

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY JANUARY 17th, 1961.

EDITOR WYNFORD GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 78. PRICE 1½d.

## WALK-OUT COUNCILLORS CENSURED

When Cllr. R. Hollands proposed a motion criticising the behaviour of Cllr. W. H. Davies J.P. at the November Council Meeting and asking him to resign as Council Chairman at last Thursday's Council Meeting he did not expect that the result would be that he and two of his Labour colleagues would be censured by the Council.

The motion asking Cllr. Davies to resign was a result of incidents at the last Council Meeting when during a debate on Civil Defence estimates 3 Labour Councillors (Councillors Holland, Morgan, and Smart) stormed out of the Meeting shouting "Dictator", "Hitler", and "Go back to Nazi Germany where you came from" at Cllr. Davies, who replied with "Take your papers to Krueschuv".

Before the debate Cllr. Davies left the Chamber. Cllr. Mrs. C. J. Gadson (Vice-Chairman) took the Chair. She read the Standing Orders that frivolous and irrelevant statements were not allowed, and that no speech should exceed 5 minutes.

Proposing the motion Cllr. Hollands said that since Cllr. Davies had been Chairman he had been rude and insulting. He was biased, for he allowed one member to speak and not another. Cllr. Hollands recalled when Cllr. Davies said "Take your papers to Krueschuv". When something was said or something was done at the U.N. assembly that Mr. Krueschuv did not like he banged on the table and got in a temper. This reminds us of someone much nearer at home. To vote for this motion is to vote for democracy, to vote against it is to endorse a dictatorship.

Seconding the motion Cllr. Dove, Labour Group leader, said that Cllr. Davies had not behaved in accordance with the Council's dignity. Cllr. Dove said that Cllr. Davies had "treated me like a dog", and as a result of his intolerance he had had to refuse his invitation to the Civic Dinner. CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.



## SCHOOL CRISIS GROWS

The South Green Primary School crisis is growing. Readers may remember that South Green parents objected to taking young children the 1½ miles to Billericay Primary School on public buses, as the new South Green Primary School is too small to take all the children because the Education Executive did not realise that a housing estate existed. Led by Mr. Featherstone of Tyrells Road and supported by Billericay Residents' Association they threatened that unless a school bus to Billericay was provided, and eventually improved accommodation at South Green Primary School, they would keep their children away from school in a protest action.

The strike action threat was suspended until the Education Executive's reply was received. In their reply they stated that they would consider the matter in late February. The Secretary of the Residents' Association, Mr. G. Birch has now asked the Executive to consider the matter as one of "extreme urgency". Feeling is running high in South Green and it is highly probable that unless the Divisional Executive hold an emergency meeting, as suggested by the Residents' Association, the parents will not wait several weeks for "consideration" but will stage an immediate strike.

## RESIDENTS GET CHEAP FARES.

As a direct result of the Transport Meeting held in November by Billericay Residents' Association British Railways have decided to institute cheap day return fares between Billericay and Romford and Ilford for a 3-month trial period. The fares will operate from 1st February to 30th April, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays and their continuance depends on use. The charge will be 2/9d return to Romford and 3/6d return to Ilford.



## COUNCIL TO SPEND £19,400 ON LAKE MEADOWS.

Basildon Council on Thursday approved the Parks Committee estimates for the forthcoming year which included a sum of £19,400 to be spent on Billericay's Lake Meadows.

This is distributed as follows:- £1,400 for the completion of the extension in the south-west corner £3,000 for changing accommodation on the extension, £3,000 for acquisition of land on the north side, £2,000 for the provision of additional public conveniences, £1,500 for the extension and renovation of bowling green, £4,500 for a new land access by the Industrial Estate and Car Park, and £4,000 for the new access road and Car Park.

### DOG PATROL FOR PARKS?

Basildon Council Parks Committee are looking into the question of night park patrols by a dog and its owner. An offer to do this was made three years ago and the person in question is being approached.

The Parks Committee are spending £600 on a Cricket Table at New Lodge Recreation Ground, Tye Common Road.

### £200 GRANT FOR ARCHER HALL.

Basildon Council have given Billericay's Archer Hall Committee a grant of £200 towards improvements, the latest of a series of ten.

Last year the hall was decorated internally, and new heaters bought with the money. This year it will go towards improvements to the cloakroom, and improvements to the dance floor.

