

BILLERICAY OBSERVER.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29th.

EDITOR WYNFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 44. PRICE 1d.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE DISPUTE — RESIDENTS PRINT 4,000 — LEAFLETS

In connection with their fight against the erection of 40 factories by the Lyon Group in the area between Perry Street and the Station, Billericay Resident's Association have printed 4,000 leaflets, one for each householder in Billericay. The leaflets are now in the process of distribution and state the Association's case against the erection of 40 factories and for a Public Enquiry. The leaflets also announce that a Public Meeting will be held at the Archer Memorial Hall, Laindon Road, at 8 p.m. on the 6th of October (next Monday).

The Resident's Association intend to make a major issue of the Industrial Estate in the General Election locally and they ask resident's to question canvassers about their parties views on the subject.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government will meet a deputation shortly, asking for a Public Enquiry. A meeting has also been arranged with Mr. Edward Gardner, the Prospective Conservative candidate.

The Civic Trust (a national organisation concerned in the beauty of town and countryside) are interested in the Association's case.

The B.B.C. programme "Town and Around" (television) have been contacted regarding the dispute. "WANDERER" WRITES PAGE 2.
TRIPLETS MAKE BILLERICAY FAMILY UP TO SEVEN.

The triplets, born to Mr and Mrs Keough of Moat Edge Gardens Billericay in Oldchurch Hospital Romford on August 31st will make their family up to seven. Mr Keough, a cost clerk at West Horndon, says that he hopes it will be no more.

The triplets and weights at birth are Angela (5-5) Celia (6-8) and Nicholas 7lb. The others in the family are Geoffrey (11½), Micheal (10), Christopher (6½), and Katherine (3½).

ELECTION WILL BE WON 'DOORSTEP BY DOORSTEP' - CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE.

Speaking at his adoption meeting at the Archer Memorial Hall on Tuesday 22nd September, Mr Edward Gardner, Conservative candidate for Billericay said "We are going to have to win this election as we have won other elections, doorstep by doorstep. By hard enthusiastic campaigning and by meeting people in their homes, at their work, and at our meetings. It is for this reason that I am undertaking a big programme of meetings, at least two a night, in addition to others during the day. I do not expect they will all be well attended. But I know I shall not be wasting a moment of your time or my time by using this method of giving everyone in the Constituency an opportunity of hearing and questioning their Conservative candidate. I certainly do not see this election as a T.V. election. Indeed a very beneficial Bill for the next Parliament might be one which would prohibit all T.V. on Polling Day until after 9.0 p.m. in the evening to prevent any Western Ranger becoming too strong a competitor of the Polling Booth.

If as I think this is not going to be an election of personalities, it is going to be an election of policies and for that reason politically one of the most fascinating elections of our time". Added Mr Gardner, "I mustn't say too much - T.V. are coming down on polling night". (Cameras will be at the Archer Hall for the result of the poll).

Speaking of the Liberals, Mr H.S.A. Rothon said that every vote given to the over-confident Liberals was a vote given to the Labour Party. All sensible non-Socialists should vote for the Conservatives and not the Liberals who have a very slim chance.

All branches of the Conservatives gave, through representatives, support to Mr Gardner.
MORE ELECTION NEWS ON PAGE FOUR.

CINEMA DIARY,
RITZ CINEMA,
CHAPEL STREET, BILLERICAY.

Monday September 28th. Three days.
"IN LOVE AND WAR", (A), romance and war film.

Thursday October 1st. Three Days.
Clifton Webb, Dorothy McGuire, in
"THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN", (U).
An excellent film. Also "COPPER SKY"
starring Jeff Morrow, Colleen Gray (U).
Sunday October 4th.

Frank Sinatra in
"JOHNNY CONCHO", (A). Also "BATTLE TAXI", (A).

Monday October 5th. Three days.
Deborah Kerr and Yul Brynner in "THE JOURNEY", (A).

The story deals with a group of terrified travellers stranded at the Budapest Airport during the Hungarian Revolt. As Soviet jets take over the airfield they are told to proceed to Austria and Freedom by bus. At a border town, within sight of safety, the bus is stopped for a routine check.

A routine check abruptly develops into a fascinating human conflict. The antagonists are a gentle, titled English woman the product of centuries of civilisation dedicated to a dangerous mission and a barbaric, but intelligent Russian officer torn between duty and a compelling need to know the truth. Supporting Programme.

Thursday October 8th. Three days.

