

NOW ON TAPE

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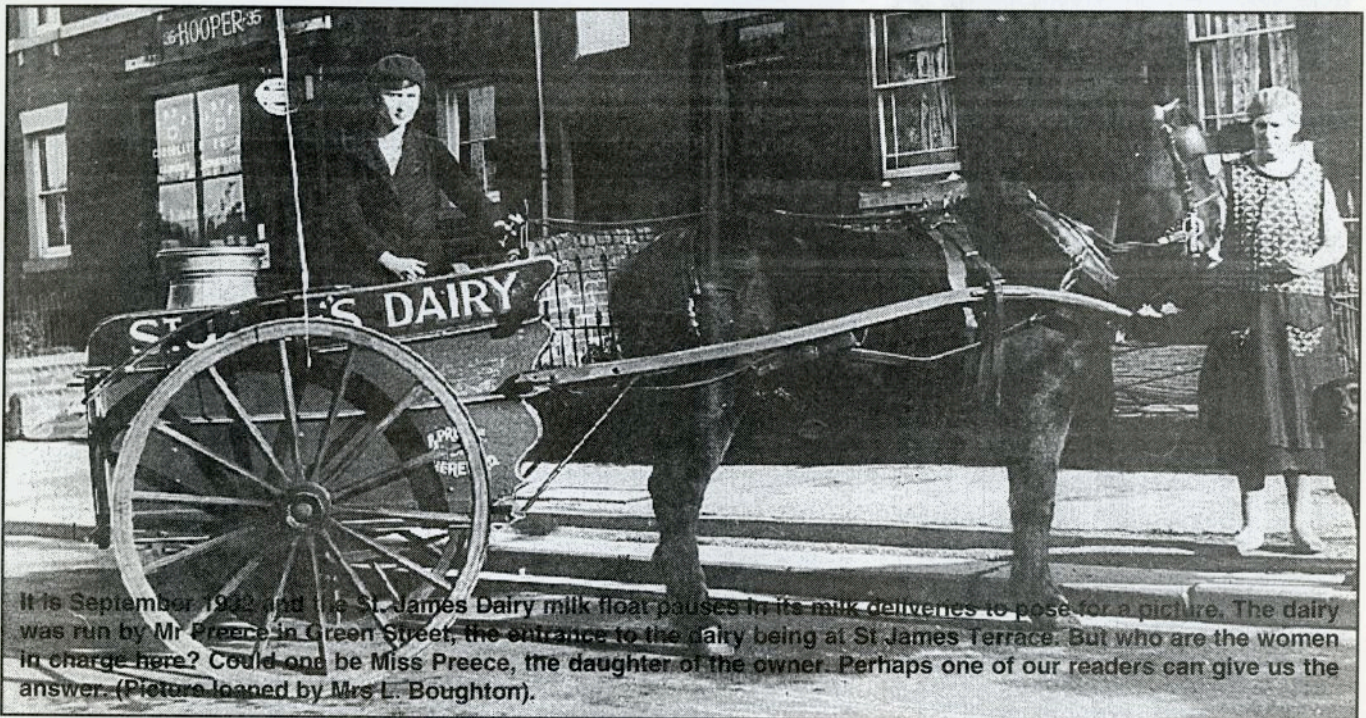
AGE TO AGE

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Vol. 3 Issue 5

September 1995

Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS



It is September 1932 and the St James Dairy milk float pauses in its milk deliveries to pose for a picture. The dairy was run by Mr Preece in Green Street, the entrance to the dairy being at St James Terrace. But who are the women in charge here? Could one be Miss Preece, the daughter of the owner. Perhaps one of our readers can give us the answer. (Picture loaned by Mrs L. Boughton).

On A Bicycle Made For Two

This edition of Age To Age is all about transport through the years.

When I was a teenager before the last war I remember getting hold of an old tandem bike frame and my pal and I went around the scrapyards (especially Davies Brothers at the top of Bath Street) looking for spare cycle parts to make our tandem rideable. After some weeks of searching, we

finally rebuilt our form of transport and enjoyed every minute of it. We went for rides around the countryside, taking it in turn to ride on the back seat. (The idea was to have a rest, but with a fixed wheel, you had to keep pedalling) I wonder if you have any memories like this?

