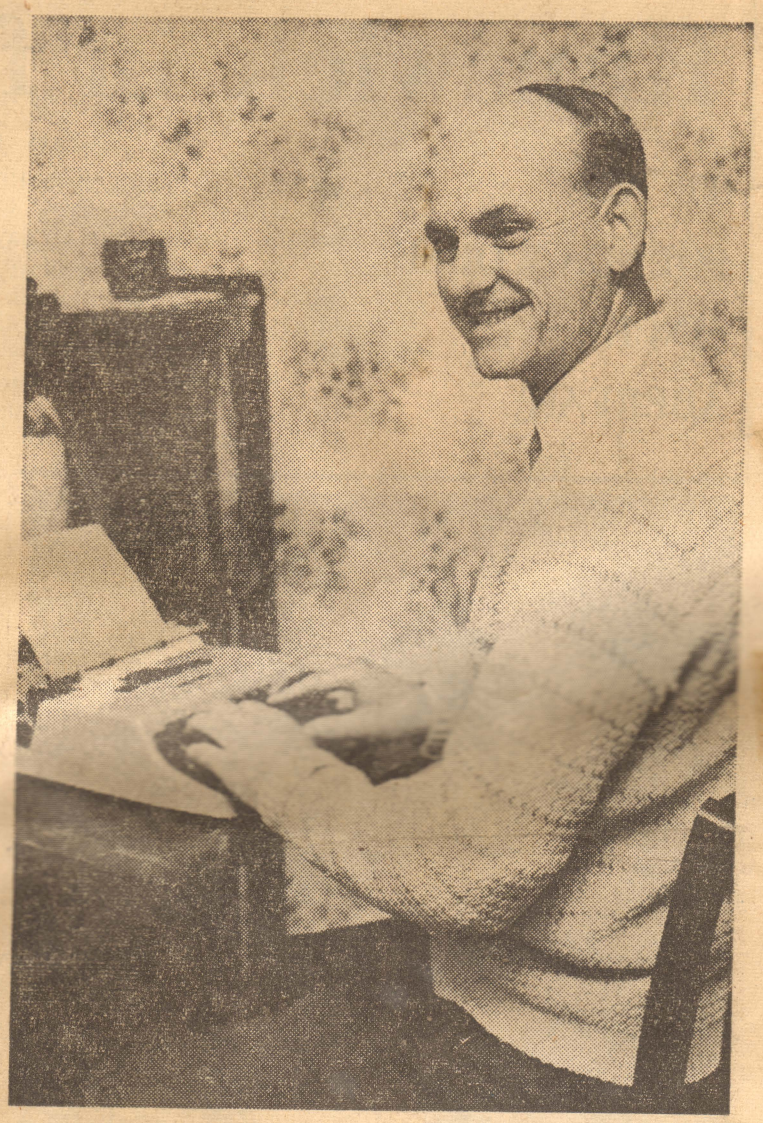
John North tells a story success story

At the sign of the Swingin' Symbol



Robert Corkin: the captain burned his ideas book.

ROBERT CORKIN is a writer. No, not the fellow who wrote Room at the Top; nor was The Cruel Sea his; and Saturday Night and Sunday Morning was another's brainchild.

He's the chap, of course, who had 800 words leading up to a twist—ending in the Yorkshire Evening Post the other month; who made a sale once to Week-end, among the better payers in the bargain basement of the short story market; and whose articles on the heartbreak of the umpteenth rejection slip have occasionally made The Writer.

Over 13 years, about 30 of his 60 pieces have been published to bring in from £2 10s to 15 guineas a time. So you can see that most of the cash for new typewriter ribbons, and to keep a wife and three children, come from the acetylene burner he uses at the British Railways works, Shildon.

Yet I doubt whether John Braine, Nicholas Monsarrat and Alan Sillitoe combined get as much kick as he does out of "writing." And, in a who-does-most-for-writing contest against any one of this famous trio, he wouldn't be the push-over you might suppose.

His club for writers

Robert Corkin, aged 43, runs single-handed a club for writers in the same league as himself. It's a mainly-for-enjoyment league, but there's always the chance of promotion to the best-sellers' division, or a surprise win in the Cup Final where a short story gives a smash-hit idea for a film.

At 10 Larch Avenue, his Shildon council house, he told me yesterday about the club and its monthly magazine, both called Symbol. The magazine may or may not be your 14s-a-year cup of tea, but you would agree that Mr. Corkin couldn't be faulted for enthusiasm or thoroughness. Certainly, the more than 100 Symbol members lap it up.

The parish magazine-sized November eight pages—they look like rather posh typewriting, photo-copied — include a short story from a member; a prize-winning entry for a Symbol competition; and a Devon rector on the "some hundreds of pounds, new friends, and contentment" he gets from writing.

A chat with Emily

Mr. Corkin, who edits, sends for 1s-a-copy printing, and then addresses the magazine to members, contributes a paragraph each on miracle plays and Hardy's Wessex. ("They're just ideas that may interest a reader to do more research for an article.")

He puts in some news about members; sums up the competition for pieces on "Why I shall never cease writing," which had 45 entries and was borrowed, with acknowledgment, by The Writer"; and offers free membership for the best 300 words on a chat you might have with Charles Dickens and Emily Brontë.

He started Symbol in August, 1964, because he was disillusioned with other writers' clubs he had tried: "They didn't seem to DO anything. Even the information they sent about magazines who wanted stories was always in the Writers' and Artists' Year Book, anyway.

"I thought I would start something to bring in writers, instead of leaving them outside." He does run "market information," but only lists publications he's discovered aren't in the year book (Home Words, the national inset for parish magazines), is a November suggestion."

The first couple of issues were one page only, and he typed it himself and sent it to five members. Now it goes to members in Australia, India, Poland and America as well as Britain. In the last month, he's had more than 100 pieces sent in for consideration.

More suitable than 'Not suitable'

He pays a maximum of 30s: "When a would-be writer is paid, however little, he knows then that the piece has been published on merit. When it's not paid for, he can never be sure."

Although he doesn't pretend to be an expert, he always writes a personal letter explaining just why he didn't publish a piece: "It's more helpful than a printed rejection slip just saying 'Not suitable.'" Of course, with so little space, that means a lot of letter-writing; most evenings are taken up with Symbol work.

At first, he paid everything out of his pocket. But, when a year ago, it reached £3 10s a month, he fixed the sub. Not many dropped out, and some send as much as £2. He still throws in the odd 10 bob to buy stamps.

A lot of the members—they're teachers, clerks, nurses, factory workers—write to each other, and one day there may be area meetings over a beer. But Mr. Corkin has only met one member, who called on him at Shildon.

It's a bit of a puzzle how the overseas members heard of Symbol, especially the Pole, but now the 2d-a-word ads in the magazine include a Korean's plea for a pen-pal and a Spaniard's for view postcards.

Precious jottings burned

Mr. Corkin, remembering that H. G. Wells had hundreds of rejection slips before he clicked, doesn't give up easily himself. There was the story he had refused three times; he put it away for nine years, revised it, sent it off again—and had five guineas back within ten days.

As an eight-year-old in South Shields, he made a bit of a name for himself with his stories. Kiddies would gather round him for a tale while their mothers went shopping. As a sailor in the war he wrote 50,000-word books to be passed around his shipmates. Some, left with a cliff-hanger, would look over his shoulder as he wrote the next page. And occasionally he'd write love letters for less articulate sailors.

Starting from the D-Day landings, he kept a round-the-world book of jottings which he thought would be useful for his writings one day. But, in Shanghai the destroyer captain told him the book was a security risk. It was burned.

After the war, he came to Shildon; he was a cinema projectionist then. Although he got a diploma from a ten-guinea correspondence course in story writing, he didn't bother for some years. Then, in 1953, The Northern Echo published his "A day's reflection in a North-East town"—and he was off again.

He has tried a TV play in vain, and has a novel in draft form. (Not his first; between 13 and 15, he wrote seven "just for the enjoyment of writing, and with no thought of publication").

One thing worries him about his thriving Symbol — there are few North-East members. He'd like to hear from some, "but they must be genuine writers, not just people who think they can write but can never get down to it."

YOUR VIEWS

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of
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to

A Shildon Author

Mr Robert Corkin, 25, Vaughan Street, Shildon, is to have four of his short stories published by a Bolton firm this month. They have written asking Robert for further scripts and others are being considered. His first effort was published by a national newspaper about a year ago.

He is at present engaged in writing a novel which will be ready for submission in a few weeks. It is 20 months since he received a diploma for short-story writing. Mr Corkin began to take writing seriously about a year ago. A publishing firm offered several months ago to publish six of his stories in book form on a royalty basis, but as the terms seemed unfavourable he turned down the offer.

SWIM YOUR WAY TO HAPPINESS

I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I first met Mrs. Celia Middleton at her home, 18, Middleton Road, Shildon. I certainly did not expect to find a jolly, fit, full-of-life 71-year old. And what gave her this zest, this grand-to-be-alive feeling? Swimming!

"I try and go to the baths twice a week," she told me. At the age of 14 her swimming won her a silver teapot, and at 20 she won first prize at the Durham Regatta. Apart from her other medals and solid silver prizes, swimming also won her the Eldon Amateur Cup, but she had to give this back because she suddenly turned a "walking" professional in the Shildon Show.

Mrs. Middleton, who is better known as Sis Hubery, has also done quite a lot of singing in her time. "Swimming is a grand exercise for singers," she said. "Does the lungs a lot of good. Mind you," she hurried on, "I don't sing to the public now, but I still put on a show and do a few comedy acts!"

A CHALLENGE

She attracts quite a crowd at the baths, especially when she does her diving performance, and some of her strokes baffle and amaze the onlookers. As her third husband Jack says: "I don't know of any other woman in Co. Durham who can swim as gracefully as Sis."

"I get a thrill teaching non-swimmers," said Mrs. Middleton. The other day she taught a woman to swim in a matter of minutes. And she gave this advice to all young people: "Swim —and live a life of contentment."

And Sis, who has four children, the eldest being 51, concluded with an air of confidence "I challenge anyone at my age to compete with me at swimming."

Truly, a most wonderful and remarkable woman.

STORY:- R. CORKIN

Shildon's literary Symbol spans continents

BY DAY an acetyline burner at Shildon . . . by evening and into the early hours a literary editor. Sitting in his council house at 23 Jubilee Crescent, smartly dressed Robert Corkin had every hair in place and said: "Let's just say my work mates are curious."

Literature has been the other as he can remember. At seven side of Robert Corkin for as long he would collect all the kids in the neighbourhood around him while he told stories. At 14 he had the kids collecting news stories and then editing them in a newspaper which he sold door to door.

Naturally, dreams of being a famous writer must have flown through his brain as he entered correspondence courses on short story writing (cost £10). But almost as if he is apologising but not wishing to appear thwarted, he explains this has not been his lot.

He has had stories published in Weekend and other magazines but has yet to attend a Foyles Literary luncheon.

But one day he decided to write to other writers and from their correspondence they decided, or rather he offered) to start a newsletter of four pages. It was mailed to about 12 friends in different places.

SYMBOL IS BORN

They liked it and when friends saw it they said they wanted copies—and Robert Corkin, literary editor, was born. By work of mouth copies passed among friends. More people wanted Robert's Symbol.

"It was a slow process; it just moves around," says Robert Corkin. "People just seem to like it the way it is."

Who are Bob's people? Retired clergymen seem to predominate. Symbol is unpretentious. It carries stories and poems—paid for. It tells its subscribers (Robert Corkin mentions the subscribers with love and respect), market information or what types of articles the Catholic Fireside editor likes to have on his desk in the morning.

WOMEN'S HOUR

There are about 400 subscribers, many of them like Ferryhill's Margaret Stephenson and South Shields' Ferguson Phillips are the sort of people whose work we are always reading or hearing on programmes like Women's Hour, but whose name we never remember.

U.S.A. TO AUSTRALIA

Shildon's Symbol has spread across the world. It is in the Library of Winconsin University, America, and read in Switzerland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Malta, as well as Poland and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Corkin treats all the subscribers as his friends, and with typically North Eastern spirit he writes personal letters to them all.

"They want it — so I do it,' he says.

Maybe this hard, practical attitude to work is why Symbol is so successful. "It is nice to look back on it and the way it has grown," says Robert Corkin. "But I don't think it will reach great achievement."

FIRST BREAKTHROUGH

But Symbol is already starting to make a literary breakthrough. A few months ago they published a book, "The Poets of Symbol," and the initial success of its 96 pages of 40 poets' work has been such that the publishers, Regent Press, are publishing a second book.

Every night when he gets home from the waggon works the Literary Editor has been been working for his subscribers and their success—and at least success has been achieved.

Will Shildon's acetylene burner become a second Ken Tynan instead of his dream of Somerset Maugham? Maybe, but then Robert with his retired clergymen could never boast of being the first person to say an Anglo Saxon on television. And in these days sensationalism is more important than dedication.

'Beginners' magazine to publish anthology

SYMBOL—the Shildon-edited magazine "for beginners or those who are just starting out" — is to publish an Anthology of Verse, including poems by 48 writers whose works have appeared in the magazine. The Anthology, a sure sign of the five-year-old magazine's success, will be published this year.

Already, Symbol which is non-profit making, is a nationwide concern. It is edited by Mr. Robert Corkin, of 23 Jubilee Crescent, Shildon, but the poetry editor, Violet Bowen, lives in Oxford, and the magazine itself is printed in Plymouth.

Monthly copies go as far afield as Australia, Yogoslavia, the United States, Canada, India, South Africa, Greece, Switzerland and Malta, and most of the British readers live in the South.

Mr. Corkin would like more people to take an interest in the North-East. "I don't know where the North East writers are," he said yesterday. "We are sending the magazine to the university at Wisconsin after they ordered copies for 12 months. Symbol even goes to a millionaire in Arizona and a Californian doctor."

Incentives

Among the magazine's subscribers are novelist Ursula Bloom and the Greek poet Takis Papatzonis, as well as several more well-known writers.

Symbol itself has grown from an eight-page pamphlet to a 16-page magazine, carrying three articles and four poems a month, six short stories a year, new items, competitions and editorial comment.

The articles published are paid for and the competitions have prizes incentives to would-be authors to write more and contribute better work.

Work is something that Mr. Corkin knows extremely well. When he is at home from his job at the Shildon Wagon Works, he gets down to editing Symbol. "It's taking up so much time now, that I have not been able to write anything myself for more than two years," Mr. Corkin said.

He added that work is still going on with the anthologoy. "It is the first thing we've done anything like it, and if it is a success, we shall have to bring out the second one," he said.

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With the Compliments
of
J. Sinton

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

istry because he did not consider conditions were serious

TOPICS OF T

A FORMER South Shields man who, as an eight-year-old boy, used to tell stories to other children while their mothers were out shopping, is running single-handed a "club" for aspiring short story writers.

During working hours, 43-year-old **Mr. Robert Corkin,** of Larch Avenue, Shildon, County Durham, is an acetylene burner at the Shildon works of British Railways. But in his spare time he is a writer and editor of a monthly magazine called Symbol.

From being a childhood storyteller Mr. Corkin grew up to be a full-blown author. As a sailor during the 1939-45 war he wrote 50,000-word-long books which were passed around the ship's company—and occasionally he exercised his pen in writing love letters for less literary-minded shipmates.

• Goes abroad

OVER the past 13 years he has seen about 30 of his 60 pieces in print. Between the ages of 13 and 15 he wrote seven novels "just for the enjoyment of writing, and with no thought of publication."

He has tried (in vain) to write a television play—but still has not lost hope of mastering the technique.

He started Symbol two years ago because, in his own words, other writers clubs he had tried "didn't seem to do anything."

The first two issues, typed by himself and sent to five members, consisted of one page only. Now, the magazine has grown to eight pages and goes to members in Australia, India, Poland and America as well as Britain.

"I was born in South Shields and lived in the town for 25 years," Mr. Corkin told me. "The question I am asking is: 'Where are the writers of the North-east?' Although my club has members in most parts of the country there has been a very poor response from this area. For a stamped addressed envelope, I will forward details of Symbol to anyone interested."

• Visiting



Former South Shields seafarer Mr. Robert Corkin, who runs a writers' club and magazine. See first Topic.

A symbol of hope for the 'shy writers'

OUR SHILDON REPORTER

TWO years ago a Shildon man founded an eight page magazine for the "dozens of shy writers" in the North-East. He worried in case people thought it was just a flash in the pan.

But today Symbol has double the number of pages, a national circulation, and the editor, Mr. Robert Corkin, of Jubilee Crescent, Shildon, boasts among his subscribers novelist Ursula Bloom and Greek poet Takis Papatzonis.

The non-profit making magazine offers writers the chance to publish stories, articles and poetry which larger publications might refuse on the grounds that the author was unknown. One of the magazine's aims is to demolished the vicious circle of requiring a "name" before a magazine will accept contributions.

Symbol also has a thriving correspondence club, with a free monthly news letter where members can air their grumbles, seek advice on writing problems and correspond with other writers. Regular competitions are held and "Symbol writer circles" are being planned all over the country.

"Many people must wonder whether Symbol ever got off the ground," said Mr. Corkin. "It's been hard work, but slowly but surely it is paying o."

The Rev. J. Chilton will conduct the harvest festival services next

meeting was closed by Mrs. T. Clarke.



Four-year-old Haley Corkin goes a little camera shy at the wedding of Mr. Brian Stephens who is the youngest member of Shildon Council, to Miss Brenda Craggs, also of Shildon, at St. John's Church, Shildon.—[Photo: Ken Beetham].

BITS AND PIECES

By ROBERT CORKIN

Ever written to a computer dating service? Six romantic German girls did and were given the name and address of Karl Dach. All very well until they found that he was 84 years old. Must have been an old computer. Then there is the man who phoned a major oil company to enquire where he could buy their latest brand of oil. Back came the reply: "We can't tell you the name and address of your nearest stockist — only the computer knows, and it's not working at the moment." Perhaps it needed oiling.

•

From a newspaper: The nuclear submarine, Dreadnought ran into trouble when her sea trials were delayed by a leak. Surely a prize-winner without a doubt.

•

Mike: "What has laces, a you wear it on your foot?"

Me (with a dreadful cold): "A shoe."

Mike: "Bless you."

•

"I am tired of being poor and pure." So said Mr. T. Silverwood, delegate to the Liberal Party Assembly. A liberal doze of tranquillisers can sometimes be of help — but quite ineffective at forming a human being into a millionaire.

•

To all racehorse owners. In America, a four-year-old racehorse ran 38 races, winning only once, until its owner gave it a daily doze of whisky.

Results. It won its next two races in a canter. Imagine all owners doing this. Could be that the result would be a dead-heat between every horse in the race.

•

"We don't go round dressed like Charlies for nothing, you know", so said Sir Ian Bowater who will be exLord Mayor of London in a few days time. How fortunate. There are quite a few Charlies hanging around and doing it for nothing.

•

A bakery shop's advert in a newspaper: "Try our hot panties. Fresh every day". Ideal for women in winter, no doubt.

