

AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Issue 4 January 1994

Hereford Lore, P.O. Box 87, Hereford, HR4 9XS

Coronation Day



Welcome all our readers to the New Year. We hope and trust that it will be a very happy and peaceful one.

Many years ago it was the custom or tradition for a boy preferably with dark hair to carry a piece of coal to his neighbour's house, wish them good luck and step over the door-step, when he hopefully received a penny or two.

As the years pass by life has become much more easier in many ways with all the modern facilities, but sadly there is also much worry and stress for so many people. On seeing the recent fall of snow I was reminded of my childhood days, walking to school with old socks over my shoes to keep my feet dry and walking in the tracks of cartwheels. We had no such things as wellington boots. Those were happy and carefree days, but then that was nearly eighty years ago; life now is so much easier and better in many ways or is it? How times have changed.

Best wishes for a happy year to all our readers.

Christmas Quiz

Many of our readers responded to the puzzle picture in our last edition. As **Irene Woodhouse**, who used to live in Bath Street but now lives in Hinton, pointed out, it was the old soup kitchen on the corner of Delacy Street, "where the houses were kept mainly for police men to live in. I remember the first police house - Sergeant Hadley lived there. We enjoyed the 2d worth of soup and I recall seeing the tramps and gypsies go in and sit down on long benches and have 1d slice of bread and bowl of soup." Mrs E.M. Lloyd from Llancloudy, born in Hereford in 1907, also remembered it and the Bowers Building Yard nearby. "Another building that was pulled down was the Judge's Lodgings, in High Town where the Odeon stood."

Mrs Pressing (I hope we've read your name correctly) from Ledbury also wrote in with the right answer and adds that the fire station was situated on the opposite side of the street at the Gaol Street corner. "Two buildings long since gone are the Kemble Theatre, Broad Street and the Hop Sorting office where, as one passed by, one was aware of an acrid smell," she writes.

Mrs B.A. Goodfield of College Hill, Hereford responded to our Where were you in '47. She was there! Then Brenda Lewis, she and her sister Rosemary are third and fourth from the right in the second row from the front and her brother Dennis is on the right end of the row from behind.

God Save The King! Children and school workers are photographed outside Lord Scudamore School for the coronation of King George VI in 1937. The picture belongs to Mrs Inez Snowzell who came to Hereford in 1941 (as Miss Harris) to work at the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF). Four years on she married Alfred Snowzell who also worked at the ROF after being invalided out of the Royal Air Force in 1944.

There is a plaque in the Town

Hall in memory of his brother George, killed at Caen in 1944. The Snowzell family came from Friar Street. Their father Benjamin, born there in 1875, was a lamp-lighter who died as a result of an accident.

Ellen Snowzell, born at Friar Street in 1906 was given a Deans Medal at

Scudamore School - several children in the Scudamore school photograph pictured above are sporting prominent medals. Were these Deans Medals? What were they? Can anyone shed any light on this?



Our next issue of Age to Age will be out in March. Copies are available from the City and Belmont Libraries, Hereford Tourist Information Centre, The City Environment Department at Garrick House and Age Concern, Berrows House Bath Street

Hereford Lore Editorial Group are Alf Evans, Edith Gammage, Roy Kennett, Jim Thomas, Vi Thomas, Vi Woolaway and Tom Woolaway. We are grateful for the support of:



Hereford City Council
Supporting the Arts



WHAT DID WE DO BEFORE



Kinema

*I remember remember
The house where I was born,
The Little meadow where the sun
Came peeping in at morn.
He never came a wink too soon
Nor brought too long a day
But now I often wish the night
Had born my breath away.*

This poem was one our dear old dad used to recite to us while in our bed at night writes **Douglas Parsons** from Waddington, Lincolnshire.

Memories go back and am a little boy of five or six years. There is the Kinema in St Owens's Street managed by Mr Butterworth who used to give we kids a comic each as we paid our 2d entrance fee. As am eighty now this must have been at least 70 years ago. I still remember the stars of those silent screen days Eddy Polo and Elmo Lincoln, strong men, Charlie Chaplin in the Trenches and the floating candle stick.

There was the other cinema, the Palladium in Berrington Street. They were all a good two pennyworth. The cheapest seats at night were 5d, then 8d, then 1s 3d. And faggots and peas from the shop round the back by the church forget its name.

What about the Garrick in Widemarsh Street named after David Garrick, the great actor? And don't forget the Kemble Theatre opposite the General Post Office in Broad Street

remember remember celebrations of the ending of the first world war when St Peters Square was being decorated with a long line of bunting across the square and the tall chimney of a steam engine breaking it down.

I am a Tupsley man and shall always remember our beloved policeman, George Penry he caught me once when I was scrumping apples. Coming up to me he said: 'Now then young Parsons, what is your name?' We kids loved Mr Penry loved him as a father and I remember the tears running down his cheeks as he made his speech of thanks on receiving his present from the parish.

