

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY AUGUST 18TH, 1959.

EDITOR WYNFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 41. PRICE 1d.

CROWD WATCH FIREMEN FIGHT 2.15 AM BLAZE - "OBSERVER" SCOOP

A large crowd watched four fire crews fight a fire in the garden of the home of Mr & Mrs Smith, "Green Close", Cromwell Avenue at 2.15 a.m. on Saturday August 8th morning. They had been attracted by the popping noises made by a burning oak tree and the glow of the flames.

The fire destroyed three sheds, a hedge, burnt an oak tree and ruined Mr Smith's vegetable garden and the heat was so intense that plum trees a large distance away were shrivelled by it.

The alarm was given by Mr Smith's daughter, who, sleeping in a back bedroom was woken by the glow and warned Mr Smith who phoned for the Fire Brigade. Mr Smith rushed down the garden and managed to salvage the motor mower before the shed roof fell in.

There was a danger at one time that a large oak tree which was burning might collapse and block the Perry St. - Station footpath and set fire to hedges and properties nearby.

The last fire engine left at about 5.30 a.m.

Mr Smith told the "Observer" that the heat was very intense, and if the fire brigade had not done the wonderful job they had the blaze could have been very serious.

Mr Smith said that he never smoked or used a light in the sheds. The fire is believed to be the result of hooliganism.

Mr Smith lost most of his tools in the fire. "Now I shall have to start all over again", he told the "Observer".

FOOTNOTE: The last big fire in Billericay was in January 1958 when "Langdake", Stock Rd. was burnt to the ground. Three fire engines attended this fire compared to four at the above fire. (About 30 firemen). The only other known big fire in Billericay was in the 1930's when cottages on the site of Western Parade, Western Road were burnt down and cottages on the other side of the road scorched.

'DIG' AT LOCAL CASTLE.

The Friends of Rayleigh Mount are excavating there from August 17th to 29th. Rayleigh Mount is an old castle, the only one in South Essex with the exception of Hadleigh and the wood used in building it came from woods in Billericay.

CARNIVAL NEXT SATURDAY.

Southend Carnival Week Procession is on next Saturday (22nd August). The procession will leave Leigh Parade at 3.0. and go via Chalkwell and Westcliff to the Pier (4.45 p.m.) arriving at the Kursall at approx. 5 p.m.

O.A.P.'s -- August 8th.

At the meeting of Billericay O.A.P.'s held at the Rose Hall on August 5th Mr W. Joseph presided. There was an excellent attendance. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs Plumridge. Reporting on sick Members the Chairman stated Mr Shaw had, he much regretted, been taken to Hospital. Members hoped that things would not be serious with him and that he would soon be on the road to complete recovery. Mrs Loft was welcomed back after a long illness. Also Mrs E. Dawkins was improving but was not able to attend yet. Members wished them all a very speedy recovery.

"Cissie Happy Puffins" entertained. Those taking part were Mesdames Miles, Boughton and James, Messrs. Brinkworth, Cressey, and Smith. Mrs Johnson, Pianist. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Riches, Dalgarno, Armstrong and August.

L A T E . N E W S

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CINEMA DIARY,
RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET,
BILLERICAY.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by
"WANDERER".

Monday August 17th. Three days.

June Laverick, Marcus

Goring in "SON OF ROBIN HOOD". (U).

This film tells the story of the efforts of the remnants of Robin Hood's band to the cause of the Boy Prince. Robin Hood's son comes over from France to lead them but little John finds she is a woman. He persuades her to let Jamie to masquerade as her. Despite being a woman she has exceptional daring. Someone is betraying the band and they get into more difficulties. A most exciting picture with plenty of action in colour. The film comes to an exciting climax in which members of the band are in grave danger of being drowned while the rest make an attack on the castle.

Thursday August 20th. Three days.

"HARRY BLACK". (U).

Monday August 24th. Three days.

"NO TREES IN THE

STREET". (A).