THIS AND THAT

By Robert Corkin

WHAT has sex and cigarettes to do with Ernie? Who is Ernie, you may well ask. Well, if you are a holder of Premium Bonds, then there is no need for me to explain. And you will recall where Ernie dishes out his £25,000 prize nearly every week —places such as MiddleSEX, SusSEX, EsSEX. Pity Durham could not be changed to Dursex. And the cigarettes? Recently I opened a packet of tipped cigarettes and found that one had been packed upside down. Was this rare? I found it was indeed when I contacted London. "It is an extremely rare occurrence," said Richard Cole, Brand Manager of Benson and Hedges. It appears to be millions to one chance—which is the same chance as winning the £25,000. So beware, my luck must be in. The next time you see that the Premium Bond winner lives in Co. Durham, you can rest assured it will be Yours Truly. So laugh if you like!

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

VERRUCAS have caused concern to swimmers for as long as I can remember. Their concern today seems to be reaching a disquieting peak, for it appears more children than ever are suffering from these infectious warts. Trouble is, many parents are still ignorant to the fact of what a verruca really is. Many believe it is an ordinary corn on the foot, and allow their children to continue going to the baths, consequently spreading this disturbing nuisance to others. A nuisance because it can take months of treatment before the verruca is finally killed, and that is certainly disturbing to those who are keen on swimming.

Although precautions are taken at all baths, many believe that is where the source of infection lies. This may be partly true, but another source could be when children are having a gym lesson at school.

I am referring to the gym shoes. It would certainly lessen the risk if children took their own gym shoes to school. And it is no good thinking wearing stockings is a prevention. Only plasting stops a verruca from spreading.

•

"How can we sweep away the filth that appears on television," said a friend. Someone thought it a good idea to write direct to the Government. Their protest was short-lived. The reply was that the Government could not interfere, but suggested that the writer contact the television companies concerned. A big laugh indeed.

Just how can we stop this stuff from creeping into our homes and disturbing the minds of our daughters and sons? There have been many suggestions to no avail. I find that Government control is the only effective method, but they have no intentions of apply this control. One thing is certain. If this present trend continues, the word "decency" will be struck from the next new dictionary.

•

"Those who write letters to newspapers are either ignorant or a failure in life." Someone sent this to a newspaper editor, and it appeared in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Definitely no comment!

Week co

BITS AND PIECES

By ROBERT CORKIN

According to an American surgeon, human brain transplants are now medically possible. Of course, they would have to be in the form of a total head swap. This breakthrough could bring the entire human race to its senses. Think of it. Everyone of us brainy — and goodlooking.

Item in a newspaper: "...hotel executive to have drawn a gun on Frank Sinatra". Must have been short of sketch pads.

Thieves recently broke into a Silver Prize Band hall and stole three cornets. An icecream shop next to the hall was also raided. Those thieves really knew what they wanted.

This is not a tall story. Two dwarfs were having a small rum in the local. One of them was sobbing. "What's wrong, Josie?" said his friend. "My wife left me", returned Josie. His friend slipped a comforting hand about his shoulder. "Cheer up", he said, "she may come back." Josie sobbed more freely now. "That's the trouble", he fired back. "She has."

Pornography is a drug which perverts men's morals, says the Pope. He invited newspaper and magazine dealers to help stamp it out. Rough on the dealers. Far better and easier to use a rubber, I would have thought.

Awful of me, but wanted to see the antics of the public so I purposely dropped a two shillings piece in the busy main street, Most people ignored it. One woman eyed it closely before opening her purse to find that it was not hers. Another walked by and then came back only to decide to leave it alone But it eventually happened. A short, stocky man in a raggy coat picked it up. What happened next really stunned me. The man came straight to me. "Here", he said, handing me the coin. "You dropped this". There's hope for us all yet.

Britain's chief Common Market negotiator said that if Britain joined the "Six", it would be painful for Australia. Would spraying the country with a laxative substance help?

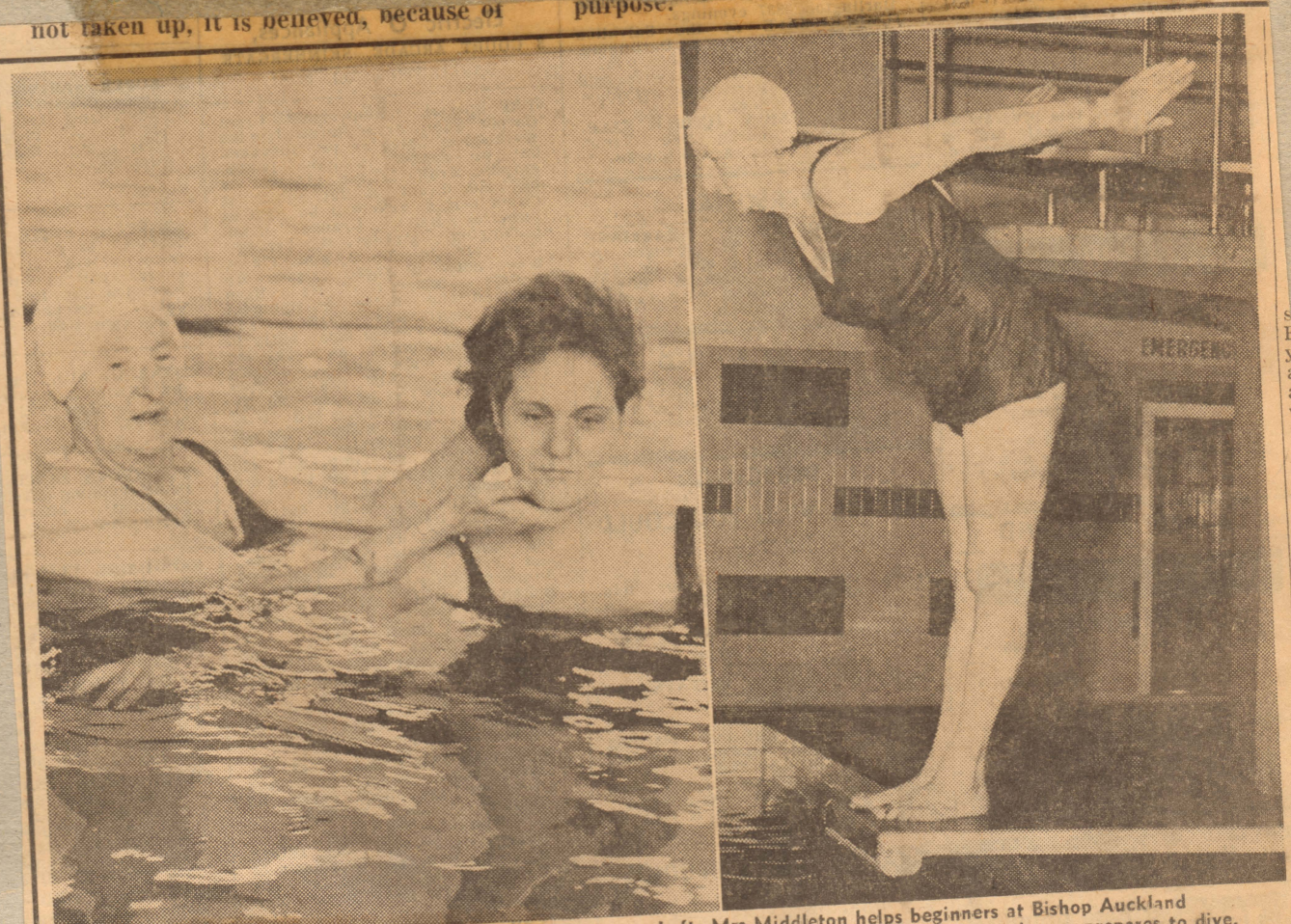
On a gravestone: "Rest in Peace until I Come". No comment.

Advert in a newspaper: "Money for Sale". The bees are, I'll wager, still laughing their heads off.

Professor Hans Schweigart, German nutritionist, says: "We Continentals should have a British breakfast. The British breakfast is ideal." And to think I have been turning up my nose to toast for as long as I can remember.

not taken up, it is believed, because of purpose.

welcome.



Left: Mrs Middleton helps beginners at Bishop Auckland baths. Right: The 71-year-old swimmer prepares to dive.

WOMAN, 71, ISSUES SWIM CHALLENGE

WHEN Mrs Celia Middleton, a jolly, fit, full-of-life 71-year-old woman, was given artificial respiration after falling headlong into a raintub, when a child, it far from scared her going near water again. On the contrary two days after her escape, from death she plunged into the water again —determined to swim.

Today she is still swimming — and challenging anyone of her age to match her.

"I try and go to the swimming baths twice a week," she said at her home, 18 Middleton Road, Shildon. At the age of 14, her swimming won her a silver teapot, and at 20 she won a first prize at Durham Regatta.

Mrs Middleton, better known as Sis Hubery, has also done quite a lot of singing, "Swimming is a grand exercise for singers," she said. "Does the lungs a lot of good. Mind you, I don't really sing to the public, now, but I still do a few comedy acts."

Atttracts crowds

This living-it-up 71-year-old attracts quite a crowd when she does her diving. Even some of her swimming strokes baffle and amaze the onlookers. As her third husband, Jack says: "My wife swims so gracefully. People just don't believe her age."

"I also get a big kick out of teaching non-swimmers, said Mrs Middleton. The other day she taught a woman how to swim in a matter of a few hours

Sis, who has four children, the eldest 51, and who is also a great-grandmother, said with an air of confidence, "I challenge anyone at my age to compete with me at swimming." It will not be an easy task for anyone to take up this remarkable woman's challenge.

"EVENING DESPATCH"

STORY BY ROBERT CORKIN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEN BEETHAM



Mrs. Mary Corkin reads a book of Symbol poems edited by her husband Robert.

Shildon edited magazine publishes book of poems

THE Symbol anthology of verse full of poems published in a Shildon-edited writers' magazine, is now on sale.

The Symbol magazine has already achieved a world-wide following in the two years since the first edition came from the home of Mr. Robert Corkin, of 23 Jubilee Crescent, Shildon.

It is not a large publication, but in it Mr. Corkin publishes short stories and poems from famous and unknown writers. It is widely used as a medium for swopping ideas and experiences.

Now with the anthology of verse, Symbol is arriving even more firmly on the map. The poems were selected for the anthology in Oxford, by Violet Bowen.

She makes no claims to the works of the 40-poets in the anthology, except that the poems are a representative collection of the work of Symbol's subscribers.

Mr. Corkin, who is employed at Shildon Wagon Works, sends monthly issues of the Magazine all over the world, including the library of the Pennsylvania State University.

The magazine itself is a nationwide concern, with the story side being edited in Shildon, the verse from Oxford, and the actual publication, from the South coast.

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3 August 1970

Robert Corkin, Esq.,
Engineering Works,
British Railways,
SHILDON.

Dear Mr Corkin,

I see from a recent issue of the British Railways magazine that you edit a monthly magazine for writers called 'Symbol'.

I produce a programme dealing with leisure activities and would be interested in hearing more about your magazine and recording an interview with you. If you would be willing to do this for me, perhaps you would telephone me. Probably the best time to catch me is between 1 and 2 o'clock each day.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Holmes

Nigel Holmes

THIS AND THAT

a column by Robert Corkin

"My child is always ill on a Friday," said a woman to me recently. Then it came to light. Friday was swimming lesson day, and the child dreaded going to school. This reminded me of my non-swimmer friend who blamed the school for his "running away from water" when he was but a youngster.

So I put the question. Should a child be forced to take swimming lessons at school? Many children are nervous, and it is to these the approach to swimming lessons must be handled with care — or they land up a non-swimmer like my friend.

In my experience, one sure way to make a child "run for his life" is the forcing of his head under the water. It is said this action rids the child of fear. It has never been proven to me.

I suggest parents take their children to the baths for swimming lessons as early in life as possible. For a few shillings a week, they are treated with patience and care, and when the time arrives for the school baths their eagerness to get into the water is out of this world!

Will February 15th be the beginning of a doctor's nightmare? I am referring to the new decimal halfpenny piece. It is so small, and because of its low denomination, it could be a great danger to young children. No doubt, youngsters will find this coin a novelty, and very easy to swallow — causing perhaps serious internal injury. It seems to me that these would-be planners certainly did not have the children in mind.

Wherever they can, councils in all areas try and form a pretty green outside our homes so as to make pleasant views for us. And what happens? Dog owners allow the beasts to foul the greens. Do they not realise that children are often running across these greens as a short cut to their homes? Consequently, an ugly mess in the hall, and a nice hard slap for the innocent child.

So the next time you take your dog for a walk, and you come to a green, just remember that YOU could be responsible for a child's tears.

My goodness, television has certainly scared the smokers. They have also done something else — made many a nervous wreck! Don't get me wrong, it would certainly be a wonderful thing if we could all stop the filthy habit. But what expense must we endure to stop smoking.

If television showed the horrible sights of people in car accidents, would we all do without cars? I'm sure television will screen other horrible things we so dearly love until we have nothing to live for. Nevertheless, as for smoking, I must admit that I try and discourage every young person from falling a slave to such harmful little monsters!

WEEKEND MAIL
ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS LTD. NORTHCLIFFE HOUSE LONDO
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT ~~TELEPHONE: CENTRAL~~
'Phone : FLEet Street

5th July, 1955.

R. Corkin, Esq.,
25, Vaughan Street,
Shildon,
Co. Durham.

Dear Mr. Corkin,

Thank you for letting me see "DARK IS THE NIGHT". I propose to use this short story within the next few weeks.

I shall pay you £15.15.0. for the British, Dominion and Colonial rights.

Yours sincerely,

Brian May

BRIAN MAY
THE EDITOR.

MY VERY FIR
ACCEPTAN

Shildon man paints pictures with a message

by ROBERT CORKIN

BILL WHITTAKER is an ordinary man. He enjoys a good chat and a pint of beer with his friends in the local, but when he reaches home he retires into a silent seriousness. For Bill, a machine operator, settles down with a canvas and brushes.

Several of his paintings were hanging on the walls of the living room when I paid a visit to his home, 18, Willow Walk, Shildon.

"People call my work modern painting," he told me, "but it is far more of an expressionable nature." And he knows what he is talking about, for one of his paintings portrays a man's head between the legs of a female. "I did this work because, at the time, I wished a feeling of wanting to escape from the world." Another painting entitled Pregnant Woman portrays an out of proportion woman with large arms and breasts. "It is an important painting even if some people do tend to smile at it," said Bill seriously, "for it shows powerful love and security awaiting the child when it is born."

MANY PAINTINGS SOLD

In his twenty years of painting Mr. Whittaker has exhibited his work with the Bishop Auckland Technical College at the Wear Valley Hotel and about two years ago exhibted his paintings at the Auckland Studio.

Bill also finds time to do wood carvings with a pen knife, and even writes poetry which I found rather interesting. But painting appears to dominate his life, and although he also paints scenes—one of them a beautiful creation of East Thickley quarry — his brush somehow sweeps uncontrolably into the work of a psycological nature.

Mr. Whittaker has sold many of his paintings, even though he has never greatly worried about selling them. "I have never painted for commercial reasons," he stressed. "I paint what I see what I deeply feel within me, and it would not matter if my work did not sell at all. I gain satisfaction when I complete a painting, and that brings me absolute contentment." And one can certainly see the contentment when listening to Mr. Whittaker.

"I am willing to allow anyone the freedom to see and study my work if they so desire," he said.

Any person seriously interested should contact Mr. Whittaker for an appointment. His paintings, I am sure, will not only fill you with admiration, but you will come away in deep thought and perhaps with a message of contentment.

Carols at Shildon

Letter to the Editor

HALLANSCRIPTS LIMITED

FLEET 229

25.11.55.

HALLANDS. FLEET. HANTS.

DDS 173

Dear Mr. Corkin,

I am so sorry to have to send you back your short stories because they would not fit into the series we have in mind which demands rather human, gentle and little real life tales.

I am particularly sorry because I found them most amusing and I should say streets above the average which I am receiving. I hope you have good luck with them.

Sincerely yours,

Jacko L. Cary

FALKLAND L. CARY
TELEVISION PRODUCER.



St. Helen's children's treat

About 150 children, their ages ranging between four and 16, had an enjoyable afternoon last Saturday, when they were given a late Christmas treat in the Community Centre at St. Helens, West Auckland. A combination of three Sunday schools, the scout hall at Woodhouse Close, the Pentecostal Church in Bishop Auckland and the St. Helens Community Centre arranged the party. Apart from a surprise visit by Santa Claus himself, the youngsters received a full tea, and parcels containing oranges, apples, lollies and sweets.

MAY 27TH 1976

All smiles at new centre

IT WAS turkey all round last Thursday for the pensioners at Cornwall Place Communal Centre, Bishop Auckland. The bird was raffled, but as the donator surprisingly held the winning ticket, it was decided to share the turkey with all concerned instead of raffling it again. Previously Shepherds, the building firm, contributed with food and drink, and a concert was put on by The Two Generations.

The centre was officially opened last month by Councillor Denis Harburn.

One of the residents, Mrs Ruby Bainbridge, said: Many of us have been very lonely, but there is none of that now since we came here." Another resident, Mrs Elizabeth Walton, said: "We are very happy indeed, and it is wonderful to live here, even though we are some distance away from the shops."

The centre is designed for 36 bungalows to house the pensioners, eight of which are specially built and equipped for the disabled — such as sliding doors and specially designed kitchens. There is a common room which is well-carpeted, and has a piano and television. There is also a quiet room, which speaks for itself.

Even though the Durham firm Mackays presented the centre with a carpet, and Toothills are presenting them with fireside chairs and coffee tables, other items would be welcomed as the adverts in the entrance ask for unwanted playing cards, dominoes and a bookcase. "We have been helped enormously, especially by the DLI Association Club," said Mr Potts, one of the entertainment officers.

It was all praise for the committee by the pensioners, and a special thank you went to Mrs Dack, the warden, who has four children and gives up much of her time to entertain.

The pensioners enjoyed the evening, the turkey and the home-made cakes, and thanked Mrs Avery and Mrs Hollingham who are in charge of staffing the kitchen.



The secretary of Cornwall Place Community Centre, Mr Blackett, thanks the warden, Mrs Dack, for her work. Also in the picture are Mr Dack and the chairman, Mr Carr. — (Photo: G. W. Thornton).

Story : R. Corkin

several youths were ejected set out to cause trouble." Campbell Park Road.

Two-wheel world tour



A YOUNG County Durham couple have sold all their furniture to help to finance one of the toughest trips going—round the world by bike.

Mr. Arnold Walker and his wife, Margaret (above), who live in St. John's Road, Shildon, plan to live in a tent during their travels. Their aim is to take casual work in different countries to keep them going.

"We have been planning this world tour for more than six months," said Mr. Walker, "so we have an idea of the problems we have to encounter."

Margaret added: "It will be an exciting adventure, and the bikes will keep us fit."

On their travels they will visit Rhodesia, where Mr. Walker will call on his brother, Bob.

The couple, who have been married a year, may finally make their home in South Africa.

"We'll wait and see what the rest of the world has to offer us," said Arnold.

"Sunday Sun" April 1976
Story: R. Corkin Photos: G.W. Thornton

OUT AND ABOUT with Robert Corkin

On a Notice Board in an Aycliffe Trading Estate factory: "You are invited to attend our annual dance..." Above the word invited, a worker wrote in pencil: "Please watch your speling" Ah, well, it takes two to tango.