Douglas' recollections were accompanied by a note: "Maybe am off key but you have set my brain box turning. If this is not exactly your horn of cider kindly let me know and I will endeavour to redirect my sign post" No Mr Parsons, this evocative horn of cider is a veritable hog'shead: tell us more.

Ladies Underwear

According to **John Burgoyne** Hereford's entertainment ranged from Kemble Theatre in Broad Street "the top notch one" down to the cinema in St Owens Street where the laundrette now stands. "It went back a bit more than what the laundrette does, because it took in their back room," he explained. But the films and shows did not meet with everyone's approval.

Mrs Stinton of Whitecross Road has passed on to us her husband William's recollections of Curly Wallis, a local solicitor and town councillor

"Living in the early 1900s he was very Victorian and very much against any form of obscene literature or semi-naked bodies. Very often the manager of the Kemble Theatre would be ticked off if some of the bill posters in various parts of the city were too bizarre. Sometimes local drapers shops would display certain ladies' underwear in their shop windows and then get someone to inform Curly about it and, as he was approaching they would drop the blinds or cover the offending articles. Lo and behold there would be a question in the paper run by Jack Nolan such as 'Who was the councillor seen looking at the ladies' underwear?'

"If the snow and slush was not cleared away by shop owners, Curly would get the police on the job.

"He once gave me two invitations to go to a chapel in Bridge Street and hear Gypsy Smith. Much to my mother's annoyance (she was a big church woman) went and I never regretted it as Gypsy Smith inspired me with the things he was doing for the soldiers and sailors in the way of making money collections to provide tea and sandwiches during the 1914-1918 war

"Another of his pet things was fire fighting equipment and every evening a telescopic ladder on two wooden wheels would be drawn into High Town by the police. The ladder was for use if needed, to run up to windows in case of fire at Greenlands, Kings, Edwards' and others who employed large numbers of girls and ladies who lived over the shop premises."

Orchard House

The Hereford Lore group have visited and talked to people in several residential homes recently including Drybridge House in Saint Martins Street and more recently Orchard House at Withington. Here we were heartened by the encouraging words of **Gilbert Smith**, who joined the Citizen and Bulletin as a reporter in 1927 and later edited a Kidderminster newspaper

TELEVISION?



● The cast of *Highwayman Love* on stage at St Martin's Hall over fifty years ago. Both *Highwayman Love* and *Don Quixote* ("Orchestra and Chorus of over 80 Performers", boasted the bill poster) were performed by St Martin's Operatic Society around 1937 and 1938. The picture, taken by the Hereford Times, was loaned by one of the performers. The shows' director was Godfrey Davies, born in 1899 and the founder member of the Hereford Y.M.C.A. orchestra and a member of the Bon Optimist Concert Party and Christy Minstrels. He composed songs, many of local interest including *Hereford Fayre* and *Red Uns with White Faces*. Our reporter Roy Kennett has managed to find several of the performers including Bill Griffiths, Violet Williams, Susie Lotts and Arthur Ford. But, he asks, there may be others who can identify themselves with these productions; if so, please contact Hereford Lore our address is on page one.

He remembered sitting an hour long exam for the then editor of the Citizen, R.E. Abbott in offices at the back of Maylord Orchards. "In those days if you had a typewriter in the office you thought the newspaper was rich." Casting his expert eye over our publication he judged it "pretty good." And his advice is as relevant to us as it is to our readers: "If you have a story worth telling, write it down and send it in."

Vi Thomas, Tom Woolaway and Vi Woolaway talked to other residents. There was Kathryn Carpenter, who in her late eighties has lost her sight Kathryn's parents used to keep The Laurels Guest House in Park Street where she helped look after the paying guests. Then there was Silvia Mathews, awarded free milk by Bartonsham Dairies for being their longest serving customer. (Sadly Sylvia died in late December).

Phyllis Jones, now 85 was born in Hay but spent her life farming in Herefordshire while Margaret Boalch who is 90, lived in Herefordshire for 50 years. She and her husband Ted, who worked at the Tile Works and was a firewatcher during the war, had a cottage at Clatter Park. Phyllis worked on Dean Dent's Farm. When she first moved there she says, people treated her like a foreigner!

The Orchard House residents recently fought a long and mutually successful battle to save their home from closure. Now they are waiting to see who will run Orchard House when as a cost saving exercise by the local authority it is passed into private management next year

Bullies

Many of our readers live in residential care homes and one Geoffrey Price from Burton Lodge in Whitecross Road, found himself in a reminiscent mood while recovering from an illness. He had the unfortunate experience of being bullied both at school (by one of the masters) and later when he started work as a junior clerk in Hereford. "I stuck to the job although I hated it at first. But there were so many unemployed it would have been very hard for me to get another one. My experience of being bullied led me to believe that bullies usually suffered from an inferiority complex."

Eventually the office bully left and Geoffrey continued working for the company for 48 years, broken only by a spell in the RAF during the war.

