

ILKLEY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS OF LOCAL
HISTORICAL INTEREST

VOLUME V 1971-72

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Vol. 5.

71 — 72.

OLICANA MUSEUM AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SCRAPBOOK — CUTTINGS MAINLY
FROM IKKLEY GAZETTE

VOLUME 5

1971-72.

LIBRARY VOLUME NO (18)

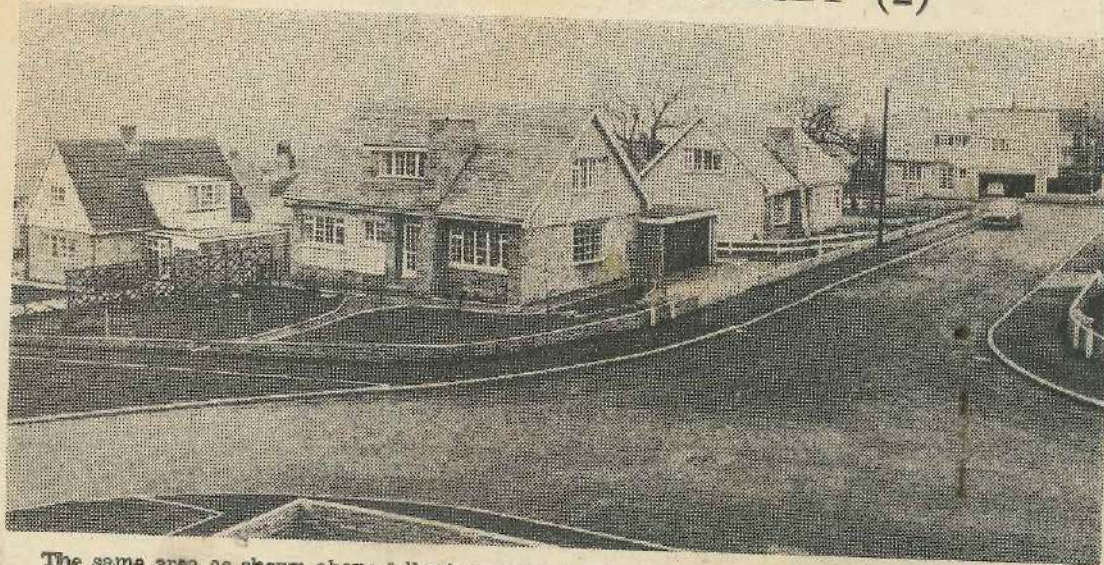
12th Feb. 1971 ILKLEY GAZETTE

CHANGES TO WEST OF ILKLEY (1)



The bungalows which were built to the west of Victoria Avenue during the war for workers who came to the area and which after the war were used as a temporary solution of Ilkley's housing problem.

CHANGES TO WEST OF ILKLEY (2)



The same area as shown above following recent development

12th Feb. 1971

LITTLE LANE PROPERTY TO GO

30 July 1971



Ilkley Urban Council will be asked on Monday night to approve a tender for the demolition of property between Nelson Road and Wellington Road in Little Lane. Eventually it is intended to erect flats for old people providing a central situation with a reasonably level approach to the main shopping centre.

CORRESPONDENCE

"A Cruise to Greece" brings thoughts about

Ilkley Gazette Swastikas 4/12/70

P.T.O.

ILLS

It was interesting to read in the Gazette of 20 November about the lecture "A Cruise to Greece," which Mrs. Macauley gave to the Ilkley Conservative Association. But I should have been more interested if I had been at the lecture, having visited many of the places mentioned.

However, I would have been disappointed when her mention about Mycenae did not refer to Ilkley where she was lecturing, a

Ilkley possesses on its moors late Bronze Age or early Iron Age carving on a rock of the now famous Swastika Stone. Hanging on its protecting rails is a placard placed there at the end of the last century, stating that there are only two others exactly like it—one at Mycenae in Greece and one at Tossene in Sweden.

When I took over the Honorary Curatorship of the Ilkley Museum and it was moved to the Manor House when the house was restored after being listed for demolition, of course, nothing would satisfy me after we had made a replica of the stone (now in the Manor House) but to go to Mycenae to see for myself this carving!

At first Mycenae was disappointing. The Swastika had been carved on one of the steles, i.e., the slabs of stone surrounding the graves. But these had been dug up and placed in the museum in Athens, and somehow I could not connect them with our stone which is carved on the flat gritstone rock.

However, this was in 1863. Since then, other similar graves have been found and I should like to know if it is on one of these that the Swastika is carved. Of course, there were many other metal objects on which this symbol is carved, discovered by Schliemann who also excavated Troy and demonstrated that it really was a historical place and not merely legendary. Even the modern matchboxes I brought home have this sign on them, but there is a difference.

The true Mycenaean Swastika is of the Meander type (like ours), so called after their river which "curves"; so it differs from the geometrical type more often seen, like Hitler's abhorred sign.

Certainly, the latter sign has been used all over the world, and throughout the ages; but with what meaning? Still a mystery.

When Lady Mortimer Wheeler was lecturing to the Ilkley Conservative Association some years ago about her excavations with Dr. Kathleen Kenyon, she told me afterwards they had discovered a Swastika carved on the stone gateway of one of the walls of Jericho, over which three others had been built before that of Joshua's day.

It is now conjectured that the Mycenaeans may have had something to do with Stonehenge. Modern photographic methods have revealed an indication of a Mycenaean axe, a sword head or dagger—I'm not sure which at the moment. Does it set you wondering? Of course, it would take about a thousand years later for any Bronze Age art to arrive in Britain.

Last year, sailing to Cyprus and Israel, we stopped at Piraeus and I took a bus to Athens, to review the steles and jewels and other "grave" objects in the Museum. It was a Monday and, like our Manor House Museum, it was closed all day!

Having begun this account, I might as well relate the search in Sweden!

Though the carving is in the Bohustan district, it is not at Tossene but five miles further north. Again disappointment—it was the usual cross shape with curved ends. The district was more like our own and the Swastika was carved on a rock lying on the ground.

It had taken me many months here before it was possible to locate the district, but all inadvertently I had contacted Sweden's foremost archaeologist who was kindness itself. There followed delightful days in brilliant sunshine and clear fresh air scrambling over rocks and streams or sliding down granite rocks, for up there in the Uddevalla district the cup and ring markings are carved on granite.

Dr. Ake Fredsjo has himself uncovered over 300 carvings hitherto unknown, the district until lately with the coming of new roads and cars, being too difficult of access. He was interested in locating this Swastika which is like ours and gave me an illustration of it published in the "Skandinavien hallristningar" in the last century.

Besides the cup and ring carving symbol signs, there were also human figures and what impressed me more than anything else in these carvings was the contemporary resemblance in paintings and statues, in whatever material, to these of pre-historic times. Have we progressed in art today, or retrogressed, or is it a reversal to fundamentals?

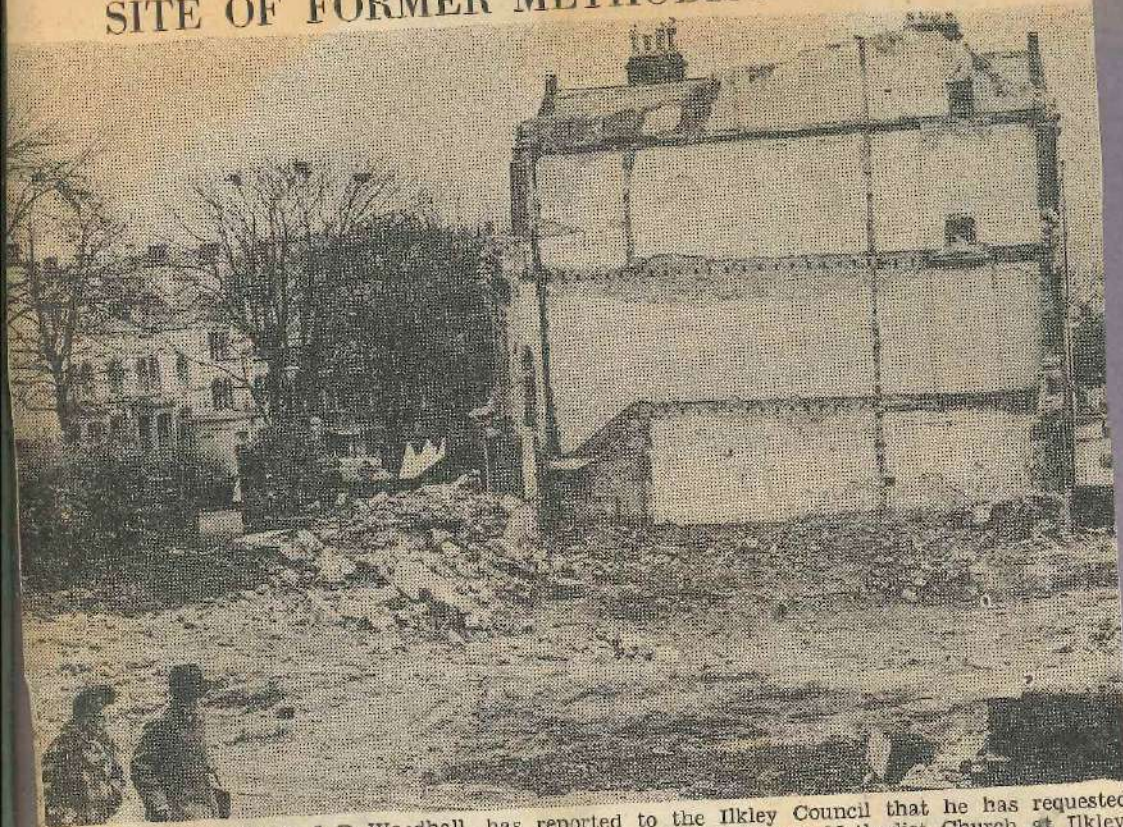
How happy I was in saying "Goodbye" to this kindly, interesting doctor, to give him a tie belonging to the Ilkley Rugby Union Football Club which has on it, between the red diagonal lines, tiny Swastikas.

ELSIE M. FLETCHER (Former Hon. Curator, Manor House Museum, Ilkley).



Olicana Museum Historical Society, at Jolly Hall, Settle MAY ~~July~~ 1971.

SITE OF FORMER METHODIST CHURCH



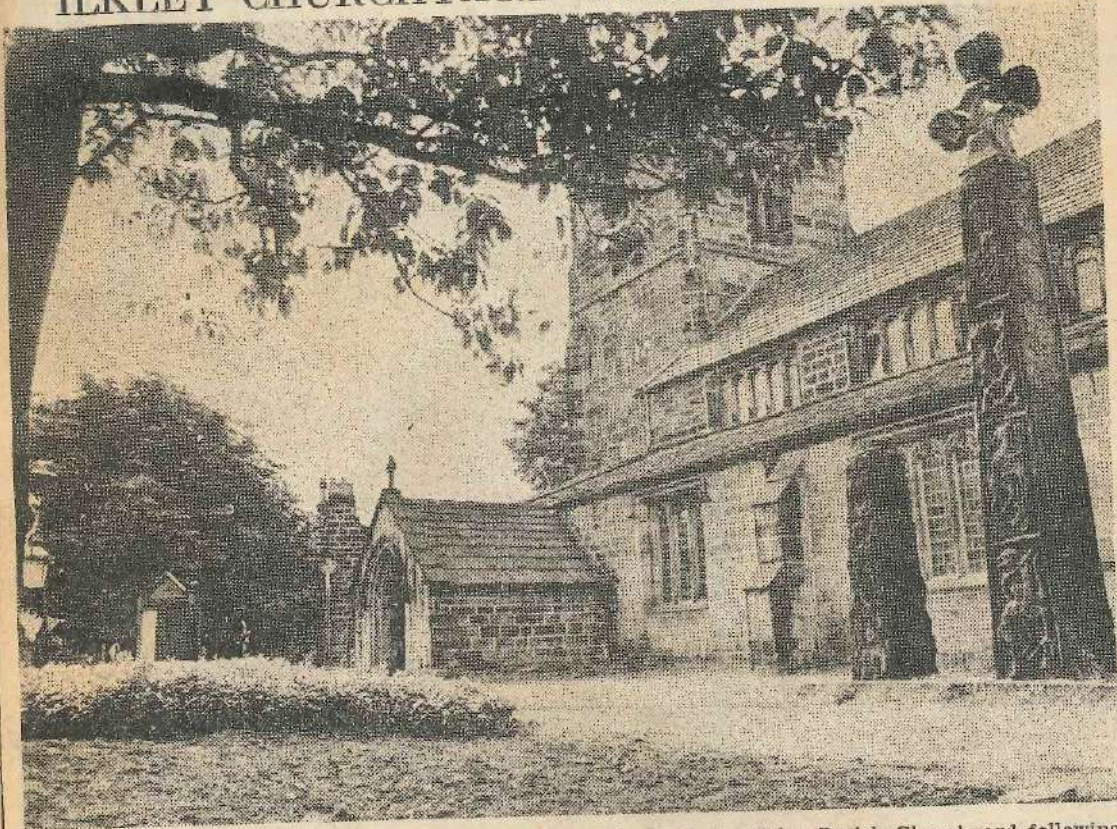
The Surveyor, Mr. D J. D. Woodhall, has reported to the Ilkley Council that he has requested improvement of the appearance of the site in Wells Road of the former Methodist Church at Ilkley. The Church officials have agreed to co-operate as far as possible. Action had first to be taken to stabilise the wall of the adjoining property. Building regulation approval had already been granted for buttresses to be bonded into the existing gable wall and it was hoped that the work would be carried out in the near future.

14 MAY 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

2 July 1971

ILKLEY CHURCHYARD COMPLAINT BUT —



Work has been carried out this week clearing weeds from the Ilkley Parish Churchyard following criticism that attention was required particularly to the area between the front of the Church and the boundary wall in Church Street.

