

MERCURY COMMENT

noting machines instead long the first of them will be the crews will be trained to give. It is no exaggeration as the teams are sure some of recent years could not avoid if this equipment had been available. attitude is that if even is saved as a direct result appeal it will have been. Everyone will agree, though it is probable fits will be much greater must still be a feeling a crucial equipment should be used by the state as a course. with no chance of that the ambulance men could of their achievement—all the other people who raised fund raising events

Dantist Barry Parker bought his wife Barbara an unusual birthday present on Wednesday—a night out on the town with two toy boys.

He bid £40 to ensure that she and a lady friend can go for dinner with two handsome young men, with another man to chauffeur them from door to door in a new Jaguar.

It was one of the star offers at the minibus fundraising auction.

Barbara giggled in surprise when she saw Harry making the purchase in the Witham Hall. Then she went over to meet the toy boys Mark Wedgewood and Martin Gardiner who were waiting at the back of the hall.

Also there was Frank Thompson, general manager of Teesdale Farmers Oils, who donated the night out and will act as driver. "I'll invite a friend to come with me and we'll all have a good laugh," said the birthday girl whose husband described her age as "39 and holding."

This was only one of many items which caused amusement during the sale which lasted more than three hours as auctioneer Simon Nixon knocked down 237 lots in expert fashion.

There was hilarity as bids were taken for having a cat neutered by the Barnard Castle vets. The price reached was £7.

Despite Newcastle United's n...

£40 BIRTHDAY GIFT IS A TOY-BOY NIGHT OUT

gation there was keen interest in a day for two at a match as guests of the club and meeting the team. This went for £80.

There was also a lot of interest each time lessons were offered, and there were quite a number of them. Riding lessons and driving lessons fetched £5 or £7 a time. A golf lesson from Barnard Castle professional John Harrison made £10.

A half hour flying lesson in a Piper Tomahawk made £45. Another flying lesson went for £40. A 20 minute gliding flight fetched £25, but later a similar flight attracted more attention and made £32.

An hour's tuition in a double decker bus was sold for £30. Drivers were also keen to buy four one-hour sessions in a super-kart at Sheldon, and this offer was run up to £40.

There were several items to appeal to the adventurous. A four hour cruise for two off the Northumberland coast in a yacht (must be competent swimmers) went for £22. But £10 more than that was paid for a chance to abseil down a local viaduct after a spell of instruction.

Among other offers snapped up were 10 hours of ironing £2, an ice skating session for four £6, two hours of dog exercising £2, female whippagran £15, male whippagran £12, two hour consultation with an accountant £5, and a week's boarding at a cattery £5.

for two, with a spell in the control room during Northern Life, was sold for £25. A visit to Raul, Cleveland for two, with a chance to watch a programme being put on air, made £17.

There were lots of meals on offer at the best eating places in Teesdale, all fetching good prices, and there was also keen bidding for fish and chips offered at a number of shops.

Sharing top billing with Newcastle United for top price of the night at £80 was a 20 tonne load

of gravel from Selsat Aggregates. There was also good bidding for the use of a JCB donated by Keatons of Boldron and for various types of building material.

At the sale bookshop owner Michael Fryer bought a teddy

bear which he intends to raffile for the Spastics Society. This is because a plastic bear used as a collecting box for the fund was stolen from his shop. "The raffile will hopefully make up for what was stolen," he said.

An afternoon at Tyne Tees TV



Barbara Parker with toy boys Mark Wedgewood and Martin Gardiner.

Ambulance Brigade to get new branch?

Anyone interested in becoming a member of a new branch of St. John Ambulance Brigade is being invited to contact Ambulanceman Michael Dean-Johnson.

He has moved to Lands from Newton Aycliffe where he was a member of the brigade. Before he can set up a new branch in this area he needs to know how many people would be interested.

If it goes ahead meetings will be held each Wednesday, possibly in Barnard Castle, but this would depend on where the members live. One of the first jobs would be to raise funds to buy uniforms.

Members can study for certificates in first aid. There could be courses on first aid at work and home nursing. Anyone interested can ring Michael at home on Bishop Auckland 710098.

THE PAST

arm, was attended by Bramley of Penny Hill angleydale.

From Middleton School the Teesdale Road Safety Club Glaxo shield was presented to the team, Jane MacFarquhar, Stephen Walker, Carl Huxtable, Graeme Addison, Samantha and Katy Lee.

15 YEARS AGO

Oliver of Zealand Road, Castle, won first prize in cury's Meet snapshot contest. The winning picture was a man dressed up as a with a donkey.

safety officer, Mr Sabin led a team of fire to a final in London. They and but the team was the Titan Cup for the allies over all events.