Geoffrey Price recalled two other amusing incidents from his Hereford past. One day he was talking to his old science master who had called at the office. "We chatted about old times and asked him if he remembered the High School Sports Day when a pupil racing in the 100 yards, won in an astonishing time of 9.2

"What on earth did people do before television or radio?" Well, they didn't sit at home and stare at the Tilley lamp. There was live music and theatre and at least three cinemas to choose from. In this issue we look at Hereford's entertainments in times gone by

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Grand Performance . .

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in Two Acts and 3 Scenes, written by F. R. Bell and Harold Ellis, composed by W. H. Bullock.

(Authors and Composer of "Dogs of Devon," and "Count of Como.")

CAST

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Sir Jeffrey Digby	ARTHUR FORD	Lady Lovel	RENIA DAVIES
Maj.-Gen. Mannering	TRAVIS TILLY	Bess Mannering	HESTER FORD
Solomon Smug	LEN. COTTRELL	Sophy	VIOLET WILLIAMS
Sgt. Mustard	WM. GRIFFITHS	Peggy	KATHLEEN SHORT
Obadiah Blunt	VIN. SULLIVAN	Prue	MARY KENNY
John Braddium	EDWARD MAYO	Apple Woman	JOYCE SANDERS
Dr. Flute	RONALD ELTON	Isabel	DORIS MILES
Diggory	CHRIS. WEAGER		
Gaffer Jarge	ARTHUR WILLIAMS		

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Accompanist	C. N. NORRIS
Scenery and Properties by Messrs. R. HONE & C. WEAGER	
Electrical Effects Messrs. C. H. RANTELL and GUY DAVIES	

Proceeds in aid of St. Martin's Church Organ Fund

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seconds all because some clot using the time clock had made an error! He paused for a moment and with a smile said he remembered very well because the clot concerned was him." Another tale this time one of exceptional stamina, concerned the long distance runner R.E. Cole. "He lived at Vowchurch, ten miles from Hereford and told me in early 1940 that he had just run in from his home to the labour exchange to sign on for the war. He had been told he was too old so he was going to run back home but before doing so would run to Rotherwas to the Munitions Factory to see if they could give him a job there. He was a marvellous runner."

Remember Enid?

Another of our regular correspondents is Enid Parker formerly Enid Preece whose father dispensed medicine in the city. Enid lives in Cheltenham and wrote the piece about William Chadd in our last issue. She lived in Leabury Road (and has promised to send us a picture of a class at the Blue Coat School in 1914). "I wonder," she writes, "if there are any people still in Hereford who remember me?" Drop us a line if you do and we will pass your letter on to Enid.

Noticeboard

EDUCATION ON THE AGENDA

The next issue of Age to Age will be reflecting all aspects of education. If you have a school experience as a student or teacher share it with us, or have taken up an educational pursuit in your retirement tell us by writing to the P.O. Box number on our front page.

LISTEN TO AGE TO AGE

AGE TO AGE IS NOW AVAILABLE ON TAPE FOR PARTIALLY SIGHTED AND BLIND PEOPLE. TAPE VERSIONS OF THIS ISSUE CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH OUR P.O. NUMBER.

Music on Offa

A trio called "Music on Offa" will be performing works from Mozart Debussy and Chopin on 20th January at the Town Hall. On the 24th February "Brandenburge Chamber Orchestra Ensemble" perform at the Shirehall For more details, including booking pick-up a Concert Society Programme from Hereford Tourist Information Centre St Owen St

Dean's Medal

Did you receive a medal with the words "Herefords Schools Dean's Medal" If so what was it for? Contact us at our Box number with any information.

Keep in Touch

Why not join the Hereford Lore International Penfriend Scheme and keep in touch with people in this country and from all over the world Write to the Age To Age P O Box number on the front of this Newsletter

Don't miss out on Hereford's history

Hereford Lore's book of reminiscences "Amazing How Times Change" is on sale at Hereford Bookshop, Hereford Tourist Information Centre, The City Museum and Art Gallery Shop and at Garrick house.

Members of the St Nicholas Players pose for the camera in their Katinka costumes in 1938. From left to right they are Eva Lewis, Mary Tebbutt, Kathleen Cruse, Nora Crissall; front row, Christine Beavan, Irene Hambling and Sybil Louis.

The source of most entertainment these days is the television. But in days gone by people made great efforts to entertain each other. Eva Cartwright (nee Lewis) remembers being a member of the St Nicholas Players in the 1930s, formed by Mr James Sincox, organist and choirmaster at St Nicholas Church in 1935.



Their first show in 1936 was a comic opera Aladdin and Out. The company then gave a colourful musical comedy San Marino followed in 1937 by The Country Girl when Derrick Knowles, a former professional produced the show.

The most spectacular effort was Katinka which an enlarged company of 60 performed at The Palladium Theatre in Hereford.

Eva remembers the musical numbers, beautiful costumes and scenery "It was a grand show" she says. Sadly owing to the outbreak of war in 1939 this ended their activities and they never came together afterwards.

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

FREE STYLE
Graphics

Croydon House,
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