

Teesdale Mercury

SOUTH DURHAM, NORTH YORK AND WESTMORLAND ADVERTISER.

BARNARD CASTLE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13th, 1955.

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MARKET DAY TALK

COMMENT BY VIEWER

The glorious sunshine last week was reflected in the happy if perspiring faces of nearly all the folk one met. A spell of good weather seems to be working outside, whilst the greetings exchanged in street and market place seemed uniformly cheerful. True many people with indoor jobs expressed the wish that they were working outside, whilst the good numbers of those toiling in the sunshine said they would like to have been in the shade. Mostly, I think, these wishes for exchanges were merely a form of speech. Both sections, however, would envy those who were not compelled to work and who could relax pleasantly out of doors or take excursions off to the coast or into the hills. Teesdale itself was the goal for many and our countryside certainly looks at its best. Lanes are fragrant with wild roses and from many fields comes the scent of new mown hay.

To anyone with a belief in old superstition this Friday is a day of vital interest. Tradition holds that Saint Swithin, Bishop of Winchester in the ninth century, had desired to be buried outside the Cathedral where the rain might fall upon him. This was done, but some years later plans were made to give him a more dignified resting place inside the building. The date fixed for the re-entombment was July 15th, but torrential rain on that and the ensuing forty days caused the scheme to be abandoned. From this occurrence grew the legend that St. Swithin had the power to control the weather during the period.

Recently I heard a Barnard Castle resident remark "We are over 60 in the Over 60 Club." This seemed such an obvious truism that I realised it was not to be taken merely at its face value. Someone also in the company pretended that he thought "fifty miners" might have been accepted on probation and had now reached the statutory three score years. However, we were soon put wise and were informed that the Club now has more than 60 members. The Club is simple and if such were needed, that the formation of this club has met a long felt need in the town.

The number six also represents the strength of a party of German students who visited Barnard Castle last Wednesday. They are staying in this country as a result of a reciprocal exchange scheme and are living with British families. Whilst in the town they used the Y.M.C.A. as their base, a fact which particularly delighted some of the students who were themselves members of the international Y.M.C.A. While there they were provided with refreshment. Included in their itinerary was a visit to the Bowes Museum, a building in which they gazed with wonder on findings in a quiet market town.

Recently my mail has included the odd envelope with an "Ecop Britain Tidy" label stuck on it. This is a most appropriate time of the year to remind ourselves of the need to avoid litter. It has become an almost national complaint that wherever people eat out of doors they leave a heap of litter behind them. Anyone who watched the Test Match on T.V. or instance would see the disgraceful state in which the ground was left. At a place like Old Trafford, of course, clearing up is practical if arduous and expensive, but in the countryside litter becomes an even greater nuisance. Heavy spots are all too frequently dispersed and paths through woods become like paper-chase trails. An aggravation of the litter offence is the leaving behind of broken glass. This has occurred on many occasions and in many places round here, but is most dangerous by the river banks where waddling children play barefoot.

Farewell to 2nd Bn. D.L.I. Driver's Fortunate Escape at Startforth

"AULD LANG SYNE" AS COLOURS DISAPPEAR

3,000 at Cathedral Service

After the colours of the 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry (D.L.I.) had been marched into Brancepeth Castle on Sunday for the last time, the regimental band, the pipers and the buglers of the county mounted the ramparts, and sounded a farewell. Senior officers said they believed it was the first time such a ceremony had been enacted.

The colours were taken to Brancepeth Castle, the regimental depot, after 3,000 people from all parts of the county had attended a Durham Cathedral service to bid farewell to the battalion, which is disbanding. It was raised in 1858 in India.

In some ways, the marching of the colours through the archway of the castle was the most moving of the observance. Lieut. Gen. Sir Terence Airey, standing on a small dais on the forecourt, gave permission to the battalion commanding officer, Lt. Col. Mark Leather, for the colours to be marched off.

The band, standing on the lawn, struck up "Auld Lang Syne" as the colour party, led by Lt. Col. Mark Leather, 2nd Lieut. R. J. Percy, Sgt. Major Pratt, Colour Sergeants Jordan and McBurnie, slow-marched the colours past the cathedral, lining the castle approaches with arms at the present.

Turning past General Airey, the party passed under the archway and as the colours disappeared the band played softer and softer until people standing on the outskirts of the crowd could scarcely hear it. The colours passed out of sight and there was complete silence. The battalion had travelled from Durham to Brancepeth in lorries. Many of the people who attended the cathedral service accompanied them in cars. Others greeted the battalion for the last time when it marched to the cathedral. Before the service began, the colour party moved forward to the sanctuary, where the Dean (the Very Rev. J. H. S. Wild) received the colours and placed them on the altar.