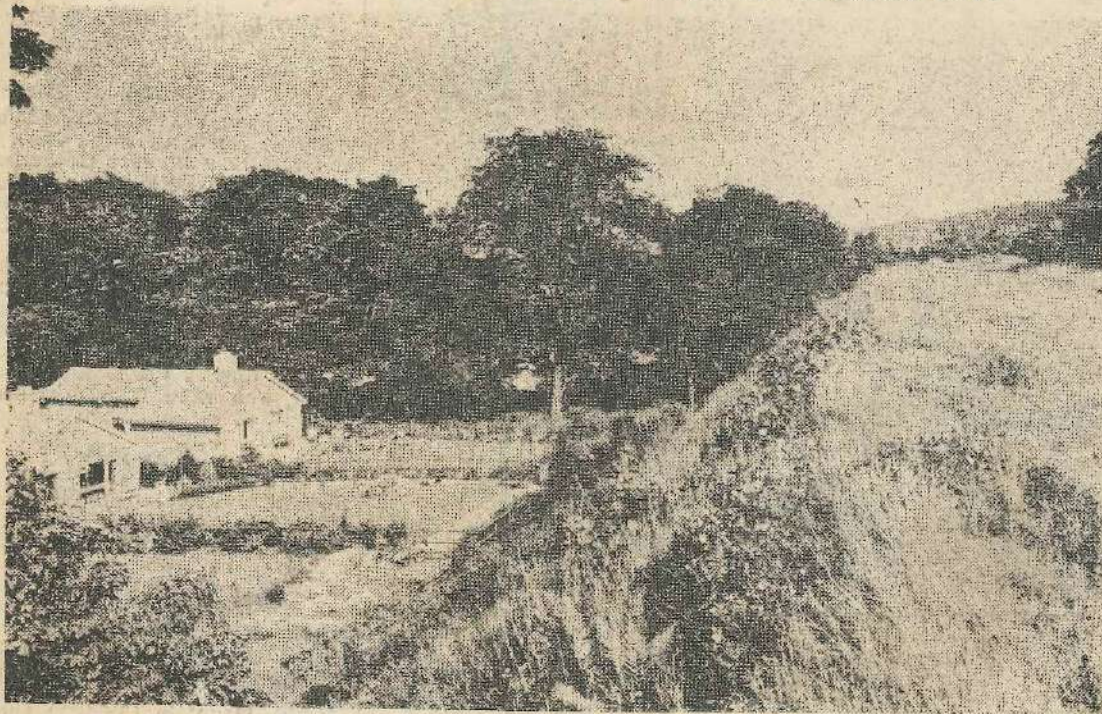
**Ilkley Carnival Procession In Skipton Road
60 Years Ago**



For several years the Ilkley Charity Carnival was an annual event in Ilkley and usually took place at August Bank Holiday. Mr. F. A. Adlington, of Comley Road, Moorclown, Bournemouth supplies the above picture which illustrates some of the business displays on decorated drays which formed part of the 1911 procession.

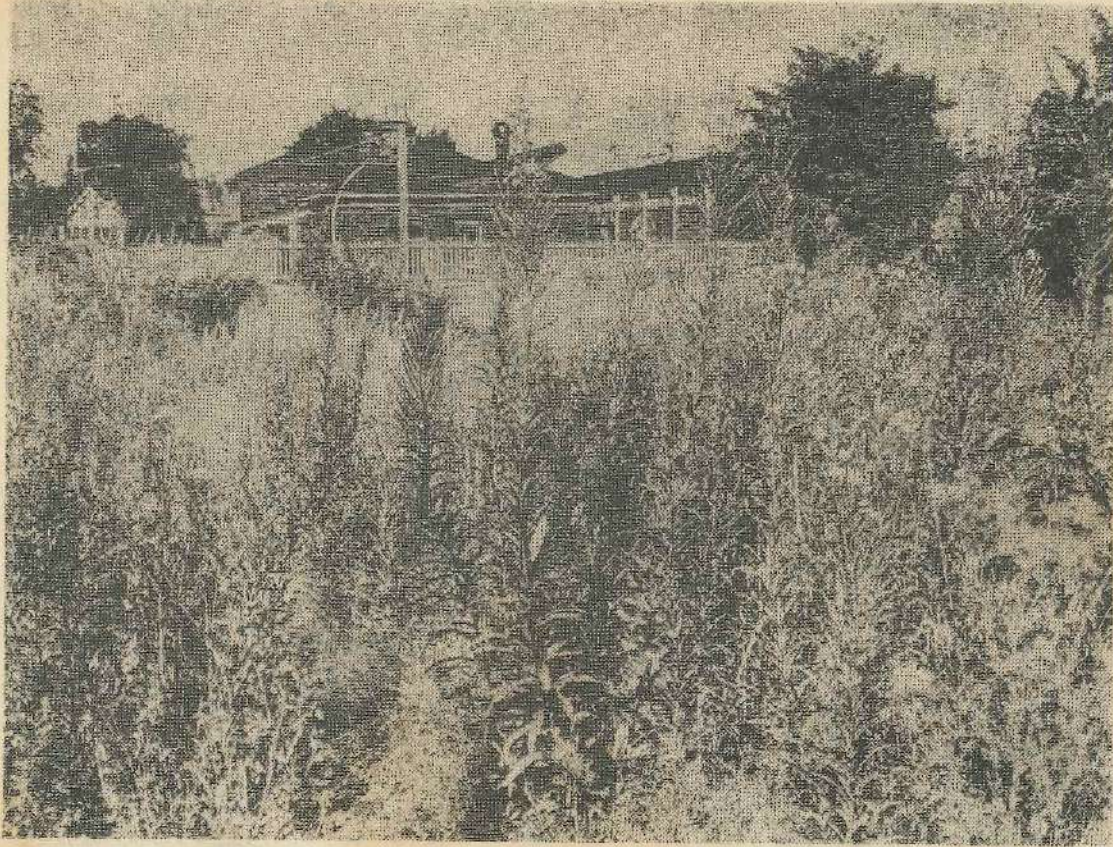
13 AUGUST 1971

RAILWAY EMBANKMENT REMOVAL



Tenders are being invited by Ilkley Council for the removal of the railway embankment between Westville Road and Easby Drive. The cleared area at the Westville Road end will form part of the site for the new school. Picture shows a section of the embankment and its height above houses in Skipton Road.

WEEDS ON RAILWAY IN ILKLEY CENTRE



Weeds growing to a height of several feet cover a large area of the railway property between No. 1 platform and Station Road in the centre of Ilkley. Last year as part of the Ilkley clean-up campaign the Guides and Brownies took responsibility for clearing this area. See picture on this page.

20 AUGUST 1971

DENTON PARK ESTATE TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE

27 AUGUST 1971

The Denton Park estate which can trace its history back over 1,000 years is to be sold in the near future. It has been for nearly 50 years the home of the Hill family. With its 18th century mansion goes 2,588 acres of land with grouse and pheasant shooting. It is expected to fetch in the region of £350,000.

Denton Hall was the old home of the Fairfaxes. "Black Tom," the famous general of the Civil War with Cromwell's forces was born there in 1611. The Denton Hall of that time was accidentally destroyed by fire and so was the one built to replace it in 1734. The present mansion was built in 1778 from designs by John Carr, a noted York architect. It has nine bedrooms and four bathrooms, and includes some original Chippendale work.

The estate comprises 900 acres of home farm in hand, 404 acres of tenant farms and 1,108 acres of grouse moor. After the Fairfaxes the estate passed to the Ibbetsons in 1716 and it became a noted centre for short-horn cattle. Sir Henry Carl Ibbetson, first president of the Wharfedale Agricultural Society being responsible. By marriage of Miss Laura Ibbetson in 1845 the estate passed to the Wyvill family, and at the beginning of the present century it was let to John Wormald of Dewsbury. In 1924 it was bought from Lord Illingworth, a former Postmaster General, by Mr. Arthur Hill, elder son of Sir James Hill and uncle of the present Sir

James. Mr. Arthur Hill died in 1935, and his widow has continued to live there. It is understood that she will continue to do so.

HISTORY

Harry Speight in his book "Upper Wharfedale" details the splendour of the Hall in the 17th century. "In the time of the Fairfaxes," he writes, "great state was maintained at the Hall, and particular care was exercised respecting the admission of strangers who would appear to have been very numerous and to have represented all classes from the beggar to the noble. A porter was employed to attend to the gates, and to keep them locked after certain hours, he having charge of the keys. A numerous bevy of servants and attendants lived at the Hall, including stewards, secretaries, yeomen of the chambers, ushers, messengers, butlers, clerk of the kitchen, gardeners and other functionaries, reminding one almost of the state routine and multifarious offices of a large monastic establishment. There was a constant stream of resident visitors. The chaplain at Denton was required to say prayers at meal-times, and to see that 'one of the chapel bells be rung before the prayers one-quarter of an hour at which summons' the victuals were to be in residence and the butler must 'prepare for coverings but not cover.'"

MAY GO TO MUSEUM



The old pillar box standing at the junction of Denton Road with Middleton Avenue at Middleton may go to the Post Office Museum in London when it is eventually removed. It is believed to be one of two remaining hexagonal post-boxes in Yorkshire. It was transferred to its present position in the mid-thirties from Leeds Road in Peel Place, Bradford, where it had stood since 1875. Known as a Penfold box it was designed by Mr. J. W. Penfold. There is another on Sheffield railway station. It is not intended to move the box for some time.

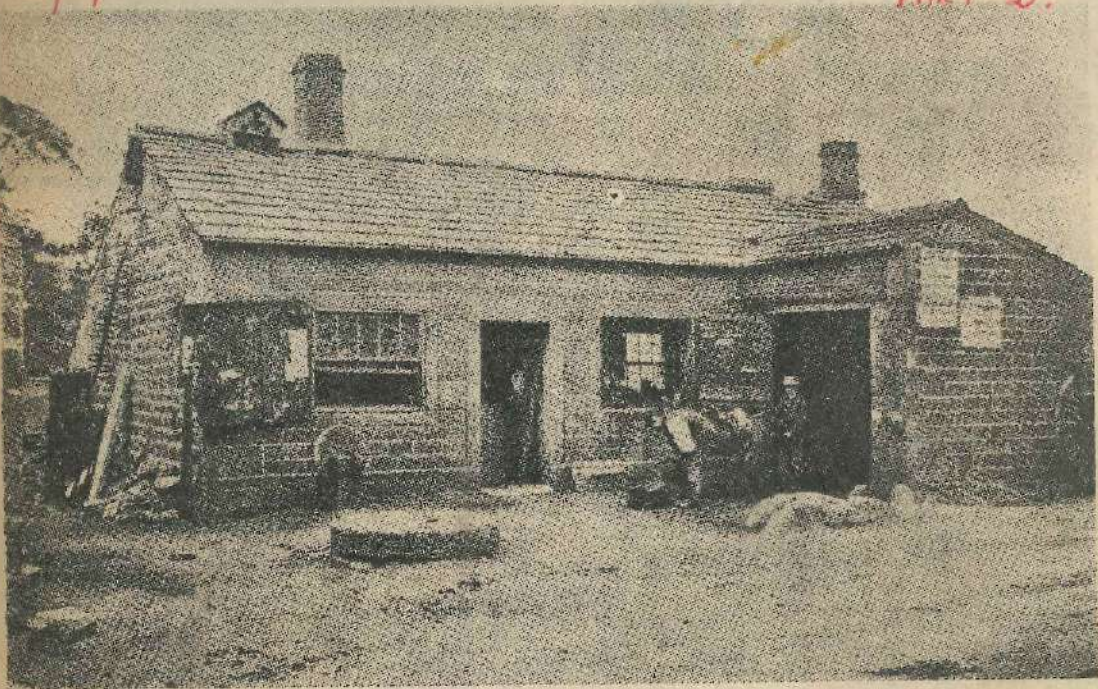
3 DECEMBER 1971

Viewers are advised to how to make the best use of the new station. Local relay stations, like the main high-power UHF stations, are co-sited with corresponding BBC local relays, enabling viewers to

I.S.
27/8/71

APPRENTICE TO BLACKSMITH AND READER OF BOOKS

ROBERT COLLYER
PART 2.



In August, 1837, a sturdy lad of fourteen years might have been seen taking leave of the Collyer home in Washburndale, and starting his walk across Denton Moor to Ilkley Town. So Robert Collyer with the fears of mill life behind him, began his journey to start his apprenticeship with Jacky Birch, an Ilkley blacksmith who had trained Samuel Collyer, the boy's father. To be a blacksmith was then and for many a year after, he said, the utmost limit of his ambition.

Down the village street, with many a smile and benediction from the housewives in the cottage row, over the river which had sung songs to his listening ears ever since he was a babe in arms, up the long slope of the hill to the great moors heaving to the sky, this would be the way he would go, the Rev. J. H. Holmes, his biographer wrote so many years later.

"The change from the old to the new was great. Ilkley was a thriving provincial centre, mainly composed of busy tradesmen in the town proper, and busy farmers and dairymen in the surrounding dale country. As contrasted with Blubberhouses, it had no factories with their tall chimneys, whirring wheels and clouds of smoke, and no factory workers with their poverty and disease. In 1831 it had a population of 691 persons; in 1834 a population of 940 and in 1861 a population of 1407.

So Robert Collyer came to the smithy of Jacky Birch. The building stood in what is now Leeds Road standing back from the present line on the north side and immediately opposite where now the oldest part of the Crescent Hotel joins the later dining room. Today there are shops on the site. One of them is a fruiterers and this fact is in itself one of the series of coincidences which associate with the history of Collyer.

A GOOD TABLE

The change, said Robert Collyer, in his memories, was the better in many ways. "I was homesick for a time, as most boys are, and missed the home safeguards and sanctities, but the work was not hard as a rule, and the hours were much shorter, for save when we were very busy we did not work more than ten hours a day, and Master Birch kept a good table, rough to be sure, but wholesome and plentiful. I began to grow apace and moved an old man to say when he would step into the forge to warm his hands, 'how thou doest grow to be sewer; if tha doesn't stop soin we sall hev to put a stiddy (anvil) on the heead."

