

Comments to:-

Hereford Lore
26 Quarry Road
Hereford
HR1 1SS

Hereford Lore Reminiscence Newsletter

Age to Age

Vol 7 Issue 3 June 1999

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The 1st Hereford's on their return to the city after the first World War were photographed in High Town. The picture, loaned by Mrs D Powell, belonged to her aunt, the late Eva Jenkins, born in Hereford in 1898. (Read Margaret Tattershall's memories, Armistice Bells, inside).

That Missing Russian Cannon

I can't say where it went," writes Joan Loader of the cannon which once stood in Castle Green, "but I can show a photo of it, taken about 1928. The two children are Cyril, my late husband, and his sister Vera and it was always a race between the children over who would get onto the cannon first." It seems the two were reprimanded by their father for battling to be King of the Cannon after the picture was taken. "Two very chastened children walked back home between two cross parents with the threat that never again would they be allowed to sit on the cannon - but I doubt if the threat was ever carried out."

Service With A Smile

In Hereford city shops are closing and new ones opening, but I wonder whether the service we received 50 years ago will ever return? Remember when we sat on chairs in grocers' shops while being served, sampled the cheese, decided the thickness of the rashers of bacon and had the goods delivered?

Remember the assistants in Greenlands and Augustus Edwards who would show us several rolls of cloth in different textures and colours so that we could make our choice?

I also remember with pleasure Mr Franchi from the Continental Caf  . He used to move the tables around to make room for my big pram complete with two children. Delicious coffee too!

Tell us your memories, please.

Vi Thomas



Age To Age is published bi-monthly by Hereford Lore, a group of people working to collect and remember our past. Our editorial team, Edith Gammage, Roy Kennett, Bill Morris, Vi Thomas, Jim Thomas, Tom Woolaway Kit Gundy, Vera Kelly and Bill Laws, depend on grants, donations and book sales to keep going.

Age To Age is available free from the Town Hall, City Library, Belmont Library, Tourist Information Centre, and Garrick House reception. But you can ensure your copy is posted to you, by taking out a £3 a year subscription from Hereford Lore, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS. Next issue will be published in August 1999.

We are grateful for the support of: **COMIC RELIEF**



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Land Girls Revolt

Following Prinia Prior's recollections of life as a Land Girl in our February issue, Don Austin from Hereford recalls his difficult job at the time. He explains: "After the war few seaside towns were back in full swing - beaches had to be cleared of mines, and so on - and people were encouraged to take working holidays on the land. I was with the Hereford War Agricultural Committee and I would allocate parties for all sorts of duties including sprout, pea, soft fruit, apple, plum and potato picking."

"People stayed at the Redhill Hostel and each morning went to the farms in agricultural committee lorries with their rations for the lunch break. At the end of the day they were paid by the farmer at the rate previously agreed and the lorries returned them to the Hostel."

"But everyone wanted to go fruit picking and potato picking was hated. If it was wet the holiday makers could go to British Cannerys. They hated this and only those who needed the money would go. When the Land Girls were without work it was suggested that they also go to the Cannerys, but the arrangement was short lived as the girls revolted. They had joined to work in agriculture, not in a noisy factory." Are there any Land Girls who remember those times?

More Mysteries

Elsie Pound's memories of the mysterious Mr Page, pictured in our last issue prompted a reply from Margo Edwards in Exmouth. "Being the only girl of my age in Barrs Court and having a younger brother and an older cousin, Horace Okling, I played with the boys. Mr Page used to visit our area and stand under the street lamp. He always gave us a few pennies and was very well spoken and courteous."

And Douglas Hughes from Wye Street says Mr Page used to be accompanied by a crocodile of young boys en route to Dinedor Camp. "In these politically correct days Mr Page would probably end up in the local nick - yet there was not the slightest shred of suspicion about him then."

Douglas Hughes also points out that Roaring Meg, the howitzer which sat astride Hogs Mount in Castle Green, is now sited in Churchill Gardens. "The Russian cannon most probably did fall victim to the drive for scrap," he writes. "There was a strong rumour that much of the scrap garnered for the war effort was still lying idle in the Stonebow Road depot long after the end of hostilities. And, he adds, "can you mention the passing of Tommy Stevens, the last of that great contingent of



Tupsley Hospital is long gone, but these women, pictured outside the hospital in the mid 1970s will remember it well. Among them are. Monda Symonds, Margo Morris, Rosemary, Mrs Mathews, Sue Morris, Mary Small, Irene Lloyd, Vi Heaton, Carol Monis, Vera Powell, Margie, Judith Read, Bernice Carol, Mrs Tipton, Ann Prosser, Mrs Page, Hazel Newman, Mrs Small and Diane Hollaway.