Tom Woolaway



The horse drawn wagon was a conventional form of transport for gypsy families years ago. Here a Romany princess poses for her wedding picture at Blakemere with the family wagon in the background

Our next issue of Age to Age will be out in November. Copies are available from City and Belmont Libraries, Hereford Tourist Information Centre, The City Environment Directorate at Garrick House, Age Concern Offices, Berrows House, Bath Street and Hereford Town Hall, Good Old Days' Shop, St Owens Street. Hereford Lore Editorial Group are Alf Evans, Edith Gammage, Roy Kennett, Jim Thomas, Vi Thomas, Vi Woolaway, Tom Woolaway, Bill Morris and Bill Laws. Thanks to The Rural Media Company and Natalia Silver.

We are grateful for the support of :



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Getting Around in H

Miriam's Album

Most of the snapshots on this page have been kindly loaned to us from the family album of **Miriam Penson** of Belmont. Vi Thomas visited her recently to talk over old times. Miriam's late mother Dorothy Jones, was born in 1899 and lived in Westfields for 60 years. During the early years of the 1939

45, war Dorothy worked for Roberts at the Cafe Royal in St Peters Street, delivering bread from the cart drawn by Bess, the horse, seen in the picture below

Their errand boy then was Tommy Butler who was serving his apprenticeship as a baker n later years he became a noted baker and confectioner

Later in the war Dorothy was employed by Midland Red. She was their first lady conductress!

She journeyed all around the county always cheerful and although she found it very tiring she was always willing to help travellers with their shopping Dorothy came into contact with several Romany families during her travels and was a regular tea time guest in their beautifully maintained caravans. One family even invited her to their family wedding (see the picture on the front page)

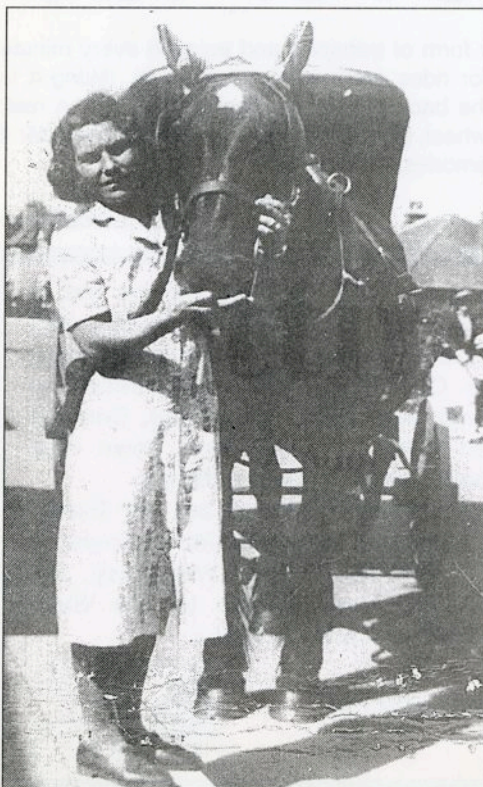
When the war finished, the



Burton's Bakery used to stand in West Street (now replaced by a row of shops). Bill Lewis is pictured here with some of the electric delivery vans. But who were the drivers? Anyone you know?

conductresses were asked to leave to give up their jobs to the returning servicemen Dorothy did so, but by 1950 was back as a Midland Red "clippy" working for another three years.

when the time came for the old horse to meet his maker Doctor Francis had him stuffed and stood in the hall way of his surgery



First Woman Driver

Kathy Nash is 95 and remembers becoming Midland Red's first lady bus driver in 1941 She drove for them for 22 years.

One of her abiding memories is of being interviewed by Richard Dimbleby for the radio programme "Down Your Way" Asked for her favourite piece of music, Kathy had no hesitation she wanted to hear "Tales from the Vienna Woods" the tune she used to sing to herself in the cab while driving

Galloping Doctor

And of course no-one could possibly talk of Hereford transport without mentioning the redoubtable **Doctor Cyril Francis** who rode around to his patients in a horse and carriage. The horse, Tom, was driven at one time by a Mr West and later by the good doctor himself And

The First Train

On Saturday October 29 1853, the first train steamed into Hereford. According to the Hereford Times of the day " The city was on its toes, the sun shone brilliantly and it was a gloriously warm mid-Autumn day" Barrs Court station however was not ready for a train and a temporary platform had to suffice for the 11.30 from Shrewsbury with two trains pulling no less than six 1st class carriages, a saloon carriage and nine other carriages.