Collyer lived in the cottages behind the smithy with the smith and his wife and other apprentices. Two of his shopmates were hard drinkers, and Master Birch, he recalled "had fallen away from the grace of sobriety, but my love for books fought the fiend with a finer fire. For many years I never ate a meal if I could help it, without a book at my elbow."

JOHN DOBSON

Ale was a regular drink at meal times in those days, it was available to offset the heat of the forge, especially in the summer days, and for Collyer the temptation must have been great. But he found strength in the friendship of a local preacher, John Dobson, ten years older, and with the reputation of being the best read man in the community.

John Dobson was a bachelor trained as a wool comber and later finding his living through the popular demand for hydropathic bathing, said Collyer, He tried to show the young men of the town there was more to be found in reading books than in spending their time and their money in drinking ale. Wrote Collyer, "The great good heart was filled with a devouring love for youths all about him, who were feeling their way into life, learning to love good books, and trying to make fair terms for their budding manhood."

He told them what he knew and his knowledge was ample, lavished all he could spare on them for more books. He was jealous with a great jealousy that they should not be a mere echo of himself, but that each lad should grow to his own stature and think his own thoughts. Half a dozen men owe more to good John Dobson than to any other man "and Collyer included himself among them." Their life had been greatly worth living because he helped them so nobly at the start, and directed them so wisely, and loved them as few fathers ever love their sons. He was the noblest man of his generation in the town."

So Robert Collyer joined one of John Dobson's reading classes, and was influenced by it for the rest of his life. The group included at times the village schoolmaster, but more often it was Collyer, a fellow apprentice or two, farm lads and so on. They read in turns until their tallow candle ran out, and on Sundays they read in the open air in the fields. They read and they discussed, with John Dobson to encourage them.

APPRENTICESHIP OVER

In 1844 on his 21st birthday Robert Collyer was released from his apprenticeship but continued to work for John Birch. "I was never a very good blacksmith, not nearly so good as my father for to do anything supremely well you must give your whole mind to it, yes, and your heart, and these to me were given to the books."

Suddenly in 1846 John Birch died and named Collyer as his successor. But the Lord of the Manor to whom the property belonged thought Collyer too young and let the smithy to Sampson Speight of Middleton, and Robert remained in charge at 18s. a week. It was another key point in his life.

COINCIDENCE

This is possibly a suitable moment to refer to an extraordinary meeting in 1937 in the Ilkley churchyard. John Dobson was unmarried but he had several brothers and their descendants continued to make their mark in Ilkley. Prominent among these was William Dobson, newsagent, twice Chairman of the Council and holder of several public offices. He had not for many years, he said afterwards, walked through the Ilkley Parish churchyard but

on this particular day as he walked up Church Street he felt a compelling notion to do so.

Accordingly he passed through the main gate, walked behind the tower, and met a couple who asked him if he could point out to them the grave of Robert Collyer's first wife and infant daughter. The man was Robert Collyer's grandson, Robert Collyer Hosmer, fulfilling a lifetime ambition to visit Ilkley and to see what was recognisable of the days when his grandfather lived here.

Writing to Mr. Dobson in December, 1939, Mr. Hosmer commented "I have often thought and frequently spoken of the remarkable coincidence which was nothing less than the hand of the Lord which brought us together in the parish churchyard."

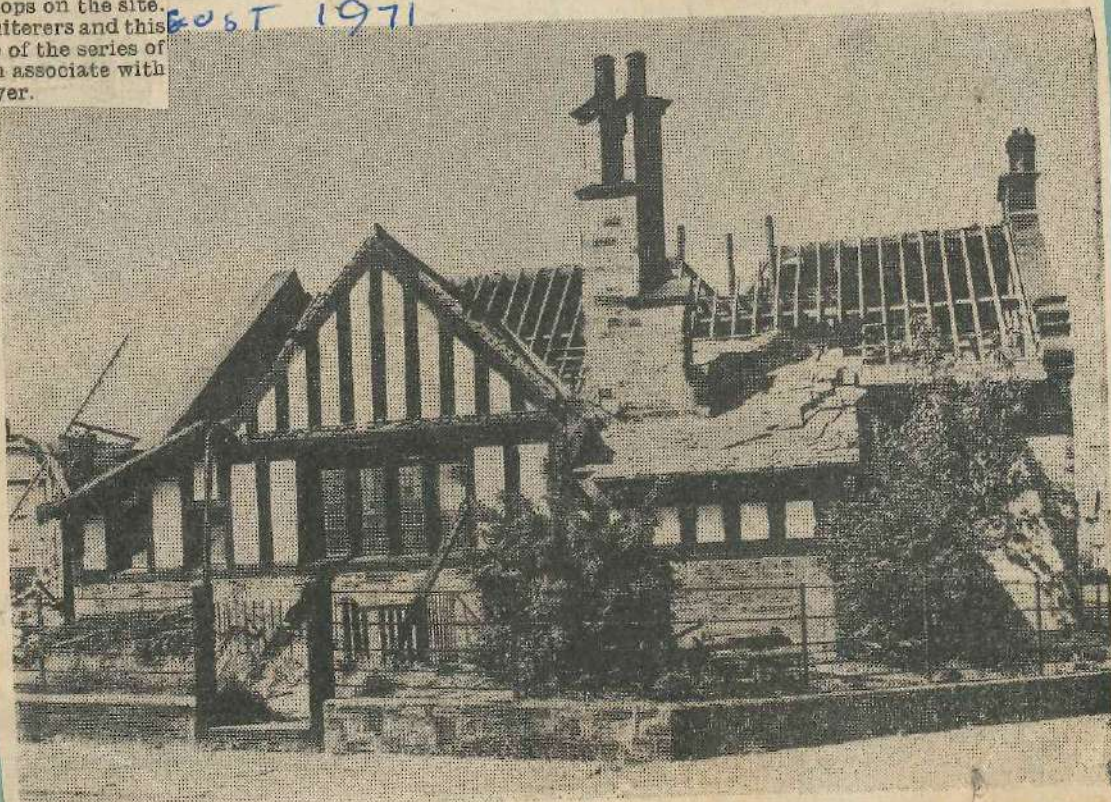
Earlier reference was made to the fruiterer's shop which stands today on a part of the site of the old smithy. This is a business run by yet another descendant of the Dobson family and his son.

R.M.G.

(To be continued)

DEMOLITION OF LEEDS ROAD HALL

205T 1971



The Leeds Road Congregational Hall which stands at the junction of Dean Street with Leeds Road is steadily being demolished by those associated with the church.

27/8/71

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ROBERT COLLYER (3)

CONTENTMENT AND HOPE GIVE WAY TO TRAGEDY

The unwillingness of the Lord of the Manor to permit Robert Collyer to take over the old smithy in Leeds Road did not distress the young man at all. He became manager at 18s. a week and as the business prospered was soon earning a pound a week. He was later to regard the situation as a fortunate one because when the opportunity arose for him to go to America there was nothing to prevent him from doing so. But the past year was a good one for him with prospects everything he could desire. The future, however, held tragedy for him.

Though he was the manager rather than the owner of the forge he was in effect a master smith in everything but name. It was in those days ample income to establish a home and maintain it, marry and bring up a family. Robert Collyer had been doing some courting, the girl being the sister of Mrs. Parratt who lived in Church Street. The cafe near to the church and now to be the Church Hall is probably the one.

They had not a lot of free time for courting apparently, and Coll-

Robert Collyer, as previously stated, never regarded himself as the smith his father was. His heart was not in the job to the same extent. However he must have been a reasonably good craftsman or the forge would not have prospered as it did. He tells the story of how he made the gates for the Parish Church. They were, he said, a bit of work still to be seen. (And still to be seen they are today over 130 years after they were made).

Wrote Robert: "This sort of work is done by the whitesmith, but I



The gates to Ilkley Parish Church made by Robert Collyer.

yer had a habit of taking a book with him and reading it to Harriet Watson, a straw bonnet maker, the girl he was to marry. Sundays were their main opportunities, and Robert says he counted 13 Sundays in succession when it rained and they had to spend their time under an umbrella.

After their marriage at Bingley Parish Church, they went to live in a house on the north side of Church Street, a son, named Samuel, after his grandfather was born to them, and with the business prospering their future seemed assured.

took the job with no proper tools or skill for that work, and the result was a pair of gates as homely as a barn door—so homely that I would dream of them when I came to this new world and say to myself, 'If I can afford the money I will ask to have a new pair made by some skilful man over there, and the old things sold for scrap iron'."

"But just a touch of satisfaction came to me on my last visit to the homeland a few years ago when the humour took me to go and have another (and it may well be the last) look at the gates I had made just fifty years before. The touch

of satisfaction lay in the fact that not a rivet had sprung in the clanging back and forth through all the years. Those on the lock had sprung but that was set by another man. So I said I have so much to the good in any case."

So the time moved on to 1849 and apart from the death of his half brother William Wells, who was buried in the churchyard, and who had worked with him at Jackie Birch's smithy, there had been little to upset Robert Collyer from the day he moved from Washburndale.

TRAGEDY

Then tragedy came. Harriett Collyer (29) was expecting their second child and in February, 1849, she died in childbirth. Three days later, the baby, Jane, died also. His world collapsed about his ears, Robert Collyer watched his wife and baby daughter buried in the grave of William Wells. He shut up his home and went with his son to live with Thomas Stephenson and his wife in a cottage close to the smithy.

The Rev. John Haynes Holmes wrote: "Of this event Dr. Collyer was strangely reticent throughout his life. It constituted a crisis of such moment in his career that he could never pass it by without some mention. But he would refer to it in writing and in speech only as a vast and awful sorrow, and say no more. This was a silence which seems to have begun, as by kind of necessity at the first moment of his loss. For he tells us that he consulted not with flesh and blood, not even with his dearest friend and 'good helper' John Dobson. It was as though there were feelings here that were too deep for words, as well as for tears. From the first black hours of his grief to the last sunny moment of his active years, he kept his experience as a place of holiness. A man, the windows of whose heart were always wide open to the day, he had yet deep and at times unexpected reserves, and this memory as previous as it was pitiful, was the deepest of them all."

DARKNESS

The effect of this tragedy upon the young husband and father was immediate and overwhelming, wrote Mrs. Holmes. It marked indeed the supreme crisis of his career. For the first time in his experience, the beauty seemed to go out of the world, and the joy of living to vanish from his heart. For the first time the hammer rang dull and lifeless on the anvil. For the first time his beloved books failed to hold his mind and stir the deep places of his soul. Friends, even the dearest, were shut out completely from his life. 'The secret lay between God and my own soul' he said in his biography. "Such a grief, however, though sacred beyond all expression must have an end and this ended in 'the only refuge there is for us when life grows dark in the shadow of death.' Robert Collyer found himself thinking in his loneliness and sorrow of the Sunday school on the hill where he had gone as a lad, of the hymns that his father had sung, of the prayers that his mother had heard, of the Bible on the book shelf in the old stone cottage. In accordance with early habit he had always attended Ilkley Parish Church, but never as a young man been what is commonly called religious.

"Now however his tender and deeply wounded heart was ready for a real experience and it was the blaze of Wesleyanism which was still burning hotly over the northern moors which caught him. Little by little, just how, he never explained, he found himself going to meetings of the Methodists, his neighbour and friends all of them in a little chapel on the outskirts of town. Gradually he was moved to tell them in many words how it was with him and they gave him a warm welcome."

Then one Sunday night at Addingham he listened to a sermon by local preacher Flesher Bland. The sermon took "wondrous hold on him" and "at last the light came." The sermon was the key that opened the door to the experience Robert Collyer was awaiting.

R.M.G.

(To be concluded)

10/9/71

HAMMER MAKER, PREACHER OUTSTANDING MINISTER

It was a sermon by an Addingham local preacher, Flesher Bland, that finally brought Robert Collyer out of the deep despair into which he had sunk following the death of his wife and infant daughter. His books, his friends and the forge brought him no escape, no consolation. He turned to the Bible, walked the moors and argued aloud with only the sheep to hear him, but the message he sought eluded him. He went to the churches and to the chapels, but never found the answers to the questions his tortured mind was asking, until he heard Flesher Bland. Then, suddenly before him, lay the way that was to bring him comfort and fame, and enable him to bring solace and hope to the many thousands who heard his sermons.

From the moment the sermon by Flesher Bland had ended, Robert Collyer knew what he had to do. He had been moved from the gloom of despair into the sunshine of hope. The tragedy of his loss had marked the end of a part of his life; now he realised it was not the end of the whole. His studies with John Dobson and others of the Bible and outstanding works of English literature had given him an extensive vocabulary; now he had the conviction, and he began to preach in the local chapels and Wesleyan meeting places with an eloquence which held his hearer.

Some 21 years later Robert Collyer had occasion to refer to his association with the local preachers of Craven. It was from them, he wrote he "learned the first simple lessons in the art of preaching and thinks—as he thought then—that Flesher Bland, who was a local preacher in those days, but is now in the front rank of preachers in Canada, was one of the finest and most impressive pulpit orators it was ever his good fortune to hear."

It was not only the beginning of Robert Collyer as a preacher, it was the beginning of a friendship as dear to him as that with John Dobson who had turned his mind to the right kind of books and discussed with him the writings of their famous authors. After he went to the United States he wrote frequently to Flesher Bland both to Addingham and to Canada and when he paid visits to Wharfedale he told him of the changes that had taken place and what was still there, and more particularly of the people they both knew who remained.

Speight writing in "Upper Wharfedale" (1900) speaks of Flesher Bland as "the Rev. H. F. Bland, a native of Addingham who died recently at Smith's Falls, Ontario. A most thorough and earnest worker never entered the ministry; his whole life being one continual self-sacrifice for the

benefit of others. He won the greatest respect not only of his own people but also of his clerical brethren, and besides discharging many and various duties he was for three years Chairman of the Canadian Conference."

So these two local preachers, John Dobson of Ilkley, and Flesher Bland of Addingham, neither quite

accepting each other's form of worship, were to influence greatly at different stages the life of Robert Collyer.

