HUNDRED BABY CHICKENS AND RABBITS
AND BUDGERIGARS BURNT TO DEATH
AS FIRE ENGINE IS STUCK IN MUD.
£200 WORTH OF GOODS BURNT IN
COSTLY ABESTOS SHED.

NURSERIES AUCTIONED.
The Crescent Road Nurseries of
Crescent Road, Billericay were
auctioned on Thursday April 10th.
The sale commenced at 2 p.m.
The auctioneers were Offin &
Rumney of Rochford & Chelmsford.

by Wynford Grant, Billericay
Observer 'on the spot' reporter.
A asbestos shed and over £200
worth of goods were destroyed by
fire at the home of Mr Edwards
of Mossbank, Woodside Road, Billericay on Good Friday. Mr Edwards
maintains a chicken farm in the
grounds of his house and the shed
formed part of the outbuildings
of the chicken farm. It contained
100 baby chickens, rabbits, budgerigars, most of Mr Edward's tools
and £16 worth of chicken meal
among other things.
The fire was discovered at 4.30 a.m
by Miss Knight, Mr Edward's neighbour
who awakened Mr Edward's and called
the Billericay Fire Brigade who sent
three appliances; one a fire escape
not in need returned to the fire
station. Inhabitants of Woodside Road
and the part of Perry Street were
awakened by fire bells at 5 a.m as
the second fire engine was stuck in
the mud at the top of Woodside Road.
However the Fire Engine was soon
released and continued it's journey
down Woodside Road. One engine rema-
ined for over an hour. Loud popping
sounds were heard as the asbestos
cracked.

The fire was probably the cause of
a oil stove in the shed overheating.

Fire Hydrants were tested in the
Perry Street area on Thursday
April 10th by the Essex County
Fire Brigade.

CO-OP DIVIDEND
The London Co-operative
Society Co Ltd dividend for
purchases made in the six-
month period up to March 1st
1958 has been announced as
ninepence.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS
CAMPAIGNS GOING FULL-
SPEED AHEAD.
The campaigns for the County
Council elections are now
proceeding quickly as next
Saturday (April 12th.) the
election day draws nearer.
Conservative and Socialist
candidates have distribut-
ed leaflets stating what
they intend to do if they
are elected, to houses in
the district. The Socialist
candidate is Mr H.J. Perry;
the Conservative candidate,
Mary de Roope. (for picture-
s of candidates turn to pa-
ge eight). The Socialists in
general wish to help those who do not help themselves. The Conser-
vatives advocate, no more schemes to burden the ratepayer, the
extended school course only for children who want it, and to m a-
ke sure that the aged and physically handicapped have as much
pleasure and comfort as is humanly possible. The Socialists state
that library services are poor but this is not so. They also state
that the police service is inadequate for the growing population.
This is not so, you see more police in one hour in Billericay
than in London. However, they could substitute the word fire
service for police force.
A bus would leave Goosebury Green at 10.00 and 2.00 and a bus would leave the Sun Corner or Church at 12.00 and 3.00. Have you got any ideas or opinions on this subject? If you have write to Buses for Perry Street, The Editor, 143 Perry Street, Billericay, Essex. All for now.

The Wanderer welcomes Correspondence. Write to him at the Billericay Observer.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE. Russia has suspended her H-Bomb tests. This gesture must be considered with caution. (a) Because it the Western Countries do not suspend their tests they will be regarded as warmongers and that would be an enormous propaganda victory for Russia. (b) Russia have just ended a series of bomb tests and they have had enough to keep them ahead of the Americans for years. Note that they have only suspended tests not banned them for a period of time, so that they could start testing tomorrow if they wanted to. (c) Tests could be made secret these days. I am fed up with "Summit talks soon" and "Summit talk preparations start in may next month. It will not do the countries of the World any harm to talk or are the travel and accommodation fares too expensive? I suggest that the U.S.A. British, French, Russians and a natural power to put some sense into these countries should meet at Geneva and/or Brussels and/or Rome. The best gesture the Russians could make would be to give the East Germans their freedom.
DO YOU KNOW? - FACTS AND FIGURES NO.I.
a survey of traffic in Perry Street.
(copies obtainable free of charge from Back Numbers Dept).
The survey was taken on a normal weekday, under no adverse or
unusual conditions between 10.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.
THIS SURVEY INCLUDES ONLY VEHICLES PROPELLED BY MOTORS THAT ARE
LICENSED, NO CYCLES ETC.
Number of vehicles up during half-hour: II
Number of vehicles down the road during half-hour: 8
TYPES OF VEHICLE:
Van's used for and/or partly used for business purposes: 7
Cars used (to the Billericay Observer's knowledge) for private
transport and purposes: 10
Shooting Brakes and Van's used for private purposes: 2
Total - 19 Average of motor propelled or motor assisted vehicles
in Perry Street past the Billericay Observer's offices between
10.30 and 11.00 a.m. on a normal weekday: 1 minute 35 seconds apx
The above information is correct to the Billericay Observer's
knowledge. The Billericay Observer is not responsible for any
unintended mistake in the above information.