Among those who processed through the City for an "elegant lunch served by Mr Smythe of the City Arms" was Thomas Brassey a wealthy engineer who with Stephen Ballard of Malvern and his brother Robert from Colwall went on to build the Worcester to Hereford line, opened in 1859 One of Robert Ballard's greatest engineering feats was the construction of the Ledbury viaduct. The bricks were made on site and 300

Hereford



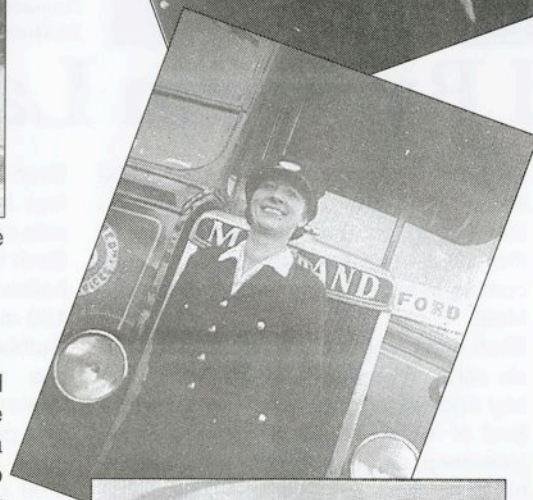
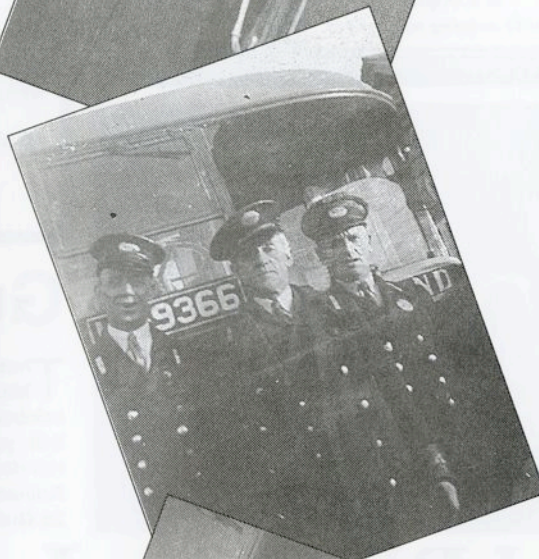
Staffordshire girls employed to carry the clay on their heads to the brick kilns.

Hire Purchase

Blanche Clayton from College Hill remembered being sent into service at the age of fourteen. Her father a miner died young leaving her mother to work nights at the ammunition factory while looking after her family by day.

When she turned nineteen she went to work at Treago Castle in St. Weonards. "I used to go out there on a bus. It used to be a shilling each way. In the end I couldn't afford the bus fare and I got a bicycle on hire purchase, think it was half a crown a week. It was eleven and a half miles and used to do it in an hour and a half.

We used to cycle in the dark in the morning. There used to be gypsies parked all along the side of the Callow camping and cooking their breakfast, and they all used to shout. I didn't like it at first, going off. I cried bitterly but my mother made me stop there because wouldn't come in at nights! That was a punishment. The excitement of the town was flirting with the boys."



From the top: Esther Morris, Len Nicholls, Jackie Roberts and Bert Maddy; Kathy Nash, first of the women drivers; and Gertrude, Dorothy Strangwood and Grace.

Snippets

Where Did It Go?

News of the figure of Christ, which once stood atop St Francis Xavier's Church in Broad Street and which we featured in our last issue of Age To Age, comes from **Jock Lockhead**, the popular corporal at the Coningsby Hospital and Museum in Widemarsh Street. He has contacted us to say that the statue was removed for reasons of safety in 1949. He knows because he helped to do it. He thinks the statue was broken up and the pieces dispersed. Does anyone have any more information?

Many Thanks

Hereford Lore has recently been the grateful recipients of two handsome sponsorships, namely BT (£500) and Hereford Amateur Operatic Society (£600). Both donations are most welcome and to both organisations we say a very big thank you.

The Operatic Society generously donated a night's takings from their show "We'll Meet Again". The show was a tremendous success following so closely on from the successful production of "The King and I", and was a tribute to the cast and all concerned. Many thanks too to all those who gave prizes for our Hereford Lore draw. Also a big thank you to All Seasons Dance Studio for their donation of £45. What would we do without you?

Shopmobility

And what would those of us with a disability do without the work of **Frank Warr** M.B.E., instrumental in bringing Shopmobility to Hereford?