EMIGRATION

Towards the end of 1849 and at the beginning of 1850 Collyer had an urge to emigrate. He could have had letters of introduction had he made Canada his choice of country, but he would go to the United States. He sought the views of one elderly villager who had been there and he proved to be a proper Job's comforter. They would have his boots, his clothes and his money before he had been there a week, he was told.

But Collyer was not to be deterred. Equally strong was his conviction that he needed someone to share his life. He approached a young woman, Ann Longbottom, daughter of a Bradford stonemason and a lady's maid in Ilkley. He made no secret of the tribulations which might lay ahead, but she accepted him, promising to share rough with smooth. And so she did, as he was frequently to testify in the years to come.

IN THE STATES

He gave up his work at the smithy, they were married at Eastbrook Chapel, Bradford, on 9 April, 1850, and the following day they were aboard an ancient vessel named the Roscius at Liverpool and on their way to New York. The old tub took a battering and a month to the day, and it could not have been more disheartening. When they arrived Mrs. Collyer was ill and faint, but they had not been long ashore before they heard the sound of Yorkshire dialect. The voice belonged to a tavern keeper, or boarding house establishment, and the man was at once sympathetic. He took them back with him, told Collyer where to find medicine for his wife. The druggist refused to take payment and on his advice in a day or two they went to Philadelphia and lodged with his sister.

Work was not easy to find, and Collyer did all manner of jobs for a time. His wife helped to contribute to the scant income by sewing for the neighbourhood. At last he saw an advertisement for a blacksmith at Shoemakerville, some seven miles away, Collyer was up early next morning and set off to walk in the hot sunshine. On his way he was picked up by a man driving a handsome horse and gig and his story was told as they moved smartly along. The driver shook Collyer's hand as he set him down, saying, "You will ever succeed." He never saw him again.

Collyer was close upon 27 years of age at that time, but never before had anyone stopped on the road and offered him a lift. He was finding his experiences with the people in no way matched the gloomy stories he had been told before he left Ilkley.

He stayed at Shoemakerville making claw hammers for nearly nine years. He was in contact with the local Methodists and trying without a deal of success to find the opportunity to preach the sermons he felt were ready to roll off his tongue. His Yorkshire dialect and his growing beliefs were against him. Methodism in that part of the world was too narrow for him to accept. They found slavery was something they could tolerate; Collyer thought it all wrong for Christian people. His Yorkshire accent he could gradually change; his views he could not. Then one day when he stood in a pulpit as a substitute preacher he spoke the thought in his mind, and the result was that he was asked to relinquish his membership.

PREACHING

He had friends who believed in him, and he was recommended to Chicago where there was a vacancy assistant to a Unitarian minister. His move was a great success, and when the minister gave up the position Collyer was offered and accepted it. His homely sermons began to attract growing attention and soon there was not enough room to accommodate those who wished to hear him. A new church was built, only for it to be destroyed in the great Chicago fire. The congregation rallied so did people far afield and a new and bigger church was built. Invitations came steadily for Collyer to take up positions as minister at other churches in the States. For some time he resisted, but finally at the end of September, 1879, nineteen years after his arrival in New York he returned as Minister of the Church of the Messiah. There he built up a great reputation as a preacher, as a man who knew from experience the everyday problems of life, and there was for him the great love and affection of the people amongst whom he ministered.

The Civil war troubled him deeply. The bloodshed, the prison camps which were just as bad as the Nazi concentration camps nearly a century later, filled him with horror. His job was to help the suffering and he became a member of the Sanitary Commission of the United States. He earned the public thanks of the Government and the individual gratitude of many thousands of soldiers and private individuals.

When he died in December, 1912, the Ilkley Free Press devoted an eight column page to his obituary and the Ilkley Gazette published a special supplement.

RETURN VISIT

Collyer made several return visits to Ilkley, the most outstanding one probably being in September, 1907, when he opened the Ilkley public library. Thousands greeted the great man, they took the horses out of his carriage, and pulled it back to Wells House whilst hundreds of others lighted the way with torches.

Yet his first visit was made at the expense of the people to whom he ministered. They had appreciated that the intense work of the recent years had made their mark. The zip had gone out of him and he obviously needed a rest. So they sent him back to his old home, and when he returned to New York he wrote to Flesher Bland about it.

This is part of what he wrote: "I got to Leeds on Thursday. On the Saturday I went to Ilkley on Dobson's coach, then still running. William Dobson was the whip. He did not know me and I did not tell him who I was, but just rode along and drank in the pleasure of the dear old familiar things.

"I remembered standing in 1850 on that fine point where turning from Leeds you see such a noble stretch of Wharfedale all at once, and wondering if I should ever see it again, and if so under what circumstances. When we came down from Bramhope and the view burst on my sight, the old memory came back as though it was yesterday. Otley was not

altered in the least that I could see since then. They have pulled down the White Horse and are building a good hotel on the site, but all else was unchanged. In Burley too, the good things looked just as usual. The Red Lion and the Malt Shovel, the shops and the houses, and the very trees still in their old places with the old look on them.

"But of course Ilkley was the great point. As I rode up I would see places where I used to wander reading and dreaming. Then I saw a field I helped to drain, the steeple of the old church, and the town. As we rode into the village I saw a new house built just passed Kettlewells. On the other side I saw a man & said at once that is John Dobson. When we had got away from the coach, I went back to that house and asked if I could have lodgings. He said, 'Nay we are full.' Then he caught at his heart and sat down and said, 'I feel faint, but I know you'. You may be sure he was glad to see me. I went to a house belonging to his brother Michael and stayed there."

Robert Collyer goes on to speak of the people both he and Flesher Bland knew at Ilkley and at Addingham.

Speaking of Addingham, he said, "Addingham looks just as it did. You remember the green lawn at the Cunliffe house—it comes down to the street and there is a big tree. It is all as you left it. I noticed through the window a big Cunliffe had just dined and was

dormant in his chair. In your shop window was a bill about the services in the Ranter chapel, when a woman would preach, and silver be thankfully received on entering the gallery. The very old gaol with the old date still remains and the Sailor Bill's hotel and all the rest of them."

Robert Collyer died a week before his 89th birthday. He had been free from illness for most of his life. He once said that he had never taken any pains to keep well. In the matter of eating he had suited his tastes living on good plain food. On one matter he had been careful and that was to have eight hours sleep in the 24. There was an old saying, he said, "Nature requires five hours; labour seven; laziness nine and wickedness eleven."

"I have split the difference," said Robert Collyer.

M.G.

(Concluded)



ROBERT COLLYER

A vic
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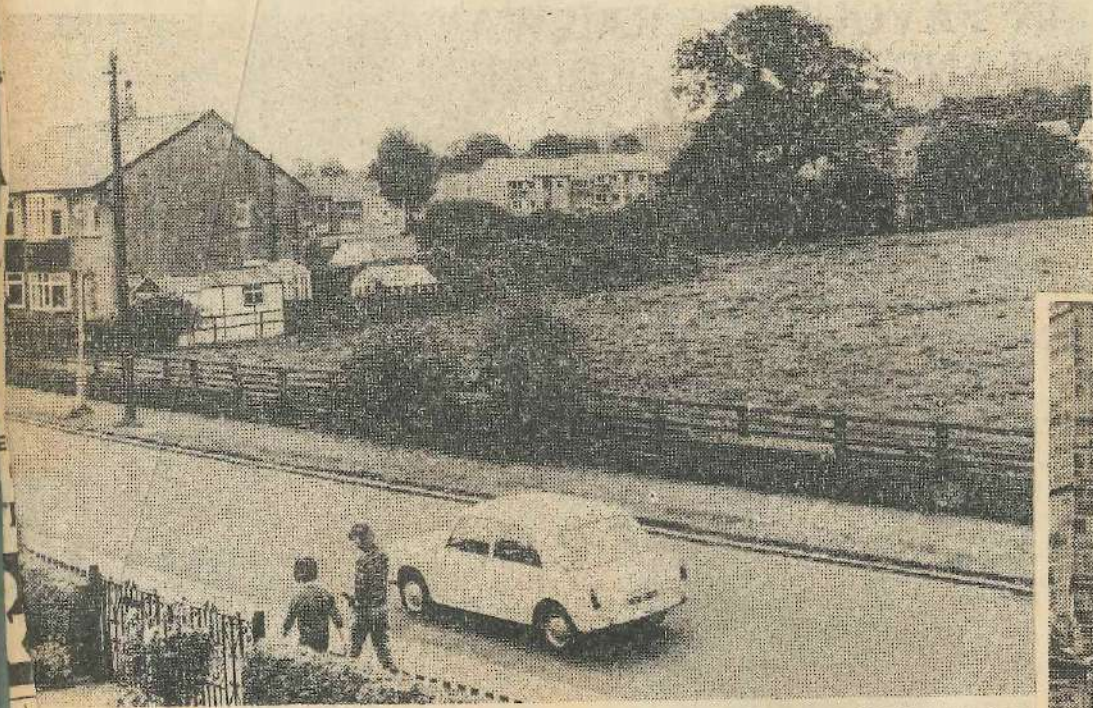
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30 JULY 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

SITE FOR NEW FIRE STATION



A view of the land which is to be the site for a new Ilkley Fire Station indicating the front of the road. In the area near the tree shown in the picture it is planned to erect firemen's houses.

8 OCTOBER 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

TREE MARKS CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN SUCCESS



A presentation of a Silver Birch was made to Ilkley last week after the town had been judged as one of six in the Yorkshire area to have shown the most improvement following the Clean Up Campaign. The planting ceremony took place at the north east corner of Ilkley Parish Church. Chairman of Ilkley Urban Council, Cr. J. M. Shelton is pictured planting the tree after receiving it on behalf of the town from Mr. Mark Andrew, Director of the Clean Up Campaign for the Yorkshire Area (on the right of picture). Also in the photograph are (left to right) Cr. J. M. Boothman, Chairman of the Council's Amenities Committee; Mrs. Lloyd, Mr. J. E. Lloyd, a former Chairman of the Ilkley Civic Society and Mrs. J. M. Shelton, wife of the Chairman of Ilkley Council.



The Collyer gravestone which until recently stood in the Ilkley Churchyard on the north side. It states, "In memory of William Wells, who died at Ilkley May 25th, 1842 aged 23 years. Also of Harriet, wife of Revd. Robert Collyer of Chicago, America, and formerly of Ilkley, who died February 1st, 1849 aged 29 years. Also of Jane their infant daughter who died February 4th, 1849." The stone was erected some time after Robert Collyer had gone to America and had become a minister.

3/9/71

ILKLEY POLICEMEN TO SERVE WITH FRENCH GENDARMES

ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED FOR TWO TO GO TO NORMANDY

SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY DELEGATES FROM COUTANCES

Two Ilkley policemen will shortly be doing their share of traffic control and beat duty in the Normandy town of Coutances and in the Spring of next year two French gendarmes are expected to come to Ilkley to perform similar duties. Permission has been given by the Home Office and the West Riding Chief Constable for this to be done, and the consent of the French authorities for the gendarmes to come here is being sought.

BAND MARCHING UP BROOK STREET



The Coutances band approaching the turn to the Grove as it passed up Brook Street on its way to the Cenotaph on Sunday morning.

The announcement is made by Cr. Raymond P. Bushell at the conclusion of a most successful five days visit by a delegation of nine representatives from Coutances and for part of the time by the Municipal band of Coutances. Throughout their visit the weather had been sunny and warm putting the final touch to a programme which has included tours of the district, social visits and evening entertainment.

The programme began on Saturday night when the chairman of the Ilkley Urban Council, Cr. J. M. Shelton, accompanied by Mrs. Shelton, and the Mayor of Coutances, M. Herve Troude, accompanied by his daughter, Mlle Françoise Troude, received representatives of local organisations, the Ilkley Coutance Committee, and those who were providing hospitality for the band. After being greeted by the two civic leaders guests were introduced by Cr. Bushell Chairman of the Ilkley Coutances Committee, and Mrs. Bushell to the delegate from Coutances.

Later in the evening the delegates were entertained to dinner by Cr. Shelton.

SUNDAY PARADE

On Sunday morning many people lined Brook Street and the Grove to see the band march to the Ilkley Cenotaph where a short concert in the presence of a large crowd preceded a service conducted by local clergy. Prayers were led by Canon P. E. McGee, Priest in Charge of the Church of the Sacred Heart, where members of the band had earlier attended morning mass, and by the Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. R. Cleland. Speaking first in French and then in English, the Pastor of the Ilkley Baptist Church, the Rev. G. H. Whittaker, gave a short address. Others taking part in the service were the Rev. L. Constantine, Ilkley Methodist Circuit Minister; the Rev. Tom Levesley, Vicar of St. Margaret's; the Rev. Michah Hopley, Ilkley Congregational Minister, and the Rev. D. Hayball, Curate of the Ilkley Parish Church.

Also on parade were the Ilkley police, Ilkley firemen, the Ilkley British Legion, Special Constables, Scouts and Cubs, Guides and Brownies. At the end of the service M. Troude and Cr. Shelton were conducted to the cenotaph by Cr. Bushell and Mr. E. E. Townsend and each placed a wreath. Mr. C. E. L. Ford was in charge of the parade proceedings.

The delegates were entertained to lunch by the Ilkley Rotary Club, and the members of the band

to a buffet lunch organised by the Council Chairman.

CONCERT

Commenting on King's Hall Concert by "L'Harmonie Municipale de Coutances our Music critic observes: Well, it was all very jolly, a splendid gesture by our French cousins, and thoroughly enjoyed by a crowded King's Hall! Some fifty musicians of all ages and including quite a few young people, shouldered the trouble, inconvenience and expense, in order to come and play to us on the occasion of the official municipal visit. Let it be recorded at once that Ilkley responded in full measure and entered excitedly into the spirit of the occasion. The streets had been crowded in the morning when the band had marched in full melodic blaze to the Memorial Gardens to play a short programme and take part in a memorial service.