20 YEARS AGO

knowle Carnival held in lance at the village hall. Queen was Miss Judith with attendants Beverley and Linda Hall.

n held its 30th annual Catherine Lawton was Rose Queen by the rector, Hazel Close. Her s were Elizabeth Bellas mix with Caroline Bellas on Hall who scattered

25 YEARS AGO

tin Allen, a 75 year old bargemen platelayer with Railways and his wife celebrated their golden at Fountain Cottage,

if the cricket world were to attend a benefit at Barnard Castle Cricket ground, Mr Gordon They included Rona and Lance Gibbs from Indian team.

ing makes £400

Hall, home of St Corritt, rang to music by ss Players as guests and Castle Rotary Club's savouries evening or despite poor weather a e than £400 for charities. t Roy Brownless, attend- nant function of his year expressed thanks to Sir or allowing the use of rd to staff who guided ough hours. Thanks to Barnard Castle inner mbers for providing a fet.

PETS

Lotus to meet from 3 x 4 yds. Call in any time 30 p.m. and all day Sunday

E BROUGH 734 (Agent)

Benefit money is a right — not charity

A meeting of Barnard Castle Over 60 Club opened with a welcome from the chairman. After the opening hymn and prayer played by Miss Thompson, Mrs Anderson welcomed Miss Clare Ambrose from Durham County Council welfare rights unit.

She spoke about benefits which people can apply for but often do not, because of pride and independence.

Miss Ambrose pointed out that these benefits are paid out of taxes and National Insurance money that people have paid over

the years. In no way is it a form of charity.

There are quite a number of benefits that senior citizens are entitled to, such as attendance allowance, income support rate relief.

Leaflets were passed around with forms which could be filled in to claim attendance allowance for those who need looking after because they are crippled or it would be dangerous for them to be on their own.

Miss Ambrose answered members' questions. A lot of interest was shown in the introduction of poll tax. Mrs Anderson thanked Miss Ambrose for an interesting and informative talk.

The meeting closed with Miss Thompson playing the closing hymn. The next meeting will be on Monday, 10th July.

Cyclists pedal far to help patients

A team of cyclists will be passing through the region this Sunday during a marathon pedal push from London to Edinburgh. They will stay the night in Richmond before going on to Middlesbrough.

The effort is to raise money for Westminster Hospital Melanoma fund. The organisers, who call themselves the Westminster Molecs, have been working hard for four months to get sponsorship and ensure the event gathers as much publicity as possible.

Actor Nigel Hawthorne is patron of the fund which aims to raise £100,000 to establish a special laboratory for the study of malignant melanoma. It is a form of cancer growing at a rate second only to lung cancer because, it is suspected, of increased exposure to sunlight.

Westminster Hospital is the forefront of treatment of the disease. The money will help establish a laboratory of tissue culture and cellular chemotherapy at the hospital.

More for research

The sum of £67-62 was raised on Wednesday by Barnard Castle Friends of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund at a cake stall. This was added to £185 raised on their tombola stall at Teesdale Country Fair and £61 at a bric-a-brac stall and raffle during the Meet. The next event planned will be a Flag day in July. Thanks will be given to everyone for their continued help and support. It is much appreciated by all members.

Lisa sails again



Lisa Burton, a sixth former at Teesdale School and daughter of Mr and Mrs John Burton of Ivy Cottage Farm, Keeverstone, is off on another sea adventure on the sailing ship Sir Winston Churchill. She is taking part in the London-Hamburg tall ships race on the vessel, on which she sailed from Sweden to Helsinki a year ago. She will be away for 14 days doing a variety of tough nautical tasks—pulling ropes, helping in the galley and acting as lookout.

Lisa loved every minute of her last trip, for which she got the chance at the last minute. This time she had plenty of time to make arrangements, and just before setting off she said she was excited about it.



Steve Laing spends all day passing water.

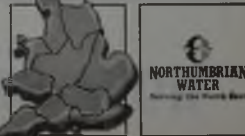
There's nothing wrong with Steve. He's in the best of health, and doing a lot to help keep you healthy too. Steve works at Northumbrian Water's Howdon Sewage Treatment Works. It's his job to see that sewage is properly treated before effluent is returned to our rivers and streams.

It's an important job. As the population grows, recycling of water will become increasingly vital. That's one of the reasons we've invested so heavily in the Lyneside Sewage Treatment Scheme and its sister project on Tockside.

Another reason was the need to fight pollution of our rivers and estuaries. The results are already clearly visible. The Tyne is now the finest salmon river in England, with 1,300 caught last season.

The enormous task of dealing with the sewage output of the North East involves over 7,500 miles of sewers, 433 pumping stations, 381 treatment works and a large proportion of nearly 1,500.

But Steve's sure you'll agree it's all worthwhile. Because every time you pull the plug you have evidence that Northumbrian Water is serving the North East.



One of the 10 Water and Sewage Businesses of England and Wales