### "NO" TO BETTING OFFICE PLAN.

Basildon Council have refused to give permission for the lessees of 108, High Street (formerly part of the Council Offices) to use two ground floor rooms as a licensed betting office.

### SEWAGE SCHEME COMPLETION DATE.

The completion date for the Buttsbury High Level Sewage Scheme is now 28th September, 1961.

### 40 M.P.H. SPEED LIMIT FOR B1007.

Basildon Council have asked the Minister of Transport to impose a 40 m.p.h. speed limit on Stock Road, Billericay (B1007) between Lake Avenue and Potash Road.

## ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER".

Exactly what good the motion and amendment did at last Thursday's Council Meeting I am not quite sure. All it established was that the two sides disagree over who should be Chairman, and a lot of other subjects, which we knew months ago anyway. Still it did clear the air and now perhaps the Council will be able to get on with essential work.

However, in between calling each other names they have done at least one good thing. They have called a Press Conference for next Saturday and this will give me the chance to answer several questions, many of which I have discussed in this column.

I am pleased to see that work is going ahead well on the station improvements. I notice that the main building is not being demolished and there is a story going round that this is at the request of the C.P.R.E. I am given to understand that this is utter nonsense. The C.P.R.E. did write to the railway but not about the station building, which they have no feeling for. They were concerned about the preservation of nearby trees and shrubs and the planting of new ones so that the station would not look bleak but attractive.

The South-East Essex Divisional Executive in a wonderful example of official bungling discovered a housing estate at South Green which they did not know existed, and as a result there are not enough places at South Green Primary School for all the local children - in fact for only about half of the child population. What do they do? Hold a special meeting, lay on a school bus to Billericay, and draw up plans for extending the school? No, instead they decide to "consider" the matter in several weeks time. Here are mothers and young children suffering great inconvenience and even danger and all they can do is "consider" this urgent situation about halfway through the term. I think it is disgusting! They make these errors and then they make little effort to put things right. They should provide a school bus at once and get down to work. Otherwise there will be a school "strike" and they will have no excuse for the situation. I sincerely hope that the new Basildon Divisional Education Executive will give the parents and children of South Green a little more consideration!

----- "Wanderer".



"I WAS RIGHT:CHAIRMAN WAS WRONG" SAYS  
COUNCILLOR - Continued from Page 1.

Cllr.Smart (Labour - the first Councillor to walk out) said that he maintained that he was in order to carry on speaking when Cllr.Davies told him to sit down.

Cllr.Morgan (Labour - another walk-out Councillor) said that Cllr.Davies had not been rude to him but he had been rude to Cllr.Davies.He said that he walked out because of h's treatment of other Councillors.

Cllrs.Mrs.Rice and Curtis (Lab.) both spoke in favour of the motion.

Cllr.Pembroke (Con.) then spoke;"Insulting behaviour mind you!Insulting behaviour.Perhaps high-handed but insulting behaviour!"

Cllr.Quirk (Con.) said that the actions of Cllr.Smart at the last Council Meeting were enough to provoke anybody.

Cllr.Phelps (Con.) spoke of the audacity of the movers and wondered that Cllr.Dove had so little sense to second a motion of Cllr.Holland's.Cllr.Phelps spoke of Cllr.Davies's record of public service.

Cllr.Morley (Con.) said said that he was amazed that people who indulged in the lowest form of soap-box oratory could speak of the dignity of the Council.

Cllr.Condon (Lab.) said that if Cllr.Davies had acknowledged a letter from Cllr.Dove concerning the incidents the matter would have never been brought up.

Cllr.Weston (Con.) said that he was surprised that so-called responsible Councillors could utter such things about the Chairman.

In summing up Cllr. Hollands said that as soon as Cllr. Smart got on to Hiroshima and Nagasaki he was stopped.At this stage Mrs.Gadson warned him to be careful what he was saying otherwise she would stop him from speaking.He then went on to say that Cllr.Davies had annoyed Thurrock Council but he was told to be careful once again.He ended by saying that to vote against the motion was to endorse rudeness and a dictatorship.

The amendment "That this Council wishes to disassociate itself with the degrading and insulting behaviour of three of our members - namely Cllrs.Hollands,Morgan and Smart - at the last meeting" (proposed by Cllr.Pope) was declared carried by a vote of 12 to 10.

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN.

CENSURE MOTION FAILS.  
Continued from Column 1.

