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Teesdale Mercury

SOUTH DURHAM, NORTH YORK AND WESTMORLAND ADVERTISER.
BARNARD CASTLE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6th, 1959.

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DAYS GONE BY

HISTORICAL NOTES

By FRED NEVISON

From the Manor Court rolls we are told during the reign of James I. who came to the throne in the year 1603, that Barnard Castle at that time consisted of Bridgegate, Thorgate, which then included "The Bank," Market Place and Galgate to the extent of the present Gas Board showrooms. Newgate only extended to the old Bede House, the site of which is to the west of the old Congregational Chapel.

There was absolute evidence of the existence of gates, or bars, precisely as we see them to-day in the city of York, and the proof was found in the Manor Court records, one entry actually naming Galgate "Bar," Newgate "Bar," Thorgate "Bar," and it is possible there was some form of fortifications on the outskirts of the town.

One of the landmarks of the place at that period was "Bland Hall Nook," that is now the Trinity Methodist Church site. The houses, what there was of them in Galgate, were all thatched with high pitched roofs. The precautions which the authorities in those days took against fire were most rigid, and no lighted candle or uncovered flame was permitted in the street, nor was straw or other combustible material allowed in the "fire-room," presumably the kitchens of the dwellings.

The weaving of stockings was very extensively carried on in the town. The houses were noted for the small leaded lights which was a common practice for this area.

The old tollbooth or Moot Hall was removed from the Market Place in 1808. The upper room of this building was used for the meetings of the Manor Court which met every three weeks for the purpose of settling disputes between the inhabitants and could only deal with amounts up to 40s. A jury of 12 dealt with the more serious crimes. The members of the Manor Court acted as a Bench of Magistrates and discharged the duties now incumbent upon the Urban Council and County Court.

NEWSAGENT RETIRES

After being in business on his own account for 28 years, Mr J. G. Robinson, of Middleton-in-Teesdale, is retiring. He first started trading as a newsagent and tobacconist from his premises at 19, Market Place after 19 years employment with Messrs R. W. Raine, chemists and grocers. Mr Robinson's successor is Mr G. M. Goodman, until recently in business at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Bridge Club

May 1st: N/S—1, Mrs Duffy and Mrs Robinson; 2, Mr and Mrs Snodgrass; E.W.—1, Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Richardson; 2, Mr and Mrs Walker.

FULL EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND TO ENSURE SCHOOL'S SUCCESS

COUNCILLOR CLOSE ON THE THREE ESSENTIALS

Proposing a vote of thanks to Coun. W. McDarby, who officially opened Barnard Castle Secondary Modern School, County Councillor E. T. Close, on behalf of the governors, spoke about the future employment in Barnard Castle in relationship to the school.

There were three ingredients, he said, which made a good school: the structure, the staff, and the pupils.

"We have the structure we have longed for for many years, and a proficient staff to maintain the tradition we have always felt in this town, but it is the third ingredient, about which we in this part of the county are some times a little worried, because to keep these schools usefully occupied we must have people here whose children will go to the school."

"We are often worried at signs that the industrial future of this part of the County is not as healthy as we would like to have it. We would like to see the continuance of employment in this area so that families will want to come here and also that there will be jobs for the children leaving the school."

Three Rivers County. Earlier, Coun. Close said it was quite appropriate in having a by-election to open the school at Barnard Castle because a lot of people thought of Durham as a county of three rivers and the central river, the Wear, was the one on which the County Education Authority was based.

"We have someone from Tyneside to open a Teesdale school and that is bringing the county together and demonstrating the unity of the county which is something we all like to feel."

Another speaker, County Coun. H. J. Boyden, apologised for the absence of the Chairman of the County Education Committee, said he was, at that time, in London at a deputation to the Minister of Education.

The purpose of the deputation, he said, was to try to get a move on with the programme of building new schools and re-furnishing the old ones.