I travel regularly on the Bishop Auckland-Darlington train, and find that not many people use the first-class coach. In fact, I have spotted only two first-class passengers on my last six journeys. It is obvious people do not know they can travel first-class without paying any extra. "First and second class fares would cause complications" said a rail conductor. Now we don't want complications do we?

Received a letter from a lady the other day. It ended: "I look forward to your reply, with interest". My reply ran to ten lines. Really speaking, it should have only ran to seven lines.

A very odd advert (obviously some kind of misprint) appeared in an American magazine: "Wanted — Five green fingers, and five ordinary". I suppose dipping one hand in a pot of green paint would do the trick.

Eric Tarn, Elm Drive, Shildon, is a singer. He has won many prizes, his latest being a cutlery set and a free weekend in Morecambe. Eric, who once competed with Jerry ("Sally") Monroe in a singing competition, is now in the annual National Amateur Talent Competition. He won his heat at Blackpool, and is now in the Semi-Final at Pontins in Morecambe. If he gets through he will appear in the final at the Royal Albert Hall in November. Perhaps we will hear more of this singer in the future.

Two years ago, John Banks of West Auckland set out to form a Middle-East Veteran Association. "There must be dozens of men in this area who do not know of our existence" he said. "Every two years we visit the German Afrika Korps in Germany, and have a real chat about our battles in the desert during the war." He told me that the Afrika Korps, known as the Desert Foxes, pay them a visit every other year. "At present," he told me, "we are in search of a suitable meeting place." Any Desert Rat interested can contact Mr. Banks, or the Chairman of the Association, Mr. Avery, at the D.L.I. Club, opposite Bishop Auckland football ground.

Jack Thompson, Westerdale Gardens, High Thickley Park Estate, Shildon, is becoming a little tired of opening his front door to callers and saying: "Sorry, wrong street." Trouble is, people think he lives in Queensway. As a matter of fact, the house on the other side of the street do come under Queensway. But not Jack's house even though the sign "Queensway" stares you in the eyes a few yards from his door. "It is embarrassing for me and the callers, and causes much inconvenience", said Mr. Thompson. And where is the Westerdale Gardens sign? Well, if you go out of Queensway, turn right, along Middridge Road, turn right again...er, tell you what, better ask a policeman.

...TISER

IT'S LAUGHTER ALL THE WAY WITH COMEDIAN BERT

By ROBERT CORKIN

When I visited the home of Bert Trusler, he immediatley cracked a joke and made me smile. But then, Bert is a comedian, and has, every week for the past 37 years, been making thousands of people forget their worries and laugh.

Bert, of 19 Elm Road, Shildon, began his stage career at the Shildon Hippodrome, and at the age of 12 was entertaining at church concerts. By the time he reached 14 the customers of Working Men's Clubs were applauding him.

When the war came Mr. Trusler joined the R.A.F. and continued to entertain the troops. Ralph Reader wanted him for the "R.A.F. Gang Show", but somehow the opportunity slipped through his fingers. An Entertainment Officer of the R.A.F. said this of him, "He is a comedian of outstanding talent and ability. I have no hesitation in recommending him for the very best of Concert Parties."

INVITED TO TELEVISION STUDIO

After the war, Bert entertained for a season at New Beach Holiday Camp. "Perhaps that is were I made my mistake", he said. "They wanted me to stay on at the Camp, but I decided to come back home." And so, in 1946 he found himself on the stage of the Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland, making everyone laugh for ten shillings a night.

Mr. Trusler was invited to Tyne Tees Television when it first opened, but as his act was more of the old Music Hall Comedy, it was not exactly what the studio was seeking at that moment.

Bert impersonates various characters, but his act of cracking jokes while he slowly changes into a very old man really sets the crowd wild with laughter, and, amid the deafening applause, one can, at his every performance, hear the continuous chant of "More! More!"

BILLED WITH THE BIG STARS

"Sometimes I go on stage and have no idea what I am going to say or do", said Bert. "In other words, I have to make people smile out of nothing." One must appreciate that making someone laugh is not an easy task at any time, so do it from nothing in mind certainly proves that Mr. Trusler is truly a born artiste. As a stage personality once said: "With a bit of luck, he is going to be a second Norman Wisdom."

Bert has been billed many stars including the BBC tenor James Etherington, Frank E. Franks and Ronnie Cass who now writes music for Cliff Richard and Tom Jones.

Today, he and his brother Bili who is a drummer as well as a comedian, still entertain as strongly as ever, visiting places such as South Shields, Hull, Rotherham and Barnsley. And today, they are still being applauded. "I think I have seen as much club life as any other artiste in the country," said Bert.

Mr. Trusler began packing his suit case with stage clothing. He and his big brother had an engagement that evening at a big club in Northallerton. Would Bert be a success tonight? Would the crowd applaud? These thoughts always nagged rim, and he certainly felt their presence. "Funny thing", he said "But I still get the jitters at every performance." And as he whispered: "Even so, entertaining people is, and has been my whole life,' I failed to think who on earth could possibly contradict such a man after he has given his heart to thousands for 37 years.

THIS AND THAT

a column by

ROBERT CORKIN

We all know that Boxing Day fell on a Saturday last Christmas, and because of this the Government announced that the Monday would be a working day. Now, on top of this, we are always being reminded that production in our factories is forever falling because of absenteeism.

The action of trying to make the Monday a working day certainly cannot help production Therefore, the question arises: Why is production in this country taking a downward plunge? I suggest the Government should take a close look at America and Italy.

Production in these two countries is soaring, but the irony of it all is that the people of America are allowed 16 Bank holidays a year and Italy 18. Apart from Scotland, England has six Bank Holidays a year, the lowest in the world. Can one really blame an Englishman being tired, and stealing a day off now and then?

•

My 19 year old son, Trevor, who took to writing poetry a year ago, and who, incidentally, has so far succeeded in having three of his poems published, tells me tha the following short poem of his will bring me at least 12 letters of praise. He adds that if it does not he will give me a night out—with every bottle of guinness on him! Fair enough. Here it is:

Walk leaden streets of grassy fields,
O hermit stag with pearled eye.
Your gift to me that of life,
My gift to you a paper handkerchief.
O hermit god, lonely forever.
And forever can be a long time.

My goodness! I have a feeling I am going to enjoy my night out.

•

How on earth can we avoid boredom? It is indeed a menace and it appears that every one of us suffer this dreadful 'disease'. Many of us bear it silently, and take it as part of life, but some struggle to bear it even for a few minutes. For instance, take the shocking state of a friend of mine. "Tell me the story of the man who thought he had three legs", he said to me. "But I've told you that story before", I said. "Tell it to me again",, was his prompt reply, "I have a couple of minutes to spare." Just how bored can one really get?

•

It was a cold damp night. Here I was, at long last, alone in the house. Here was my chance to ignore the television set. I brushed the cobwebs off the radio and switched it on. Soft, sweet music sailed to my ears. I switched off the light and allowed the room to be bathed only in fire light. I began to experience peace and relaxation. Here was sheer pleasure. Funny thing, but one tends to get the idea that people living alone are sad and lonely. Proof, for once, came to me that living alone does have its advantages, especially today in this hustle and bustle world of ours.

CANNY HILL MAN SPREADS HOPE ROUND THE WORLD

At the age of 68, a Canny Hill man is still travelling far and wide, teaching and preaching the gospel.

Mr Harold Young, who has been a minister for over fifty years, and his wife, Jean, are at present, guests at the home of Cynthia and Clyde Young, 2 Grange Avenue. Auckland Park. During the past 15 years he has travelled not only across Europe, but to other countries such as America, Hawaii, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.



Mr and Mrs Young who were married three months ago.

Mr Young, who married Jean only three months ago, was pastor at a Darlington church for ten years.

Although his residence is in London, Harold was born in Coundon, and brought up at Canny Hill. His parents ran a general dealer's business for many years in Coundon.

Preaching is a family affair. Mr Young's brothers are in it too. Norman is in London, Clyde is a pastor in Sunderland, but Clarence has now retired. His wife is assistant to the minister of the Good Shepherd Mission in London, and her two sons to a previous marriage are both ministers. Even Harold's sister, Irene, is married to a Bishop Auckland man, Fred Brown, who is a pastor of the Norwich Assembly.

"We all went to the Bible College," said Mr Young, who was also pastor of the Gray's Pentecostal Church in Essex for a number of years. "We were all 'saved' through the Stephen Jefferies campaign in 1927, a great spiritual meeting at that time." Mr Young recalled how faith played a magnificent part — "when my mother was wonderfully healed after a serious operation for cancer."

Harold, who was also a tutor at the Bible College in Hamstead, is now contemplating writing a book concerning Christian work. His wife too, when she finds the time, writes poetry, and now views the possibility of having it published.

Next January, Mr Young goes back to America on a preaching tour (he once went to New York three times in one year), and returns in May for a general conference in Minehead.

"Although crime in America is frightening, it is still a great country," said Harold. "People there appear to attend church more often than the people of this country."

Of Bishop Auckland, he said: "A wonderful town. It is always a delight and a thrill to come back."

ROY PLOMLEY.

91, Deodar Road,
Putney, S.W.15. 29.12.67.

It was very kind of Mrs. Empedocles to arrange for me to receive "Symbol", and I shall look forward to future issues. However, I shall be grateful if you do not publish my address.

Yours truly, Roy Plomley.

Roy Plomley of the B.B.C's "Desert Island Discs"

Local Road Safety Organiser life

by ROBERT CORKIN

When I first met schoolteacher William Malcolm I soon learned he had a certain aim in life—to help prevent the death of children on the road. Here too was a man, as I also learned, entirely genuine in everything he says and does.

Mr. Malcolm, who received his teaching certificate at St. John's College, York, and who now teaches Domestic Science, Woodwork, Religious Knowledge and Current Affairs, has been officially appointed as Road Safety Officer for Shildon.

"If, through my work", he said to me at his home, 11 Elm Road, Shildon, "I have helped to save even only one child's life, then my continuous striving has been well worth it."

A Glasgow man, Mr. Malcolm came to live in Cockfield in 1945, and although he has been teaching for the past 23 years at the Shildon Boys Secondary, School, Thornhill Gardens, he has lived in the town only six years. He used to travel from Cockfield four nights a week to give Evening Classes. Road Safety, Swimming and Football.

Twelve years ago, Mr. Malcolm was with the Junior Accident Prevention Council. Since then, his activities have, in his own words, "been fantastic" — winning outright the Eric Wiseman Road Safety Shield.

He, personally, made a new Shield, and the council decided that the name of Eric Wiseman should be incorporated into the new Shield. Now the Shildon Council present it annually on his behalf.

On top of this, the Junior Accident Prevention Council team have either won or been runners-up in the Northumberland and Durham Cycling Proficiency Championship since its inauguration ten years ago. Last year, Mr. Malcolm went to London in company with Coun. Tom Bennett to represent the Junior accident Council, and was chosen to represent the whole of the North East in the National Trophy for Road Safety.

"But my wonderful wife, Elsie, has encouraged me all the way," he said, proudly. "With such a wife, one cannot possibly fail to accomplish what one is trying to do."

LOCAL POLICE AND COUNCIL PRAISED

Mh. Malcolm has also organised Road Safety Counts and Checks on various themes for Durham County Constabulary, Ministry of Transport and the Road Research Laboratories. These include such as Dipped Headlights, Keep Your Distance, the Wearing of Seat Belts and Motorway Overtaking. At one stage, he personally made all the training apparatus that was actually used.

Mr. Malcolm has also had children under his supervision for road signs and road markings throughout the area, and has organised Tufty Clubs at infants schools and playgroups. Even his five year old son, Andrew is very keen on road safety. Each year he does Cycling Proficiency Tests, and last year, for the first time in the country, ran a Cycling Attainment Test for children between the ages of 7 and 9.

Several years ago, Mr. Malcolm used to take school parties abroad, but now undertakes water safety in school—training children in various tests and life saving.

"But may I say", he stressed, "A great deal of help and assistance in all these matters has been freely given by our own local police and members of the Senior Accident Committee. They have been absolutely marvelous."

FOR LOVE OF CHILDREN

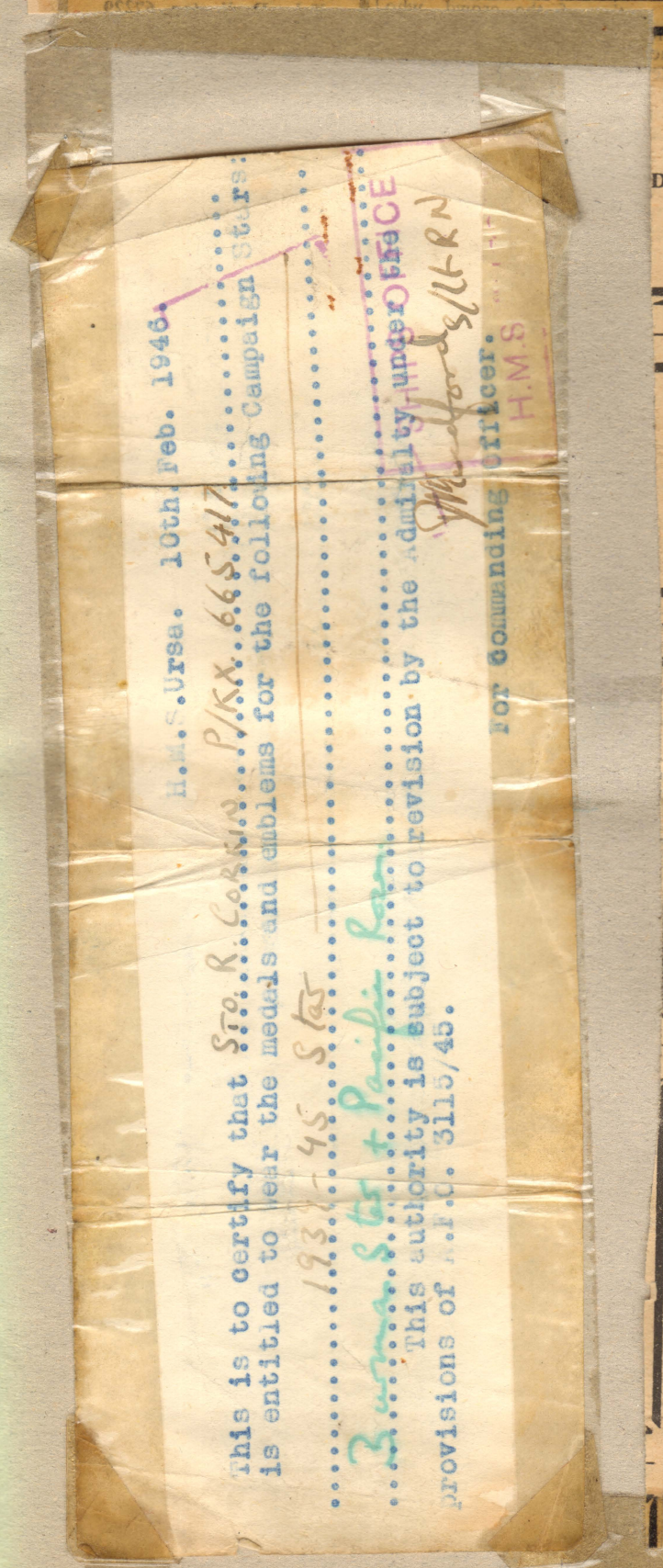
Mr. Malcolm, who served during the war in the Royal Field Artillery, was a prisoner of war in Germany for a short time, and was discharged on medical grounds in 1944. After his discharge he went to see the Rev. Leslie Thompson, Minister of Cockfield, and with his assistance decided to take up a teaching career.

"Because of my great love for children," he said, "I have never regretted it."

And as I rose to leave this gentle, friendly man, he looked at me seriously and said: "To me, the only way to make a child road safety conscious, whether it be three or twelve years old, is if Mum and Dad do THEIR kerb drill, and make sure that the little one does his or her kerb drill. Not just now and then," he went on, "but every time they cross a ROAD.

"I would like to see every parent have the child see THEM safely across the road. In this way the child gets to know how to do it. I would also like to see elderly people wear something white at night. After all," he concluded, "you can't come back from the grave and say I should have done so and so." Wise words, indeed, from a very wise man.

Meeting waste of time



Week commencing Monday,

MOT

Success of schoolteacher's daughter

17 year old Janette Richardson, of 10 Raby Gardens, Shildon, has successfully passed to go forward to the beautiful Totley Hall College, Sheffield.

Janette, who is a member of the Wesley Youth Club, passed her eleven plus examination at the Shildon Council School, and is at present taking two A Levels at Bishop Auckland Grammar School.

Her only brother, 22 year old Paul, is in his second year at the Darlington College of Education. He is at present Captain of the College football team.

Janette's mother is deputy head Teacher for the infants at Timothy Hackworth school, and has, for over 20 years, been a Sunday School Superintendent. Her father served nine years on the local council, and was Chairman in 1959.

Janette leaves Shildon for Sheffield in September.

Shildon Railway Band to broadcast

Radio Durham have invited the Shildon British Railway Band to broadcast twice at their studio. The first broadcast will be on February 20th, and they will broadcast again a few days later.

The band is becoming popular and well known. They have entered the Durham League Contest which is in February, and once again the National Brass Band Championship which takes place in March. It was in this National Championship the band qualified to compete in the London Finals two years ago.

"We would like to see more youth of 13 years of age or over to come forward and join the band," said Mr. A. Bagley, the Conductor.

Pieces the band will play include: A selection from Showboat, a Concert March, a selection from Dancing Time, "Of The Mods" a March, and a selection from Mary Poppins.

More clearance at

Carnival to alter route of procession

The Shildon Scout and Guide Carnival, which will take place on June 5th is, at the request of the police and Jazz Bands, to alter the route of the procession this year.

It will assemble at the factory road and go via Redworth Road, Byerley Road, Middleton Road, St. John's Road, Burnie Gardens, and then proceed on to Church Street, Main Street, West Auckland Road to the Scout Playing Field.

The police have asked for Cheapside, Foundry Street, St. Paul's Terrace and Albert Street to be missed out this year.

ANY IDEAS?

The Committee extend their grateful thanks to the people of Shildon and District, for their help and support in the past, and ask for a continuance of that support at this year's occasion.

They propose to hold another Jazz Band Competition on similar lines as previous years, plus many other attractions at the Carnival Field.

Should anyone wish to come along and help, or have any ideas for this year's parade should contact the Carnival Secretary, Mr. G. E. Ower, 14 Foundry Street, Shildon.

New Shildon W.I.

THREE ITEMS OF NEWS BY ROBERT CORKIN

PEOPLE OF SHILDON CRY OUT FOR CINEMA

Of the 100 young people between the ages of 16 and 19 asked whether or not they would like a cinema in Shildon, 87 agreed that one was certainly needed in the town. Forty-two out of fifty adults who were also approached and asked, said that a cinema would be more than welcome.

Most of the young people agreed that a cinema would stop the majority of them from walking the streets with nothing to do. Many of them confessed that they could not afford to go to a cinema out of town.

The adults felt very strongly about Shildon being without a cinema. One of them, Mr. George Waites of Maple Avenue said: "It is ridiculous that a town like this should be without one. I cannot see how television has harmed the film industry, for, let's face it, there is no comparison. Not only have we to travel out of town to see a film" he added, "but we must also go out of town to see our own Shildon Amateur Operatic Society!"