The original motion "That this Council wishes to disassociate itself with the degrading and insulting behaviour of our Chairman, Cllr.W.H.Davies,towards three of our Members,at the last Council Meeting. We call upon Councillor Davies to withdraw his remarks and vacate the office of Chairman of the Council.He has proved by his actions that he is not a fit and proper person to hold office",was then put to the meeting, and failed by 12 votes to 10.Labour members then cheered and applauded Mrs.Gadson for her conduct of the meeting.

25th PANTOMINE - 25th SUCCESS.

The 25th Annual Pantomine of the Mala School of Dancing at the Archer Hall on Friday & Saturday was their 25th success.

The pantomine - "Dick Whittington" told the traditional tale modified so as to introduce modern comedy and dancing scenes.The result was excellent.There is another performance next Friday and two on Saturday.

Oustanding were Barbara Twiddy as Dick Whittington,Elizabeth Ricketts as Alice Fitzwarren,Margaret J.Upton as Cook,and Gail Bracken as Idle Jack.A high standard was maintained by all.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

The Education Building programme until 1962/3 is as follows:-  
1960/1 Completion of Buttsbury Primary School project - 3 classrooms and other accommodation.  
1961/2 Stock Road Secondary School, 4-form entry,600 places.  
1962/3 Buttsbury & Billericay Primary Schools,380 places,3-form entry.  
This is in addition to improvements at Billericay Secondary School.

MORE BILLERICAY ROADS TO BE MADE UP.

Lake Avenue,Cromwell Avenue, Wakefield Avenue,Highfield Road, St.Agnes Road are among the roads to be made up in the new provisional scheme of Basildon Council Works Committee.

RESIDENTS COMMITTEE CHANGE.

The resignations of Mr.Hussey and Mr.Meredith were reported at the recent Billericay Residents' Assn. Committee Meeting.As these bring the total of Committee resignations up to 6 in the past few months,a new member was co-opted - Mr.Featherstone of South Green,leader of the South Green Primary School campaign.



#### EDITOR'S NOTES.

Many readers have asked when and if I will run short of material for the "Billericay In The Past" series. Although the amount of material is almost unending it takes a considerable amount of time to collect it. Therefore it is proposed that the next article will be the last in the present series, and the space will be filled with general news and articles. However, another of these popular series is planned to start in March or April, so their absence will probably be a short one.

The paper is still being typed on the machine kindly lent by Mr. Hillyard of Cromwell Avenue. There is some difficulty in obtaining replacement parts for the "Observer's" old machine.

----- The Editor.

#### LIVE WELL!

1st YEAR HENS WILL ROAST OR BOIL!  
ONLY 2/2 per lb - CHEAPER THAN  
SAUSAGES!

PREPARED FOR OVEN!

Also --- RABBITS  
--- NEW LAID EGGS

Apply:- "MOSS BANK", WOODSIDE ROAD,  
PERRY STREET, BILLERICAY. (Between  
Stores and School).

ORDER YOUR CYRIL LORD CARPETS AND  
RUGS  
From

MR. A. BAKER, 69, KNIGHTBRIDGE WALK.  
(Off Perry St.)

PHONE BILLERICAY 1634.

CALL, WRITE, OR PHONE.

Will fit if required.

### **SPIRELLA RESIDENT CORSETIERE**

MRS. W. LENNON

"Danwyn", Beaufort Road, Billericay.

Phone Billericay 1827.

MADE-TO-MEASURE FASHION FOUNDATIONS  
AND SWIMSUITS.

My advice on your corsetry problems  
is always available without  
obligation.

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTS.

FOR SALE - G.L.C. White & Chrome Bath  
Heater, £4-10-0d, Apply Box 10 (14).  
WANTED - Pleasant Lady to wash up at  
party at local small hall, 5-10 p.m.,  
Sat. Feb. 4th, payment £1. Apply Box  
11. (15).

#### "FOOTPATH FIGHTER" WINS APPEAL.

"Footpath Fighter" Mr. J. A. Dodd of "Pipers", Perry Street got what he wanted when the Minister of Transport announced his decision on a Local Enquiry on an application for the diversion of Footpath No. 73 in Billericay.

The footpath, which runs from Perry Street to Stock Road via Springfield Road is used by young children going to Buttsbury Primary School in Perry Street from the Stock Road area.