The souvenir programme (and someone should be congratulated here on an excellent job) had told us what to expect at the evening concert and music lovers of all kinds had thronged to be present. It was a very gay King's Hall with summer dresses of all colours, the town of officials in full regalia to match the splendour of the Coutances delegation, a sprinkling of councillors, a group of Rotary Club officials and coffee laid on by the Concert Club. There were short speeches of welcome and appreciation and tremendous applause for all and everything. The National Anthems of France and Britain were duly played and Ilkley's own "anthem" came in for woodwind and brass treatment. We loved this, of course, but somehow we forgot to sing it (perhaps the slow tempo put us off) so it had to be repeated as an extra and this time we opened our lungs and

MILITARY BAND

And what of the concert? Well first let us understand that L'Harmonie de Coutances is not an orchestra but constituted on the lines of a military band. At the front we had wood wind of clarinets, flute, oboe, and saxophones. Behind were horns, trumpets, trombones and euphoniums and big bass drum. Raised on platforms and flanking each side were military band bugles and military side drums. All forces were used in several French military marches and it was in this kind of music the band was at its best. There was much to admire in the precision of attack, the accurate chording, and the punch given to the rhythm

by these extra military drums and bugles created an excitement which quickly spread to the audience. Of course some pieces were more successful than others—Spanish rhythms and jazz syncopations caused a little uneasiness and tired lips and lungs caused intonation to suffer as the programme advanced. But none of this really mattered to an audience which had gathered to enjoy the spirit of the occasion, rather than the crochets and the quavers. This was in all a splendid piece of real amateur music making—it was presented from the warmth of the French heart and received similarly by the Ilkley audience. The question now is how can Ilkley return such a marvellous musical gesture? C.W.B.

RE-AFFIRMATION OF LINKS

The business of the Council meeting on Monday night was interrupted for the Coutances delegates led by the Mayor to be officially received for the re-affirmation of the links between the two towns. Cr. Shelton introduced them individually and hoped they were enjoying their stay in Ilkley. He presented M. Troude with a paper knife to mark his visit.

Replying M. Troude said it was not without a certain emotion that he returned that evening to the Council Chamber, remembering that in October, 1969, he had the honour to receive the twinning charter made between their two towns.

"In May last year in the presence of Cr. Bushell the Municipal Council of Coutances for its part, as an official act, signed and sealed the twinning document in a sincere and lasting manner," said M. Troude.

"Today, we come to re-affirm the links between the two towns and our belief in the exchanges which have continued for twenty seven consecutive years. Also I wish to thank you for having invited me to this meeting of your Council. It is an honour of which I am very aware.

"I will be very careful to transmit to the inhabitants of Coutances your very kind words, and will not omit to make them fully aware of your warmth, and of your deep friendship; for my part I would like to express my great pleasure in assuring you of our sincere and warm friendship."

(Continued on Page Eight)

CLEARING THE SIGHT LINE



Work began this week on the demolition of the house at the bottom of Wheatley Lane to provide a new slip road for the Ben Rhydding traffic

22 OCTOBER 1971

29 OCTOBER 1971 LAST DAY OF MARKET



The market which has been held twice weekly in New Brook Street behind the Star Hotel for a great many years has been given notice that the area is required as a car park for the hotel. Tomorrow will be the last day the market is held here.

22 OCT 1971 ILKLEY MARKET TO MOVE DEALERS OFFERED GROVE SITE

Situated for over 30 years behind the Star Hotel, Ilkley's only open market is to be centred on a new site at the end of the month.

Mr. Alwyn Bleasby, of Hambleton, Selby, dealer in fresh fish, and Mr. Raymond Chester, of Baildon, greengrocer, have met two days a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays over the past 25 years to form the market.

Termination of their tenancy came as something of a blow for the two dealers who later appealed to Ilkley Urban Council to offer them a central site in order they might continue to give a service to their Ilkley customers. Both traders spoke affectionately of the happy association they had had with the Star Hotel and the Brewery over the years until recently when they were given four weeks notice terminating their tenancy.

Mr. Bleasby in his 23rd year of trading on the site understood there had been a recent decision to create a car park for customers on the land they now used for the market. "I would have thought that having had such long tenancies with the Brewery, Mr. Chester and myself might have been given longer notice," said Mr. Bleasby.

Mr. Raymond Chester whose family firm has been associated with Ilkley for about 35 years remembers quite clearly the times when Ilkley's open market was situated across the road on land behind the former Wheatsheaf Hotel.

The Council, it is understood, have offered both traders a site behind The Grove. This is situated in a yard alongside warehouses behind a firm of men's outfitters in property once occupied by Dinsdale's wine merchants. The only access to the yard is from a cobbled road from The Grove.

BECKEPPERS



A PICTURE OF THE PRESENT DENTON HALL

300th ANNIVERSARY

A FAMOUS SON OF WHARFEDALE

By Edwin Mitchell

Memories of the Fairfax family and Denton in Wharfedale are revived by the 300th anniversary of the death of Thomas, 3rd Lord Fairfax, born at Denton on January 17th, 1612, and died at Nun-appleton Hall, November 12th, 1671. That member of the famous family, known as Black Tom, and Commander-in-Chief of the Parliamentary Army, is perhaps the best remembered of the numerous male line of outstanding personalities who bore that name.

The first Fairfax to live at Denton was the 2nd Sir William, who married, in a romantic fashion, Isabel Thwaites, a great heiress and a nun at the Nunnery of Appleton, near Tadcaster. Sir William gained permission to take Isabel out of the Nunnery. The abbess, with both eyes on her fortune and estate, would not let her go, but the love sick Knight made a forcible entry to take his fair sweet-heart and gallop away to Bolton Percy Church to be married.

From this union came the long line of soldiers, scholars, poets and antiquarians, who made the name respected and honoured throughout the country and overseas.

It was poetic justice that when the Nunnery was dissolved by Henry VIII that the building and land were surrendered to the Fairfax family, who built Nun-appleton Hall where the monastic establishment had been.

Sir William died in 1557, at Denton, and a Thomas Fairfax—

grandfather of Black Tom, became owner of Denton Hall. In 1599, that Thomas died, and another Thomas took his place, this time Black Tom's grandfather.

During his ownership the family lived in considerable style, and many rules of conduct were laid down for the host of servants,



SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX

which included stewards, secretaries, yeomen-of-the chamber, butlers, clerk-of-kitchen, porter and chaplain. They had to say prayers at meal times and see that a chapel bell was rung a quarter of an hour before prayers. This was also a warning to the butler to see the food was ready but not to

serve. The porter, when the bell rung, was to shut and lock all gates and present himself and the keys at prayers.

After prayers were said, all gates must be opened, and the forms and "cousins" where the ladies sat must be moved.

Another regulation for servants said that after they had taken supper, they must repair again to the Dining Chamber and remove all stoles and to do all necessary jobs, not to depart before the best sort of stranger had taken their lodgings. Then the porter must lock the gates and keep the keys.

In the morning the servants must be in the hall by seven of the clock, the food to be served by eight of the clock, the ladies in the chambers, the gentlemen in the hall or parlour.

Prayers were at ten and dinner ready by eleven. After the highest guest had been served, the steward and chaplain could sit down in the hall and call to all who was not seated to sit with them. These included any gentleman who was not accommodated at the top table and "the servants of the strange Masters, according to degree."

The usher's job was important, for he had to attend the meat going to the tables, crying as he went "By your leave, my Masters", the same to be done when the second course was brought in. His job was also to see if bread or beer were wanting. If so, he was to call aloud at the bar "Breade and bear for the hall." It was the usher's responsibility to see all guests were seated in proper order and if "any unworthy fellow do sit himself down before his betters he must take him up and place him lower."

It seemed the best fashioned and appraised servants were above the "salt" (the stairs), the rest below.

If the servants were forced to speak, they must "wisper", for noise was uncivil, and no more than two should be absent at one time, and if they had for any reason to leave, they had to make haste.

All "sauces" were to be by the door in readiness, for, said the rules "even one message of mustard wanted would take a man's attendance from the table." The servants must keep a good eye on the "bord" for empty dishes, for the "bord" must not be left unfurnished.

Conditions for the "Cupber-Keeper" were as follows, "Let no man fill beere or wine but the cupber-Keeper, who must make choise of his glasses or cups for the Company, and must see he do not serve them hand-over-head. He must also know which be for beer, and which be for wine, for it were a foul thing to mix them together." "Once again, let me admonish silence, for it is the greatest part of civility."

During the Civil War, Prince Rupert lodged at Denton, before joining the Royalist Forces prior to Marston Moor. It is said that because of a fine painting of John Fairfax hanging in the hall he forbade any spoliation of the house or contents.

In 1716 the Hall at Denton passed from the Fairfax Family. It was destroyed by fire, and in 1734 another house was erected which suffered the same fate as the old one.

These two fires were said to be due to the carelessness of the servants, so when the owner commissioned John Carr of York to design a new house—the present one—he had a verse in Latin affixed to the front of the building. This, translated, reads as follows. "Nor Wrath of Jove, Nor Fire, Nor Sword, I Fervant Pray, May this Fair dome in Prostrate ruins lay."

Denton is famous in its own right, of course, for its antiquity; its well-known families, other than the Fairfax's, its position in lovely Wharfedale; and the reputation for clothes-making in the 14th century.

All these features are worthy subjects for the pen, but its crowning gem is no doubt Thomas, 3rd Lord Fairfax. The lustre shed by this man illuminates this part of Wharfedale, and time does not seem to have detracted from his good name, honoured by friend and foe alike in his day and generation.

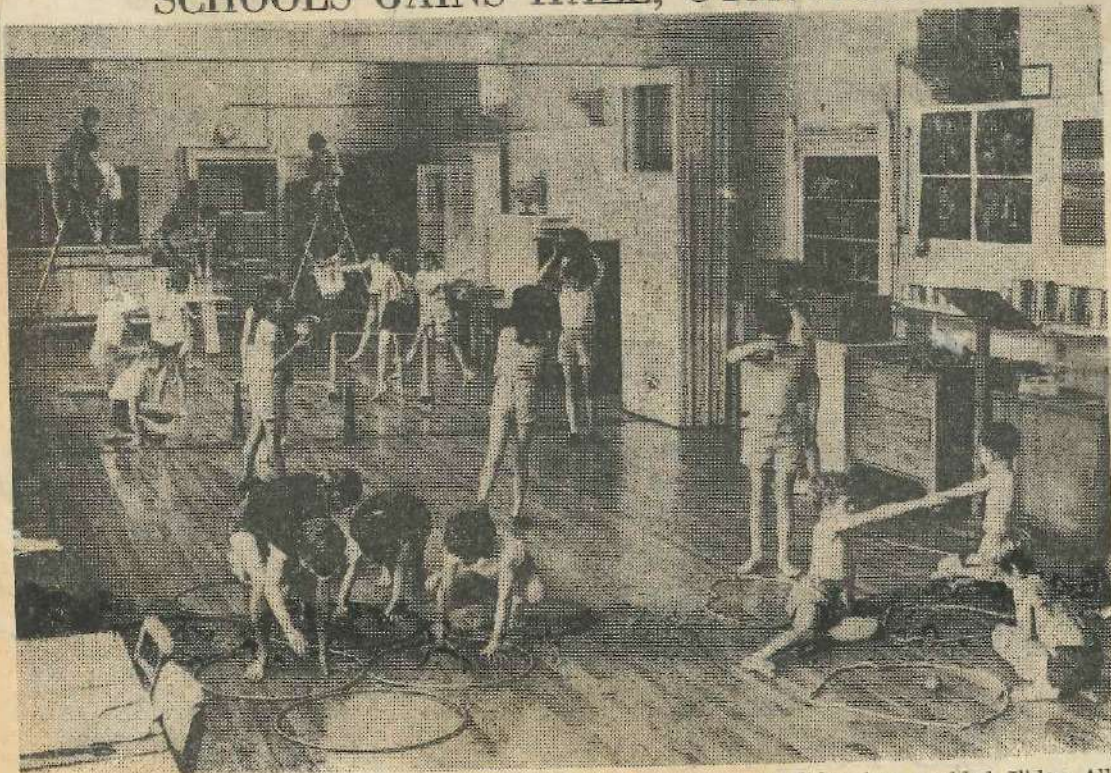
This 300th anniversary of his death will certainly pinpoint his greatness again and add to the lustre already there.

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SCHOOLS GAINS HALL, GYMNASIUM



Recent changes arising from the re-organisation of education in Ikley has enabled Ikley All Saints School to remove a partition and convert two classrooms into a hall and a gymnasium.

WHERE HAS THE ALL SAINTS SCHOOL CORNERSTONE GONE?

It was recorded in the Ikley Gazette in August, 1871, that after a service in the Parish Church, the Bishop of Ripon, his chaplain, local clergy and churchwardens moved in procession to the site in Leeds Road of the new Ikley Church of England National Schools. There the Bishop laid the stone in the usual manner after placing "in it" a bottle containing a parchment bearing details of the scheme and local newspapers. So far so good. A fairly substantial stone, you would think. Well, what has happened to it? A most careful search has failed to produce anything resembling a corner stone as part of the present building. It has been suggested that the playground renovations over the years has caused the stone to be hidden but there is no indication that the extra material has lifted the surface to an extent that a substantial stone would be covered completely. Suggestions or information would be welcome.