Mr. John Green of Hazeldale Avenue commented: "I think it would be a good thing to bring back a cinema to Shildon. Young people have a limited amount of pocket money, and it does not go far if they have to travel out of town, more so if they have a girl-friend." And with a touch of humour concluded: "One thing is certain, it will be grand for parents, for then the couples will have somewhere to go to do their courting instead of turning us out of the house!"

But on a more serious note, Mr. Norman Kirkbride of Auckland Wynd said: "Let's face it, the cinemas in Shildon were uncomfortable. Surely that was the main reason why people did not patronise them. I would certainly like to see the return of a cinema, but it would have to be modern and comfortable for people to patronise it."

And Mr. John Tate of Foundry Street said: "I remember the time when there were five cinemas in Shildon. There are no amenities at all now. Certainly there should be a cinema in Shildon. I'm sure it would be well patronised."

Mr. C. Watson, who was manager of the Essoldo cinema at the time of its closure, was quite frank. It was not so much the television which closed the cinema," he said, "but the fact that people began to seek other forms of entertainment such as Bingo. The cinema was losing money in its last five years of existence, but we still kept our prices down.

We brought the most up-to-date films as quickly as possible to please the public, but still the people failed to patronise us. There were plans to modernise the cinema," he went on, "But really, the people of Shildon did not want us. Today, I believe a town must have at least a population of 50,000 for a cinema to continue. That is why," he concluded, "I do not think that a cinema will ever return to Shildon."

R.C.

'GOODBYE' AFTER 48 YEARS

Ernest Robinson, Chief Foreman for 25 years at the Shildon British Rail Engineering Works, recently retired after 48 years service at the Shops.

He was well admired, for the workshop staff made a collection for him. "I appreciated this gesture very much," he said to me at his home, 2, Drybourne Avenue, Shildon. "I intend to buy a record player with the money."

The Works Manager, Mr. J.W. Begg, invited him to a buffet lunch and wished him well in his retirement, and on the fifth of this month the salaried staff presened him with a pair of binnoculars.

Mr. Robinson, known at the works as "The Father of Wagon Repairs" is a native of Heighington, and played cricket and football for the Heighington team. He is a committee member of the Heighington Horticultural Show, as he is indeed a very keen gardener.

A PEEP INTO THE PAST

Mr. Robinson has served under eleven managers since he began in the Works in 1921, the first manager being Mr. W. Worsdall. In 1942 he married a Miss Betty Gill, a marriage that has been wonderfully happy.

From boyhood, Mr. Robinson had a long connection with the Heighington Church Choir, and was in the Shildon Male Voice Choir for ten years.

SOUP KITCHEN

For a moment he took a peep into the past, and recalled the days of the soup kitchen at the Salvation Army Citadel. But his heart appeared to be mostly with the Heighington cricket team which used to visit places such as Benton, Sedgefield and Stockton. And he recalled the players then with ease. Men like: H. Buckle, W. Garthwaite, B. Searle, his brother Jim, F. Hall, T. Nicholson, J. Ellerton and the four Wanless brothers — Ted, Boxer, Fred and Harry.

CHANGES FOR THE BETTER

"There have been vast changes since those days," he said. "Of course, certainly for the better." Of the Wagon Works, he said: "There seems to be more togetherness now, which is a very good thing. In all my years there," he added, "I do not think that I have ever tried to harm the men in any way. I'd like to believe the men thought that of me."

The collection by the men, no doubt, has given him the answer.

R.C.

THIS AND THAT

A column by Robert Corkin

I hear that a council house tenant is going to be evicted if he does not tidy up his garden within a certain period of time. Granted, an untidy garden is not a pretty sight, but one must remember that not everyone are garden lovers. So what is the solution Perhaps the councils concerned could allow a team of their men to patrol the areas, and to tidy up those gardens unkempt. A charge could be made to the tenant, but of course the age and the health of the occupant should be considered.

ULTIMATUM

But one can look at the matter in another way. Why should a man who wants a house and not a garden be given an ultimatum? Surely, to keep the house in order is of more importance. Would it not satisfy everyone if, on building houses, there were no back garden and only a very small front garden? Much space could then be turned into allotments in the areas for the keen gardeners. They would not have to even worry about cats, dogs and children!

Problems! For years and years, and long before any one of us was born, there have been problems. Switch on the television set and there you see man trying to sort out all kinds of problems — miserably failing every time. One would have thought in this day of unique progress a solution would be 'in the hat'.

But then, is not progress really an exchange of one nuisance for another? When man does find a solution to ALL problems, that will be the day when the world will come to an end. And I do expect the world to continue poking fun at us for a few million years yet!

There appears to be more teenage drinking going on than ever before. Now an M.P. is suggesting that an identity card system would cut down teenage drinking in public houses. Are we going back to the war years? Such a system did not work then, so I cannot for my life see it working now! Surely there must be another way?

The BBC are pressing to increase TV licenses. Anyone with common sense can see how easily they could get out of the red without a licence increase. That's right, by cutting down ruthlessly the fabulous salaries the majority of artists receive. Let's play fair. Are they really worth the huge sums?

"Where can I go to a decent Dinner-Dance hall around here?" Said a friend. Easy, I thought, until I began my search. The nearest of these halls is in Durham City. Food for thonght?

ROBERT CORKIN

people who do

Week commencing Monday, 8th February, 1971

Magistrate shared life so others should live

By ROBERT CORKIN

IT is said that people who do good throughout their lives seldom get into the news, the reason being they go about their work quietly and without fuss. They do not wish to be carried shoulder high — they shy away from the spotlight. And so it was with Lily Lavinia Trotter. She was, at first, rather reluctant to an interview when I called on her at her home, 9 Regent Street, Shildon.

"I don't like to talk about myself," she said. "People say I should not hide my light under a bushel, but all I do is voluntary work, and one cannot make much fuss about that!"

Modest Mrs. Trotter, a Magistrate for the past 15 years, has been helping people with their problems for as long as she can remember. But then her father was a Magistrate and a councillor, and he often took her with him when he paid visits to houses and to note their condition. "That is how I learned to understand life," she said. "My father gave me the confidence I needed to become a Magistrate."

Mrs. Trotter, one of a family of eight, has worked for the Red Cross and brought a little sunshine to the blind.

A CHAT WITH THE LONELY

Although Mrs. Trotter retired from being a Magistrate about five weeks ago, she is still a councillor. I asked her if the councils were really giving of their best to the communities.

"Indeed they are," she said, without hesitation. "Shildon council are doing a tremendous lot of work for the town. People do not realise how much time councillors give freely to help the old and the young. And look at those house rents!" she stressed. "They must be the lowest in the whole of the North East!"

And indeed, Mrs. Trotter is a councillor who shares her life with the old. "They are sometimes very lonely." And I suspected a tear in her eyes. "I often go and have a heart to heart chat with them." And of the young people, she said: "In my experience as a Magistrate, I feel they are doing quite a lot of good work. Of course, they must try and be strong, for today they have to encounter a lot of temptations."

MORE FRIENDS THAN ENEMIES

Mrs. Trotter showed emotion when she told me of the problems she had to face at court. "I worry about the youngsters who come to court time and again. I even pray for them. I have always given a fair deal according to law," she went on, "but one must also be human. It is really a matter of the individual—there are never two cases alike."

Many young people have thanked her for her help and patience. "I am indeed proud of the ones who have turned out on to the right road. That is my reward, and a wonderful reward it is."

She was not sure at all about the fixed fines and punishment system. "One must think of many things," she said. "Hardship, for instance. One woman brought to me was desperate. I studied her carefully and found she often bought the cheapest tea, the bare necessities. She did a crime because she was genuinely desperate. Was this person to pay the same price as another who did the same crime for perhaps a kick?"

And what qualities must a person have, to become a Magistrate, I asked her.

THEORY "NOT ENOUGH"

"In my opinion," she said, "theory alone is not enough. One needs an intelligent mind and lots of human understanding plus practical knowledge." Then she smiled. "If you have these," she concluded, "you will, as a Magistrate, make more friends than enemies."

And so I left the little woman with a big heart of human understanding—a woman willing to share her life so that others should live

The event went off with-

It always gets verse before it gets better

POETRY has always been Mrs. Ruby Scarlett's great passion.

She started writing when she was five, but her big problem was that no one would publish her verses.

As fast as she submitted them, publishers returned them.

And when her tally of rejection slips neared the 1,000 mark, even Mrs. Scarlett's determination began to waver.

But she kept at it and now, at the age of 42, Mrs. Scarlett is at last breaking into print.

A London firm is to include several of the poems in a book to be published next spring.

Mrs. Scarlett, who lives in Coronation Avenue, Shildon, gives this advice to poets still fighting to get into print: "Never stop writing, no matter how discouraged you may become, never give in because a breakthrough may be just round the corner."

Billie dies

SUNDAY SUN (OCT. 72)

STORY :-

ROBERT CORKIN

Shildon poet sells out

Mr Ronald Spedding, of 61 Simpson Street, has recently had published his book of poems entitled "Legends and Memories" (price 50p), and what is more, every copy was sold within ten days!

Ron, who is 51, was amazed at the sell out. "As selling poetry is quite tricky, the first impression was kept down to 250 copies," he said.

"Many more people are still asking for them," said his wife, Kathleen, "so a reprint is more than likely."

Mr Spedding, who is chairman of the Shildon Rambling Club which meets in the Commercial Inn on Thursdays, is not new to the publishing world. Two years ago Dalesman Publications published his "Walking in Weardale." So far, 2,500 copies have been sold, and the book is still selling steadily.

The 22 poems in the book include The Miner Joe Piker of Toft Hill, Brusselton Folly, the Kirk Merrington child murderer Andrew Mills and the Middridge Fairies. Another of his poems "Father of Railways" has been included in Robert Corkin's book "Shildon — Cradle of the Railways" which will be on sale any day now.

"There now seems to be a strong demand for more of these books," said Ron, who is resident at the Bishop Auckland Wear Valley Folk Club, and the Golden Cok in Darlington, "so I intend writing another in a similar vein."

His 64-page book is also full of excellent sketches which came from his very own hands, sketches that have sold in America as well as in this country. In fact, Ron, who is a millwright at Shildon Rail Works, and who plays the mouthorgan and reads out poems every Monday night at the Marquis of Granby Folk Club, now has three of his poems set to music and being sung by well-known folk singers.

The proceeds of his poetry publication has been accepted by the Shildon St. Thomas' Womens' League.

Touch of Spain –in Shildon

FERMIN MAGDALENA, who once broadcast a programme in Spanish for the BBC, and who is still the official interpreter for Harrison Brothers of the Atlas Foundries, Middlesbrough, more often than not brings a touch of Spanish atmosphere to his home.

There, at 5, Elm Road, Shildon, he, and his charming English wife, Sheila, invite many friends to a real Spanish party.

Sometimes, as many as thirty people arrive, and these have included a captain and some of his crew. Once, the guests included a Chinaman and a boy from the Gold Coast.

"One would think our house was sometimes the League of Nations," commented Mrs. Magdalena.

OLIVES AND GARLIC

And indeed, the guests lap it all up. There is the wine, the olives, sardines, salamies and tomatoes or celery with garlic, all attractively presented and, as is the custom of the Spanish people, the meal is rounded off with a bowl of fresh fruit.

Mr. Magdalena (the name is uncommon in Spain and is actually a girl's Christian name), came to this country as a refugee in 1937. He came from Bilbao, the capital of the basque county which lies on the North coast of Spain, and was one of the 5,000 children who came to live in Middlesbrough during the Spanish Civil War. He expected to stay in this country only three months, his intention being to go to South America.

MANY STRUGGLES

"Now I am a British subect," he said. And of England? "I have found this country very stable."

During the war, Mr. Magdalena was with the Middlesbrough Co-operative, and in 1946 went into the fruit trade on wholesale business. He was Sales Manager for the Shildon Geest bananas firm until the end of last year, and has now set out on his own in the fruit trade.

But although Mr. Magdalena is quite happy now, it has not been an easy road for him. Before coming to Middlesbrough, he, with many other refugees were moved into the 75 roomed Hutton Hall, near Guisborough. He remained there for about two years, and although, in his own words, "had many happy times there," he had a long period of many struggles before reaching Hutton Hall.

NIGHTMARE JOURNEY ACROSS PYRANEES

Even his parents struggled to win through. His mother walked across the Pyranees, and at one stage was buried under the snow for 24 hours. Mr. Magdalena remembers vividly the time when his mother had to help his father who had only one leg, across the vast wilderness. With a heavy case containing their belongings in her hands, she would plunge forward through the snow for a few yards, set the case down, and then go back to her husband. After bringing him to where the case stood, she would leave him and carry the case a further few yards, coming back again for her husband. This heartbreaking struggle went on throughout the entire journey.

VERY FRIENDLY PEOPLE

Mr. Magdalena's struggles and experiences brought him to broadcast and in London he broadcast a programme in Spanish for the B.B.C. The recording, reflecting how the youth of this country spent their holidays, was broadcast throughout Spain. The B.B.C. also asked him to do a half hour programme once a month on Current Affairs — to be broadcast in Spain.

Mr. Magdalena has also acted as an interpreter in the police courts. Once, when he was at work in Middlesgrough, the customs came and hurried him off to court. An interprter was urgently needed!

Last year, for the first time in 33 years, he went back home for a family re-union.

"I would not like to go back to Spain to live," he said.

And how did he find Shildon, after living here for the past five years? "The town is rather quiet, but I find the people very friendly indeed."

Perhaps that is why he and his wife intend to have another lively Spanish party in the very near future — to which I was invited.

One could not fail to see that this happy couple were enjoying their lives to the full and I was certainly convinced that my invitation to their next real Spanish get-together was well worth looking forward to.

R.C.

THIS AND THAT

A column by ROBERT CORKIN

So pornographic magazines from Denmark are turning Britain into a sex-mad country? And businessman Paul Daniels and Mary Whitehouse are going to hit back at the Danes by boycotting Danish food. Mrs. Whitehouse, a clean-up TV campaigner, is to ask her 10,000 members on her National Viewers and Listeners Association to support the ban.

I cannot really see pornographic material harming the grown-ups. In fact, such magazines seem one huge laugh to them. But I certainly see the great harm they can do if the material gets into young hands. And for this reason I suggest that all decent-minded people of this country help to support Mr. Daniels and Mrs. Whitehouse.

There goes my Danish butter!

It is five weeks now since I gave up cigarette smoking and bought myself a pipe. Pipe, did I say? Let's start again. It is five weeks now since I gave up cigarettes and bought myself five pipes! That's right. It is costing me one pipe per week! Trouble is, they keep breaking at the tip of the mouth. So, as I am not an expert, and have not yet begun to observe the pipes in shop windows, I was wondering if any reader of this column can tell me where I can buy a pipe that has a steel mouth tip. Or is there such a pipe? Hurry, otherwise I shall have to return to cigarettes, and that would be disastrous!

People every day say things which amuse me. The television, the radio, the newspapers — all produce people who say things that pass un-noticed to most of us. Some do hit the "jackpot." Here is a sample of the ones which amuse me.

"Often women have babies because they can't think of anything bettter to do," said Lord Beaumont. "Nobody will persuade me there is no money about when I see so much spent on gambling, foreign travel, glossy magazines and plastic gnomes in every front garden," so said Sir Frederick Seebohm. And William Weaver, an American director who is now unemployed, said: "Here's the real difference in being employed and being unemployed. You go out and buy yourself a pipe — just because you feel like it."

I wonder what amuses you?

Man comes home and finds evidence that another man has stayed the night with his wife. I thought I had heard every type in the divorce courts until this one came up. A certain gentleman, who came home one morning after being out all night on business, caught the arm of his wife after visiting the toilet, and shouted: "Who was the man you entertained all night?" "There has not been a man here!" cried the wife. "You liar!" echoed the man. "If there wasn't a man here, why is the toilet seat up!"

Well I never!

BYERLEY ROAD LEADS THE WAY

LONELINESS in old people, with all its attendant hazards and dangers, has been a concern of the Shildon Council of Churches for some time. They have, therefore, begun a Pilot Scheme in the Byerley Road area in order to compile a Help Register and to organise neighbourly help in cases of emergency involving old people who are living alone. This scheme, using the old Christian symbol of the fish, will enable more people to help their elderly neighbours in simple ways.

The aim is to seek helpers from people who live near these lonely pensioners with a view to keeping them under observation and to be ready to help when circumstances of genuine need arise. It is hoped to have at least two such helpers in every street (or small area) of 30-40 houses, with interested people near at hand who will allow them the use of telephone or car in any emergency, if found necessary. With goodwill and co-operation any emergency should be dealt with as soon as possible because the helper will be on the spot and will know, from a help register provided, who is available to assist with phone, or car or both.

GRATIFYING AND ENCOURAGING

With this basic function in mind, the area has been canvassed and there are already 50 people interested enough to become helpers, 20 houses where phones will be available and 14 persons who are prepared to use their cars if needed.

It has been most gratifying and encouraging to find that, in most cases, the help asked for is already being given, and the people approached have and are, helping their old neighbours in a quiet and informal way. The organising is not complete, however, and more helpers more, phones and more cars are still needed. In the meantime, the old people will be visited in order to find out any of their special problems in the hope that they can be solved.

There are interested people outside this area who have (through the circular letters sent to the churches), already expressed their desire to help — they too, will be approached as it is hoped that other areas will follow this Pilot Scheme in Byerley Road area.

"A DISGRACE" SAYS ANGRY TENANT

"The cut is a disgrace." So said Mr. Robert Bussey of 24, Thornhill Gardens, Shildon. He was referring to the path that led to the oval near his home.

"My wife won't go through the filthy cut at all now," he said. "She goes down the street, the long way round, to do her shopping."

Seemingly, in the summer, the privet grows making it practically impossible to get through the cut.

"It is a struggle for two people to walk through," said Mr. Bussey. "And when dock and dandelions grow at either side of it, the dogs appear and foul the path."

I asked him if he had seen the council about it. "Many times," he replied, "But they keep on saying that they will see about it. Schooi children come through it and the mess of their feet is nobodys business," he went on. "To think I have lived here 34 years and never once missed my rent." That, he concluded, "is the reward one gets."

R.C.

'ACT NOW' ADVISES FIRST-AID MAN

John Slater, a first-aid man, of 5, Victoria Street, Shildon, was on the spot when a child was slightly hurt by a car in Byerley Road. The accident occurred outside Timothy Hackworth school as the buses were preparing to pick up the children for home.

"Although the boy suffered mostly with shock," said Mr. Slater, "it could have been really serious — he could have easily been killed."

A woman, who lives near the school, said: " I have seen about half-a-dozen accidents to children at this very same spot — and they have always happened at tea-time."

NOT MUCH CHANCE

The buses, apparently, on bringing the chldren to school on the morning, turn into Oxford Street off the main road, but when school is over the buses pick the children up on the main road.

"The buses should do as they do on a morning and pick the children up in Oxford Street," said Mr. Slater. "The cars come along Byerley Road rather fast, and a child running across in front or behind the buses haven't much of a chance at all. It is not even fair on the cars or the lolly-pop man," added Mr. Slater. "Something," he concluded, "should be done now to prevent further accidents — or have we to wait until a child is killed?"