At the Enquiry, Mr. Dodd, who represented 59 people living in the area said that in view of the fact that houses were erected and occupied on part of the route of the path, for the sole reason of inconvenience to occupiers this part of the footpath should be diverted. However, he objected to a dog-legged piece of footpath near Stock Road on undeveloped land, as this was most undesirable having regard to prevalent incidents where young children were involved. A straight path and a clear view ahead were imperative. Billericay C.P.R.E. was of the opinion that the Minister had no jurisdiction to make a Diversion Order in view of the wording of the Act involved. The Council remained neutral.

In making his observations the Inspector, Sir Maurice Holmes states:- "It will be seen that the whole of the C.P.R.E.'s objection and part of Mr. Dodd's objection stems from the fact that buildings were placed on the footpath and the footpath was otherwise obstructed by Messrs. Crabb before the making of a Closure Order. Action of this sort is a very natural source of annoyance to local residents. But in fairness to Messrs. Crabb it must be said that they had no reason to suspect the existence of the footpath when they bought the land and started developing the estate, and as soon as they were authoritatively formed of its existence development ceased.

The Inspector goes on to say that it would be unreasonable for the footpath to follow its old course, as this would involve the demolition of buildings and removal of fences causing inconvenience to owners of property. The Inspector therefore recommended that Mr. Dodd's modified proposal be accepted and the Minister agreed to this.

Summing up the Minister's Inspector stated that he felt the schoolchildren would be far better off in winter and wet weather now that concrete paths were provided for the majority of the length of the path.



W I N T E R   S U N S H I N E .

Regular Service from SOUTHAMPTON to MADERIA, TENERIFFE, LAS PALMAS, and CASABLANCA (with occasional calls at LISBON and TANGIER).

by S.S. "A R K A D I A" (20,260 tons).

Sailing from SOUTHAMPTON, 18th December, 1960, and thence every twelve or thirteen days until the 8th of April, 1961.

ROUND VOYAGE FARES FROM £75.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION HELD AT ALL PORTS FOR IMMEDIATE OFFER.

Apply:- FRED HUNTER LIMITED, 87, BISHOPGATE, LONDON, E.C.2. or  
phone AVENUE 5524 or BILLERICAY 1457.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:-

67, HIGH STREET,  
BILLERICAY.  
Phone:- 1035.

**A RECORD OF EVERY OCCASION**

PORTRAITS  
CHILD STUDIES  
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS  
WEDDINGS, PASSPORTS  
COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES INVITED

BILLERICAY O.A.P.'s.

4th January.

There was a very good attendance. With regard to sick members it was announced that Mr. Ramage had now been sent to Black Notley Hospital; Mrs. Walledge was attending Newmarket Hospital; Mrs. Shiner had unfortunately met with an accident and was indisposed; Mrs. Candler and Mr. Youngman were slowly improving; Mrs. Joseph was away sick. All Members away sick were wished a very speedy recovery to good health. It was an "Open" afternoon which the Secretary stated he called "Grouse" as any Member could air his or her grievances, or could make any suggestion which would help and benefit the running of the Branch. The Secretary then gave details of the Pantomime and stated that there were only a few more Seats left. He also asked the members who were going to the week's holiday at Gt. Yarmouth to put their names forward as soon as possible. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Dyball, Gutteridge, Rose, and Prince.

11th January.

The Editor regrets that he has received no report of this meeting, if space permits he will publish a summary in the next Edition.

STOP PRESS.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- January 22nd, Family Matins, 9.30 a.m. January 29th, Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m.

Young Wives Fellowship:- January 17th Annual General Meeting, 8 p.m. January 31st, "Among Ourselves", 2.15 p.m.

G O O D S P E E D S

1, CHAPEL STREET  
(Opposite War Memorial).

WET, DRIED, & FRIED  
FISH CATERER.

Established 35 years.

EXPERT FISH FRYER.

SMOKED HADDOCK A SPECIALITY.

FROZEN FOODS STOCKED.

OPEN ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS  
UNTIL 9.0 p.m.

Phone Billericay 280.

IF YOU WANT ALL THE LOCAL NEWS PLUS INTERESTING ARTICLES DON'T FORGET TO BUY THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER" (JANUARY 31st) FROM YOUR NEWSAGENT.  
INK, PAPER, STENCILS, THE EVENING & SUNDAY PAPERS HAVE ALL GONE UP, BUT THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER" IS STILL ONLY 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> A COPY.



"SPORTS OBSERVER".