Frank was injured in an accident at home in 1984 and is confined to a wheelchair himself.

Anyone experiencing difficulty getting around in Hereford should pick up a Shopmobility leaflet or ring (01432) 342166 for details.

Hereford Photographic Festival

16 September 14 October

Exhibitions, seminars and workshops at different venues through Hereford.

For more information contact
Chris Smart 01432 344039

HEREFORD CONCERT CLUB
presents

LEON McCRAWLEY on piano
Thursday 5 October
Shirehall, Hereford
Tickets £8 from Outback Record Shop,
Church Street

NOTICEBOARD

Concert

In aid of the Air Ambulance Fund
Talgarth Male Voice Choir

and

Herefordians Male Choir
with soloists

Kilpeck Village Hall
Friday 15th September 1995
at 8.00pm

Tickets £5 including refreshments

Hereford Autumn Music

13 October 22 October

A host of music activities taking place throughout Hereford. Pick up a programme from Hereford Tourist Information Centre,
1 King Street, Hereford.
Tel. 01432 268430

THE BARRON NIGHTS

Friday 8 September 8.00pm
Hereford Theatre & Arts Centre
Tickets £9.50/£8.50 senior citizens
Box Office: 01432 359252

Danny La Rue

in the

'Good Old Days'

Friday 6th
October

7.30pm

Hereford Theatre
& Arts Centre

Tickets £10.50
senior citizens

Box Office:
01432 359252



HEREFORD AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
present

Cole Porter's 'ANYTHING GOES'

November 6 11 1995

at Hereford Theatre & Arts Centre

Box Office: 01432 359252

Guess Who?

These 38 ladies met up for a reunion on March 10 1981. But just what were they celebrating? It is giving no clues away to say that you probably met one if you were in Hereford in those days.

Answers please to Hereford Lore,
26 Quarry Road, Hereford.

City Seized By Farm Labourers

Few can fail to have noticed the words 'Siege Of Hereford 1645' spelt out in marigolds on the bank beside the road near the new bridge. Here **John Newman** continues his story of the fateful day when Hereford fell to the parliamentarians.

On December 18, at eight in the morning, Hereford fell to Colonel John Birch, a 39 year old ex-merchant from Bristol. He had with him a Parliamentary army of some 1,000 men.

The events that led up to the fall of the city are most interesting. Col Birch met with two dissident officers, late of Scudamore's garrison Captains Alderne and Howarth. The meeting took place at the home of a Mr Sissels in

Ledbury. Both officers were paid £100 each and they gave Birch much information on the City Garrison and the custom of men from outside the city coming in to break the ice on the Castle Moat.

Birch first thought of putting soldiers into six carts, covering them with wood and hay and driving them into the city like a kind of Trojan horse. But heavy snow axle deep, and a hard frost put a stop to his plan. Plan B came into play. Birch collected six soldiers from the Garrison at Canon Frome and dressed them as farm labourers. Another soldier named Berrow was dressed as a constable and given a warrant.

At six in the morning, on December 18,

Birch's cavalry and a strong force of foot soldiers rendezvoused on the far side of Aylestone Hill. A short while later Birch hid the main body of his force in a hollow on the City side of the hill and 150 men with firelocks in the ruins of St Guthlac's Priory (now the site of the bus station) some 300 yards from Byster Gate.

The gate used to stand in the centre of what is now Commercial Square. At 8.00 o'clock the cart with its labourers and constable moved forward to the Gate, asking for entry to break the ice. On producing the warrant, they gained entry to the City. They quickly overcame the guards on the Gate. The rest of Birch's men now ran forward from their cover in the ruins, glad to be on the move after lying in the snow and frost so patiently since 6.00 o'clock. A short skirmish ensued. Birch was triumphant and the City of Hereford fell to the Roundheads. Barnabas Scudamore and 50 others, including Henry Lingen, escaped over the frozen River Wye and tried to make their way to Ludlow. Colonel Birch was made Governor and given a grant of £6,000 by Parliament. After this the city took no further part in the Civil War.

FRIENDS OF AGE TO AGE

Freestyle Graphics

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The Good Old Days

Chandos House, 42 St. Owens Street, Hereford. HR1 2PR Tel: (01432) 357352

Abbotsfield Funeral Directors

Monkmoor Street, Hereford. HR1 2DX Tel: (01432) 356445

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