PLAYING FIELD NEEDED

People living around Elm Road and Elm Drive are becoming angry tenants. It appears that children, not only those who live in that area, but others from all parts of Shildon, are coming there to play football.

"The noise is sometimes terrible." said one woman. "And broken windows are becoming a common sight."

Another tenant said: "I am absolutely tired and sick of having to go into the garden to get the ball for them." Another commented: "all one gets is abuse when we tell them to go and play football somewhere else."

But one woman said: "in one sense, one cannot really blame the children, for, after all, they have got to play somewhere. Trouble is, there is no playing field around here for them — and that is what is needed."

It is two years now since the people in that area raised a petition for a playing field for the children. Nothing, since then, has been done.

SHILDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ON WAY TO SUCCESS

Since the Shildon and District Horticultural Society was formed several weeks ago, it has met with such succesc that its future appears quite promising. Mr. Paterson, the Secretary, is ronfident that the Society is well on its way to becoming established.

They hope, when it is properly organized, they will fair with the successful Heighington Show, and already the Shildon Wine Makers have shown keen interest. They are also hoping to have the show annually at Sunnydale Secondary Modern School, but the first date for this has yet to be fixed.

INTERNATIONAL JUDGE

The Society intend to do a horticultural series and have lectures on such once a month. They are also thinking on the lines of holding a show for children including the handicapped.

A meeting is being held at Shildon Elm Road Club on 13th January at 7 o'clock, and Mr. W. V. Florentine, an International Judge and Secretary of the Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society is to be the speaker.

The fee for membership of this non-profit Society is 5/- for men and 2/6d. for women and pensioners, and this fee entitles members admission to all lectures and slide shows. Here is a wonderful opening for all keen gardeners, and those interested should write or contact the Secretary, Mr. C. Paterson, 27, Alexandra Street, Shildon.

The man loved children

It was a sad loss to many people when the death occurred of 56-year-old William Bland of 17, Lime Grove, Shildon. During the war he was a corporal in the Army, and in 1948 joined the Special Constabulary. He became a sergeant, and remained with the Constabulary until his death. For such faithful service he was awarded the Queen's Medal. He also instructed on Cycling Proficiency, and received a badge of Merit for road safety by the council.

One of his aims in life was to help the old and the very young, and although he never had any children of his own, his wife told me: "Children were his whole life." Mr. Bland was an Eldon man before moving to Shildon, and worked his last five years of life at the Shildon Wagon Works.

Member of Junior

FUTURE BRIGHT FOR SHILDON SHOPS

By ROBERT CORKIN

1971 appears to be quite a promising year for the Shildon British Railways Engineering Works. Of the 1883 wagon repairs, they have another 878 general repairs above their allocated amount to complete this year. On top of this they have 150 Malayan, 125 Walrus and 826 High Capacity wagons to complete.

Further to this, the British Steel Corporation have ordered 62 Tippler wagons to be built. This work will begin from next October. They are also negotiating with the British Steel Corporation concerning orders for 1972.

The management intend to strive for further outside work. "We must be competitive", said Mr. J. W. Begg, the Works Manager. "Our Motto should be: 'The Right Job — At The Right Price — At The Right Time."

ALL ITEMS OF NEWS ON THIS PAGE WERE WRITTEN BY ROBERT CORKIN

From

URSULA BLOOM
Novelist

191, Cranmer Court,
Sloane Avenue,
Chelsea, S.W.3.
Tel. 589 8966

July the 24th

Dear Mr. Corkin,

I do think this is the nicest thing hat has ever happened to me. Nobody is ever quite so kind, and fof course I am thrilled. But would the dear f iend give me an inkling? I'd love to meet whoever it is, and I mean this. Would they give me this treat, PLEASE?

Maybe you could print the little para, for I do so want to say thank you. They must be dears,

Most gratefully,

Ursula Bloo

sentence against upon drugs Richmond

150 Stockton to Darlington delayed!

A book about Shildon, especially written to celebrate 150 years of the Stockton and Darlington Railway is published this week — almost two years after the celebrations finished.

The book, Shildon — Cradle of The Railways by Robert Corkin, tells the story of Shildon's role in the development of railways....

But today, the publishers, Frank Graham, of Newcastle, admitted a mix-up at the printers led to a two-year delay in publishing.

Mr Graham's wife, Vera, who helps to run the business said today: "It was supposed to be written for the celebrations and went to the printers well before then.

"But it has been in the printing works for so long it has obviously missed the boat."

Unfortunately, some passages in the book now have a distinctly dated look.

"Today the people of Shildon eagerly await the gigantic celebrations that will take place in the town in September, 1975," reads one section.

Mrs Graham said: "It got left on the shelf because we had so much other work for the celebrations. It is said that the proofs were not read thoroughly to omit any old references."

Even so, the book does give an interesting insight into early life on the railways.

One of the most enlightening parts of the book, is the section which relates some of the rules under which workers at Shildon used to operate.

In 1833, anyone turning in 15 minutes late for work would lose three hours pay.

And one shilling fines would be imposed on workmen who "introduced a stranger into the works," or sent for beer, ale or spirits.

In 1867, anyone caught smoking twice would be sacked, anyone caught drinking on the premises would be fired and swearing was enough to bring a 50-pence fine.

Charles' new job brings new talent to light

WHEN Charles Corkin left South Shields in April for a new job in Lincolnshire, he discovered a new talent.

Until his 21-year-old wife, Judith, and baby daughter, Eve, could join him in Gainsborough, he started to paint to while away his lonely leisure time.

Landscape painting and copying have since become his passion.

Charles, who is 24, has already captured the imagination of some of the folks in Lincolnshire. His favourite painting, a copy of Constable's Salisbury Cathedral, was bought by the White Hart pub in Gainsborough, and he has sold several other oil paintings in the area.

But his obsession with his new-found hobby has its drawbacks. He said: "There are times when I have only three hours sleep a day because my work and painting take up so much time." He has had several small exhibitions in Lincolnshire.

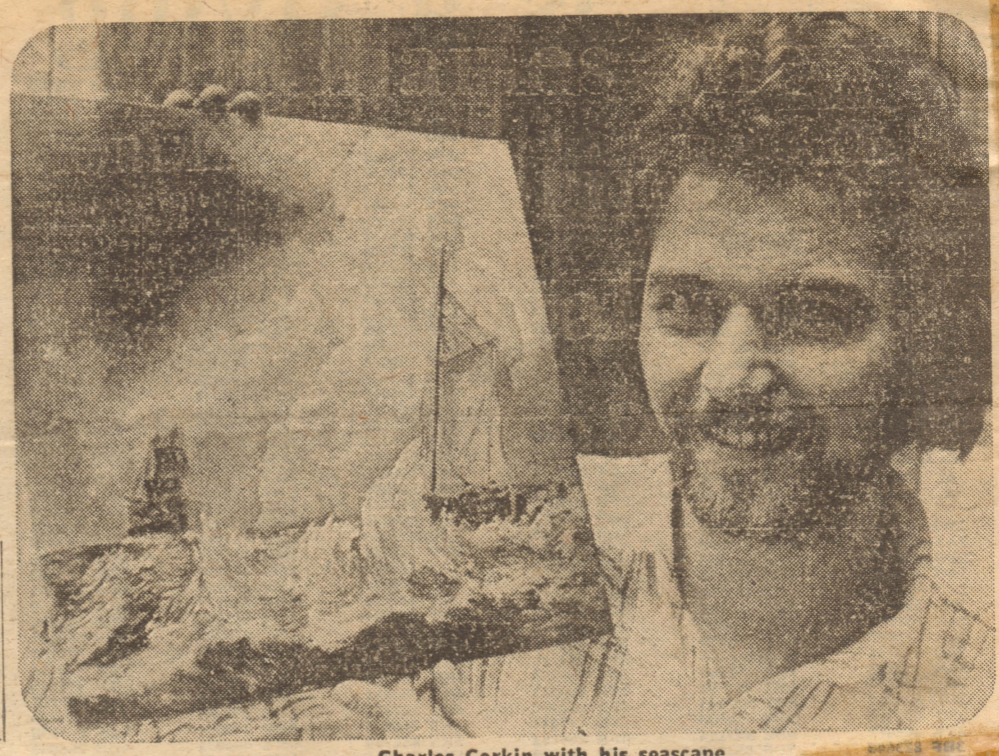
Charles, a fitter, went to Brinkburn Secondary Modern School before starting work at Middle Docks.

Charles was back in Shields for the Christmas holidays to visit his parents, Minnie and George Coskin, who live in Hazlitt Avenue. There was little time for painting during the holiday but Charles managed to knock out a quick seascape, he painted at Marsden.

An Evening Text

Jesus said: Come unto Me, all ye that Labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me.

(Matthew 11)



Charles Corkin with his seascape

hands slapped by a South

"SHIELDS GAZETTE"
JANUARY 1976.

Ex Manchester Utd. star dies



Billy Bryant, seated far left. Can you recognise the rest of the Manchester United team from those early days.

Mr William Bryant, who has lived in Manchester for the past 37 years, died suddenly when he returned to his native town of Shildon for a Christmas holiday.

Mr Bryant, aged 62, was a well known footballer and played at outside right for Manchester United for 18 years. He scored the winning goal which clinched the championship for United in 1936, thus gaining them promotion to the First Division. He became a professional at the age of 17, and it was Bob (Cockell) Caygill, a Shildon newsagent and football scout, who first approached him and managed to sign him up for Wolves. Some months before, when Mr Bryant was playing for Cockfield, then in the Northern League, he tried to get a place with his home town team, Shildon, but the club ignored him, the reason being that they were not particularly interested in local lads.

After two seasons with Wolves, Mr Bryant went to Wrexham, but it was not long before Manchester United snapped him up and held on to him for 18 seasons. It was there he received a championship medal and a gold watch and chain, presented to him by a Manchester business man, for his part in helping the team to win the championship.

Mr John Horan, of Queensway, Shildon, recalled the time when Billy played for the "dole" team. "It was a training centre for those out of work, and I believe the team was known then as the Bishop Auckland Unemployment Boys."

Mr Fred Jackson, of 103 Byerley Road, Shildon, knew him well. "At school," he said, "he was a good runner, and very fast. He was a kind, unselfish lad, and never boasted. He would never talk about football, and when he was a star at Manchester, he never forgot about his home town. He paid regular visits to Shildon."

Mr Bryant, who married a Shildon girl, Mary Caine, played with great footballers such as Charlie Mitten, Rowley, Pearson, and Bobby Charlton. A stroke of luck came his way, for a few months before the Munich air disaster which nearly wiped out the Manchester team, he was transferred to Bradford City. It was there he ended his playing days.

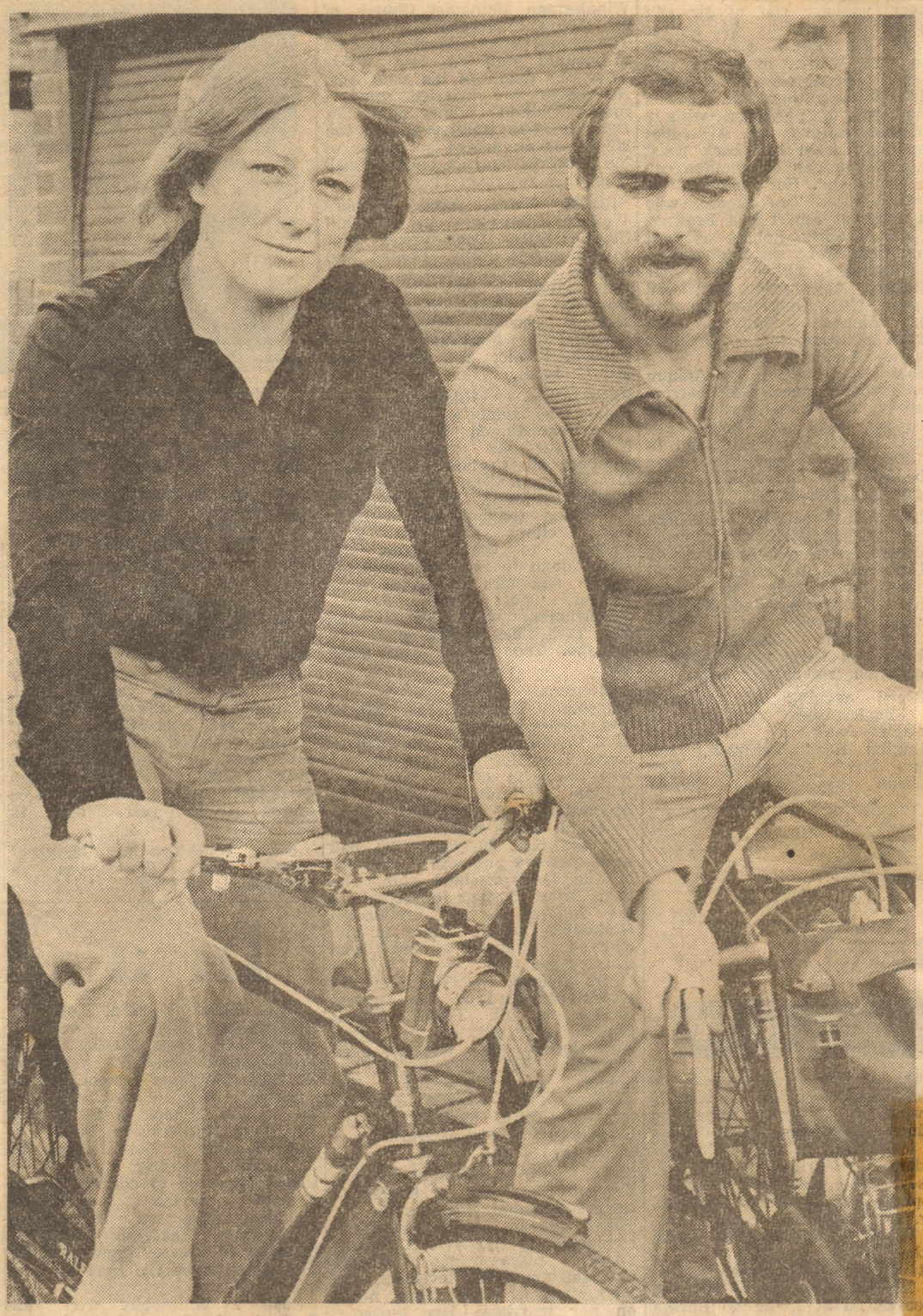
Mrs Bryant, sadly clasping her husband's medals and gold watch at her mother's home, 6 Garbutt Street, Shildon, said: "Billy brought his medals to Shildon in case thieves broke into our home in Manchester. He carried his medals everywhere, for he treasured them so much."

Mr Bryant, who broke a leg when he played against Manchester City, received a cap when he played for the Durham County Boys. He also received medals when playing for Manchester United in the Lancashire Football Cup, and for his part with Stalybridge Celtic.

Mr Bryant was cremated at Darlington, and leaves a widow and two sons.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"
JANUARY 1976.
STORY :- ROBERT CORKIN

Round the world — on a bike



AS SOON as the weather is to their liking, a young couple will be on their way round the world. They have no intentions of travelling by air, train, coach, or even in the comfort of a luxury liner. They are, in fact, going deep into the unknown the hard way — by pushbike!

The adventurers, 26-year-old Arnold Walker, and his attractive wife Margaret, (right) intend making their home a tent as they bike their way across Europe and into the many strange lands.

"As we go on", said Mr Walker, who is, at present, staying at his parents' home in Shildon, "I shall pop in to Rhodesia and say hello to my brother Bob, who has been living there for the past few years".

The couple, who have been recently living in the vicinity of Coventry, and who have sold all their furniture so as to raise enough money to help them along, have not just decided on such an adventure. "We have been planning this world tour for over six months now", commented Mr Walker.

To make certain of survival, they have been studying the magazine 'The Working Holiday and Free Travel Guide', a book published by the Fellowship Press which gives details of employment schemes in France, Germany, Austria and Italy.

"There is no definite rush," said Margaret, who hails from Northampton. "We will take on work in different countries as we go along". And Arnold, who married Margaret just over a year ago, stressed that, as they were both young, they had all the time in the world, and would move leisurely along, staying where they think fit.

There is doubt whether they will return to England after they have travelled the world. "We have our eye on South Africa, and may stay there if we find the country to our liking," said Mr Walker, adding: "but first, we'll just wait and see what the rest of the world has to offer us".

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"

Story: R. Corkin Photo: G.W. Thornton.

...group secretary, to give towards buying a heart machine for Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

...hildon youngsters help fight cancer

...young children, their ...nging from eight to 13, ...nded together to help ...ncer. The youngsters, all ...om live in Jasmine Shildon, have already ...nearly £14, and have ... a certificate and a ...f thanks from G. L. ...ton, the Appeals Secretary of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

"I saw a programme on television about cancer," said 12-year-old Gillian Alderson, "and decided to get my friends together in the hope that we could help to fight this horrible disease."

At first Gillian and her friends thought about putting on a concert to raise funds, but finally decided on a jumble sale. "We distributed leaflets, and began selling our own possessions," said Gillian. "Now, people freely give us books, clothing and toys when they realise our genuine intentions."

Another of the children, ten-year-old Beverley Trusler, said: "Our target was to raise £20, but we like doing it so much that we intend to continue above our target. We hope other children will join us," she added.

The other youngsters helping in the fight are Pauline German, Gillian Gartley and eight-year-old Sharon Smith.

Swimming trials at

THIS ITEM BY R. CORKIN APPEARED IN "AUCKLAND CHRONICLE" MAY 1971

Search still ticking over for mystery clockmaker

EVENING DESPATCH - JUNE 71.

STORY BY ROBERT CORKIN

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN BEETHAM



Mrs Susan Williams winding up her grandfather clock.

A MYSTERY appears to surround the maker's name of a grandfather clock which could well be over 150-year-old.

The clock, owned by Mrs Susan Williams, 18 High Street, Eldon Lane, is still ticking away as strongly as ever, and has on its face the name Storey, Chappel Row (now known as Church Street), Shildon. But who Mr Storey was remains a big mystery.

Mr Walter Tillotson, of 25 St John's Road, and who, at 97 years is one of the oldest men in Shildon, said: "I still have a good memory, but I can't remember a clock maker by that name."

Mr J. Whitfield, who owns a grocery and confectionery shop in Church Street, kindly searched through the deeds of the shop as far back as 1857, and found that a clock and watchmaker by the name of Thomas Robson owned the shop in 1874. But the name Storey was not mentioned.

Even 87-year-old Mrs Edith Turnbull, of 10 Albert Street was at a loss to who Storey really was. "But," she said, "about eighty years ago there was a gravedigger by that name at St John's Church." And the church today stands in the street once known as Chappel Row.

The History and Directory of Durham, a book which was published in 1894, names all the well-known businessmen of Shildon of that time. Mrs Taylor, 79, of 16 Albert Street, who owns the book, browsed through it carefully. The name Storey does not appear.

Said Mrs Williams: "I believe it to be around 150-years-old."