THE HAUNTED GARAGE by H.E. Bates (nom de plume
Part 2.
The young policeman grabbed the carving knife from the hand of
the startled woman. "Oh, you made me jump," she said. "I was just
leaving to carve the Sunday joint." But that is your husband surely
said the policeman. "Yes," said the woman, "but we are legally
married so that is my affair isn't it." The policeman apologised
for poking his nose in where it was not wanted and went his way
just a little sad to think there were still women about who
could treat their husbands in such a callous fashion. Then the
thought struck him, "But cannibalism is not allowed in Essex.
He rushed back.
Meanwhile the editor of that famous, not to say notorious
newspaper had dropped off to sleep again. After all he thought
a scream means only a possible murder and that is not news. He
had read in a journalists handbook that only when man bites dog
is news made. It was slightly inconvenient as he couldn't
remember having seen a man bite a dog, but he was very hopeful.
In the meanwhile he mainly printed gardening hints in his
paper, and answers to worried young people. His answers
invariably them every more worried and so they wrote again and
again; he replied with more disquieting advice. Oh! it was such
jolly fun. Many was the young fellow who had landed himself in
jail as a result of first writing to the Editor.
This week he was pondering a letter from a worried wife. She had
said accidentally murdered her husband. She stressed the fact
it was her husband of course and not any old husband (The Editor
was pleased with her little human touch) but then she went on to
say that with seven children to feed, however was she going to
manage. Her husband had been tough when he was alive but now he
was dead he was even tougher.
The Editor cocked his eyebrow at this "Surely, he replied, you
relate that cannibalism (or the eating of one's husband) is
not allowed in Essex............

TO BE CONTINUED
Editorial Office,
Billericay Observer,

Dear Readers,
You may wonder why we are trying to attract letters. The Billericay Observer believes that letters are news and people always enjoy reading letters. If a person has an opinion about any subject they should be allowed to publish their opinion in the press; letters do exactly that. We also welcome letters on any aspect of the Billericay Observer. Our motto is "Something Of Interest For Everyone" and with the aid of the new features Political Landscape and Do You Know? we aim to do exactly that. A subject which many readers inquire about is which political party the Billericay Observer supports. I am not saying but the careful reader could find out which one we favour. Send us a letter saying which party and why. Readers who criticise my spelling will be interested to know that I now have a notebook with my spelling mistakes written like this: Their NOT Thier, Interest not Intrest, Original NOT Orginal etc. If you see any new mistakes point the mistakes out to me please.

Yours Sincerely,
W. Grant
EDITOR.

THE BEST LETTER RECEIVED BY THE BILLERICAY OBSERVER FOR THE NEXT EDITION WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE. Send your letters to Letter's, Billericay Observer, I43, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex, or give them to the editor when he collects this newspaper.

Did you know that Perry Street is a corruption of Peartree Street named after Peartree Farm in the area according to an old map of Essex and partye of Suffolyke published in 1777? These and many other facts about Billericay in the past I,938 years told in story form with fictitious characters will be published as a serial story in the Billericay Observer shortly. This serial will be based on known historical facts, documents, and maps relating to the Billericay District.

ELECTRICITY FAILS AS PEOPLE COOK THEIR SUNDAY DINNER. Electricity failed between 12.0 and 1.6 in the Perry Street district on Easter Sunday as people were cooking their Sunday dinner. Ice cream and frozen food refrigerators in local shops were affected.

IN THE GARDEN..... Garden Planning Continued.