CELEBRATIONS

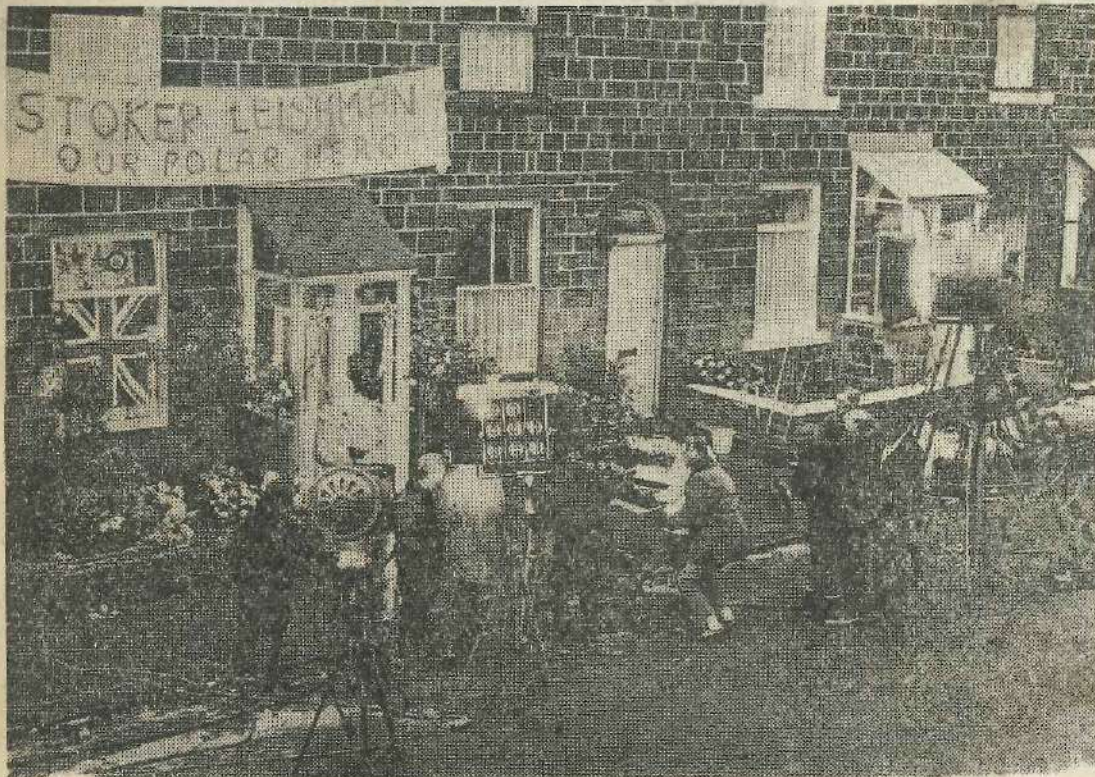
The centenary date will fall next year in the summer holidays and so the celebrations will take place in the month of July. Mr. A. O. Heslop and the staff are already making plans for the occasion. During the month of July it is hoped to present a display of items of historical interest connected with the schools during the last 100 years and also items illustrating the general happenings and various aspects of life in Ikley over the same period. Books, photographs, pictures, documents, accounts, records or articles of any kind of that period would be of great assistance. Mr. Heslop asks that anyone prepared to loan such items should get in touch with him or a member of the staff explaining what they have available. Personal experiences and memories would also be of interest. The greatest care will be taken of any articles loaned and they will, of course, be returned.

MORE DEMOLITION IN CAR PARK AREA



The demolition of other buildings in Back Grove Road close to the Car Park area has been completed recently.

5 NOVEMBER 1971



A film unit of the BBC visited Brewery Road, Ilkley, on Tuesday to film a scene from the play "Stoker Leishman's Diaries", which concerns an eccentric polar explorer who decides to publish his diaries some 50 years after the event. As the scene was supposed to have happened during the summer the film crew had first to remove the snow which had fallen during the night. They also provided plastic flowers and shrubs for the garden to give a summer appearance. The filming centred on No. 26 Brewery Road, the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Young, over which was a large banner proclaiming "Stoker Leishman, Our Polar Hero".

The play is one of a sextet of plays starring Billie Whitelaw and Ruth Dunning and will be screened early in the New Year on BBC2.

Brewery Road was chosen mainly because the greystone houses fit the play, which is set in a Northern town.

17 DEC 1971
**DUMMY BOARD
 IN MANOR HOUSE
 MUSEUM**

The usual question asked at the first introduction to a dummy board figure is "What was it used for?" A slight hesitancy on the part of the 'expert' before replying is excusable. For the use of a near life size cut out figure in wood, painted with a considerable degree of verisimilitude is not so obvious. Amoret and Christopher Scott who have written a book, called 'Dummy Board Figures' and a number of magazine articles, say "It was a very charming idea in 17th-century interior decoration. You painted, in oils, a full length life size portrait not on canvas, but on a broad wooden board. Then you cut carefully round the finished painting, the edges sloping away so that they could not be seen from the front. You fitted it with some sort of support . . . and put it among your furniture. It became a fire-board to stand in the empty fireplace in summer; or a door-porter; or just a silent companion. More than anything it became a huge joke to amuse your friends who would walk round a corner and suddenly come across a watchful figure standing quietly by the wall."

The dummy board in the Manor House museum, recently cleaned but still dulled by several layers of protective varnish is rather a subtle variation of the servant girl tradition of figure. A servant girl is seated in a high backed chair, sewing. The needle, point upwards is held beneath the hovering right hand of a 'gentleman' standing behind the chair and leaning forward and down so as to perhaps incline a few appropriate words into the girl's ear. Obviously we shall never know the gist of the gentleman's remarks but the poised needle and the Mona Lisa-ish, the cat that knows where the cream is, expression on the girl's extremely well painted face would seem to indicate that the answer was 'No.'

There may be about 150/200 dummy board figures in this country. They were first made in the Low Countries, probably towards the end of the 16th century the main period of production in England was between 1660 and 1710 (A. and C. Scott). The Manor House board which is painted on one piece of wood appears to be early 18th century — century by virtue of the costumes worn. The wood, by drying and contracting, has split but is still whole at one point. It is fitted with a loop of rope to hang from a wall and a foot so as to be freestanding.

It is hoped to have the board cleaned professionally, so that the greens and browns that constitute the colour scheme are as near to their original strength as possible. For the accumulated information regarding dummy boards which is available for inspection at the Museum, I am grateful to the Ilkley Librarian, Mrs. F. H. Bogue of Malton and Mrs. Benita Legg of Ben Rhydding Road, Ilkley.

A. KITCHING

NOTE.— It is believed the dummy board could have been part of the original Ilkley Museum and removed to the Depot with other articles. It did in fact turn up there some years ago after Mr. Kitching's attention was drawn to it.—Editor.

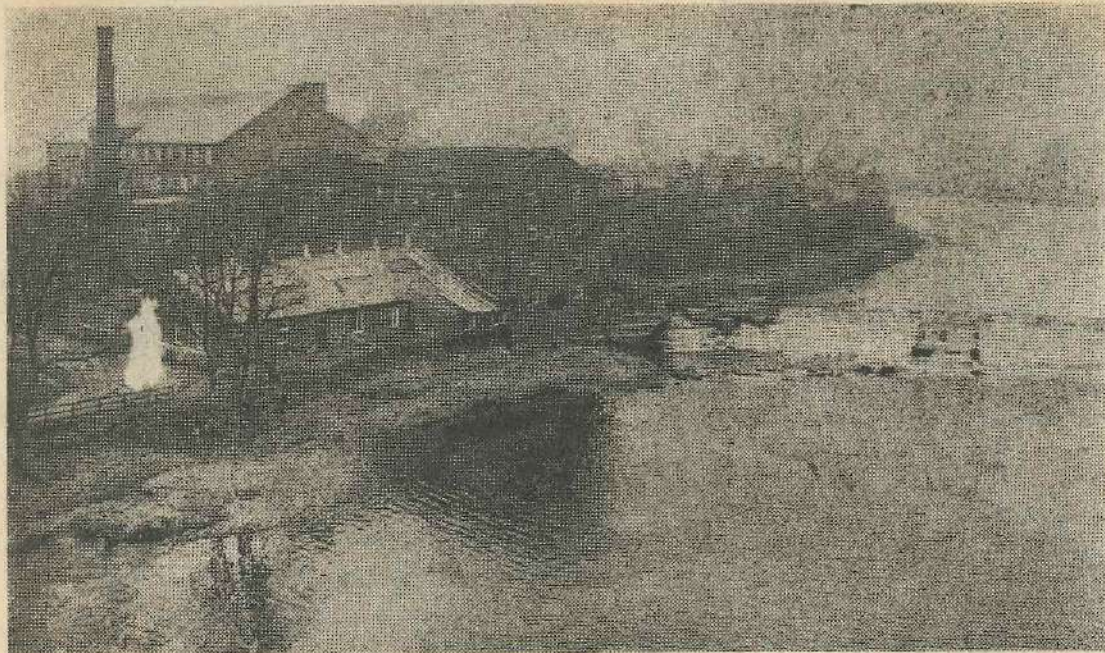
ROMAN TOMBSTONE OFFERED



Middleton Lodge has offered to let Ilkley Urban Council have a Roman tombstone which at present is deposited at Calvery to the rear of the Monastery. Pictured is Fr. Dominic with the tombstone.

31 DECEMBER 1971

ANOTHER ADDINGHAM MILL CLOSES DOWN



Addingham Low Mill on which demolition began last week is the sixth mill to close down in Addingham during the past 30 years. The change in Addingham's identity as a thriving textile community began about that time with the closure of Hill Mill which specialised in spinning and was sited along the River Wharfe further upstream from Low Mill.

About this time too came the closure of Burnside Mill in Main Street which dealt with yarn processing. Next in the list of casualties was the Wolseley Shed of Bolton, Emmott and Cockcroft Ltd., which closed down in Main Street over 20 years ago.

Another blow was dealt to Addingham about ten years ago when the general recession in textiles in Yorkshire and Lancashire brought the announcement that the firm of James Adams and Company, textile weavers, at Barcroft Shed

was having to close. Next in the line was Town Head Mill (weavers) in Main Street, owned by W. M. Watson and Co. Ltd., which closed its doors for the last time on weaving there.

One of the last to survive in the district Low Mill is said to be the second oldest worsted mill in England. It was built in the early part of the last century by John Cunliffe, an ancestor of Samuel Cunliffe Lister the first Lord Masham. Just before the outbreak of the Second World War a more

modern mill was built alongside it. The old mill is owned by Lister and Co. Ltd., of Manningham Mills, Bradford. The old mill was the scene of a serious Luddite riot in May, 1826, when workers barricaded themselves inside. When the Luddites attacked, a man was killed in the fighting.

Addingham was one of the first places in Yorkshire to have textile machinery installed in its mills.

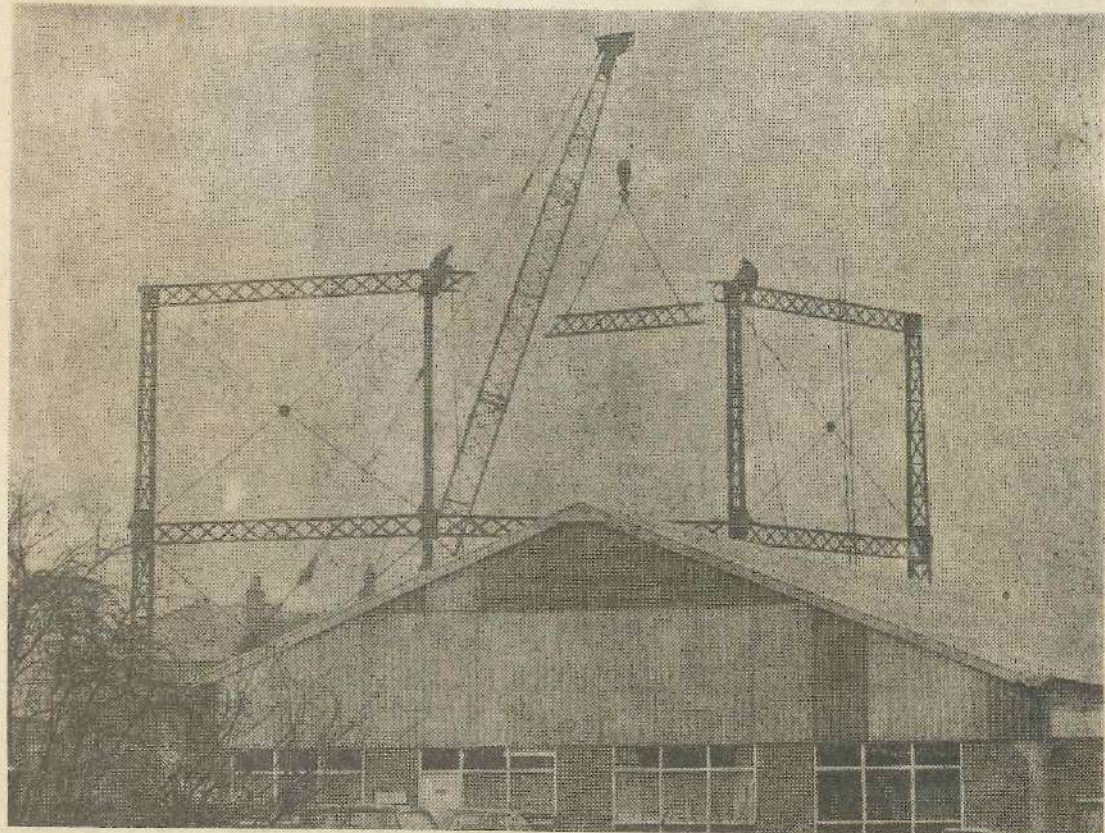
Picture illustrates part of Addingham Low Mill.

14 JAN. 1972

ILKLEY GAZETTE

14 JAN. 1972

GAS HOLDER COMING DOWN



Demolition is now taking place on the last of the three old gas holders in Leeds Road, Ilkley. Small by today's standards it was built in 1892 and had a capacity of holding a quarter of a million cubic feet of gas. The comparatively new holder at Ilkley, with a capacity of holding 850,000 cubic feet of gas, replaces the function of the all three installations and is essential to maintain the security of the supply to the Ilkley District. Work on the removal of the old holder is expected to be completed by early next month. It is also intended to demolish property fronting Lower Wellington Road which was once used as the Gas Works Manager's residence.

LINK WITH THE PAST TO GO



Property in Lower Wellington Road, Ilkley, which once housed the Manager of Ilkley Gas Works in the days when gas was manufactured on the site is another link with the past which is shortly to disappear. The property is to be demolished.