Billericay Town Sports Club results:-

Saturday January 7th:-

1st XI beat Marconi 4-2 in CMEP.  
2nd XI lost to Old Maldonians 0-8 in CME2.

Saturday January 14th:-

1st XI lost to Chelmsford Swifts 1-3 in CMEP.  
2nd XI lost to Marconi "A" 2-4 in CME2.

CMEP - Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, Premier Division.

CME2 - Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, 2nd Division.

CINEMA DIARY for RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET, BILLERICAY (not an advert).

Monday Jan. 16th (3 Days) Victor Mature in "DEMETRIUS & THE GLADIATORS", (A).

Also "FORTY GUNS", (A).

Thursday Jan. 19th (3 Days) James Robt. Justice, Michael Craig, in "DOCTOR IN LOVE", (U). Also Gordon Jackson in "SNOWBALL" (U).

Monday Jan. 23rd Peter Cushing, Freda Jackson in "THE BRIDES OF DRACULA" (X).

Also "TEEN-AGE LOVERS" (X). (3 Days).

Thursday Jan. 26th (3 Days) Steve Reeves, Bruce Cabot in "GOLIATH", (U).

Full supporting programme.

-----  
Sunday programmes also.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VENUE CHANGE.

In future Basildon U.D. Council Meetings will be held alternately at Timberlog Lane Secondary School, Basildon, and the Council Chamber, Billericay. For the past year or so the meetings have been held at the Main Committee Room at the Council Offices in Basildon Town Centre.

MRS. L. S. BASSINGTHWAIGHTE.

Mrs. Lily Sophia

Bassingthwaighte, who has lived in Billericay for over 50 years, died on 9th January aged 86, at 80, Perry Street, the home of her daughter Mrs. H. Knightbridge. She was the widow of Mr. H. T. Bassingthwaighte who older residents of the town will remember as the British Railways Stationmaster for 26 years until he retired in 1930, shortly before his death. She is also survived by her son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter and great-granddaughter.

She had a fine record of service in addition to which she performed many unrecorded acts of kindness, and was always ready to help anyone in trouble throughout her long and active life.

The funeral service at the Billericay Congregational Church on 12th January was conducted by the Minister Rev J. S. Wilkinson and was followed by cremation at Southend. Among those present were Mr & Mrs. H. T. K. Knightbridge, Mr. P. Bassingthwaighte, Miss M. A. K. Knightbridge, Mr. F. B. Bassingthwaighte, and Mrs. B. Barrett.

The ashes will be buried in the Congregational Church Churchyard on January 21st. She was the first lady Deacon at the Church, and Secretary and Treasurer of the Ladies Committee for 25 years. She was also Vice-President of the Women's Guild, Fabric Secretary, and until very recently Communion Table Steward.

OLD PEOPLE'S PARTY.

On Saturday 76 pensioners, the oldest being 94, enjoyed a party organised by the Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee at the Rose Hall. All received presents.

MATTHEWS

25/27 HIGH STREET

A RANGE OF OVER 200 LINES  
OF CONFECTIONERY—GIFT  
BOXES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

"NEILSONS" ICE CREAM



# QUEENS PARK STORES

SPAR GROCERS

III PERRY STREET

BILLERICAY

## DAILY DELIVERY SERVICE

SPAR JANUARY SALE —  
NOTHING MORE THAN 1/-

OFFERS STILL AVAILABLE  
UNTIL JANUARY 21st.

OFFERS AVAILABLE FROM JAN.22nd to FEB.4th.

SAVE 3d - OLD ENGLISH MARMALADE,  
1/6d FOR ONLY 1/3d.

SAVE 4d - GAIETY PINEAPPLE PIECES  
1/6d FOR ONLY 1/2d.

SAVE 3½d - ITALIAN TOMATOES, 1/2d  
FOR ONLY 10½d.

SAVE 3d - M and D FAMILY FAVOURITES  
1/3d FOR ONLY 1/-.

SAVE 2d - M and D RICH TEA FINGERS  
9½d FOR ONLY 7½d.

-----  
THE OFFERS LISTED ABOVE ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 22nd to  
FEBRUARY 4th. THE SPAR JANUARY SALE  
OFFERS (published in the last  
edition) WILL OPERATE UNTIL  
SATURDAY JANUARY 21st.  
-----

SAVE 3d - 16 oz. PRUNESIN SYRUP,  
1/6d FOR ONLY 1/3d.