An atmosphere was being created, continued Coun. Boyden, that the tasks on the Education Authority would be fulfilled by 1964, but that was not so, particularly in the field of grammar schools.

It was hoped the deputation might soften the Minister's heart, and he went on to say that schools at Chester-le-Street, Haughton-le-Spring and at Blaydon, though in a very good situation and doing an excellent job, were not up to modern standards.

"Half a School." The result of the deputation would affect the Barnard Castle area because the grammar school was only half a grammar school and the County Council's plan was that it should be a four form entry school. He did not know when the

second half would be completed but what happened the following day in London would have some bearing on that question.

County Councillor McDarby, who officially opened the school by unveiling a plaque, said the school buildings such as could be seen at Barnard Castle, are more essential to human progress than some of the projects which were opened or set in motion amid the pomp and fanfares of modern advertising and publicity.

"We are apt to get false values at times with high pressure publicity. A school should be one of the most important buildings known to man."

"To meet the needs of modern life we have to recognise that Britain's task of getting her daily bread is becoming more complex and requiring greater numbers of well educated people."

"We have the ability and the talents, but the talents are not properly trained to meet the needs."

Continued on Page 2.

RABY CRICKETER MARRIES

MR J. N. STEPHENSON AND MISS J. GIBSON.

The wedding took place at St. John's Church, Ingleton, on Thursday morning, of Mr John Norman Stephenson, son of Mr and Mrs J. E. Stephenson, West Shotton Farm, Staindrop, and Miss Joan Gibson, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. W. Gibson, Hilton Grange.

The Vicar of Ingleton, the Rev. W. P. Stone, officiated at the ceremony, and Mr G. Stonebank was the organist.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a full length gown of white brocade with a shoulder length veil. Her head-dress was of orange blossom and she carried a bouquet of white carnations, freesias, stephanotis and lily of the valley.

Two bridesmaids, Miss Ethel Gibson, sister, and Miss Hazel Parker, and two attendants, Janice Harland (bride's godchild) and John Littlefair (nephew of the bride), attended Miss Gibson.

The bridesmaids wore dresses of blue flock nylon and carried bouquets of pink carnations and lily of the valley. Janice was attired in white flock nylon and carried a bouquet of mixed spring flowers. John, the other attendant, wore blue velvet trousers and white blouse.

The best man was Mr K. Robinson and the groomsmen Mr J. Wilson and Mr E. Farrow.

Following a reception at the George Hotel, Piercebridge, Mr and Mrs Stephenson left for a honeymoon at Majorca. The bride's travelling dress comprised of a light blue suit with beige and pink accessories.

On their return they will reside at Hilton Grange.

Both bride and groom, are from well-known farming families in the district. Mr Stephenson is also a playing member of the Raby Castle Cricket Club.

BARNARD CASTLE NATIVE EMIGRATED 51 YEARS AGO

Mr J. E. Croft

A native of Barnard Castle, Mr John Edward Croft, who emigrated to Canada in 1908 and who will be remembered by older residents of the town, died at his residence in the Grainland and Elbow district of Saskatchewan earlier this year.

Mr Croft, who was 72, was up to the time of emigrating employed by the London North Eastern Railway Company but on moving to Canada started farming.

In 1915 he married the former Miss Margaret Golightly, also from Barnard Castle, who predeceased him in 1952.

Mr Croft is survived by three daughters. His brother Ernest, with whom he emigrated, is still living and the deceased's other three brothers, Mr Stanlev Croft, of Barnard Castle; Mr Tom Croft and Mr Walter Croft, living at Ashington, Northumberland. His two sisters, Mrs Nellie Jordan and Miss Nancy Croft, both reside at Guildford, Surrey.

Mr Croft had not been in good health since the loss of his wife. He was of a quiet disposition and loved his home and his family and enjoyed a wide circle of friends.

At the funeral service the choir sang his favourite hymn "Beyond the sunset."