21 JAN. 1972

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25/2/72

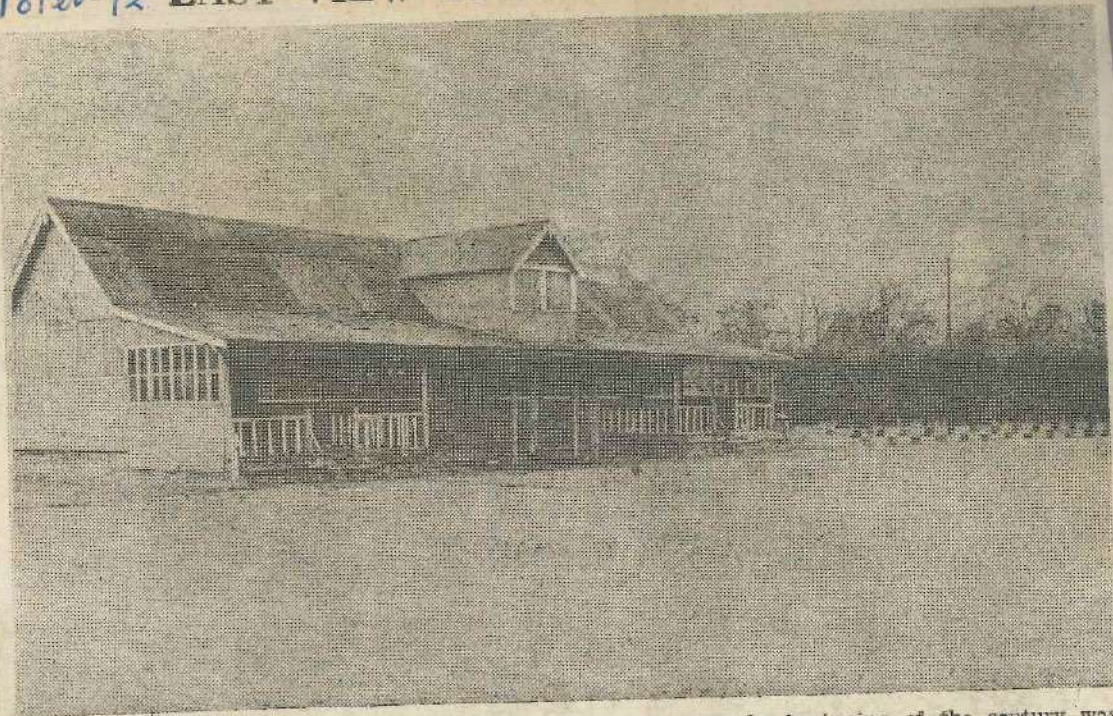
ILKLEY GAZETTE

THE OLD CATTLE POUND



Work in progress at the old cattle pound in Weston Road. The front wall has been removed, the floor of the pound is to be replaced, and the removal of other walls is under consideration.

18 Feb 72 LAST VIEW OF CRICKET PAVILION



Ilkley Cricket Club's pavilion which has served the club since the beginning of the century was pulled down last week-end. A new pavilion is to be erected nearer to the score box and on a site just to the right of this picture. At one time it was planned to be erected on the other side of the field, but the provision of various services would have added greatly to the cost. Then it was planned to be erected just to the side of the present site. This would have brought it within the maximum distance from the suggested by-pass and it has now been planned to be outside that distance.

ILKLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL MILITARY BAND, 1904



25/2/72

AIREDALE BEAGLES AT NETHERWOOD HOUSE

16/2/72



Airedale Beagles pictured at Netherwood House Farm, Ilkley, last Saturday. Tomorrow afternoon

Former Surveyors replied to Public Criticisms

11/71

100 Years Ago

Some of the criticisms at public meetings in connection with the Local Board election in January, 1871, brought speedy re-action from the two who held office as Surveyors to the Township in 1867-68 before the Local Board came into existence. Mr. Marshall Hainsworth and Mr. Thomas Robinson felt it necessary to give their side to comments which in these days would probably have brought those who made them to face actions for slander.

They said the inevitable conclusion to be reached from statements made at a public meeting and since frequently repeated was that "the surveyors for the two years named had been guilty of embezzling the ratepayers money, and that other officials had aided and abetted them in doing so by subsequently affirming that the statement in our books are correct."

The two Surveyors said when they took office in 1867 "the state of many of our highways was bad beyond description some of them being mere mud tracks. The axles of the stones carts passing down Cowpasture Road dragged for long distances over the mud, thus giving the road the appearance of having been rolled. The surface water from Craiglands gate flowed down the middle of the road to the top of Brook Street; the same state of affairs was permitted on Wells Road from Wells House road end to the junction with the other midway stream. The Bar Hill leading to Addingham, Bridge Lane, Wheatley Lane and Keighley Road from Crossbeck to the reservoir were almost impassable. The ballast used in regrading those several portions of road, together with the completion of the Brook Street improvements, must be estimated not by hundreds but by thousands of cart loads."

After giving details of work accomplished and costs, the two ex-Surveyors said "the traffic on the roads during our term of office was heavier than at any time either before or since. There was a daily average of 25 carts leading material from the moor. During the years 1867-68 the bulk of limestone used on the Burley, Menstone, and Otley roads was carted through this township from Draughton. This brought an average of eighteen heavily laden carts over the low road almost daily during the winter season. But in consequence of the building material being now brought by rail there has not been one-third of that number passing over the upper roads during the two years of the Boards Management."

75 Years Ago

Improvements to the Riddings were in progress at Ilkley in January, 1896. New turnstiles were being provided and trenching and draining work in progress. The Council, reporting this, also referred to the need for the replacement of trees in the moor plantations and the provision of fencing

around those plantations. To repair a landslip in the plantation near Backstone Beck Bridge it was agreed that willow sets be obtained from the sewage works. Altogether it seemed that 1,636 trees would be required to be planted or to replace the number dead in the various plantations.

50 Years Ago

At the Winter Garden in January, 1921, children of the members of the Ilkley Chamber of Trade were entertained in a seasonal fashion. There were nearly 100 children aged between 4½ years and twelve years. They were first of all served with tea, then there was a programme of games and dancing. To crown the whole event, Father Christmas was drawn into the room, amid clamorous ringing of bells, on a sleigh piled high with parcels for each child. The presents were handed out by Mrs. T. A. Hartley, the wife of the President of the Chamber and Chairman of the Social Section.

At the end, Mary Bolton made a presentation to Father Christmas on behalf of the children. On leaving, each child received a bag containing sweets, oranges and apples.

The treat was organised by the Social Section of the Chamber. Miss Holroyd, Miss Hall, and Miss Powlson (of the staff of the Ilkley National Schools), Mrs. Kaberry and Mrs. W. H. Tomlinson controlled the games, and the catering was efficiently carried out under the supervision of a specially appointed ladies committee.

For members and friends of the Chamber, there was a dance and whist drive, when a company of over 200 were present. Prize-winners at the whist were—Ladies—Mrs. E. S. Earnshaw, Miss Farrar, Miss Hall, Mrs. Ferrard. Gentlemen—Mr. G. Mott, Mrs. Dawson, Mr. G. C. Tennant, Miss Patman. Two special "travelling prizes" were won by Mr. Walmsley and Mr. Tasker. Towards the close, the president, Mr. T. A. Hartley, on behalf of the Social Section, expressed thanks to all who contributed to the social evening, with generous gifts of able assistance.

"Miss Audrey Sykes, daughter of Mr. J. Sykes, Ben Rhydding, has passed the higher division of the Royal College of Music, sitting at the Harrogate Centre in November. This is the third examination she has passed in twelve months. Constance Woodcock passed the primary examination at the same time. Both are pupils of Mr. A. Beaumont, organist of St. Marys Church Harrogate, and formerly organist of Ben Rhydding Parish Church," said the Gazette.

25 Years Ago

Miss Audrey Wade, aged eight, passed the Preliminary Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music gaining 89 points out of a possible 99. She was a pupil of Miss F. James of St. Johns Road, Ben Rhydding.

Mr. C. F. Pyett of Ben Rhydding was re-elected as director of the Bradford Permanent Building Society for a further three years. Mr. Pyett took a prominent part in Ilkley's public affairs, and had been Chairman of the Urban District Council, the Grammar School Governors, the Operatic Society and a member of such committees as those dealing with Old Age Pensions and the Coronation Hospital.

The last meeting of Addingham Knitting Circle was held at the home of Mrs. Lumley, chairman of the Circle, Syke House Farm. The Circle have knitted over 3,000 garments for Addingham Servicemen and Women, sent over 500 articles to occupied lands raised £1,030 by house-to-house collections whist drives, dances and gifts, and spent it in sending Christmas gifts, and also started a Village Hall Fund for which they have over £800 in hand.

A DELIGHTFUL WALK FOR SPRING

"THE OBSERVER"

By C. N. Franklin

26/5/72

The route covered in this article is—I am told—one that was extremely popular in the days when Leeds blazed a trail, with their public transport providing the best value in tram-rides anywhere in the country.

In those days it cost just a few pence to travel from the centre of Leeds to White Cross, providing people with a cheap means of reaching the "distant" countryside. The people of Leeds were not slow to respond, and flocked to their hundreds each weekend to walk the moors and cleanse their lungs in the freshness of the country air.

Those days of cheap public transport have, alas, gone for good, and you are not likely to encounter hundreds of people on this walk today. However, the walk is just as attractive now as it was then, full of variety and contrast, and anyone doing it should feel just as refreshed and renewed at the end of it as did those "Leeds Loiners" of bygone years. The walk starts at Guiseley White Cross, traverses a part of Rombalds Moor, and finishes at Burley-in-Wharfedale or Menston.

Before starting the actual walk you may possibly like to have a look at a monument to those pioneering tram days at White Cross. The original huge tram shed still stands, now restored to what must be something like its former glory by the technique of "sand blasting," the building's original role in life proudly proclaimed by the legend "Leeds City Tramways" to be found high on one wall.

Good Views

Our walk starts at Thorpe Lane, next to the Telephone Exchange. Walk up the lane, and just past where the road turns right look for a farm lane leading in on your right. Continue on this lightly metalled farm road and go through a green gate stile which you will see on your left, just past a metal five-bar gate. The clearly defined track, which can be somewhat muddy in parts, seems to climb slightly before veering to the right in the distance.

As you walk through rich pasture and grazing land there are good views across to West Chevin and to the far side of the Wharfe Valley on your right. The tower on the distant skyline is the Post Office Radio Communication tower at Hunters Stone. The smaller single mast is the Lower Wharfe Valley Television Relay Station at Clifton. In the foreground stretch the extensive well-kept grounds of Menston Highroyds Hospital.

Shortly after going through another metal bar gate, and passing ruined farm buildings to the right, the path divides. Take the left-hand track, which climbs gently towards gorse bushes dotted across the hillside—each clump now a vivid blaze of gold. Lambs bleating in the fields to your right complete an image of pastoral beauty, tranquility and charm. As we walk, the views down the Wharfe Valley open out. An obvious reference point is Almscliffe Crag—which, to be honest looks something like an outside back tooth from this angle—dominating the distant skyline.

Contrasts

Another ruined farm building on the right is passed, and as we turn a bend in the track our views open out on the other side, across to Baildon Moor on our left and a distant hump on the skyline ahead indicating Rombalds Moor.

Soon now a road is reached, where we turn right, then left, through a foot stile at the side of a five-bar wooden gate. The track follows the line of the wall on your left. The panorama unfolds further as we walk, with good views across to Bradford and the industrial West Riding, to the left and behind us. Truly a walk of contrasts.

On reaching the far side of the field we are now in, the path veers right. Go through a stile on your left, just beyond where the path veers. The track on the far side is well footworn, but take care, as the ground is somewhat marshy in parts.

This track follows the general line of the wall to the left, though always keeping a good few yards away from the wall here. The stone wall finishes, and a wire fence takes its place. We are looking down on Rombalds Water Board's Reva Reservoir, complete with gay sailing boats and a boating house.

Following a broader track now we soon reach a road, where we turn left. As you walk down this road and draw level with the tongue of the reservoir reaching towards the road, look to the left

of a power pylon situated on the far side of the reservoir. In the distance, on a good clear day, can be seen the slender pencil shape of the Emley Moor Television Mast, reaching to the sky some twenty miles away.

Rifle Range area

The road drops into a trough, and here, at Gaping Goose Farm, we turn right through a stile onto Rombalds Moor. A public footpath sign clearly points the way. On the wall of a farm building to the right you can see an older faded notice which proclaims "Footpath to Burley and Ilkley." The rather boggy track follows a wall side, the path of our progress probably now being carefully observed by moorland curlews and pewitts circling overhead.

There are other paths across the moor but our walk follows the track that hugs the wall side. Soon we approach the rifle range area, keeping a wary eye open for a red flag that may be flying to indicate that the moorland range is in use. Our walk keeps clear of the actual range area, but a track to Ilkley crosses the range. This track cannot be used when firing is in progress.

Keeping straight on, we reach a public footpath notice that can be seen just over a moorland boundary wall, on the Menston side of the moor ahead. Cross the wall and veer left. Soon, over another wall, two more footpath signs are seen. Follow the line indicated by the far one, down the hillside. A number of cottages soon come into view and another sign at the side of a wall to your left. On reaching this sign turn left off the moor through a small five bar wooden gate.

Woodhead

A delightful ancient track now winds its way down between high stone walls, banked with hawthorn blackthorn and holly bushes, to join a splendid clear stream that comes gurgling from the moor top. Turning right when a farm road is joined we soon reach the Burley Woodhead road.

Cross the Woodhead road and go through a stile directly ahead, which is to the left of a drive gate. Walking down the pleasant drive, look at the tall old buildings to the right, once the homes of the people who worked in the 18th century mill, now just a ruin further down the gorge. The path turns left off the drive and goes between privet hedges to cross the gorge stream by a concrete footbridge. Turn right when across the bridge, and follow the clear track down.

Looking to the right we pass the haunting ruins of the old mill and its dam. Nature has done her healing work well, and large trees now grow where once the mill buildings stood. Man's hand is still in evidence in the shape of a solitary mill chimney and some rusting iron work, but the final outcome in the battle between man and nature in this little, forgotten corner cannot be in doubt. In not so many years from now, perhaps the only evidence of man's attention will be the odd shape of the pool in the stream's path.