Mr Storey, whoever he was, would have been proud of his clock today, for one can almost feel that it will go on ticking for at least another 150 years.

fairies" have got the message.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT STILL FINDS SHILDON QUIET

Nineteen-year-old John Finley, a university student, recently paid a return visit to Shildon and found the town rather quiet. But he did not mind at all.

"Those with money search for peace and quiet," he said, "and as Shildon is surrounded by countryside it is an ideal spot for such people."

John, who used to live at 58, Coronation Avenue, is in his first year at Newcastle University studying Politics and Economics.

"I still like the people here," he said. "Nothing has changed much in these last four years, apart from the gradual extension of houses. Mind you," he went on, "people used to complain about the lack of night life in the town, but now that most people have cars they can go out of town to such places, and then return to Shildon for peace and quiet. I certainly wouldn't mind living here again," he concluded.

His father was a well-known, and well admired policeman here for 15 years before promoted to sergeant and moving to Stockton, where he now lives.

Aviary for park

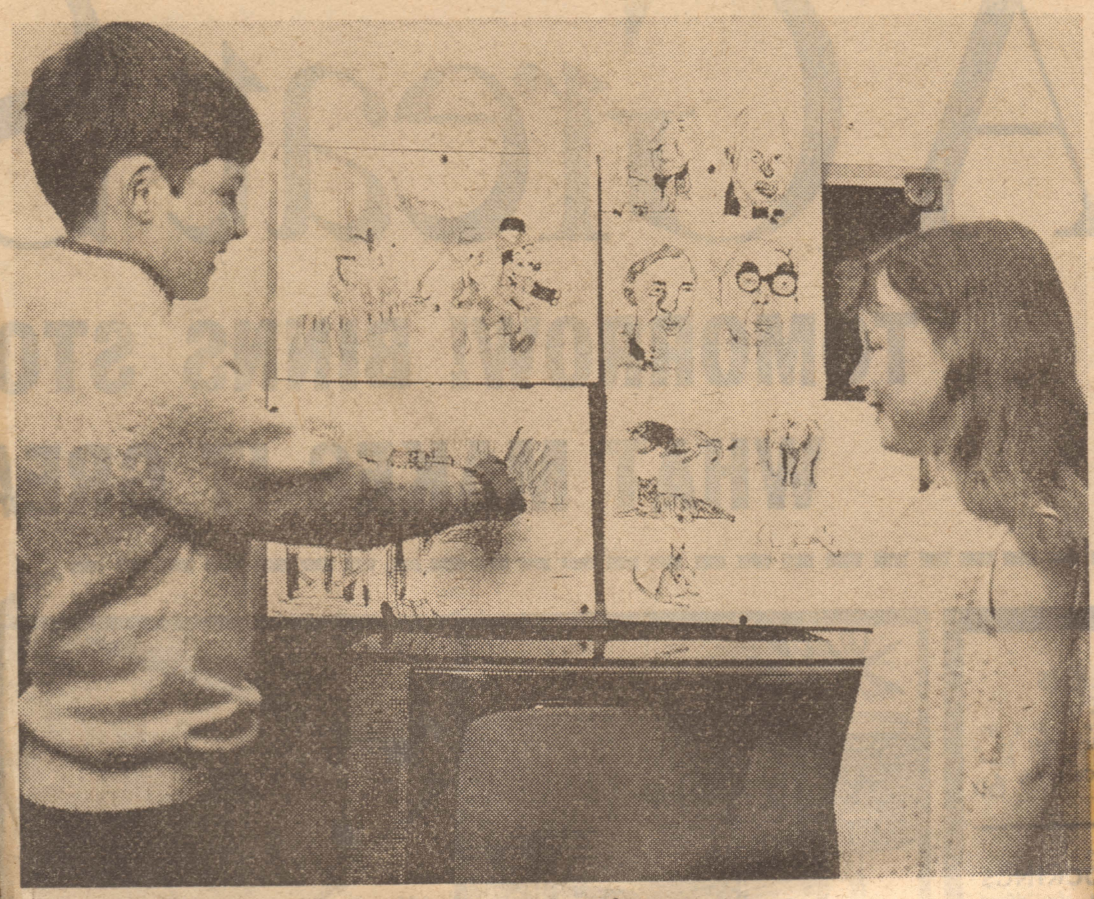
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Art and Craft Exhibition (judges Mr R Raymond and Miss B Craggs of King James I School): Handicraft, 8 to 11 years: 1 Sharon Hutchinson. 17 and over: 1 and 2 not claimed, 3 Mrs A Barnes. Over 60: 1 Miss A Evans, 2 Mrs A Alderson, 3 Mrs A. Alderson and Miss A Evans. Art, 5 to 7 years: 1 Horndale Infants School. 8 to 11 years: (group work), 1 St Francis Junior (individual work), 1 Yvonne Shepherd, Woodham Burn; 2 Ian King, St Francis; 3 Neville Corkin. 12 to 16 years: (three dimensional work) 1 R Greenope, Avenue Comprehensive;

the school grounds.

Judges were: Floral art, Mrs D. Snowball; flowers, Mr B. Floratine; vegetables, Mr J. Horner. In the childrens art section, eleven-year-old Elizabeth Paterson won the under 12's art, with her painting of geisha's and was presented with the children's trophy. Runners-up were Gina Jennison, and Neville Corkin.

Art (under 8 yrs): 1 Nicola Pounder; 2 Stephen



Budding artist — at 10

WHEN most boys hurry from school in the evening to play football, ten-year-old Neville Corkin, of Jubilee Crescent, Shildon, hurries home to his pencils and sketch pad. And his efforts are bringing him high praise.

Mr J. Shortland, the art teacher at Timothy Hackworth School, said: "Neville is a boy with a certain natural talent who, because of his interest and enthusiasm, has aimed at and achieved good results.

"Starting with attempts at animal drawing in the lunch break he has gone on to develop his talents."

Neville is one of the 40 children between seven and 11 who form the school's Art Club and meet every Thursday evening after school.

"The idea is that they get together to do specialist art work with extra guidance," said Mr Shortland.

Neville now studies paintings whenever he gets the chance. And one of those chances brought anxiety to his parents once. He was missing, only to be found in Darlington Art Galley!

EVENING DESPATCH - JUNE 23, 1971

STORY :- ROBERT CORKIN

PHOTOGRAPH :- KEN BEETHAM

and the Secretary of State the school leaving age school.

Shildon fish expert on Blue Peter shortly

When a pet food firm learned that Mrs Ruby Scarlett's tropical fish adored cat food, they immediately sent her 'with compliments' a generous supply of their cat food.

"The firm was most amused when they heard about it," said Mrs Scarlett of 87 Coronation Avenue, Shildon.

Ruby, who has been breeding tropical fish for a number of years, has won many first prizes — her Gourami winning three prizes. Her knack of breeding has been successful too. "I have had over 100 off one female swordtail, and that is rare as anyone who knows about breeding fish will tell you," she said. SShe added that she could spare a few hours a week to any firm interested in fish breeding.

Mrs Scarlett, who says that one can pay up to £12 for a fish, has written a book on tropical fish. It has now been in the hands of a New Jersey publisher for the past three months, so there is every likelihood of it now being accepted. "I have begun my second book, a kind of follow-up," she said.

Ruby has been invited to Tyne Tees Television and to Radio Durham, and is now to appear shortly on the highly-successful children's programme 'Blue Peter'.

But not only does Mrs Scarlett know how to breed tropical fish, if any of them are ailing she knows exactly how to make them fit and healthy again.

Tanks of all sizes dominate her house. "That is my main worry," she said. "I lack space so much that I could do with a very large mansion." Any offers?



Mrs Scarlett looking proudly at her prize-winning Gourami.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE" DEC. 1971.

STORY : ROBERT CORKIN

PHOTO : KEN BEETHAM

Auckland Chronicle
DURHAM COUNTY ADVERTISER SERIES. Thurs., May 11, 1972.

Shildon artist aims to treat pensioners by selling picture



When most of the 2,000 railway workers go home in the evening from the British Rail Engineering Works at Shildon to watch television or to do a spot of gardening, 34-year-old John Slater, a burner at the works, goes home to a canvas and brushes and does a spot of oil painting — concentrating mostly on landscapes and seascapes.

Although oil painting has been at the back of his mind ever since he was a child (he won a couple of prizes for his paintings at school), it is only two months since he first put brush to canvas. The results have been amazing. Several people have already approached him, eager to buy his work, but John, at the moment, is in no mood at selling — that is, for profit.

"I am certainly going to sell one of my paintings", said Mr Slater, 5 Victoria Street, Shildon. "But the money I receive from this work is going to be shared among a few pensioners."

John's intention is to treat the elderly folk who live in Hackworth Close, a street named after the railway pioneer Timothy Hackworth, the man who built the Royal George by candlelight.

The residents of Hackworth Close were delighted to hear of Mr Slater's intention. Said Miss Brown, 1 Hackworth Close: "It is very kind of this artist to do such a fine thing for old people." And Mrs Bowes of 10 Hackworth Close commented: "A grand idea. He must be a wonderful person."

Unlike other artists who paint what they see, this shy, quiet railway employee paints from imagination, and, what is more, as his brush is actually sweeping the canvas, a future landscape is forming in his head at the very same moment!

Before Mr Slater decided to sell a painting to treat the pensioners of Hackworth Close he turned down an offer of £30 for his first painting. The interested buyer, who wishes to remain anonymous said: "For a beginner, he is a remarkable artist."

And Mr Slater, who has now quite a list of names of those who wish to buy his work said: "If I do decide to sell, these presons will be given first preference."

STORY: ROBERT CORKIN. PHOTOGRAPH: KEN BEETHAM

land's parish church is soon to be replaced by

Members of the church are already approaching instrumental players in the town

Proud day coming for Jack and his family

IN 1975 it will be 150 years since the birth of the railways, and already the councils of Shildon, Bishop Auckland, Darlington and Stockton are co-operating with British Rail and railway societies to provide a worthwhile event for that occasion.

Although Shildon is now preparing a gigantic celebration (it was from here in 1825 the world's first passenger train ran, drawn by a steam engine), there will be one man, Jack Stabler, particularly proud when that year arrives, for he can boast the fact that his family has had the tradition of being employed by the railways from way back to when the railways began — and that will almost certainly be a record in the country!

Jack, of 66 Burnie Gardens, Shildon, and who is a chargehand fitter at the Shildon British Rail Engineering works, said: "Our family tree covering the railways must be well over a thousand years."

Mr Stabler's great, great grandfather, George, was a land agent to the Bowes family. His great grandfather, Thomas, had three sons all of whom served 50 years with the railways One of them, George, was one of the original founders of the world's first Railway Institute. William, another son, actually hand-made a miniature collection of blacksmiths tools from the original rail of the world's first railway.

Arthur, Jack's grandfather, was Station Master at Watford Junction for 50 years (he received the Queen at Watford in 1903) and is now compiling a book concerning the railways of the world. He has already visited Canada and other countries in search of material, and the book, which is expected to be published will include the long proud history of the Stablers!

Jack's father, Fred, who married the daughter of a loco-driver, a William Chisem (whose father and brothers all served 50 years with the railway), also worked for the railways for 50 years.

Mr Stabler, whose two sons, Kenneth and John is also employed at the works (John has recently won a rail safety-first award) will, when the time arrives, certainly seek permission to raise the rail flag to its highest point on the works.

considered — would also increase the opportunities for congregational participation.



Jack Stabler and his sons proudly view the plaque commemorating the first passenger train drawn by a steam engine, which is displayed outside Shildon BR workshop offices.—(Photo: K. Beetham).

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"
SEP. 72.
STORY BY ROBERT CORKIN

grel dog dead on an allotment.

Art with a heart

A Shildon railway worker, who took up oil painting only two months ago, is to sell one of his paintings to give local old people a treat.

Mr John Slater, 34, of Victoria Street, a burner at the British Rail engineering works, has already turned down an offer of £30 for his first painting.

"But I certainly intend to sell one of my paintings," he said. "The money will be shared among a few pensioners."

Weight

THE NORTHERN ECHO

history of the train; on and The Hull Pullman.

His canaries get hard-boiled eggs



WALLY WILKINSON, a fitter at BR Engineering's Shildon works with 35 years' service, invariably has to hurry back to his home in Darlington, rush a cup of tea, have a quick change and dash off to perhaps London, Bristol or Scotland — to be in time to judge border fancy canaries.

Wally, who has been breeding canaries since he was ten, has a cabinet full of trophies he won with his birds before becoming a top-flight judge.

Judge three times at the National Cage Bird Show in London — one of the biggest shows of its kind in the world — he knows the right way to rear a champion bird.

"I feed my young with a special mixture," he says. "This consists of hard-boiled eggs, sausage rusk, condensed milk and glucose".

It is soon after the young birds first moult that Walter picks out the birds he thinks will make champions.

To get canaries in peak condition he sprays them in warm water to bring out the best in their plumage — "sometimes actually washing them," says Wally. "But this practice could be dangerous and must be done with great care."

Lecturing

Walter takes a great interest in helping junior and new fanciers, and lectures all over the country.

What does Wally look for in a top canary? "The bird's outline, its quality and size. And it must not be more than five-and-a-half inches."

And Wally still finds time for another hobby—breeding smooth-haired fox terriers.

"RAIL NEWS"
NOVEMBER 72.
STORY: ROBERT CORKIN
PICTURE: KEN BEETHAM

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By way of thanks

Getting ready

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Mr Stabler's great-great-grandfather, George, was a land agent to the Bowes family. His great-grandfather, Thomas, had three sons, all of whom served 50 years with the railways.

One of them, George, was one

"RAIL NEWS"
JANUARY 73
STORY:
Robert Corkin

dnesday, December 6, 1972



Mr Robert Corkin, poet with a mission, signs one of his books for poetry lover Celia Scott.

Trying to corner poets for a 'poets corner'

AN EX-SHIELDS sailor who has become a full-blown author is searching for the poets of South Shields. Mr Robert Corkin, who was born in the town where he spent more than 25 years, intends to publish a book of poems — if he can find around 40 local poets to fill it.

Mr Corkin, who has brothers and sisters in Shields, edited a writers' magazine which circulated in this this country and found readership in many parts of the world, including the Wisconsin University in the U.S.A., and the College of London.

He has had two books of poems published. They were edited by Violet Brown, his magazine's poetry editor.

"The anthologies were by poets from all over the world," says Mr Corkin, who now lives in Shildon.

"My intention now is to produce a book by Shields poets only — call it a kind of dedication to the many happy years I spent in the old town."

Odd Man Out

"SHIELDS GAZETTE"

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Old Auckland 'pub' to close down?

THERE was shocked reaction when it was learned that onne of the oldest pubs in Bishop Auckland was to close in a couple of weeks time. Customers of the Three Tuns, in Newgate Street, which was once a shed to shelter horses and, incidentally, where Red Alligator was given a free pint of beer the day it won the Grand National, were certain that it had escaped the "death penalty".

A few weeks ago there were rumours that Newcastle Breweries had not renewed the licence, and that an unknown person had bought the premises. Customers planned a massive protest, but before this was put into operation news came that the pub was going to be redecorated and modernised.

The customers sighed with relief, and their joys were strengthened when the outside of the Three Tuns was given a "facelift" about three weeks ago. But their huppiness vanished when, last Thursday, the manager of the pub, Bert Harper, received official word of the closure.

"It came quite unexpected", said Mr Harper, "I honestly thought the pub was going to have alterations done to it".

Another setback came to the customers who were going to make the Cumberland Arms, also in Newgate Street, their new "home", for Newcastle Breweries have, it is understood, intentions of closing this pub shortly so as to modernise it.

Modernisation to the customers and staff of the Cumberland Arms, which is expected to be closed for about three months, may not exactly be welcomed.

"We are all against it," says attractive barmaid Isobel Hepburn. "This is a very friendly house. Modernisation will take away this friendliness and perhaps many of our customers".

Another of the Arms barmaids, pretty Elizabeth Bannister, said: "It is a terrible thought Our customers, as well as ourselves, are very angry about it all."

STORY - ROBERT CORKIN
AUCKLAND CHRONICLE
OCT. 73

and Durham Pony Club Meet at Wolsingham. — (Photo: Caldon).

Pen-pals to meet after 30 years

July 76

Stella Black was only 16 when she browsed through a little Christian magazine which was full of wanted pen-pals. She chose one, and after dropping teenager Loraine Hiltz, who lived in Canada, a line, a great friendship developed. Now, after constantly writing to each other for the past 30 years, Stella and Loraine are going to meet for the very first time.

Although Loraine is now Mrs Nash, and lives in Florida, she will be returning to her parents home in Scarborough, Ontario, to welcome Mrs Black and her husband, Ken, who are expected to stay there for three weeks.

"It has been my life's ambition to meet Loraine," said 46-year-old Mrs Black at her home in Redworth Road, Shildon. "It is like a beautiful dream come true.

"We could never afford the trip to Canada until now," said her 51-year-old husband, who has been a millwright for the past 30 years at Shildon Rail Works, and also chairman of the British Rail Bowling Club since 1960.

Mrs Black, who was a nursing assistant for two years at Aycliffe mental hospital, and who now works at Hackworth House, the old people's home in Shildon, was losing hope of ever meeting her friend.

"After all these years of writing to each other we did not think that such a wonderful day would ever come," she said.

Mr Black, a football referee for 20 years, collecting cups and trophies for his part in refereeing cup finals in leagues such as the Auckland District League, said:

"It could not have come at a better time. It is our silver wedding anniversary this month, so it is going to be a rousing celebration."

Stella and Ken, who have no family, know that their friend in Canada is just as excited as they are a[illegible] will be a moment that will stay with me for the rest of my life," said Mrs Black.



Mrs Stella Black.

club, becoming a director in 1950

"Auckland Chronicle" July 76.

Story - R. Corkin



Mr Arthur Smith (right) presenting the pennant to Mr A. Bagley, the Shildon Railway bandmaster. — (Photo: Beetham).

STORY :- ROBERT CORKIN

Back from down under

A FORMER Shildon man has returned from Australia after living there for the past 24 years — to present a pennant to Shildon railway band.

Mr Arthur Smith, who is staying with his parents at 19 Association Street, Shildon is a band sergeant of the Bunderberg Municipal Band in Queensland which, incidentally, were winners of the Australian B Grade Band Championship in 1971.

Mr Smith, whose parents and brothers are all musical, was a welder at Shildon works and played inthe band before he left in 1948.

"We would like bandsmen from this area, especially bass and cornet players," says Arthur, who is now a foreman for a tractor firm in Bundaberg. "Any bandsmen ready to emigrate and interested should contact our Secretary, 18 Lamb Street, Bundaberg, Queensland."

And of Shildon, Mr Smith said: "There has indeed been quite a lot of changes, although the people haven't changed — they're still very friendly."

S. H. Howe (chairman).

Rhodesia still pro-British, says Shildon man

"Rhodesia is still pro-British." That is the view of 28-year-old Robert Walker, who has been working out there for the past two years.

Robert, who is now on holiday (he is allowed six weeks holiday a year) and is staying with his parents at 2 St. John's Road, Shildon, certainly finds Rhodesia a wonderful country. "The people there have no grudge whatsoever against the English," he says. "on the contrary they would welcome people from this country with open arms." But he warned that Rhodesia was not a country for lazy people. "If one is prepared to work hard their reward is superior living conditions."