TRAINING FUTURE CITIZENS TO APPRECIATE OTHERS' VIEWS

Alderman Liddle's Formal Opening of Middleton School

Alderman Liddle, who formally opened the Middleton-in-Teesdale Secondary Modern School on Tuesday of last week, in an address to 200 guests spoke of the role of teachers who would serve in the new school.

It would be their task, said the speaker, to give this country men and women big enough to stand for what they believed to be right and yet big enough to see the other man's point of view. New tools, he continued, were designed not only to make it easier to maintain standards but, he hoped, to improve on them.

At the outset of his address, Ald. Liddle spoke of the history of the schools at Middleton which started as long ago as the beginning of the 18th century, he said, when local

benefactors were seeking to develop education in the area.

In March, 1729, Edward Onned and Joseph Bainbridge acquired "a messuage and three closes" to apply rents and profits for the endowment of a free school in Middleton-in-Teesdale.

The management of the school was entrusted to the Rectors of Middleton, Stanhope and Wolsingham, and the deeds emphasised that the endowment was not to be made use of "to ease the Rector of Middleton-in-Teesdale in stipend to be paid to his curate." If the curate was also employed as school master he had to receive a reasonable stipend as curate over and above his schoolmaster's salary.

Criticism of Cynic.

Ald. Liddle later went on to speak about reactionaries and one in particular who wrote to a national newspaper and who expressed alarm that the sole policy of those who arranged educational programmes "seems to be the creation of bigger and better buildings, hoping, presumably, that bigger and better men will follow."

Ald. Liddle thought the same writer apparently deplored a proposal by a local education authority to provide several of the schools with swimming baths.

"He saw the grand piano as the symbol of modern education and summed up the whole situation as the 'modern spectacular'."

Continued on Page 3.

EARLY START EXPECTED FOR VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

VOLUNTARY LABOUR TO SUPPLEMENT 20 YEAR SCHEME.

Twenty years ago a decision was made to raise funds for a much-needed parish hall which would serve the people of Bowes and Gilmonby.

Steadily throughout the years the effort continued and finally in 1935 a suitable site was bought from Mr T. G. Dugdale for a nominal sum.

After a number of discussions it was felt that a debt-free hall could be built by voluntary labour. Mr Harrison, the surveyor from Winston, who helped the Winston people with their hall, offered voluntary service to the people of the Bowes area.

At the 1956 annual meeting a vote was taken to test the strength of the voluntary labour idea. The result was so overwhelming that it was decided to apply to the Ministry of Education for a grant towards the voluntary scheme.

Finally, in 1958, with assistance from the Yorkshire Community Council, the Ministry agreed to give a maximum grant of £2,000.

The grant was made towards the end of the year and as winter was fast approaching it was decided to await spring before starting with the project.

Recently members of the committee made a survey of the help offered by the villagers and found the results most encouraging.

Any time now, it is reported, the firm contracted to put up the concrete framework will be arriving on the site. From then on it will be in the hands of the voluntary helpers to complete the building as soon as possible.

As it is impossible to approach everyone in the locality, the committee are inviting all would-be helpers to join in and help.

With a grant of £2,000 and £2,600 in the funds, the substantial and much-needed hall is now a possibility.

ORGANISATIONS TO OBSERVE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday afternoon members of various youth clubs and uniformed organisations in the Barnard Castle district meet at the Newgate Methodist Church to observe "Commonwealth Youth Sunday."

Young people are expected to take a prominent part in the service, which will include the reading of a message from Her Majesty the Queen by Col. W. I. Watson. An address will be given by the Rev. Raymond Pideaux, the Church minister.

The service, it is understood, is not confined to members of youth organisations, but is open to all youth of the town and district. Older people will also be admitted if accommodation is available.

COTHERSTONE RESIDENT DIES IN HOSPITAL

MISS I. BRAITHWAITE.

Miss Isabella Braithwaite, of 1, Croft View, Cotherstone, died at the Darlington Memorial Hospital on Monday at the age of 63.