A tree couldn't grow in Kennedy Street: the wonder was that so many people did. Bustling, bawdy, overcrowded to bursting point, you were born in it, and unless you had the strength to get out, you died in it. In Summer 1938 for Hetty her ambition was to get out of the Street and take Tommy, her young brother with her. Wilkie ran the street and got everything he wanted except Hetty - and when he got her he lost her. Tommy drifted into a world of crime, the mother, Jess hardly cared where the money came from as long as she survived from day to day and the street went on its raucous, lusty way with every day a fight for survival.

Thursday August 27th. Three days.

"BABU AND THE MAGIC

RING" (U).

Straight from the magic and colourful fantasies of the Arabian Nights. Sabu, the Caliph's stable boy, finds a magic ring which commands a genie, it can also bring the goose that lays golden eggs. A sorcerer (magician) that can turn people into stone goes into league with Muzafar of the Caliph's staff who is desirous of obtaining the ring. Many fascinating adventures and fantasies of the east are included in this film. A goose swallows the ring and the Caliph is in danger from Muzafar. It requires the help of the genie to right things.

In the last issue I mentioned a road to be constructed from the Ritz Cinema to Crown Road. We are now told that this road will not be constructed in at least twenty years. Then what on earth I would like to know is the use of constructing it?

I forgot to mention in my traffic plan that a roundabout will be built in five years at the Norset - Stock - Western Roads and High Street junction. Several buildings will be demolished. A good thing too, the corner is very dangerous to all. I see other newspapers advocate one-way in Chapel Street and car park.

Many readers have mentioned to me the fact that since the U.D. changed to Basildon Billericay does not seem to be getting detailed attention. I agree with them. It is possible that in the future, Basildon will become a Borough, and I suggest then is a ripe time for Billericay & Wickford to break off. Three large towns and several small villages is too much for one Council. (It covers the country's 3rd largest area). Among the suggestions there has been one that Billericay be degraded to Chelmsford Rural District. Rubbish! We would be worse off. Another is Brentwood - Billericay and Wickford Rayleigh. Wickford may be better suited with Rayleigh but Billericay with Brentwood - no.

I suggest Billericay-Wickford. The present offices in Billericay shortly to be vacated could be used with the exception of the Council Chamber which, as I have suggested before, should provide a new, large, library. Official negotiations on this once took place, I understand. Wickford is only five minutes by train from Billericay (although five miles away). Meetings would be alternately held in both towns.

Last but not least - Billericay Station. The improvements that should have started seven months ago don't look like starting and perhaps Billericay Station will for ever have gas lighting - the only station on the London to Southend line to be so and with a larger population than some. But worst are the exits, only a few feet wide. When the evening rush of hundreds comes it is a wonder somebody hasn't been killed. When are we going to get wide exits which can take the rush - and stairways too worthy of a town this size.

Last week I was surprised to receive a letter from the Dalai Lama through his Secretary. He thanked me for my part in trying to get British help for the Tibetan refugees. I was both surprised and touched by this message. I did not realize that many sections of clergy felt. They could not associate themselves with the cause of the Tibetans - presumably because they are Buddhists. The hardships suffered by these peaceful peoples will rank in history as the worst in civilized times. India has been most generous towards them recently. She has allowed many more thousands of Tibetans to arrive in India and given permits for many to work there. She finds it hard to employ her own people! I had hoped that prayers would be said at regular intervals for Tibetans but it has not happened. A Vicar refused to make an appeal on behalf of the Tibetans in his magazine. So once again I give the address of the Tibet Society in the United Kingdom, where donations however small may be sent or information of the work being done obtained. The Honorary Secretary, Tibet Society, 58, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

I have asked the Press to try and influence Britain to at least grant free postal facilities to the Dalai Lama and his staff on mail sent to Britain. I will report later on the results of this.

It was reported that Sir Alan Herbert on his way to Athens, thumbed through a modern Greek grammar, whilst waiting at London Airport. In his youth he was a classical Greek Scholar. "But this is nothing like the old stuff my teachers dished up", he said. "I have got to learn it all over again - it's all Greek to me".