Wooded Glen

The path continues down a delightful wooded glen, carpeted with bluebells now. If rain has fallen recently we walk to the accompaniment of music from the stream, as it weaves and dances its way between the rocks.

Coming out of the glen, we join the Menston-Woodhead track, where we turn left for Burley. If you wish to finish your walk at Menston, turn right and walk up Bleach Mill Lane into Menston Main Street. The Burley route leads into Hag Farm approach road, where we turn right, and

follow the road down until Moor Lane is reached, where we turn right, soon reaching the village centre.

If you have parked your car at Guiseley there are good transport facilities back there from Burley.

* * *

The walk as described is not at all strenuous and can be very comfortably done in three hours. Variations can be made, especially on the moor route. If you are new to the district I can recommend the walk as a good introduction to some delightful walking country hereabouts, but if this is the case, I would strongly suggest that you follow the details carefully. Do the walk the way round suggested, and when you know the route do it in the reverse direction. You will be surprised how different it seems. There is at least one advantage doing it that way—you finish up at a certain noted fish and chip establishment. And you know how hunger-making country walking can be!

On the map

ACCEPTANCE of over 60 recommendations from local authorities for changes in the Government's draft proposals for the reorganisation of local government have resulted in major alterations to county boundaries and important concessions in the administration of functions. The Bill will bring rejoicing in some areas, such as Harrogate, Knaresborough and Skipton, which have succeeded in divorcing themselves from the West Yorkshire metropolitan county, and disappointment to many others, such as the parishes of Wetherby, Boston Spa, Sicklinghall and Arthington, whose hopes of escaping the metropolitan embrace have been dashed. Creation of a new Humberside county, including the present East Riding and Hull, the South Humberside area of Lincolnshire, and Grimsby and Scunthorpe, is another outstanding departure from the White Paper, reflecting the general aim to draw the new boundaries more tightly and compactly than in the draft proposals.

The North Yorkshire county is an exception. Eagerness to join this authority has created one of the largest counties in the country and one which could have administrative disadvantages. As now proposed, the county embraces Selby in the south, takes in Nidderdale and Settle in the north-west (although losing Sedburgh to Cumbria) and a large part of Wharfedale, and retains most of the present North Riding county area, apart from the slice, including Whitby, which goes into Teesside.



Much of this area has a rural affinity which its inhabitants clearly believe will receive more sympathetic treatment from Northallerton — if that remains the county headquarters — than it might get from a metropolitan area with a predominantly industrial bias. How this and other non-metropolitan counties will be split up into districts still has to be decided by the newly-appointed Boundary Commissions. These bodies, established on a permanent basis, must get down to detailed work quickly, and it is now proposed that they should use the less formal method of local conferences instead of public inquiries, to meet the deadline of April 1, 1974, when the present system of local government comes to an end and the new county and district councils take over.

The Bill signals the abandonment of ancient names like the Yorkshire Ridings, and places upon the Boundary Commissions the responsibility of finding names for the new districts with local help. As all existing boroughs will cease to exist on the appointed day, district councils must apply for a royal charter of incorporation if they wish to maintain the traditional attributes and dignities of their former status. It is a pity that ancient charters could not be continued without this formality, but most local authorities can be relied upon to make sure

that the offices of Mayor and Lord Mayor are not lost.

Another important change is the proposal to exclude aldermen from the new councils. The aldermanic system has many points in its favour, but it is open to abuses which pay scant regard to the wishes of the local electorate. One of these is the filling of aldermanic vacancies from the ranks of candidates defeated at the council elections and also from those who have not faced any election. All members of the new councils must seek re-election after four years under the Bill, and the title of alderman will be retained only as an honorary acknowledgement of eminent service without carrying any responsibilities or powers. In the move towards streamlining and general improvement in efficiency, this seems to be an acceptable proposal, and there is justification also for the proposal that county and district councillors should be able to claim a flat rate attendance allowance as of right on the performance of council business. Those who wish to continue service on the present basis will still be able to do so.

Mr. Walker, Secretary of State for the Environment, can be commended for meeting the general demand that district councils should be allowed wider powers than originally drafted in the White Paper. The Bill gives them more scope to make their own arrangements for the discharge of functions, either on their own or by arrangement with any other authority. Greater emphasis is placed, rightly, on the district responsibility for the environment and it is now accepted that district authorities in general should have the opportunity to frame their own local plans. The Bill shows that the Government has kept its promise on consultation. Mr. Walker has gone a long way towards meeting local representations, and can claim that despite the great upheaval involved in the immediate future the reforms will work if there is good will on all sides.

YORKSHIRE POST

LEEDS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5 1971

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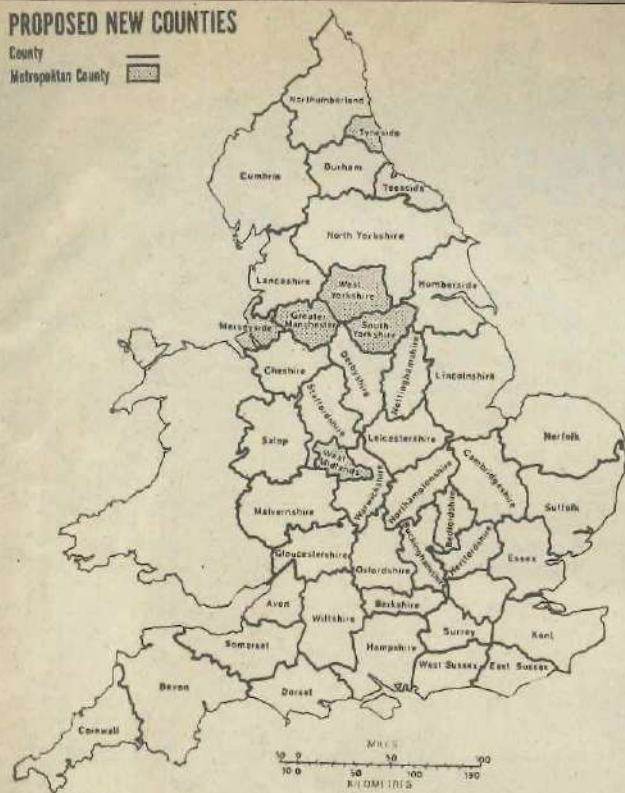
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PROPOSED NEW COUNTIES

County
Metropolitan County



The new look for England

THE Government is making big claims for its local government reform plans — one of the most massive pieces of legislation introduced by any government for many years.

Wholesale changes in England and Wales are proposed in yesterday's Local Government Bill.

It is said to be the first major reform of local government since the end of the last century, and could be the last for 70 years.

The Bill implements the major reforms proposed in

a White Paper published in February and ends the system of single-tier county boroughs and two-tier administrative counties and county districts.

Those areas and their councils will cease to exist on April 1, 1974. In their place will be a new pattern of local government based on two levels of operational authorities — counties and districts.

Forty-four new counties are proposed, including six metropolitan counties in predominantly urban areas.

The intention is to get the Bill on the Statute Book as quickly as possible. So many managerial problems will have to be worked out by the newly-constructed authorities that the sooner a start can be made the better.

The new authorities will be elected in 1973 and take up their duties the following spring.

One of the main effects of the changes on education will be to reduce the number of local education authorities from 163 to about 100.

'Battle of Bulge' victory

By **RAYMOND GLEDHILL**,
Local Government
Correspondent

MANY RURAL areas in Yorkshire which have fought relentlessly not to be linked with big towns and cities have won the Battle of the Bulge.

Their territorial victory was declared yesterday when the Bill to implement local government reform — the biggest shake-up in town halls for over a century — was presented to Parliament.

It displays clearly that notice has been taken of the little man's views... that "Big Brother's" wish to swallow up large tracts of countryside virtually has

Reginald Brace's view
of American sport will
appear tomorrow.

been rejected... and that the Government has kept its promise to make wholesale changes from the White Paper proposals on reorganisation.

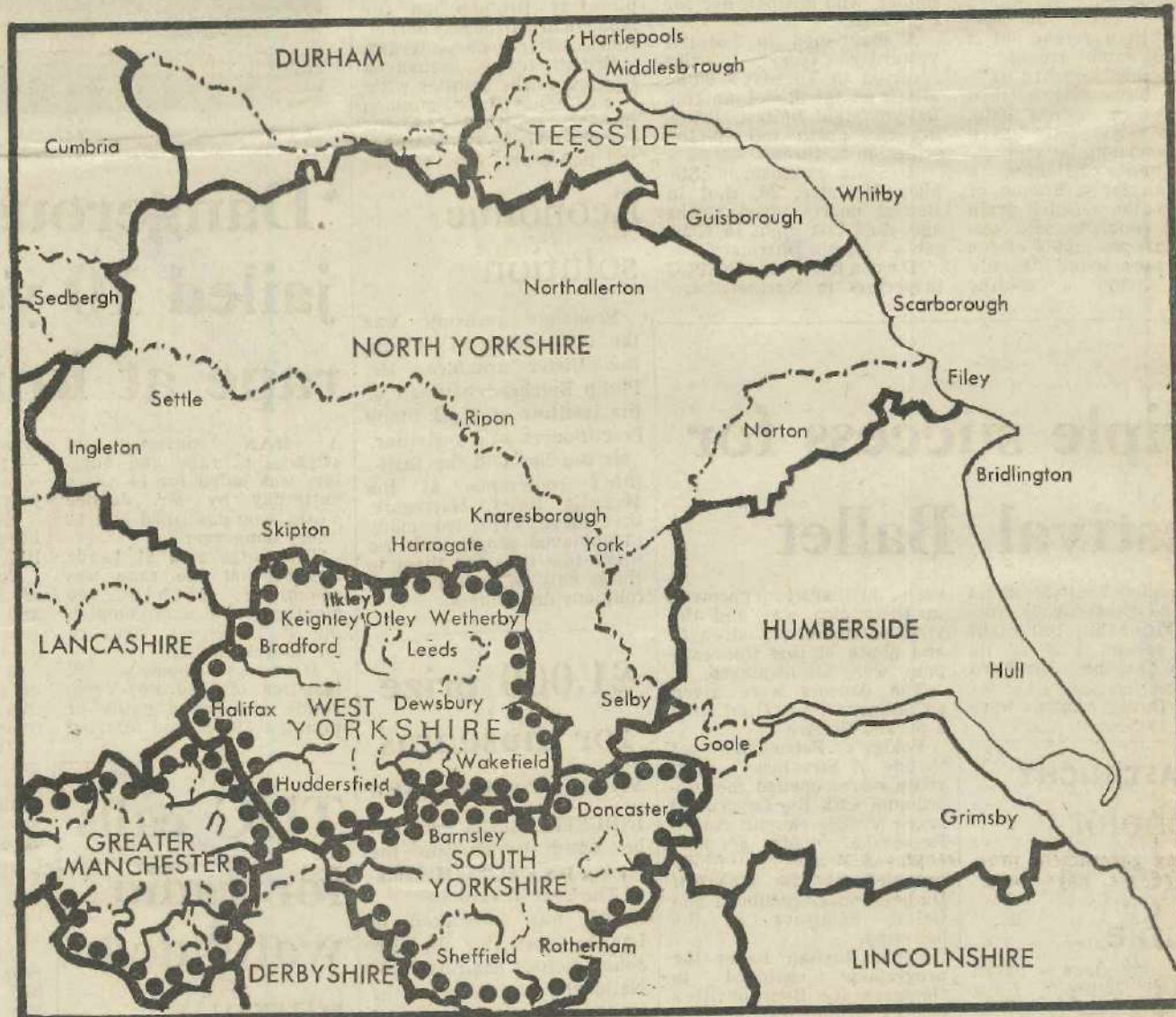
The plan to create metropolitan county areas in West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire remains, but their boundaries are drawn more tightly, notably excluding Harrogate and some of its neighbours from West Yorkshire.

Another substantial departure from the Government's draft proposals is the intention to create a new Humberside county.

This will include approximately the present East Riding and Hull, to which will be added a large slice of the South Humberside area of Lincolnshire, taking in Grimsby and Scunthorpe.

Although many of them affect only small areas, the Government has accepted over 60 proposals for changes from local authorities in England and Wales.

It gives the lie to sceptics who suggested that Mr. Peter Walker, the Environment Minister, would not budge from the White Paper, and was merely paying lip service to democracy by hold-



ing talks with local authorities which strongly disputed the suggested boundaries.

There is little doubt that the Yorkshire tour by Mr. Graham Page, Minister for Local Government and Development, of the greater Wharfedale area and other parts of the West Riding from which fervent objections had been made, sealed the victory most of them have gained.

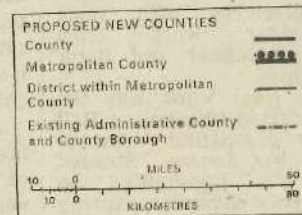
That Harrogate borough, Knaresborough urban district and much of Nidderdale have escaped being enmeshed in the net of the Leeds metropolitan district, and go instead into the new North Yorkshire county, is a fight won by rifles against

the big guns in West Yorkshire.

The "Big Six" county boroughs of Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, Dewsbury and Wakefield, all of which are absorbed into the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County, all made it plain that they accepted this if outlying rural areas such as Harrogate, Ilkley, Skipton and Wharfedale were included in the new county.

It was unrealistic, they claimed, to place these areas into an already over-sized North Riding (now North Yorkshire) stretching from the East Coast almost to the Lancashire border.

The Government makes



certain concessions to that view, and also to its own policy of marrying town and country, by rejecting the strong claims that all their areas should go into North Yorkshire from Ilkley, Silsden, and Otley urban councils and Wetherby, Tadcaster and Wharfedale rural councils.

Instead, Ilkley and Silsden remain linked with Bradford and parts of the other rural districts join Leeds in districts of the West Yorkshire metropolitan area.

Perhaps it was the petition with about 18,000 signatures of people of voting age in Harrogate, Knaresborough and Nidderdale, pleading with Mr. Walker to keep them out of the Leeds Metropolitan District, which finally tipped the scales in their favour.

The weight of objection registered at Morley (population 45,000) against being merged into the Leeds dis-

(Continued on facing page)