She was the eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Isaac Braithwaite and was a native of Dalton, Richmond. Miss Braithwaite moved to Cotherstone twenty years ago from Mickleton and has shown an active interest in several of the village organisations.

For many years she was associated with the Cotherstone Women's Institute and for an equally lengthy period was closely connected with St. Cuthbert's Church.

She is survived by three sisters and four brothers.

BARNARD CASTLE LOSES A RESPECTED CITIZEN

Mr J. E. Dent

The death occurred last Wednesday of Mr John E. Dent, who formerly resided at Victoria Road, Barnard Castle. Mr Dent, who died at Rosemount Nursing Home, was 87.

A prominent figure in the town and one of its most respected citizens, he was the youngest son of the late William and Anne Dent, and spent most of his life in Barnard Castle, having to retire from a position with a bank while still in his twenties.

Mr Dent was a hard worker for many causes in Barnard Castle and showed an unflinching interest for his church, the Congregational, of which, up to the time of his death, he was a life-deacon. For some 50 years he was superintendent of the Sunday School and throughout his life had held all the positions in the church open to laymen.

In 1911 he was appointed treasurer of the Barnard Castle and Startforth Nursing Association when it was affiliated with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for nurses and retired from the office only a few years ago. For 20 years he served the Mechanics' Institute in a similar capacity, but retired from the post in 1952 owing to health reasons.

The Barnard Castle Cricket Club also benefited from his services as treasurer for several years, Mr Dent assisted the club through difficult times.

The Teesdale Musical Tournament and the 1914-18 war memorial were also activities which he helped in the position of secretary.

The funeral service, which took place on Saturday, was conducted by the Rev. J. W. Edge, Padre to the Forces, and was followed by interment in the Non-Conformist Cemetery.

The deceased is survived by one sister, Mrs A. Barnes, who resides at Exmouth and is now in her 95th year.

Family mourners present at the service were Mr and Mrs Alan Dent (Wolverhampton), nephew and niece; Mr Brian Dent (Clitheroe), grand nephew; Mrs Richardson and Miss A. Dent (Romaldkirk), cousins.

Others present included: Mr and Mrs T. Tippings, Mrs W. Trot, Mrs E. C. Eden.

Mr R. Robinson (Romaldkirk), Mrs Alderson, Miss Newsholme, Mrs and Miss Huck, Miss L. Bell, Mr Nicholson (Midland Bank Manager), Mr and Mrs A. Eden, Mr and Mrs T. K. Bell and Miss D. Bell, Mr and Mrs Rand (Cockfield), Mr and Mrs E. M. Smith (Shildon), Mr J. Simpson, Mrs H. Lamb, Mrs Fenton, Miss S. Ward, Mrs and Miss Dobson, Mrs F. Alcock, Mrs G. Bennett, Mr A. E. Eason, Mr A. C. Hemsall, Mr Webster, Mr J. Watson, Mr R. Elliott, Mr J. Morton, Mr E. Watson, Mr A. Suddick (Staindrop), Mrs Oates, Mr W. Coates, Mrs W. Chambers, Mrs and Miss Ainsley, Mr T. Archer, Mr Walton, Mr and Mrs Dixon, Mrs W. White.

Floral tributes from: Greta, Bertie, Eric and Alan (nieces and nephews); Dorothy and Brian (nephew and Niece); Dick, Mary and the girls, Annie and Dorothy (cousins); Dora and Tom; Anna and Will; Rene, Lella and Bill; Marjorie and John; Ida and Bob (Hardings Farm).

"MEET QUEEN" CHOSEN TO LEAD WHITSUNTIDE FESTIVAL

From about 100 entrants, twenty-years-old Miss Ruby Ford, of Zetland Road, Barnard Castle, was selected the Barnard Castle Meet Queen at a carnival dance held at the Witham Hall on Friday evening. The runners-up were Miss Rosemary Brewer and Miss Jean Gregory.