After hearing that some of the wives of the American Air Fighter Squadron were feeling a little annoyed at some of their experiences in seeking accommodation etc. I offered to air their grievances in some of my reports from time to time. To grumble is a safety valve for all of us. And it is easy to feel one is being discriminated when one is living in a country not one's own.

The Colonel of H.Q. Fighter Wing sent a polite message to say actually they had few complaints against Britain. He concluded by thanking me and asking me to pay a personal visit to their camp when possible.

I would like to say how much I would enjoy paying a visit but journalists have a weakness for doing so anonymously. In fact not letting it be known they hope to report. And that could lead to complications and I will just say I hope if I should be mistaken for a spy, the watchword "Janus" would be sufficient to prove my innocence.

But seriously these men are guarding the whole of the British Isles. We owe our continued safety to the preparedness and watchfulness of these American fighter wings. If Britain does not realize this Russia most certainly does. And I wish we heard more of it in Britain, if only sufficient to inform the ordinary people, who wonder why "the Yanks" stay in Britain. So I say - thank goodness for the Americans now guarding the British Isles.

SICKNESS PREVENTION --- WASP STINGS.

This is the season for Wasp Stings. These are acid so alkaline should be applied. Bi carb of soda or ordinary washing soda could be applied. Gently squeeze to bring out the sting venom. Bee stings are alkaline and acid should be applied. This could be lemon juice, vinegar, grape fruit or other citrus juice.

Payment for Civic Services.

Should Council members of Maidstone Council be paid to go to Church for Civic Services? It sounds a shocking thing to suggest and would bring the whole of British council work into disrepute, with other countries. Further, members of Council not in good health and unable to creditably discharge their duties should be retired if they will not do so voluntarily. Councillors to serve ratepayers well should be property owners. How can they appreciate the costs of running a house in a Council House. As a result they launch huge costly schemes and don't appreciate the cost to the ratepayer.

"JANUS".

BILLERICAY O.A.P.'S
August 12th.

At the meeting of Billericay O.A.P. held at the Rose Hall there was a very good attendance, with Mr. Joseph in the Chair.

Reports on sick members were given and they were wished a very speedy recovery. Two new members were welcomed to the branch. The Secretary gave final details for the outing to Clacton on Monday.

The members were entertained by the Fairfield Concert Party under the leadership of and pianist, Mrs Gray. Also taking part were Mesdames Harper, Peters, and Dale and Mr Walker. They gave a very entertaining afternoon.

Tea hostesses were Mesdames Riches, Walgrans, August, and Armstrong.

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"LONGSIGHT" He's back!
"Longsight", the witty, popular "Ob" columnist resumes his articles in the "Ob" after a five-month tour.

Yes, "Longsight's" return, like the bad penny and as the Cockney says "Look wot the winds blown in". On my return, what a sight our lovely countryside by the station torn up by bulldozers as well as other parts of dear, old, Billericay. I must hasten to add that these merciless builders are also playing havoc in many parts of the country that I have recently visited - Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Surrey, Sussex, and Staffordshire.

Do you know that the late nurses home in High Street, Billericay has now been taken over by Marks & Spencer, also other property for such like purposes.

What has happened to the Plate glass window of Spiers electrical stores in Crown Rd? (ED: A motor cycle crashed into it recently).

This English!
Overhead in Staffordshire.

"An wpt caeper dost think theest been up tew now?, I says to the Missis stern like, "Wheer's the tay?" "Thee biesnt (have not) took bad or summat bist (have you).

"No I bai bad" er says, "Yom a-tekkin me out to a meal for a chaenge in one o'them posh resteron-
gs".

"Its a taeter!", I says, "Wots this noo saftness theest got into thww yead?"

Then er showed me a noospaper er'd been a-raydin about this rector -chap at Romsley I8m an is missies ad the ilu but cos e wor as bad as er e ad to dew the chores. Says the wenches are taken for granted.