"ALIAS JESSIE JAMES", (U), starring Bob Hope and Rhonda Fleming. This film tells the story of a bungling insurance salesman who sells an insurance policy to a infamous robber. With some good music and laughs. This is a film of the 1930's. Also "GREAT VAN ROBBERY", (U).

Sunday October 4th.
"ATTACK" AND "FIVE STEPS TO DANGER", (A).

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We regret we are unable to accept any more orders for personal delivery except in cases where a copy/copies is already supplied. LETTERS on all local/national subjects, in answer to other letters, on articles, and your opinion of the paper are welcome.
LATE NEWS.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by
"WANDERER".

You have probably by now read the latest news concerning the Industrial Estate dispute.

Many people who are ardently against large, industrial building expressed the opinion "that not much would come of it". Nothing will if people are apathetic but if people attend the Public Meeting and protest I can assure you that the Resident's have more forces and power than meets the eye. If rumor is correct - and there is no official denial of this - three-story blocks of flats are to be erected on the site.

Is Billericay going to become 'that eyesore' on the way to Southend? No. But limited, landscaped, well-spaced, tree-screened, factories that don't look like factories - yes that is what must be achieved.

Schools are badly needed and playing fields, and an extension to Lake Meadows (Lake Meadows visitors don't want to see horrible, asbestos and corrugated iron factories) and the ground could be used for that, particularly as, (if rumor is correct) 1,500 houses are to be built on the Queens Park Estate.

Another point - people who are not at present affected by the factories should remember that the centre of the town would be spoilt and that the factories will want to expand and use other sites. As for employment the firms will bring most of their own personnel.

Councils should have experienced Resident candidates on them not representatives of parties. Party politics has nothing to do with Sewage, Roads, Industrialisation and other problems of a town.

Mr. Harry Richman, Press Secretary of Billericay Branch, Council for Preservation of Rural England has suggested to me that a book be printed for newcomers to the town with one page to each local organisation, with their aims, and membership details. The book could be put on sale for a small fee and each organisation would contribute to the cost, thus making it very low for each organisation.

This is an excellent suggestion and I hope it is taken up for it would provide an excellent method of reaching new people in the town for local organisations. I also suggest that a page or two of general information be included.

---- "WANDERER".

"JANUS REPORTING". Copyright. The top national column in a leading paper, written by a well-travelled person. "Janus Reporting" has beaten a large organisation like the B.B.C. with the news by six weeks.

The Socialists are for more NATIONALISATION. That means higher costs for several people have to do the work of one. On this I will quote an Indian point of view. Mr Rajagopalachari when addressing a meeting in Bombay said: - "The inroads of the State and its machinery on the liberty of the individual in the name of Socialism must stop. The ruling party must be replaced by one which held the freedom of the common man as sacred. The vast Nationalisation schemes have become a State Giant poised against the citizen, interfering with his life at all points, imposing restrictions, sanctions and controls. It steps into Industry, Agriculture, and Trade creating armies of officials. Cost of administration has increased taxes. It led to the people being made victims of faulty government deception. During India's 12 years of Independence the encroachment of the State has grown and swamped all freedom. This is nationalisation in a country where the peasant who cannot read must pay his few precious coins to an Official to explain the vast new rules, regulations and terms of getting rations - he cannot read! A final note on Socialism and Communism - both preach Pacifism but take part in the rape of weak countries. They denounce Colonisation whilst preparing to annex and make slave states themselves.

Open letter to the Postmaster General.

Sir,

We the public are finding the postal services satisfactory. In the post offices one often hears, "I suppose I must send by Express mail in order to ensure its safe arrival on time".

I have experienced lost letters one containing a postal order.

Mail from overseas has never taken so long or been delivered in such a haphazard way. Newspapers that should arrive in consecutive weeks arrive 3 or 4 at a time, having taken 7 to 8 weeks in transit from Bombay. Does it mean that Postmasters cannot take action when complaints are made? Are they in fact controlled by the workers under them?

Readers of this paper will have read that my last letter and report to the Editor arrived too late for publication. This article was posted early in the day of Friday from St. Albans main sorting and collecting depot but did not reach Billericay until Monday - it is a distance of about thirty-five miles. Nothing could be worse than a country to lose confidence in its Postal Services. With overseas countries it has a prestige diminishing effect for Britain is famed for its postal services. A Pakistan correspondent writes to me this is a case for an inquest. I hope you, sir, will think so too.

Yours,

"Janus".

SICKNESS PREVENTION - Eye trouble is not cured by wearing spectacles only. Eyes need exercising and so do the head and neck glands that connect with them. So daily turn the head from side to side and up and down for five minutes. Use an egg timer to time this.