The selection of the Meet Queen was the task set the six independent judges from Darlington. One of the judges, Mr E. Bailey, an insurance official, commenting on the job of selecting a queen, said, "It was very difficult, but I was not surprised by the amount of talent you always find in a town like this."

For the Meet Committee, everything progressed smoothly. The chairman, Mr R. B. Finch, who introduced the judges, thought the event a successful start to the Meet proceedings, and Mr A. G. Taylor, the M.C., expressed his delight at the way things had moved along.

One of the gratifying features of the dance was the substantial number of local people present. It was thought that with the absence of troops in the town the attendances might not be equal to that of former years.

Such fears were soon dispelled when committee members on the door were able to report they had, in fact, had to turn several would-be dancers away.

The crowning ceremony takes place on the Sea Top early in the afternoon of the Saturday of Whit week-end. For the occasion of the Whitsuntide festivities the queen has been presented with an evening gown and hair set. Throughout the Whitsuntide programme the two runners-up, the Misses Brewer and Gregory, will act as attendants.

This was the first occasion Miss Ford had entered a contest of this nature. She resides with her sister at Zetland Road and is at present employed by the North of England Chamois Leather Company as a press operator.

Miss Ford has lived in Barnard Castle for about four years, having previously resided at Northallerton. Among her hobbies, dancing is one of the most popular.

The judges at the dance, all from Darlington, were Mr and Mrs M. DiPaolo, Mr and Mrs E. Bailey, and Mr and Mrs S. Lotherton.

Champion Bull Bought by Langleydale Farmers

A good demand for bulls, particularly those with butterfly qualifications, was reported from the spring show and sale of Northern Dairy Shorthorns at Kirby Stepen on Friday. The average price of £127 4s. showed an increase of £31 10s. on the 1958 figure.

Langleydale farmers, Mr I. H. Hutchinson and Sons, bought the champion bull over 14 months for £294, the top price of the day.

CALENDAR

May

8. Jumble Sale in Catholic School Hall.
8. Dance, Dalton Village Hall
8. Romaldkirk Cricket Club Whist Drive and Dance.
9. Jumble Sale, Eppleby Institute, for Wycliffe R.C. Church.
9. Bring and Buy Sale, Congregational Schoolroom.
9. British and Foreign Bible Society Bring and Buy.
14. Conservative Ladies' Tea Club, King's Head Hotel, 3 p.m.
15. Barnard Castle Y.F.C. Dance, Parish Hall.
15. Liberal Association Jumble.
15. Woodland Agr. Society Dance in Welfare Hall.
15. Wrestling Contest, Witham Hall, Barnard Castle.
16. Y.F.C. Dance, Eggleston Village Hall.
16. Coffee Morning, Witham Hall, Y.M.C.A. Women's Auxiliary.
18. Appley Horse Sports.
18. Dance, Dalton Village Hall.
18. Dance, Bowes Guide Dogs for the Blind.
21. T.G. May Fayre, Congregational Church Hall.
25. Middleton Spring Show of Swaledale Sheep.
28. Coffee Morning, Lartington Hall.
29. Barbecue at Raby Moor, Barnard Castle Round Table.
30. Sheep Dog Trials, Middleton Football Ground.

June

5. Flower Decoration Demonstration by Miss S. Riley-Lord, R.C. Church Hall, Queen St.
13. Grinton Sports.
13. Bowes Carnival.
- 14-15. Bowes Methodist Sunday School Anniversary.
27. Newsham Sports
- 5-8. Middleton Hospital Carnival.

August

22. Barningham Church Sale of Work.
29. Wensleydale Show, Leyburn.

October

- 5, 12, 19, 26. Whist Drives, Barningham Church.

SURPLUS BULBS.

The Barnard Castle Chamber of Trade and Publicity Society appeals to townspeople for surplus bulbs for beautifying the town.

Would those willing to help please leave the bulbs with Mr J. S. Walton, 7, The Bank, Barnard Castle.

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