Mr Walker, who is on the electrical engineering side for the Rhodesian Government, added that the "lazy" would be doomed for there is no such thing as "dole" in Rhodesia.

Food appears to be plentiful. "For instance," says Robert. "I can buy 5lb. of the best prime fillet steak for around 70p. But for the British Government sanctions," added Mr Walker. "Rhodesia would willingly export such foodstuffs to England."

Although Rhodesians up to the age of 26 are forced to train for one month every year in the Army, Robert says that men between 45 and 50 don't even raise an eyebrow when they go into the bush in search of the enemy. In fact, Mr Walker is so proud of them that he, himself, intends to do a month's training when he returns to Rhodesia.

And of Shildon Robert finds very little change. Two things he believes he misses. The pubs, for there is no such thing as a pub in Rhodesia. One must consume beer from a hotel. The other is the green grass of our countryside.

STORY-ROBERT CORKIN

AUCKLAND CHRONICLE SEP. 73.

London, S.W.1.

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Robert Corkin (Editor),
SYMBOL, 23, Jubilee Crescent,
Shildon, Co. Durham.

of cream crackers!



Pensioners have highly praised the committee of Cornwall Place Communal Centre, Bishop Auckland, since it was officially opened in April by Coun. Denis Harburn.

The centre, which has received gifts from Sheperds, the building firm, Mackays of Durham, Toothills and the DLI Association Club, is designed for 36 bungalows, eight of which are specially built for the disabled.

Mrs Ruby Bainbridge, a resident, said: "Loneliness is a thing of the past now. The committee are doing a wonderful job."

The pensioners paid a special thank-you to Mrs Dack, the centre's warden.

In the committee picture are, left to right (standing): Mr Carr (chairman), Mr Blackett (secretary), Mr Wilson, Mr Horton, Mr Dack (treasurer), Mr Potts. Sitting: Mrs Horton, Miss Graham (vice-chairman), Mrs Hollingham, Mrs Potts. Picture by G. W. Thornton, South Church.

"Evening Dispatch", June 1st. 1976.

Story- R. Corkin

His own pub



RIVETER'S ASSISTANT *Ted Jayne* of Shildon BR Engineering works, got tired of the rising price of beer, so he decided to brew his own. But, as he missed dropping in at the local, he built a shed in his backyard and transformed it, with all the ingredients, into an ordinary pub.

"It is Britain's only freehouse", says Ted, who has named his gem the Drunken Duck. "No-one is allowed to spend even a penny on drink."

The Duck, which must rate as one of the country's smallest pubs, has a wide choice of wines, soft drinks and beers, and has heating installed for those cold, dark nights. There's stereophonic sound, too, to help Ted's railway pals to relax.

Ted, who admits—"five customers and the pub is crammed"—has a rule sheet pinned to the wall. Foul language is definitely out and dogs are not allowed in. There is a ban on religious discussion and politics. No "customer" should consume over three pints per session is another rule, but pickled eggs, crisps and nuts can be devoured freely.

The pub is open five nights a week, seven till ten. "The lads have a good chat and a sing-song every evening," says Ted, who is also keen on shooting, fishing and archery. "The atmosphere here is just great!"

And what does his wife, Pat, think of the Drunken Duck? "I find it amusing but it is a large slice of my husband's life now. So I'm happy about it all so long as he is happy."

Dead dog

"RAIL NEWS"
MAY 1973.
STORY :- ROBERT CORKIN
PICTURE :- KEN BEETHAM

Shildon's secret ship-builder

When 35-year-old Barrie Hutchinson comes home from the Shildon rail works he does not rush out with the boys to have a pint and a game of darts. Instead, his mind gets cracking into thinking just how fast he can yet again "launch" one of his ships!

For the past three years, and in secret, he has been building model sailing ships and galleons such as the Royal Sovereign, the Cutty Sark and the Golden Hind.

"It takes me about a couple of months to build one," said Barrie, who lives at 11 Magnolia Way, Shildon. "Although there is a lot of hard work in it, it is indeed a very satisfying hobby."

Mr Hutchinson's ships of the past are a delight to the eye. Although the plans appear like a mass of tangled wreckage the finished product reveals amazing detail. The cannons, the rigging, and even the minute costumed sailors are seen on close observation.

Even the painting of the vessels cannot be rushed. "It took me a full week to paint only the hull of one of my ships," said Barrie.

And now his ten-year-old son David is following in his footsteps. He has already built a battleship with its moveable guns and other details.

Although Mr Hutchinson is building a ship for an ex-Navy man, he will not sell or even show his work to outsiders.

Said his attractive wife Alice: "He must have clever hands and a lot of patience to do this kind of work. I do wish he would launch out and allow people to see his fine workmanship."

One important feature is that Mrs Burley and Mrs E. Iceton. A minute's silence was

Shildon men will exhibit own paintings

Two artists are to exhibit their paintings in their own home town of Shildon.

Thirty-five year old John Slater, of 5 Victoria Street, who began painting about a year ago thinks that Shildonians have been deprived of exhibitions for far too long. The other artist, 49-year-old Douglas Kipling, of 17 Auckland Terrace, says: "The people of Shildon will now see local talent without having to go out of town."

Mr Kipling, who is a mobile crane driver at Shildon Rail Works, began painting by "accident." For some years, and with recognition, he carved figures of prominent people such as Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson, Hitler and Charlie Chaplain from furniture and unseasoned wood.

But the carvings had to cease when he lost part of a finger at work. It was this accident that turned him to painting portraits of the Red Boy, Mary Hopkin and Napoleon watching Moscow burn. One of his latest, the portrait of Enoch Powell, has been admired by many.

Mr Slater, who also works at the rail shops, paints mostly landscapes. He has met with much success and several of his paintings are now in homes all over the country. Recently, at an exhibition in Durham City, Mr Slater's work was bought from over a thousand paintings on show. He is now going to attempt to paint The Last Supper.

"This is my greatest and toughest challenge," says John. "It will take me about a year to complete."

The date and the place for the exhibition is to be announced shortly after Christmas.

"AUCKL

STORY

Shildon ready for the raiders

"Up in the mornings the game," is a saying of many pigeon fanciers at the beginning of a new season of pigeon racing — especially the fanciers at the New Shildon Club and Institute.

But from now, just before April 20, when the new season begins, fanciers all over the town will be guarding their lots at night, in the hope of catching red-handed, intruders who have plagued Shildon fanciers for the past few years.

"Vandalism and the stealing of birds appears to be getting worse," said 33-year-old Brian Younghusband, who is secretary of the West Durham Federation Homing Pigeon Society.

The police are, seemingly, doing their best to pounce on the offenders, but fanciers all over the town are really very worried that the raids on their lots this year will be heavier than other years.

"Mr Clark, Chairman, who puts every ounce of energy in his trying to better our relationship with the sport, and top prizewinners like Mr Giles, Mr Stott and Laidlaw, and the Johnson Brothers must be getting fed up with this sort of fear year after year," said Mr Younghusband, adding: "One thing is certain, if the raiders come around this season, they're in for a very nasty surprise."

discussion afterwards.

Bill's flowers keep on winning

Fifty-five-year-old William Florentine seems to have an uncanny knack of always winning prizes with his flowers. No matter where he goes, he returns home with a handful of cups and medals!

Bill, who has worked for the railways for the past 25 years and is a sheet metal worker at BR Engineering Shildon works, began growing flowers after a friend had given him six plants. Since that day he has won over 150 trophes and 85 silver and bronze medals.

Apart from winning, Mr Florentine is a prominent lecturer and has visited societies in many parts of the country to give talks. And when he is not lecturing or nursing his plants, he travels to such places as Belfast to judge flower shows.

Bill, of 170 Yarm Road, Darlington, is a life vice president of the National Chrysanthemum Group and secretary of the Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society. He is also a life member of the Stockton Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society, and is holder of the National Diploma in juding chrysanthemums in early and late flowery varieties. Five years ago he was awarded the National Chrysanthemum Silver Medal. He is also a national dahlia judge, all gained by examination in theory and practical judging.

And what is the secret of his success? "Success lies in attention to selection of good stock and correct watering," says Bill, who was once mentioned in Despatches while serving in the Eighth Army. "There is no positive secret, just observation and hard work."

No wonder they call him Mr Chrysanthemum!

AUCKLAND CHRONICLE
NOV. 73

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1974 Commercial Office: Bishop Auckland 3231. 3p



Mr Baker and his wife with a few of the young members just before they set off for their camping trip to the Lakes. — (Photo: Beetham).

DISCO ENDS VANDALISM

THREE MONTHS ago vandalism was so bad in the small village of Eldon that Mr Eddie Baker, of Double Row, decided to do something about it. He, and a few other adults, formed a committee and opened up a disco for Eldon's young people, and this has paid dividends for vandalism in the village today is practically non-existent.

Mr Baker, his wife, and Mr and Mrs Gibson were so pleased with the results that they decided to reward the children with a three-day camping trip to the Lakes.

"Now that we have started these trips," said Eddie, who throws in some of his own money to finance the club, "we hope to keep it going."

Mr Baker's wife, Eileen, who is secretary of the youth club, said: "It has been very hard work, but the wonderful look on the kids faces when we told them of the trip makes it all worthwhile."

Another of the committee, Mrs Ethel Heatherington, said: "There's a big difference in Eldon today. Three months ago the boys used to ignore or abuse you. Now it's a nice hello' when they pass you."

To get the trip into gear, Mr Baker begged and borrowed sleeping bags and hired tents. And to make certain the young people did not go hungry, he and the committee stored plenty of food two weeks beforehand. "We would certainly welcome more help from other adults to supervise future outings," stressed Eddie.

For most of the young people this was their first camping trip, and for some their first time away from home.

Susan Lamb, 12, of Old Eldon Farm, said: "This is my first outing, so you can guess how excited I am." Brian Paterson, 16, of Double Row, said: "We are proud of Mr Baker and the others. They have really done a lot to help us." And Stephen Gwynn, 15, said: "Since the disco started vandalism has almost stopped."

The club has now over a hundred members. "Owing to the tremendous support," says Mr Baker, "we have had to restrict membership."

A trip to Flamingo Park for the younger members, with parents invited, is next on the list, and in August it is expected that an outing for Eldon's old people will take place.

"All this, of course, takes money," said Eddie. "I'm hoping Eldon residents will take heart and help us, for, after all, we are trying to cast away the unfavourable image others seem to have of our village."

STORY = K. CORKIN

Cemetery.

Footballer judges eggs

Footballer Bryin Conlon was in a happy mood even though Hartlepool, the team he plays for, was beaten that day by his old club Darlington, when he appeared as one of three judges on Good Friday at an Easter egg competition in the Redworth Arms, Shildon.

The competition, which was organised by the pub's Jolly Boys, was in aid of raising money for the Holly Hill Childrens Home.

There was nearly 100 eggs on show. Said one of the Jolly Boys Brian Nevison: "It is a far better turn-out than last year. People have realised that it is for a very good cause."

The prizes for the three most decorative eggs were a gent's wrist watch, a coffee table and a cigarette lighter. The ladies dart team of the Redworth Arms provided two prizes while Camerons brewery supplied a bottle of whisky to be raffled.

All the colourful paste eggs, a £25 cheque, and many large chocolate Easter eggs which the Jolly Boys bought, have been sent to the Childrens Home. The other two judges were Mr Edward Hodges and Mr Robert Corking.

STORY BY R. CORKIN

STORY — ROBERT CORKIN.

NOV. 73.

hop on a council housing estate

Auckland barmaid in hair-do contest

Guy Fawkes Day may be a day of joy for tall, attractive Mrs Isobel Hepburn, for it is on November 5 that she, too, will put on a sparkling display in London.

Isobel, aged 32, is the model for hairdresser Mrs Maureen Dolphin, of Crook, and both have proudly reached the final of a national hair-colouring competition which will take place in the Royal Albert Hall.

Mrs Hepburn, who is a barmaid in the Cumberland Arms, Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland, said: "In the regional round of the competition we came eighth out of 80 contestants. It was no easy task, but we reached the final which proves we stand a very good chance of actually winning the contest."

Isobel, a native of Glasgow, and who came to live in this part of the world eight years ago, has been a hairdressing and dress model for several years, but did not take it seriously until this competition, run by L'Oreal, came along. Now, thanks to Mrs Dolphin, an urge to stir up her secret ambition of becoming a top-flight model is taking definite shape, for, if she outruns the 180 other finalists from all over the country, she not only collects a £150 cheque, but is rewarded with the dream chance of travelling the world as a model.

Mrs Dolphin certainly finds the chance of winning very real, for, although she has entered other contests lightly, she has, this time, kept her hair-colouring formula a very close secret. Not even Mrs Hepburn has been enlightened on the colour scheme.

"Fireworks have never interested me," says Isobel, who also models for a boutique in Crook, called Romeo and Juliet. "But I have a hunch I shall always remember Guy Fawkes this year."



George Stainthorpe, toolroom chargeman at Shildon works, and Philip Maguire, apprentice engineer, using a surface gauge that has been in use for over a century.

They certainly made tools to last...

SHILDON'S railway wagon works are still using tools of the Timothy Hackworth era. One of them, a surface gauge, has been in use at the works for over a century.

This does not mean that the works are behind the times. They have some of the most up-to-date machinery in the world, but one must pay respect to the mechanics of the last century, in the knowledge that their fine workmanship is still being admired today.

In those days the Shildon shop workers could neither read nor write, for they had had very little education, and most of them had practically no engineering experience.

The lathes then were hand opeated, there was no turntables and with the exception of a screw jack, ropes and pulleys were the only means of raising heavy parts like engines and boilers.

The works (which were built at the time of the opening of the railway) consisted of a narrow building comprising a joiners' and blacksmith's shop. There was also an engine shed which could house two engines.

The number of men employed was 20, but in 1827, when Hackworth built the Royal George, there was excitement and jubilation as the figure of employment increased to the grand total of 50!

Today over 2,000 are employed at the works which are now one of the country's main rail workshop centre.

"EVENING DESPATCH"
FEB. 1973
STORY
Robert Corkin
PICTURE
Ken Beetham

NAC AC

Harry returns to squeeze away Christmas gloom

For years, ever since 1939 in fact, 65-year-old Harry McCaffery has been doing the rounds of the pubs in Bishop Auckland, Shildon and even an far away as South Shields, delighting thousands of people with his accordion.

But two years ago he decided to call it a day, so the accordion was cast into the attic. Now, Harry, who lives at 42 High Bondgate, Bishop Auckland, finds the people so downhearted with the country's present situation that he has wiped away the cobwebs off his accordion and come out of retirement.

"What with industrial strife, shortages, threatened unemployment and inflation, our people certainly need to be cheered up this Christmas," says Harry, who entertained the troops during the war when he was a gunner in the Royal Artillery. "Say what you like, there is nothing like an accordion to chase away the gloom."

Mr McCaffery, who has worked in shipyards and was employed by British Railways for nearly 29 years, enjoyed entertaining the elderly so much that he used to give his services entirely free.

Mr McCaffery, who is married with a grown-up family, recalled the moment when the urge to learn the accordion came to him. It was when he was a teenager, unemployed and hungry. "I was looking at accordions in a shop window when the manager of the shop came out and asked me if I'd clean his car. He certainly took pity on me, for when he learned I was interested in accordions he gave me a job, and an accordion, and told me to pay him back weekly out of my wage."

Added Harry: "I certainly need another accordion now, but as I am a pensioner to buy one is right out of question."

And as Mr McCaffery does the rounds of the pubs once more this Christmas, spreading a little light on these dark days, his wife Hilda, said: "Although I don't drink myself, I think it wonderful of Harry to come out of retirement to cheer people up with his accordion."

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"
DEC. 1973
STORY:-
ROBERT CORKIN

Shildon 'oldies' published?

Shildon notebook

If it's old photographs of Shildon you are interested in, then Brian Nevison is the man to get in touch with. Mr Nevison, who has been collecting ancient photographs of the town for quite some time now, has found an interested publisher who is, at the moment, considering whether to produce the photographs in book form.

"Nothing is definite yet", said 28-year-old Brian, who lives at 6 Bouch Street, Shildon. "The publishers realise that there is a limited scope for such a work, but I believe that, apart from Shildon, many other districts will be interested in such a book".

Mr Nevison has hundreds of oldies, some of them very rare. As a sample, he has one of a wheelbarrow race near the Hippodrome. Then there is a photograph of women cleaning engines at Shildon rail works in 1914.

"The photographs have been kept in excellent condition over the years", said Brian. "I am indeed grateful to all those who have co-operated and urged me to try and put these treasures to good use".

Mr Nevison has also many other old photographs of other districts, and he intends to find a publisher to produce these in general interest form if the Shildon book materialises. "I would be very pleased to get in touch with any person who possesses old photographs", said Brian.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"
APRIL 1974
STORY-
R. CORKIN

Time runs out as watchmaker looks for apprentice

Time appears to be running out for a Bishop Auckland watch and clockmaker. He is, literally speaking, timing the death of his trade — even though it is booming.

"It is booming because it is dying," said 47-year-old master watchmaker Hans Jonathan, whose workshop stands in Princess Street. "And it is dying because there are no apprentices to carry on this satisfying trade. It would indeed be nice if I could get in touch with somebody who is willing to learn the trade."

Mr Jonathan, who was born in Germany, is actually 300 jobs behind time and is booked up with work for several months.

He began the trade in Manchester and came to live in Bishop Auckland nearly three years ago. He came to England in 1941 as a refugee, and now gets work sent to him from every part of the country.

Still unmarried, Hans — "I am really married to my craft" — is probably the only master watchmaker in the North-East. He was, in his own words "born under a bench" and, as watchmaking goes back five generations in his family, he can do anything from electro-plating to actually hand-building a complete clock.

"The main principle of a good watch is the number of ticks per hour," he says. "On the whole a watch with 36,000 ticks is the most reliable."

Perhaps the card on on his shop counter sums up just how much a craftsman he is. It reads: "The impossible we do at once — miracles take a little longer."

And of Bishop Auckland Mr Jonathan finds it such a wonderful town that he now intends to stay for the rest of his life — with the hope that he can find someone to carry on the trade.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE" JAN. 1974 STORY = ROBERT CORKIN

Susan a hit with the boys

Pretty Susan Green is capturing the hearts of the males with her charm and her voice. Susan, aged 19, is a folk singer, and, according to many who have heard her, is destined for the top.

"I have been told to push myself forward," said Susan, who lives at 17 College Street, Shildon. "The well-known folk group The Dubliners, whom I talked to recently, have given me much encouragement."

Miss Green who, in the past three years has been under a music teacher, sings with her partner Brian Horner every Tuesday evening at the Royal George Tavern, Main Street, Shildon.

"The atmosphere in the Royal George is quite fantastic," said Susan, who is now about to contact Radio Cleveland for a part in their show. "Our folk club began about two months ago. Anyone interested in folk singing should come along for they would be made most welcome."

TALENT

Susan, who has sung in many parts of the country and toured many Northern clubs, has also done much for charity. Her recent venture was the singing at Sunnydale school for the physically handicapped children, and this evening she will be singing for charity at Old Shildon's Workingmen's Club.