"The Billericay Observer Story" must have been read by many readers who feel as I do that it is a concise and modest description of a daring enterprise. The work and initiative shown by this young Editor - Publisher is so unusual - it points to a great future for him in the service of his country in many different ways - even as a future Prime Minister. It will be interesting to hear more of his story as the "Ob" grows to maturity. Hearty congratulations! (The B.O. Story 6d. on order).

RECORD ENTRIES AT HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

A record number of entries - 474 - (278 last year), despite the bad growing summer and a large attendance made the Autumn Show of Billericay Horticultural Society held at the Archer Hall on September 19th, made the show one of the most successful in the long history of the Society.

The Show Secretary, Mr H. Withrington, thought it was due partly to the success of the Society's Summer Show and partly as a result of the extensive advertising campaign.

Cllr Pembroke, Chairman of Basildon Council Parks Committee who opened the said that a garden was a reflection of a person's mind. "It would be a sad day if Horticultural Societies ceased to exist", he said. Cllr Pembroke presented the Billericay Area Council House Garden Awards.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Included in this edition of the "Observer" is more local news than we have printed for a long time. The "Observer" will continue with its policy of news in clear, concise form in easily readable type. We are the leading local newspaper for local news - we print more local news than any other local paper and more than half of it is not in the big local provincials. This policy is a good one and is the aim of the paper.

We have printed 300 copies of this "Observer".

Owing to the General Election the next Council Meeting has been put forward to October 13th, the date on which the next "Observer" is published. As a result of this personal delivery by the Editor will be one day late and readers who receive their paper by this method should take note. The supplies to Howard's newsagents, Queens Park Stores, and Shuttleworth Stores will be on sale as usual. The paper will also be obtainable from the office as usual.

To show exactly how busy the Editor is at this time of year - when he has not been doing school work the past week 80% of the time he has been working on the "Observer".

W.P. Grant (AGE 12) - EDITOR.

SHOPKEEPERS SWEEPING LITTER INTO STREET - COUNCIL COMMITTEE ACTS.

At the meeting of Basildon Council Works Committee on September 15th the Committee were informed that it was the common practice to sweep litter from shop floors and forecourts into the streets. Apart from being an offence under the Litter Act this was very disheartening to the Council's employees dealing with cleanliness in the streets.

The Committee decided to recommend the Council to approach local Chambers of Trade where they existed, and individual shopkeepers, elsewhere, with a view to obtaining their co-operation in the reduction of the litter nuisance. A recommendation will also be made that the Council agree to undertake the sweeping of certain forecourts to which the public have access.

The "Billericay Observer" is printed and published at the "Billericay Observer" offices, 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex. Officially recognised by Basildon Council.

LIBERALS NEED MORE CARS, MORE MONEY. Election spotlight.

The Billericay-Brentwood Liberal Party are hampered in their efforts by a lack of cars and finance.

The Liberal campaign swung into action with the adoption of 39-year old Mr. Peter Sheldon-Williams as Liberal candidate at All Saints School Hutton on Saturday September 19th. An appeal for finance was very successful.

During the last week, Mr. Sheldon-Williams has been in the constituency addressing election workers in all the 18 wards. He has met with a tremendous reception and said that he was more than ever convinced that the Liberals could win the seat.

Liberal agent Mr G.B.T. Neal said that the great enthusiasm of active Liberals throughout the constituency already indicated that "victory was in our grasp", but more helpers, more money, and more cars would make victory a certainty.

Mr Peter Sheldon-Williams will speak in every ward in the constituency and will address as many as five meetings a night.

The Billericay Parliamentary Constituency comprises the Urban Districts of Brentwood and Billericay and includes Brentwood, Hutton, Shenfield, Billericay, Wickford, and Basildon New Town. The present M.P. is Mr. Richard Body, (Conservative) who was returned to Parliament at the last election with a 4,206 majority.

Labour candidate for the election is Mrs Rita Smythe. But Labour have said little.

SHORT CANDIDATES BIOGRAPHIES.

Mr Edward Gardner, Barrister, 46, married to Miss Nina Collins also a Barrister. They have two children, aged 6 and 3. 1934-1939, Journalist, Lancashire Daily Post. Assistant News Editor, Daily Mail. Left navy after war with rank of Commander R.N.V.R.