The lessons were read by the Bishop of Jarrow (the Rt. Rev. J. A. Emsborough) and the Dean. As "Farewell" there was particular solemnity about the choice of anthem, "My heart, ever faithful," by J. S. Bach.

Chaplain's Sermon.
The Rev. V. J. Richards, chaplain to the battalion in its last two and a half years in Germany, preached the sermon. He spoke

Driver's Fortunate Escape at Startforth

While descending Deerholme Bank about 5 a.m. yesterday morning, the braking system of a lorry loaded with boxes of apples failed. The driver made a desperate effort to take the lorry turning towards Deepdale Bridge, but his increasing speed and the weight of the load caused the vehicle to overturn. Part of the wall near Startforth residents were allowed to collect the contents of the broken boxes and made the most of the opportunity.

Later, when the undamaged boxes had been removed to another lorry, Startforth residents were allowed to collect the contents of the broken boxes and made the most of the opportunity.

BATHING TRAGEDY IN TEESDALE

A well-known Cockerton (Darlington) tradesman lost his life on Sunday while bathing in the river Tees between Winch Bridge and High Force. He was Mr. Frederick Lamb of 24 West Auckland Road, Darlington. He was a member of a music party who were spending the day in Teesdale and had halted on the roadside about a mile below High Force near Eppersill Bridge. He was bathing in the afternoon when he fell into the water. When he got into difficulties he called out but the rest of the party thought at first that he was joking. They soon realised that he was in trouble and a life-line was thrown to him. Rescuers tried artificial respiration for one and a half hours without success. He is believed to have been drowned.

Dr. R. Dawson, of Cotherstone, was called to the scene, but all attempts to revive the swimmer were in vain. During the war Mr. Lamb served with the R.A.F. overseas. He leaves a widow and a 17-year-old son.

The Tees claimed a second victim on Monday when a playboy, John Joseph Mitchell, 21, of 1, Birch Road, Darlington, was drowned in the river. Mr. Mitchell was working with other men on the track between St. Peter's School and Snow Hill. He left the party at the midday break. They next saw his partly-dressed body floating in the river. A Stockton fisherman, Mr. Alfred Hunt, brought the unfortunate man to the south bank of the river. Dr. Neville, of Gainford, carried out artificial respiration without success.

HOUSE BURNED OUT AT WOODLAND

A fire which occurred on Saturday completely destroyed a house at 20, The Edge, Woodland, Neighbourhood, who tried to tackle the blaze until the arrival of units of the Durham County Fire Brigade were at a disadvantage because the domestic water supply was suspended.

The house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John William Campbell and their son and daughter-in-law, was badly damaged and made uninhabitable. Appliances from Bishop Auckland, Barnard Castle and Middleton-in-Teesdale were sent to the house and the fire was under control within half an hour.

The water supply had been limited because of the low resources in the reservoirs following the recent dry spell, but firemen found an adequate supply from a nearby hydrant. They used breathing apparatus to tackle the fire. Mrs. Campbell, an elderly woman, was alone in the front of the house when she noticed the flames from the kitchen. She raised the alarm and ran to neighbours for help. Mr. Thomas Redfern, a next-door neighbour, dragged his furniture into the street by the firemen, confined the flames to the one house. Neighbours found it impossible to save anything from the blazing house.

John Francis Coates (42), gardener, Hepworths Yard, Barnard Castle who agreed to look after six Large White pigs for a Barnard Castle farmer but later sold them for £16 was sent to prison for 18 months at Durham Quarter Sessions last Tuesday.

It was said that he told the buyer he did not find keeping pigs very profitable, and was thinking of "going in for poultry instead." The police arrested him in Rugby. Coates admitted stealing the pigs and also stealing a copper boiler and scrap metal from his employers, Vaux Brothers, Ltd. He asked for two other offences to be considered.

Garden Fete in Sylvan Setting

It was the type of traditional old-world Garden Fete, reminiscent of English village life of long ago that was held last Saturday at Eggleston, one of the few unspoiled villages in the country, that have changed but little throughout the years.

The fete really began with the children in fancy dress, assembling on the village green when the village band played specially to play them through the village to the Hall to a lively march.

The fete was not opened until 4 p.m. who had worked so hard and given so cheerfully to the cause and thanked for all they had done. Some refreshment was made to local matters and to one or two personalities there present. Little Eileen Motes, 10, of 24, was the first to be presented. Lady Gray with flowers in a most charming manner. Lady Gray, in declaring the fete open, congratulated the workers and thanked the committee. Sir William and Lady Gray were also thanked for placing the hall and grounds at the disposal of the Church Council, who had arranged the fete.

The stalls were well patronised, as they deserved, and there were many good things to be had at reasonable prices. Until it was too late, the stalls were well patronised, as they deserved, and there were many good things to be had at reasonable prices. Until it was too late, the stalls were well patronised, as they deserved, and there were many good things to be had at reasonable prices.