SAVE 7d - P.D. CUSTARD DRUMS, 1/7d  
FOR ONLY 1/-.

SAVE 3½d - FOSTER CLARK JELLIES,  
9½d FOR ONLY 6d.

SAVE 3d - PIED PIPER WINTER MIXTURE  
1/9 FOR ONLY 1/6d.

SAVE 3d - PIED PIPER CARLTON  
MIXTURE, 1/9d, FOR ONLY 1/6d.

-----  
THE OFFERS LISTED ABOVE APPLY FOR  
THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 22nd TO  
FEBRUARY 4th. THE SPAR JANUARY  
SALE OFFERS (as published in the  
last edition) WILL OPERATE UNTIL  
SATURDAY JANUARY 21st.  
-----



# BILLERICAY IN THE PAST

by W.P.G.  
No.13.

## BILLERICA IN THE PAST.

Before you make a note to tell the Editor that the title of this article is repeated underneath the main heading with the "y" of "Billericay" missing let me point out that I am not dealing with Billericay, Essex, England but Billerica, Essex, U.S.A. As you will have probably read in earlier articles Billericay had many connections with "The Mayflower". 5 men from this town sailed on "The Mayflower"; the person responsible for the stores and so on (Christopher Martin) was a local man; and the Essex contingent met at the Chantry House before departing for Leigh and America. Therefore it is not surprising that a town in Essex County, Massachusetts should be named after Billericay in England.

Shortly before 1655 fourteen families cleared the land, planted gardens, and erected a Church on the site of Billerica. On May 23rd, 1655 the Massachusetts Legislature accepted a petition that Billerica should become a town. Two of the petitioners were Ralph Hill and Ralph Hill Jnr., both of whom are thought to have come from Billericay. Regarding the absence of the "y" in the name the late Dr. Wallen Stearns, former President of Billerica Historical Society, and a great authority on Billerica history was of the opinion that when the town was first established it was called "Billericay" by the educated settlers. Then everyone concentrated on cultivating the land and did not pay much attention to education. As a result the "y" was dropped. Then when more time was devoted to education the inhabitants continued to use "Billerica" instead of "Billericay" by force of habit.

Then came attacks from the Indians. Evidently Billerica had a troop of cavalry and a militia, which was often called to the aid of neighbouring towns. In 1692 the town was attacked, 5 people being killed. A more serious attack took place in 1695, when fifteen persons were killed or captured. In the midst of all this concern over the Indians a Billerica woman, Martha Carrier, was arrested and hung for witchcraft.

Important problems were the division of land and fencing. A Common was set aside, a small strip of which survives today. Industry grew in the form of sawmills, and there were at least fourteen of these in the town at one time. Large tracts of land were given to other or new townships.

Nearly 500 Billerica men took part in the American War of Independence. Shays' Rebellion was put down in part by a battery of artillery under Major J. Stickney of Billerica.

Villages grew up and replaced the scattered farms that made up Billerica. North Billerica was at first called Billerica Mills on account of the number of mills there; other villages were Billerica Center and Billerica South. 4 miles of the new Middlesex Canal ran through Billerica.

Thomas Talbot came to Billericay in 1839 and started and maintained many industries. In 1878 he was elected Governor of Massachusetts. Many Billerica men fought in the Civil War. At one time thousands of shoes and slippers were made in Billerica, and thousands of sheep were raised there. Many of the old inhabitants left for the West Coast, but they were replaced by newcomers, who in their turn became old, established families.

In recent years the manufacturing development has slowed up, but there is still quite a lot of industry. However, it is mainly a residential town, as is Billericay, with the inhabitants working in the larger towns nearby. Development is concentrated on South Billerica, Billerica Center, and North Billerica, the distance from North to South being about 4 miles. There is an airport nearby.

The main geographical feature is the River Concord, which runs from north to south. The river is very wide, and was once a major source of power for the various mills. There is also a large lake - Nuttings Lake - in South Billerica. Billerica is in the north-east corner of Massachusetts, about 15-20 miles from the coast. Population is about 15,000. Just across the river is Chelmsford, another of the places in this part of the U.S.A. named after Essex towns and villages. Contacts between the Billerica Historical Society and Billericay C.P.R.E. have been broken since the death of Dr. Wallen Stearns, but the "Observer" hopes to maintain contacts with the "Billerica News" - the only local paper in Billerica.