Hereford coppers known to all in my youth? Tommy was a great goalkeeper with Hereford City."

One of our editorial board, Kit Gundy, has made enquiries about the Russian cannon, but without success. Below, Kit, her cousin and two brothers, George and Gordon are seen perched on the cannon.

And, asks Kit, where did the old bandstand that



stood in the Castle Green go? "I've sat and listened to many concerts there. Can anyone remember playing on the bandstand?" Answers please to Age To Age, 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS.

Showtime

We hope that many of our readers will support Age To Age on Monday June 21 1999 when Hereford Amateur Operatic Society perform Memory Lane IX, Best of Memory Lane. The takings on Monday night are being given to Hereford Lore by H.A.O.S so please come along. Tickets cost £3.50 and are available from members of Age To Age. Or call Hereford (01432) 354934.

My First Refrigerator

In reply to Kit Gundy's Cox from Whitecross always wanted a 'fridge kitchen

A friend from Kent brought and looked more like a when placed on a frame very nice. Agnes was 9 years.

Military Hospitals

Elizabeth Sandford from remembers the Gloucestershire Cross. After D Day in 19 sad cases, began to arrive to get better, the huts are still there. There was another military Croft, Kington, says Elizabeth.

High School

Iremember Miss Med Leicestershire, in answer about the former High School also remember Miss Thorneycroft who was Attenborough became your magazine as it brings

Armistice Bells

Margaret Tattershall's back. Margaret, from Hereford during the first was in 1916 as a child pupil by Miss Medwin. Miss and Miss Mayor (later Miss mistress. Many years later Thorneycroft at her Peter great pleasure to my day one was so friendly to the "On the morning in 1918

Home Visit

Tom Wragg at Orchard House

Tom Wragg is the last surviving son of Harry Wragg and Sons who ran Moorfield Sawmills from 1923 to 1967. Tom's brothers were Douglas, who died in the last war, David and Leonard. Tom, who lives at Orchard House, Withington, talked to us about his days at the sawmills. "My expertise, if you like, was as a saw doctor. You got to know everything about the timber - the black Italian poplar, for example, was very 'woolly' to cut and the black poplar was of no value. Walnut was top, then oak, sycamore, ash (especially young trees no more than 9 or 10 inches round) which were used for the sports goods. We did

have a lot of beech from Germany after the war which was full of shrapnel. It ruined the saws, of course, it would take the teeth straight out of them."

"The first chain saws were German too, but they weren't very good. The American ones when they came in were the finest ever invented. They were the Oregon Chipper and the design of the tooth on the chain was taken from the design of the jaw of the bug that ate the trees over there!"

"At Moorfields a lot of wood went to the railways for wagons - they're all steel now - and a lot of the elm, oak and Spanish chestnut went to coffin boards, especially to Greenlands."

"The woods have changed a lot nowadays. There's a lot of softwood and there used to be a lot of large old elms, some of them up to 20 tons. The largest we ever felled was one at Brinsop Court which was about 35 tons."

Sadly Tom has no old photographs of working in the woods. Perhaps one of our readers has one?

Snippets

we were all given a holiday and told to go home. As I walked through the school gates I remember hearing the bells peel out all over the city; a moment never to be forgotten."

The Lost Trophy

What happened to the West of England Challenge Trophy? asks Albert Daniels of Prior Street, Hereford? "It was run for, I believe, over a 3 miles course on a Bank Holiday sports event at Edgar Street football ground in the 1920s and 1930s. Such teams as Birchfield H, Hallamshire H and London Polytec took part, not forgetting our own local hero, Mr R.E.Cole. Cycle races were also run with another local hero, Mickey Minton."

Boxing At The Butts

Harold King from Lower Bullingham asks if anyone remembers the boxing matches held at the Drill Hall, Hereford. His brother Bill, pictured here with his trophies while camping at Breinton Springs (known as the Butts) in 1933 used to box for Bulmers Sports Club.