Course they am! They gets paid for Listenin to Mrs Dale's Diary and the Archers. Says we orter tek em out for a meal now and agen. I shall have to goo ~~and~~ gi'im a piece o my mind. Still praps theers summat in wot e says, after all I s'ppse wenches goes ill but they cor goo on the box like we, I8ll get mine to cut a few sandwiches, an' we'll 'ave a walk up Romsley.

Well thats atekkin (taking) er out ai (isn't) it.

Ladies please copy the above advice. As the Black Country folk would say about me "yo'am daft, am I.

Riddle

Q: Why did the tap run?

A: Because it saw the kitchen sink. Please excuse the above, I have been in the sun a lot - "Longsight".

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COMMENT.

A junior Philatetic Society in Kent - the Newlands Road, Tunbridge Wells has launched a campaign for pictorial stamps in Britain.

The G.P.O. talk about "the tradition set by the Penny Black". From our stamps foreigners can only assume that the Queen grows roses and ;eeks, wears thistles, and sprouts shamrocks.

Seven trail designs have been suggested by Lord Elilbank. These are (they can be seen at our offices) 1d, Cowes, 1d, Salisbury Cathedral, 1d, Stratford-on-Avon, 2d, Edinburgh, 2d, the Highlands, 3d, Conway Castle, 4d, Westminster.

These stamps would assist the tourist trade. And do you really like the present dull, unattractive stamps?

The P.M.C. has modernised most aspects connected with Postal & Telephone services. Then why not stamps? Why these silly regional stamps? Why not pictorial stamps to be proud of which do not detract anything from the monarch's face. The head of the Queen loses nothing. Let's have brighter stamps.

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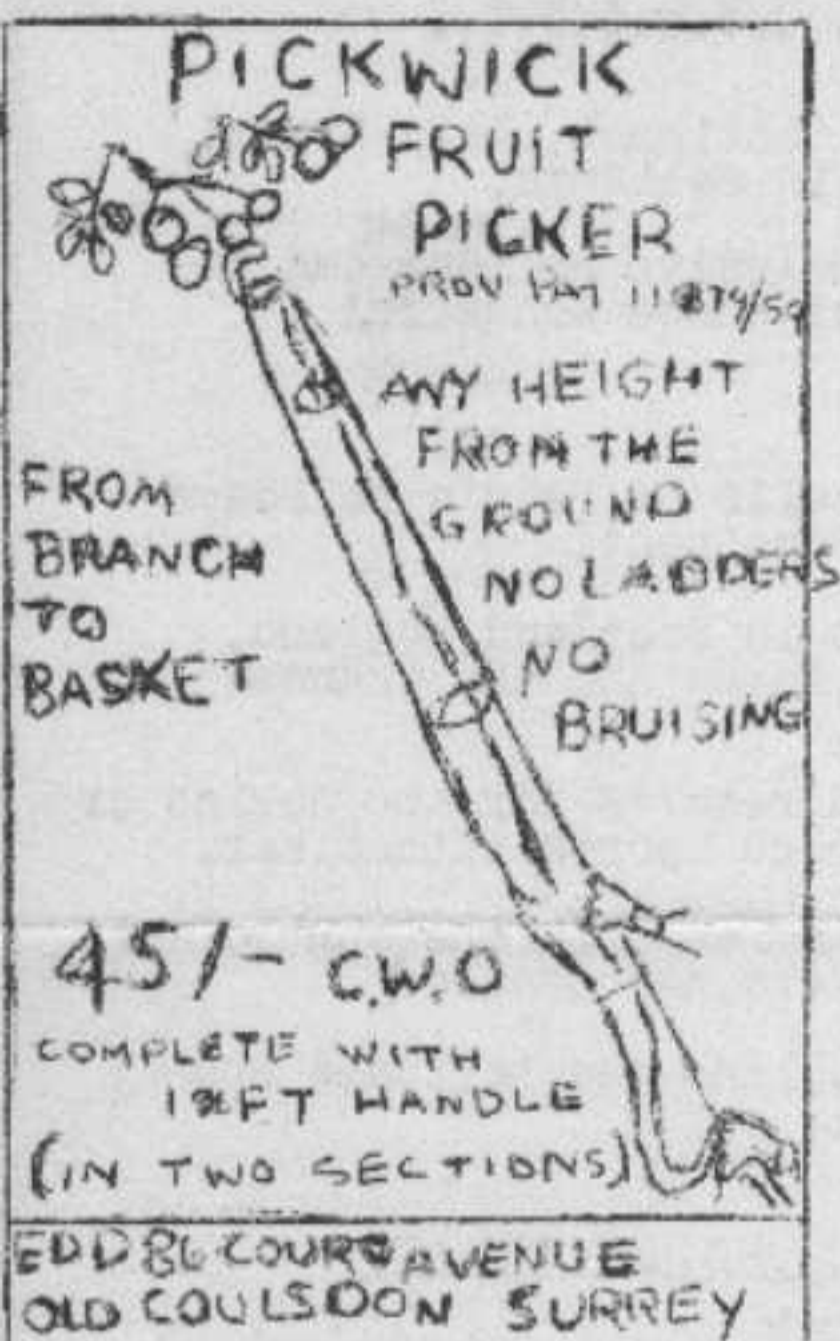
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YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP.