Mr Peter Sheldon-Williams was campaign organiser for Sir Bernard Docker's "Cut the costs" campaign. Is now Public Relations Officer for a group of publishing companies, Editor of a Commonwealth quarterly magazine and Secretary of Commonwealth Union of Trade.

LATE NEWS - INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

Civic Trust to send a speaker to support Public Meeting. National Union of Ratepayer's and Resident's Association have given support. Several residents have written letters to the national press.

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O.A.P's

16th September.

Mr W. Joseph presided. There was a very good attendance. The Chairman stated Mrs Hopkins was home from hospital and doing well. Mr Hutton was in hospital and was now improving. Mrs Dawkins was now much recuperated and hoped to return to the meeting shortly. Mrs Haynes was still very ill and Mr. Maxwell was again ill. All were wished a speedy recovery. Two new members were welcomed. The Secretary then stated that Mr & Mrs Shiner were celebrating their 53rd Wedding Anniversary and they received a very good ovation. Entertainment was given by the Landon Darby & Joan Concert Party and was much enjoyed.

23rd September.

Nearly 100 were present. Mr W. Joseph presided. Mrs E. Dawkins was welcomed back after being away so many months. Mr Shaw, stated the Chairman, was slowly recovering. Mr Hutton was still very ill and so was Mrs Haynes and Members hoped that they would soon be on the road to recovery. The Secretary, when reading his correspondence included an appeal on behalf of the Old People's Welfare Committee and Friends of the Aged, for help in visiting the elderly and also included an offer to help any old people who had problems. Redford Concert Party entertained.

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October 13th, 2 to 3p.m. (provisional).

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THE BILLERICAY STORY

CHAPTER I.

by Ha/R1.
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2nd Series.

The story of the very early days of Billericay is, of course, very hazy, but we do know that were people living here before the coming of the Romans.

A few flint weapons have been found in the past, and one of these actually formed the subject of a lecture at Bristol earlier this year. A suggestion that this interesting relic might be returned to Billericay was not, we are afraid, received very enthusiastically by its owner who inferred that he would "think about it later".

Burial Mounds of the Stone and Bronze Ages have been opened at various times in Norsey Woods, and one of Iron Age origin, and one was excavated only this year on the Norsey Road edge of the wood. Iron Age Burial Urns and other relics, including a rather fine Bronze mirror, may be seen in the Colchester Castle Museum, many of them having been found in the Hospital Grounds and across the high ground towards the Woods, in the last century.

In Norsey Woods are also the sites of Kilns which were apparently used continuously during this time and well into the Roman era, probably the Trinovantes, who had been driven into this corner of Essex by the Belgae who had occupied their old capital on the site of the present Colchester.

These Trinovantes were by no means uncivilised, as is proved by their gold coins, originally copied from the Greek, but latterly of more individual character. They had two types of plough, and used pottery made on potter's wheels, and bronze vessels decorated with designs of men and animals. Their homes were built of Wattle and Daub, and were roofed with Reeds or Thatch.

Billericay, as one of their chief towns was defended by a steep ditch, the hillside below the defence being covered with trees for extra protection.

These Trinovantes invited the Romans here to help in the struggle against the Belgae, and it was in 54 B.C. that the Roman Eagles were first seen in Billericay, although they had been in Kent for a brief time the year before. A decisive battle was fought somewhere in the neighbourhood, probably between Billericay and South Weald, resulting in the defeat of Cassivelaunus, the Belgae leader.

The Romans thus having accomplished the object for which they came - the liberation of the Trinovantes - they left their allies in full occupation of their own country, and retired to complete the conquest of Gaul before returning as invaders, nearly a hundred years' later in 43 A.D.

NEXT WEEK - BILLERICAY AND THE ROMANS.

A T L A S T A L O C A L M U S E U M

The Billericay Area Group of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England are delighted to announce that through the generosity of their President, Mrs A.M. Cater, a local Folk Museum will shortly be opened at 74, High Street, Billericay.

The property which used to be occupied by that well-known Billericay character the late Mr. Fred Eales, the town's last Saddler and Harness Maker, will be vested in a Trust for the purpose of carrying on a museum therein. Certain rents from part of the premises not occupied by the Museum will be available to the Trust towards the upkeep.

A Governing Body has been appointed and the upper floors of the building are being adopted and fitted out for the display of many items of local historical interest.

The Governors will be very pleased to consider for ultimate display, either on loan or as a gift, exhibits of local character.

The C.P.R.E. inform the "Observer" that owing to the growth of the Society and its increasing activities (membership now approaching 300) they have decided to print a quarterly newsheet giving news of the organisation.