When planning your garden decide whether you are going to have a vegetable garden covering half the garden or only a small one or not one at all. Unless you are a keen vegetable grower only a small vegetable garden is needed. Vegetables are cheap enough in the shops in the summer and it would probably give you more trouble and financial loss to grow a lot of vegetables yourself. The most frequently grown vegetable is the Tomato, which is seen in 99% of British vegetable gardens and they are very cheap in the shops. Cut out potatoes too, they are a waste of time and money. In fact if you are not a very keen vegetable grower grow only beans and some special vegetable you like (Parsnip, Carrot etc.) and thus have a smaller vegetable garden leaving greater space for attractive (and cheaper) flowers, shrubs, lawns and rockeries. For advice on any garden query or problem write to Garden Advice Dept., The Billericay Observer, I43, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex. Your letter and our answer will appear in this newspaper.
The Editor thanks people who have sent in letters and hopes other readers will follow their example. Letters may if you wish be handed to the Editor when he collects this newspaper and/or enclosed in the newspaper envelope when the newspaper is returned. The Editor comments at the end of most letters.

Sir,

The Tory who wrote last week sounds more like a Socilast, for agreeing that controls are necessary. Who said "Set the People Free"? the Tories - last election slogan. But not too free they apparently meant.

Yours,
"Disgusted".

Ed; I think perhaps last editions "Tory" correspondent meant set the people free from Nationalization and a return to private enterprise e.g. steel and road haulage are now free from Nationalization. Certain controls ARE necessary, otherwise thenation would go berserk.

Dear Mr. Editor

As a fair-minded reader I thought your reply to Mr. Gladstone's letter most unfair. He put up a very good case and you ignored the excellent points he made with a cheap jibe. Watch out... or you will lose your readers.

"Fair Play".

Ed; the Liberals are a bunch of clowns putting up glamour T-V star candidates whose main idea seems to be to shout through a loudspeaker.

The Editor,

We did not have a welfare state - health services before Labour came to power. How then can Socilasts mean ruin? Whatever you may feel we will win the next election.

Socialist.

Ed; Remember Torrington? The Socialists came bottom of the poll. I did not mean that we did not have a welfare state before the Socilasts came into power. The Socilasts created the Welfare State amongst tremendous opposition. This in itself was a wonderful achievement. However the Welfare State is far from perfect.

Sir,

I thought your "Political Landscape" article first rate. I don't agree with the opinions expressed but I like the way you explained them. So the middle way is wrong? And are the Liberals in fact only middle way people? They have many sensible ideas.

Ed; One thing I will say for the Liberals they are united, no splits or differences over policy like the Socilists and Tories.

Dear Sir,

I did not see any petition about a Public House. I would have certainly have voted against.

White Ribboner

Ed; The petitioner did not cover the upper end of Perry Street...... unfortunately as they could have got up to fifty more signatories as many people in the Upper end of Perry Street were against the Public House.

Sir,

I would like to compliment you on the good account you wrote about the Public House appeal. First class reporting I consider.

Ed; thank you.
PAGE SIX.

Dear Sir,

I must point out that "Longsight" one of your readers and contributors is now on holiday. However he has asked me to forward to you his weekly article. I attach a copy for your information.

re: "Longsight".

The Editor, Re: Lake Meadows Recreation Ground.

I have noticed and admired the rustic wooden gates to the park, complete with large chains and padlocks. Are these necessary? For I have also noticed several large gaps in the fence and hedge. The gates are locked at sunset but the gaps are open day and night. Why are the gates locked? To keep the cold out perhaps? "Longsight".

Ed; if the gates were left open more undesirable people would be able to enter the Recreation Ground than now and IF they can get in through gaps they would be scratched and cut in the process.

The Editor,

Have you noticed the great invasion of Billericay recently? Especially the footpath leading to the Railway Station. I refer to the toads and frogs... a sure sign Spring is here. Remember one swallow does not make a summer... but one flea makes many spring!

"Longsight".

Ed; two old weather proverbs we know have forecasted the general weather correctly this year.

"Longsight" wishes to test your RIDDLE-ME-REE.

Answers Next Week.