Owing to the Summer Holidays the Young Wives Fellowship will not meet until September 15th, 2 to 3p.m.
CHURCH SERVICES:- Communion; 1st Sunday in month, 9.30 a.m. Evensong; 3.30p.m. except 1st Sunday in month.



EDITOR'S NOTES.

We apologise for the lack of news in this edition, it is likely to happen in the next and we hope new readers will bear with us until this "silly season" as regards local news - August is over.

In September we will have our front page town crier and we hope to be on sale in the newsagents. We then intend to launch a big advertising campaign to get our circulation up. We will also revise the paper, according to reader's tastes. There will be more news and the features side of the paper will be re-organised.

We are pleased to welcome back "Longsight" after a very long absence. He hopes to write for the present.

Circulation. We have printed a smaller number of copies this week owing to the fact that a number of readers are on their annual holidays.

"The Billericay Observer Story". Six of the eight pages have been typed out and the book is hoped to be on sale by next Tuesday (Price sixpence, profits - money transfusion for paper). Readers will receive it with the next paper (if they want it) but it can be obtained beforehand. We will print 200 copies.

Wyndford Grant - EDITOR

L E T T E R S

The Litter Act.

Dear Sir,

Several years ago Basildon Council placed four refuse bins at the Stock Road entrance of Hill House Drive which the residents were informed were for their exclusive use. Today when I passed I noticed they were all filled to the brim and a large quantity of litter scattered around. This not infrequently happens.

Twelve houses and bungalows have been erected and occupied since the bins were first placed there but the allocation still remains four. The remedy is obvious and not to tell people to bring their litter home again if the bins are full.

E. D. Hellyer, "Brambles", Hill House Drive, Billericay.

Ed; The remedy is obvious - at least two new bins.

LETTERS.

Readers often grouse and grumble to me about one thing or the other but they never take action. The way to take action and get things done is to write a letter to the "Billericay Observer". And answer the letters of others. So write us a letter.

REPORT FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN HOLLAND.

"Tulips from Amsterdam".

There are no tulips in Amsterdam - they come from hisse and Hillegom. What is this Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands with eleven million inhabitants? The nicknames of this capital are "City on piles" and "Venice of the North". Why? There are many canals with more than two hundred bridges. And every house (the smallest house and the biggest hotel) is built on piles. Yes, many piles, for instance: the Royal Palace on the Dam is built on 13,659 piles. Incredible but real.... The "Westertower" is built on 5,000 cowhides! - Bill King.

BOOKSHELF ----- Book Reviews. by "B. J. P."

"LANCASTRIA", Geoffrey Bond - Oldbourne Press, 18s.

It was Monday June 17th, 1940. Lying off St. Nazaire the liner Lancastria, packed with men taken from the beaches, was struck by bombs and turned over and sunk. The first book to tell one of the greatest maritime disasters in our history.