Full details of the so-called Town Hall and its construction can be read in the old 'Estimate Book' of Bassans 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 Bells 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 1830, these so-called salt bins are shown near the 'George' (site of Clark's butcher's shop) and the George Inn used before what is now the three shops occupied by Ashley's and Howard's. Among the stallholders were to be found 'Gingerbread men' butchers, patten makers, blacksmiths, pedlars, hardware and, about 100 years ago, a stall for Staffordshire Chine was 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-journalism 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 outlet 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 compost quickeners. In a corner of your vegetable garden dig a hole and place in it lawn mowings etc. This will provide a good compost. Boneash can also be used as a compost.

What is grown is a better for the individual taste and odd, but potatoes should certainly be grown, for they are very expensive.

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

A revolutionary fruit picker, the Pickwick, will shortly be in the market and embraces many new features, made by Engineering Drawing, 50, Brighton Ad, Coulson, Surr.

"JANUS".

India has expressed her sympathy with the oppressed Tibetan's. But it will not be easy to assist these refugees. A large scale operation is being planned to save their lives and some of the Indian leadership is working out her Industrial improvements. But even in the case of our present leadership, things are not easy. Newcastle United Team, 1934.

Already, part of S. India is under Communist control, if she could only settle her differences with Pakistan, there 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 world, have the power to use their influence, why not try to do so at the risk of creating a precedent in international affairs? 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, driver or horse owner. First, you must form a habit of holding your 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".

SIMPLER AS PINK!

The above rather amusing caption is found on a "Finishing" box label and folk are often saying similar things and equally true. 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. coming from the Sphinx Era to the Atomic Age, leaves a large field for the Philatelist. - J. Wylde.
OBJECTS OF DESTINY

A Sunday newspaper recently referred to 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 Easter's 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 "eat" 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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Ring Billericay 767, ask for R. Norman.

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 elevation of over-incriminated circulation!

Bill O'Ricky.

LETTERS.

In the Editor's recent interview with Mr. A. Matt, Clerk of Harwood 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?

Express your views to our wide circulation. (120 should be printed this time). Send your letters by post to our office or hand them to the Editor.

BOOKS, GUIDES ETC RECEIVED.

The handy guide to Paris, 2/-, profusely illustrated, this 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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