

## Vera hands over to move to a new married life

Cheerful Mrs Vera Hanson will be serving her last customers on Saturday at her corner shop in Church Street, High Etherley.

After 15 years behind the counter Vera, 55, is selling the business and moving to Aycliffe to marry 58 year old Alf Thompson.

She worked in the shop for 12 years before she became the owner when it was left to her by Mr Ken Stephenson in his will.

Although she is looking forward to her new life, she is sad to be leaving many friends.

But one thing she won't be sorry to leave behind is the hard work of running the shop on her own 5½ days a week.

"I'm ready to take things easier now, although I think I'll find the change strange at first," she said.

"It's very exciting getting married again, but I can't think of what I'm going to do with all my free time."

Stocking the shop was a problem. After 18 months of driving lessons she accepted failure and decided motoring was not for her. Luckily friends rallied round to help bring goods from the cash and carry.

"Without my friends it would have been difficult," admitted Vera. "I owe them all a lot and I'm grateful for their help over the years."

The shop area is small but she was proud that customers could get just about anything they needed.

The new owners are Ron and Hazel Holmes from Northallerton.



Vera Hanson

## Day of prayer for South Africa

Next Monday is the 10th anniversary of the deaths of over 500 children in Soweto, South Africa. A call for a World Day of Prayer from the South African Council of Churches has been endorsed by the World Council of Churches.

People are being urged to make their witness in every way possible to help end violence and unjust rule in South Africa. In London a mass lobby of Parliament will be held for sanctions against apartheid.

Methodist churches in Barnard Castle and Middleton will be open on Monday from 9 a.m.—9 p.m. for prayer that violence may cease and that peace with justice may come to South Africa.

Information boards will be on display, and all local people are invited to join the world vigil at any time during the day.

## £250 wheeled in

Members of the Bede Day Centre raised over £250 for Sport Aid with their street collections in Barnard Castle. They also expect to receive about £100 more in sponsor money.

The members were delighted with the response they received from local people as they went round the town, many of them in wheelchairs and in fancy dress.

## Call for a coffee

The Upper Teesdale Mother and Toddler Group is holding a coffee morning tomorrow at 10-30 a.m. at Newbiggin Village Hall to raise money for play material like paints and a water trough. Children's nearly-new clothing will be on sale.

The group meets at the Pace outdoor centre. Mrs Lisa Wales and Mrs Dodge Betton, who help run it, hope a lot of people will turn up for coffee tomorrow.

## CRUEL BLOW IF OPENCAST MINE IS REJECTED A SECOND TIME

There will be a lot of anxiety in the coming weeks before 34 men know whether they can carry on working or must move off to join the dole queue.

It is a verdict that will be crucial not only to those directly involved but to many others in the Butterknowle locality.

There was disbelief when Durham County Council threw out plans for an opencast scheme not long ago—a decision which just about everyone in this area believes was wrong.

But it has now been put in again with extra details which the company hopes will persuade the county to change its mind.

There is still one major stumbling block, however—the fact that some county people want this Teesdale scheme rejected to help other coal producers in more heavily populated districts further east.

## MERCURY COMMENT

The official reason is that there is no proven demand for the coal Butterknowle can produce, but it boils down to the point that if it is left in the ground other coal from the east will be easier to sell.

The truth is that there is a demand for the Butterknowle coal, as proved with that from adjoining mines which have now almost been completed.

And there is an enormous call from brickworks for the fireclay that is also on the land. Indeed, some brick makers say they will be in serious difficulties without it.

Another rejection would be a cruel blow for the firm, its labour force, their families and neighbourhood as a whole.

Surely the county will realise this time that it makes sense to let it go ahead, so that the last remaining opencast site in the area can be completed within the next three years.

## PEEPS INTO THE PAST

### 5 years ago

Among fancy dress winners at Mickleton Carnival were Stephen Wall, Duncan Platt, Sarah Wall, Peter and Leanne Utley, Sarah Collinson, Shaun Walker, Tracey Oliver and Barbara Brooks.

Several Teesdale people rushed to help when a tourist tumbled down rocks at Cauldron Snout. Among them were Ian Finlay, Dr. Peter Austin, Denis Rowlands and Alan Scott.

### 10 years ago

John Lund of Selsel Oarsmen beat a Scottish international at a sculling event in Durham. The win brought him his fourth trophy of the season.

Sandra Walton, 20, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Walton of Low Houses, Newbiggin, gained a Diploma of the Society of Radiographers. She works at North Tees General Hospital.

### 15 years ago

Private buyers and dealers poured into Barnard Castle from all over the country for a sale of antiques belonging to Mr M. Hodgson of Startforth. The event at the

Witham Hall raised well over £8,000.

Barnard Castle men's tennis team, enjoying a winning season, included W. Ainslie, A. Cudmore, K. Dinsmore, F. Nelson, B. Smith, R. Quilter, R. White, P. Verow.

### 20 years ago

The Rev. John Dent announced his retirement from Barnard Castle Methodist Circuit. He had been in the area for seven years, but started his 38 year spell as a preacher at Barningham.

It was announced that disused railway land at Montabo Road, Barnard Castle, was to be earmarked for industry. Small advance factories were likely to be built.

Television presenter Tom Coyne crowned the new Middleton carnival queen, Miss Beryl Watson. Her attendants were Miss Florence Wardell and Miss Eileen Wood.

Among winning children at Glaxo Sports were David Philp, Sally Jackson, Christopher Young, Janet Hetherington, Martin Allinson, Catherine Raw, Carol Blackett, David Richardson and Kathleen Peart.



Miss Christine Ridley, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ernest Ridley of 290 Toft Hill was married at St. Cuthbert's Church, Etherley, to Mr Gerald Robson, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Robson of 67 Newholme Crescent, Evenwood.

Mrs Anne Graham, the bride's sister, was matron of honour. Bridesmaids were Miss Susan Ridley and Jayne Hegarty, the bride's cousins, and Miss Judith Hill.

The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. D. Hinge and flowers were by Mrs J. Thompson.

The bride, given away by her father, wore a white off-the-shoulder full length tulle dress and matching stole trimmed with French lace. She carried a bouquet of white and blue roses and gypsophila.

Best man was Mr Craig Baxter. Groomsmen were Mr Alan Ridley, Mr Dwayne Robson and Shaun Potter.

The couple, who went on honeymoon to the Lake District, will live in Evenwood.

Picture: Galdon.

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