Another Cup for Glaxo Fire Fighters

Glaxo Laboratories freemen scored another success on Saturday when taking first prize and cup in the 4-man light trailer pump drill competition for teams entered by industrial concerns. The competition was in conjunction with the Durham County Fire Brigade and was held at Stockton on Saturday. The cup which was won was given for competition by Glaxo Laboratories, 1933. The successful team here now secured two trophies presented by the firm. The team was M. Rodgers, J. E. Borrowdale, A. H. Smith and N. A. Breerton.

FUNERAL OF FORMER CO-OPERATIVE WORKER

Middleton, and indeed Teesdale, lost one of its grand old characters last week by the death of Mr. Harry Robinson of Plantation Villa, Dard. Middleton-in-Teesdale. Aged 85 years, Mr. Robinson was for well over 30 years employed at the Middleton Co-operative Society and in this capacity visited all parts of Teesdale and made a host of friends by his cheery disposition. He had a word for everybody, especially the children.

Born at Low Houses, he was educated at Newbigin School, but at a very early age went to work for the London Lead Company. He had a fund of knowledge of life at the old washing shops. When the mines closed he went to Darlington to work on the N.E.R. as a horseman and riggerman, but his love of the outdoors brought him back to his native dales.

Horses were his special joy and for many years at the Darlington Hospital Parked and later on the Middleton Hospital Demonstration and Carriage Day he won many prizes for the best decorated horse or lorry. He was for many years on the committee of the Middleton Hospital Committee which raised many hundreds of pounds for the hospitals. He was also connected with the local agricultural society for many years acting as gateman at the show area at the Sunday concerts by many leading bands. He was interested too in the Middleton Silver Band in its heyday. The Mechanics' Institute found him a keen domestic player in later years.

There was a large and representative gathering at the funeral service at St. Mary's Parish Church where the Rev. L. Thompson officiated, assisted by the Rev. Dan Hunter, of Newgate Methodist Church, Barnard Castle.

Six nephews Messrs William Leslie and John Robinson of Low Houses, Mr. Thomas Robinson, Commandante, Mr. George Robinson, Kirby Stephen and Mr. Jack Bainbridge, Loftus in Cleveland, attended as bearers.

Mercury Calendar

- July.
14. Garden Fete at Marden.
 15. Dance, Darlington Hall.
 15. Jumble Sale in Church Institute.
 16. Newbigin Dances.
 16. Middleton W.I. Show and Exhibition.
 17. Sunday School Anniversary Services, Eggleston Baptist Chapel.
 21. Conservative Tea Club, King's Head Hotel, 3.0 p.m.
 22. Whist Drive and Dance, Newsham.
 23. Middleton Garden Party.
 23. Dance, Dalton Memorial Hall.
 23. Middleton Dance.
 23. Conservative Garden Fete at Middleton-in-Teesdale.
 24. Darlington Hall Garden Open for British Red Cross Society.
 30. Garden Fete and Whist Drive, Sledwich Hall.
 30. Newbigin Dances.
 30. Garden Fete, Vicarage, Barnard Castle.

- August.
1. Dance, Dalton Memorial Hall.
 1. Newsham W.I. Dance.
 4. Ootherstone Gals Night.
 4. Y.M.C.A. Women's Auxiliary Garden Party in Vicarage Grounds.
 5. Whist Drive, Dalton Memorial Hall.
 5. Dance, Darlington Hall.
 - 6 & 7. Garden of Spring Lodge Open in aid of Nursing.
 6. B. Castle Conservative Holiday Dances, Darlington Hall.
 7. Barnard Castle & District Gardeners' and allotment Holders' Society Annual Horticultural Show.
 13. Woodland Show.
 13. Romaldkirk Parish Annual Garden Fete.
 15. Woodland Show Sports.
 19. Whist Drive, Mickleton.
 20. Jumble Sale, Church Bazaar, Flower Hall.
 26. Whist Drive, Mickleton.

THE PROMISE BOX.

- "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
(James 1. v. 12.)
- "The trials that beset you. The sorrows ye endure. The manifold temptations. That death alone can cure. What are they but His jewels. Of right celestial worth. What are they but the ladder. Set up to heaven on earth?"
(J. M. Neale.)
- September
3. Middleton-in-Teesdale Agricultural Show.
 17. Eggleston Agricultural Show.
 19. Red Cross Whist Drive, Barnard Castle.
- October
8. Stairdrop Methodist Junior Choir at Bowles.
 13. Rev. A. Cooper at Middleton Wesley.
- November
10. Congregational Church Bazaar.
- December
10. Sale of Work and Concert, Cotherstone Methodist Church.

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