"Bill joined the TA in 1938 and was called up in August 1939," writes Harold. "My brother Bill, 4105204 Sergeant 1st Battalion, Hereford Regiment, was killed in action on February 21, 1945, aged 31. Bill is buried in plot 46, Row E, Grave 5 in the Ruschould Forest Cemetery, Cleves, Germany."



Here is another in our series: Can you fill in the missing names? The photograph was taken by Derek Evans around 1965 and shows the Henry Wiggins Social Club cricket team. It was sent to us by Roy Beare who sits in the centre of the front row. Other players are George Rachel, Steven Hall, Morris Phelps, the late Aubrey Preston and his son. If you know any of the others, drop us a line at 26 Quarry Road, Hereford HR1 1SS

article in our April issue, Agnes writes that in the 1960s she e, but had little room in her

ght her a fridge. It was small brown, wooden cupboard and beside the sideboard, looked ad to accept it and it lasted 10

om Leominster writes that she Military Hospital at Baron's 15, soldiers, some of them very ive. Gradually, as they started visit by villages. Some of but they house turkeys now. ary hospital for GIs in Hergest abeth.

win, writes Pam Pitt from ver to Marion Lister's query school for Girls headmistress. "I Lord (very strict) and Miss s a dear Later on Miss eadmistress. It is nice to get s back memories," adds Pam.

memories reach even further m Callow, writes, "I came to World War from London and it f 10 that I was accepted as a ss Lord, I think, taught English rs Cunningham) was my form ter I remember visiting Miss stow home. I look back with s at the High School - every- e newcomer in their midst." when Armistice was declared

Hereford Cathedral Flower Festival

June 18, 19, 20 1999

This Our Joyous Song

National Association of
Flower Arrangement Society,
Three Counties and South
Wales Area Admission Free

NOTICEBOARD

The 34th Madley Festival July 10 July 18 1999 Orchestra of the Swan

The Ebony Quartet The Pro-Arte Guitar Trio The
Brook Street Baroque Gala Orchestra of London
Evening performances 8.00 pm Festival Service
Sunday July 18 2.30pm

Hereford Amateur Operatic
Society

Memory Lane IX

June 21 26 '99
at the Operatic Theatre
Whitecross Road, Hereford

Coffee Morning

At the Town Hall,
Hereford on
Wednesday October
13 1999. 10.00 - 12.30
Admission Free.
Proceeds to
Age To Age



There should be some familiar faces among the Holmer Parish Church Choir, pictured here in 1954, when the Rev. C. Hancock was vicar, Rev. H. Paget, the curate, and Mr N. Norris, the choirmaster and organist.

Angling Times

A.J Thomas writes from Haverford West to share his recollections of angling on the Wye. "Equipped with a 3/6d rod plus accessories from that angling mecca, Herbie Hattons shop in St Owens Street, I was soon angling as my number one hobby.

"I was mostly a lone fisherman, but an angling friend was Stanley Mailes, nephew of the family who kept the pork shop in Maylord Street. We had wonderful times in the summer,

armed with bread, butter, garden lettuce, free pork pies and powdered lemon drink. Chub, dace, perch and gudgeon all came our way. Floating bread crusts and sand eels produced wonderful hauls of chub. Stanley Mailes was to be a water bailiff most of his life.

Jordan's

"Another companion was Gordon Williams, only son of the butcher in St Martins Street. We used to canoe between the railway and river bridge and fish for perch under Jordan's

landing stage. He entered the Navy, but was lost in submarines. An early acquaintance was Fred Grubb from Hinton who worked with the Electric Company in Widemarsh Street. He introduced me to Barbour Oilskins, only by post then. Later I found they made our submariner suits when I entered the service. My first cost 2 guineas. A favourite venue for Fred and I was Tinkershole at the end of the straight mile." (Space permitting, A.J. Thomas' recollections of other fisherfolk will be continued in a future issue of Age To Age).

Helping Hand Those Difficult Little Jobs

Are you waiting for someone to come and change that awkward tap washer or unblock that sink? Install a fire alarm or fix down a loose carpet? Age Concern's new Handyperson Service can provide a volunteer for small repairs - but nothing major like decorating, gardening or emergency services. You pay for the materials and they'll provide the people power!

And if you're handy around the house, they are looking for volunteers.

Call Janice Hunt at Age Concern on (01432 350483).

Helping Hand is sponsored by Advocacy For Older People (01432) 261165

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