1. Why did the Owl howl?
2. Why did the garden fence?
3. Why did the cake walk?

Sir, (reference paragraph about gum in Must an end about (edition 5)

All I can say is why don't you learn to squeeze the tube properly, then it would not leak. Always squeeze from the bottom of a tube - then the middle.

Common Sense.

Ed; I did not squeeze the tube, I left it in the sideboard and the glue leaked out of it's own accord out of the tube over everything.

Sir,

I notice you still spell INTEREST and BUSINESS wrong. If you keep making these mistakes I shall take another newspaper.

Grammarian.

Ed; sorry, we are trying to improve and have undertaken a new improvement of spelling scheme (see Editorial Corner). We were aware of these mistakes after they had been typed but then it was too late to correct them.

The Wanderer.

Sir,

I thought your comment on the training of child cyclists most ill-advised. I would like you to publish the enclosed to redress the balance in your readers minds.

"Save The Child"

Ed; save everybody, child and adult equally. The Basildon U.D council are doing a very good job of work.

Wanderer; I maintain what I stated with small amendments.
LETTERS (CONTINUED)

Sir,
I think those frogmen are a nuisance. Disturbing all the wild life in the Lake like they do? Just why do they call them frogmen anyway?

A. Toad Esq.

Ed; Why couldn't they use another lake in any case?

Dear Editor,
I come to Billericay some months ago for rest, peace and quiet. Have I got it? No. As an old soldier I was as straight and upright as a button stick - now I am like a "S" look - with having to walk down this rough and hilly road called Perry Street. Can't you do something to get us a bus here.

Yours Sincerely,
A worn out O. A. P.

Ed; See Round and About by "Wanderer". With a circulation of 14 to 16 we are not a very well - known Billericay newspaper.

Dear Sir,

After reading the Haunted Garage which I thought was awful, I heard of another garage. Someone left a pair of step ladders inside the garage on Sunday and by Tuesday morning there was a blackbird's nest nearly completed on the top step. The clay of the nest was still damp when touched. Quick work!

Yours Sincerely,
"Observant".

Ed; I thought the Haunted Garage was a very good story. And by the way is the nest affected by the Rent Act?

Dear Editor,

I have seen pike in Lake Meadows Park Lake over two feet long this last week. Huge things basking in the shallows. What is the largest pike ever caught here please? Do you know?

Ed; there is a very large fish (I think it is a pike, though I am not positive) in a case in the front Parsnells, the fishmongers and fruiters in the High Street, near the church. This was caught in The Lake by the late Mr Parsnells in 1919. However, I am not sure if this the largest pike ever caught in the district.

Dear Sir,

The first part of the serial was intended as an example, not really for publication. However as you were so kind to put it in I enclose episode 2.

Yours Truly,

H. E. Bates

Ed; I thought the first episode was very good, worthy of publication in a London evening newspaper.

Dear Sir,

(a) What is a male swan called?
(b) Or a female swan?
(c) Or a baby swan?

Answers Below.

Ed; I confess I only had one out of three, having questioned only.
THE CONFESSIONS OF A TEA - DRINKER. Special new short story series by a Billericay Observer reader.

It all began many moons ago when I lived in Ceylon. The people who live in Ceylon are called Singalese - peculiar isn't it? When they get married, of course that is all changed and they are then called... husband and wife.

I was of mixed origin myself. My father was part Irish and mostly drunk. My mother was of course mostly sober. I was a hot little child and the Ceylon people - the Singalese called me in their quaint native language..... a little perisher.

One of my little tricks was to take the seeds of the tea trees and mix them in the tea. Thus when the tree came into fruit the pickers got all confounded for they would find a Brooke Bond 1/9 tea next to a Lyon's Quick Brew and that would be next to a Jetty Tea Bag tree. I can tell you it caused many a headache.

Even the Lyon's man started this tea needs two for the teapot. And the little red Brooke Bond vans kept breaking down because they were carrying a mixed load of Ty-phoo and Twinnings.

Not really was how the Ceylon people got their name for instead of being able to pick a whole row at once they could only do one at a time "Single - Trees" was how it started and of course that became shortened to Singalese.

I was caught one day up to more mischief..... but more about that next week.

Candidates for the Billericay North constituency.
Left, Mr. H.J. Perry, Socialist and right Mary de Roeppe, Conservative candidate. Mary de Roeppe is a member of the Governing Board of Wickford County Secondary School.