Her 22-year-old brother Allan, too, has talent, but with his hands not his voice. He has won the BRSA cup in a bowls competition, and last year became the Champion of Champions and was awarded the Putnam Trophy.

Susan who, at 16, was singing at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield, and whose only other hobby is walking has no intentions of courting. "I am not really interested in boyfriends," she said. "Singing is rather more on my mind than boys."

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE" APRIL 1974 STORY by R. CORKIN

Elocution successes

Shildon and Newton Aycliffe elocution pupils of Pauline Moses, of Shildon, were successful in examinations held in June and July.

They were: London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art: Junior Preliminary, Colin Johnson, Angela Norris; Grade 1, Gary Ingham; Grade III, Carran Raine; Grade V, Janet Lowe; Grade VI, Patricia Oldfield (distinction).

Poetry Society: Junior Certificate, Lisa Toward (credit), Melanie Jones (credit), Theresa Hood (credit). Silver Medal: Debbie Wise, Junior (credit), Leslea Batchelor (credit). Intermediate Certificate, Susan Ascough (credit), Hayley Johnson, Ian Corkin (Honours). Intermediate Silver Medal, Susan Thornton (credit); Senior Certificate, Carran Raine.

Shildon man writes railway book

Shildon notebook

There will be an added attraction for the folks of Shildon during the Stockton and Darlington railway celebrations next year, for a Shildon man, Mr Robert Corkin of Jubilee Crescent, has just written a book concerning the town's railway history. The publication, which will also contain dozens of photographs, has been accepted by Frank Graham, the Newcastle publisher.

Said Mr Corkin: "Shildon has always been mentioned too lightly in the many books that have been written on the Stockton and Darlington railway As Shildon played a major roll in those early days, I decided that a book on the town itself was quite in order."

Robert edited a monthly non-profit writers magazine for severn years which not only covered this country, but went to other countries such as America, Australia and Yugoslavia. Readers consisted of novelists such as Ursula Bloom, and the Greek poet Takis Papatzonis. Universities too, such as Wisconsin, USA, ordered copies of the magazine for their libraries.

"I have avoided complications, and have written the book in a simplified and comprehensive form for the benefit of young readers too", said Mr Corkin, who has had numerous short stories and article published in many leading magazines.

The price of the publication has yet to be fixed, but the book is expected to be on sale at newsagents some weeks after Christmas.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE" NOV. 21ST. 1974

Rail News, January, 1974.

Bill's cups keep on growing

WILLIAM FLORENTINE, a sheet metal worker at BRE's Shildon works, seems to have an uncanny knack of winning prizes with his flowers.

No matter where he goes, he returns home with a handful of cups and medals. Now his fame has brought him in front of the TV cameras in an interview with Tyne Tees gardening expert Bob Woolley.

Bill began growing flowers 20 years ago after a friend gave him six plants. Since that day he has won more than 150 trophies and 96 silver and bronze medals.

Vice-president

Apart from winning prizes, Bill, 55, is a prominent lecturer and has visited societies in many parts of the country to give talks. And when he is not lecturing or nursing his plants, he travels as far as Belfast to judge flower shows.

Bill is life vice-president of the National Chrysanthemum Northern Group and secretary of the Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society.

He is also a life member of the Stockton Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society, and is holder of the National Diploma in judging chrysanthemums in early and late flowering varieties.

Five years ago he was awarded the National Chrysanthemum silver medal. He is also a National Dahlia judge — all gained by examination in theory and practical judging.

And what is the secret of his success? Says Bill: "Success lies in attention to and selection of good stock and correct watering. There is no secret, just observation and hard work."

No wonder they call him Mr Chrysanthemum.



William Florentine of Shildon works with his cupboard full of trophies.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE" FEB. 1974

STORY = ROBERT CORKIN

NAC AC

Rambler Ron writes a book

"These boots were made for walking," is a song Ronald Spedding enjoys playing on his mouth organ, for it is walking that has suddenly brought him instant success. Dalesman Book Publications, Yorkshire, have accepted and are publishing his book "Walking in Weardale."

"It is my very first attempt in writing a book," said Ron, of Simpson Street, Shildon. "The publishers have now asked me to write another book, this time on the walks of Durham."

Ron, 49, is certainly versatile. Not only did he write the book, but the excellent sketches that appear in it are by his own hand. He also writes and reads poetry to groups, sings folk songs, plays a mouth organ extremely well and after collecting twigs while on his walks, carves and polishes them into figures of snakes, elephants and other animals.

He has sold many of his sketches in this country and America. Some now hang in the Royal George Tavern, Main Street, Shildon, where he sings his folk songs.

"It took me a year to write the book," said Ron, who is a millwright at the Shildon Rail Works. "It covers 22 walks and I have tried to open the most important walks of Weardale, especially for the tourist."

The 64-page book is the latest edition from Dalesman publications, and on the back cover Stan Cardwell, of the Ramblers Association, and author of many such books, writes: "Historically, Weardale is one of the richest districts in this part of the north country. In this book, Mr Spedding has set out many new cross-country and circular walks which will give great joy and pleasure to those who wish to enjoy the scenic beauties of this area."

"The book will be one sale at newsagents any day now," said Mr Spedding, who has been asked to lead a sponsored walk for the disabled on April 28, by the Shildon "Four of Clubs" organisation. "If it does well, I shall certainly continue to write such books."

Ron's wife, Kathleen, said: "I too am a keen rambler. We are a very happy couple because we both enjoy our long walks together." 'Walking in Weardale' is priced at 35p.

'JUMPIN

AUGUST 1974

KIN

STORY:- ROBERT CORKIN
PICTURE:- KEN BEETHAM

Vandalism prompts Eldon man to open disco

Joy and excitement has suddenly come to the young people of Eldon village for they are now at long last going to have a disco and youth club of their own. And it has all materialised through the efforts of an Eldon man, Mr Eddie Baker.

Mr Baker of 13 Double Row said: "Apart from a few swings which Shildon council erected there is absolutely nothing else here for young people. The thought that boredom of the kids was perhaps the cause of vandalism prompted me to have a go at such a venture."

Mr T. Dixon, owner of the building which is now going to be used as the club was contacted. "He was so keen on the venture that he let us have the hall without any hesitation," said Mr Baker.

Eddie, who in the past has fought to get Eldon homes modernised, took steps in forming a committee which now include his attractive wife Eileen as secretary and treasurer, his mother Mrs Ethel Heatherington, Mrs Gwen Smyth, Mr Brian Mawson, Mr Jack Howard and Cecil and Laura Gibson. Mrs Smyth and Mr Mawson have had considerable experience in youth club activities. All live in Double Row and Office Row.

With the co-operation of the scouts who also use the hall, and who have done much to help Mr Baker, the disco will, at first, run two nights a week. The scouts, encouraged with about running a disco the venture, are now thinking themselves on Saturdays.

So far, about sixty young people have rushed forward to join the club, their ages ranging from eleven to 18.

OUTSIDERS

"At present it is strictly for the youngsters of Eldon, says Mr Baker, whose hobby deals with pigeons and foreign birds. "When we get properly organised perhaps we will encourage the kids from other areas."

The youngsters are so keen on what is happening to them that they have all pulled together to give the hall a sparkling new look.

Margaret Riley, aged 15, said: "We are so thrilled that the girls are doing the scrubbing while the boys are doing the heavy work."

Julie Horan, aged 13, of Office Row said: "We think it all too wonderful. Now we have somewhere to go and things to do in our own village."

Mrs Chipchase who owns a grocery shop next to the hall in Main Road said that her two children would certainly patronize it. "Mr Baker and those concerned are certainly putting their heart and soul into it. I will give all the help I can, for such a venture in this village is definitely needed for the children."

STRONG INTEREST

The interest is certainly strong for Mr Baker, who works at the Shildon Rail shops, not only has he the youngsters cleaning out the hall but has also made them promise that, once a week, they will help the old people of Eldon by shopping and doing a spot of cleaning for them — in return for what he and the committee are doing for them. So much is the stir of excitement that the youngsters readily agreed to the suggestion!

"When we are established," said Mr Baker, whose 15-year-old daughter Christine and son David can hardly wait for opening night, "we intend that the older boys and girls form their own committee so as to give them responsibility."

Thanks to the scouts that for the first two weeks Eddie and his committee will not face any kind of bill.

"After that a few financial problems may arise," says Mr Baker. "Although we will have to charge a small membership fee, any financial help from Eldon residents will be greatly appreciated."

Boost for Shildon Railworks

Shildon Rail Works are one of the main workshop centres in the country, for over £1¼m. has now been authorised for expenditure at the works.

Part of the money is being used to install a new heating system based on a coal-fired boiler, and one of the shops is to be extended so as to increase building capacity and improve the handling of heavy assemblies.

The gantry cranes are to be replaced with new Goliath cranes, and new machines appear to be on the list including a roll-through Hedgenscheidt wheel lathe.

Firm orders have been placed for 1,460 high capacity wagons, and further orders will carry the rail works well into 1978. With Government support for the coal industry and coal-fired power stations, design work is going on for a Hopper to replace the mineral wagon, for it is this type which will be in great demand.

The works manager, Mr G. W. J. Brecknell, said that this had come about because of the successful achievements of production and financial targets, and through the efforts of his workers.

CHRONICLE"

RKIN

Churches plan big 'Come Together'

A massive "Come together" campaign is being planned by the churches in Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor, Shildon and other areas. Their aim is to collect as one body and to have a meeting in either the Bishop Auckland Technical College or the Town Hall. After that, all the churches will have a follow-up at Newcastle on Wednesday, March 8.

A film, with a Come together record (a musical experience in love, which was recorded by Jimmy and Carol Owens), is at present going the rounds of the churches in an effort to bring the people together in an act of worship.

Mr Idris Parry, minister of the Pentecostal Church, South Church Road, Bishop Auckland said: "All February will be taken over with practise for this great event. It is indeed a very big affair."

Such a campaign first originated in America, and although these "crusades' have taken place in other parts of this country, "it is the first time for such an event in this area," said Mr Parry.

Mr Bob Moses a member of the Auckland Pentecostal Church, which incidentally, first opened in 1937, through the efforts of Chaplain Stephen Jeffries, commented: "It is indeed encouraging to see that all the churches in this area are going to combine in this wonderful event."

As for falling attendances — "we have most probably the largest congregation in Auckland, around 140 people on a Sunday evening," said Mr Parry, "but we would welcome any non-churchgoers."

Mr John Harrison, vicar of St. Andrew's Church, South Church, and Miss Enid Bichard, of the Bishop Auckland Baptist Church are the organisers of the 'Come together" campaign.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"
JAN. 1975
STORY by - R. CORKIN



The 1938 photograph which brought back memories. Standing, left to right: H. Garthwaite, J. Clapham (committee man), R. Gedling, C. Caine, R. Bushby, S. Wearmouth, O. Jones (spectator), R. Priestley. Seated: Mr Whitehead, R. Thornton, R. Ingledew, J. Carman, T. Hindmarsh.

Photo brings back mixed memories

A football photograph has brought sad and happy memories back to Mr Jack Carnan. Jack, of College Street, Shildon, who used to play at left half and inside right positions, scored quite a few goals when he played for Evenwood, Stockton, Shildon and York before the war.

In fact, modest Mr Carnan's yellow and dog-eared newspaper clippings of when he played football, prove that it was nothing for him to crash in two or three goals in practically every game. "I wonder where the others are now," said Jack. "I'd bet we still could play better football than some of today's youngsters."

Mr Carnan knows that four of them are dead — R Ingledew, R Priestley, R Thornton and T Hindmarch. "Bob Priestley, who was known as 'Hop' for his speed, would have been a great player if he had not been killed at Dunkirk," said Jack. Charlie Caine, who is employed at Shildon Rail works, played for Spennymoor and Wolves. "He could play in any position," said Mr Carnan.

Most of the team Jack remembers at one time played for Heighington Juniors and Bishop Auckland Boys, and all received football medals. Most of the lads lived in Shildon, but two players, H Blades and F Clapham (not on the photograph) used to live in Heighington.

Jack, and his wife Rosina, recalled the hard times. "Around 1930 nine out of ten appeared to be on the dole," he said. "I remember all the Shildon school kids playing football for teams such as Church Street Wanderers, Regent Street Swifts and Bolckow Dynamos." Mr Carnan added that in those days they had no money, did not smoke or drink, and often walked to Heighington and other places in rain, hail or snow, just to play football.

Looking at the old photograph again, he said: "Yes, it would make my day if we could all meet again."

'AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"
OCT. 75
STORY - R. CORKIN

PAPERBACKS

Railway pride

EMBARRASSING run of paperbacks to hand this week: quick start with a couple of locals, both of wide interest.

Robert Corkin's **Shildon: Cradle of Railways** (Frank Graham 60p) is a must for railway buffs as well as a history to satisfy Shildonian pride, which includes the belief that Timothy Hackworth was a far greater man than George Stephenson. It has a lot of fresh detail, and a photographic section by Ken Beetham with many old pictures.

Yorkshire Scene is a booklet 8¼in. long by 5¼in. (Hendon



"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"

STORIES :—
ROBERT CORKIN

PHOTOGRAPH :—
KEN BEETHAM

CORKIN. — March (suddenly), at 23 Jubilee Crescent, Shildon, Robert, aged 58 years, dearly loved husband of Mary Corkin and a dear father of Trevor, Neville and Hayley, father-in-law of Susan and loving grandad of Tracy and Robert. Interment Tuesday at Shildon Cemetery. Cortege leaving residence at 11.20 a.m. for service in Shildon Methodist Church at 11.30 a.m. Friends please meet at church, interment private.

Florists

MRS MARY CORKIN and family wish to thank relatives, friends, neighbours, family doctor and the minister for kindness and sympathy shown, also for cards of condolence and beautiful floral tributes received during their recent sudden loss.

More pictures and story inside

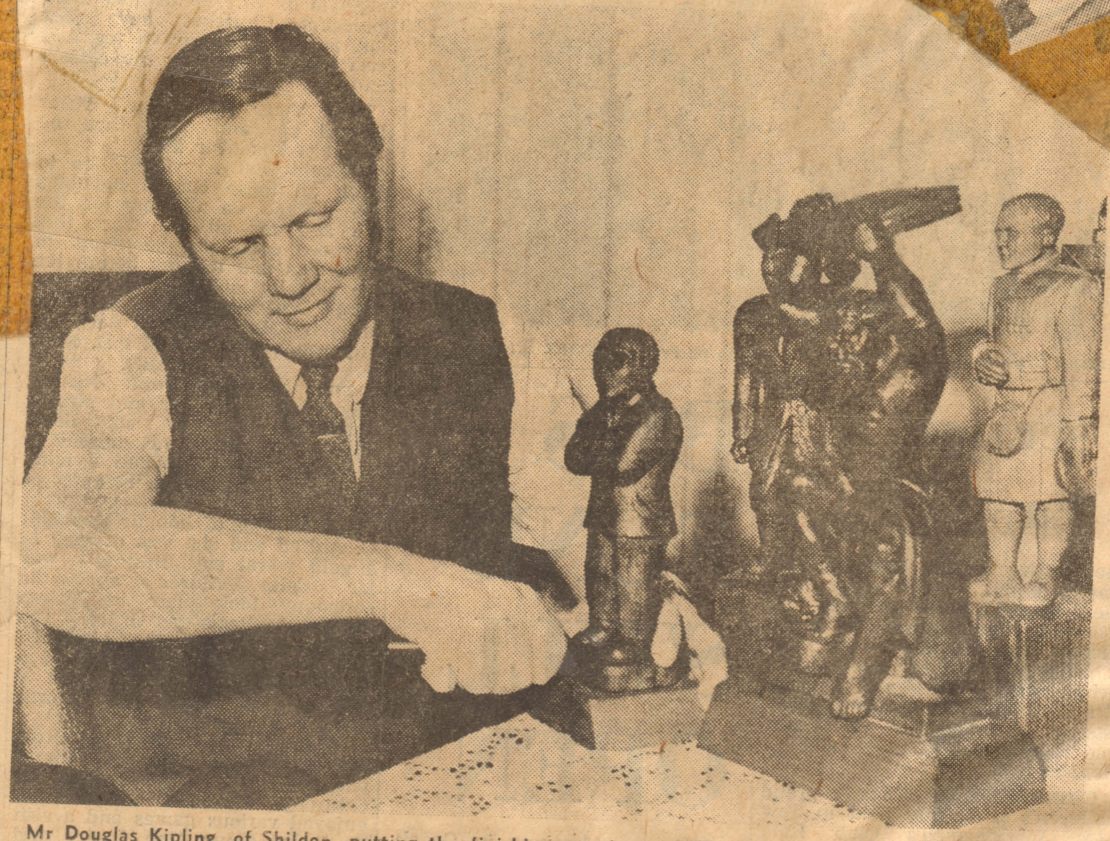


Shildon Scouts Carnival Queen Jill Pounder of Shildon and her attendants, accompanied by a brownie guard of honour, parade the streets in a 1929 Lagonda, owned by Mr J. Wright, of Middridge.— (Photo: Bill Oliver).

Engagements

CORKIN — ALDERSON. — Congratulations to both Neville and Linda on your engagement. Love and happiness, grandma and granda Grainger.
CORKIN — ALDERSON. — Congratulations Neville and Linda on your engagement. Love. From both families
GRESSMANN — GIBSON. — Mr

Commercial Office: Bishop Auckland 3231.



Mr Douglas Kipling, of Shildon, putting the finishing touches to his model of railway pioneer Timothy Hackworth. — (Photo: Cassidy).

Shildon pioneer . . . in wood

Ties, mugs, tee-shirts, decanters and key fobs are some of the items which are now being produced as sourvenirs for this year's 150th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

A Shildon man, who has been producing wood figures for many years, is contributing with an unusual item by carving the railway pioneer Timothy Hackworth. It is a nine inch model, took a week to complete, and has an uncanny likeness of Hackworth.

"I decided to do this because I believe the thousands of visitors to Shildon during the celebrations will appreciate such a souvenir," said 50-year-old Douglas Kipling of Auckland Terrace.

Mr Kipling, who is a mobile crane driver at Shildon Rail Works, and who has been recognised for his carvings of prominent people such as Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson and Hitler, has carved Hackworth in a special way so that it can be cast and reproduced.

"I am open to offers from any casting firm who would be willing to contribute to such a venture," says Doug, whose home is colourfully decorated with portraits of prominent people such as Enoch Powell and Mr Wilson which he paints in his spare time.

Mr Kipling, who is perhaps the only artist in this area who is doing such an item, found it no easy task to detail the features of Hackworth. "But I think I have succeeded," he said. "Anyway, this is a very special year for Shildon and its people, so I just had to produce a model of the town's greatest pioneer," he added.



The completed model. — (Photo: Terry Cassidy, Shildon).

Married at Coundon

When 22-year-old Ondra Moody's boyfriend popped the question she got straight down to it and made her own wedding dress. But then, Ondra who is a typist at Aycliffe Development Corporation, is rather good at dressmaking.

Ondra, who has been living in Leeholme for the past three years, and who is the only daughter of Mr and Mrs Moody, of Shildon, married 25-year-old Allan Nicholson an only son of Mr and Mrs Nicholson, of Evenwood.

The couple were married at St. James' Church, Coundon. Ondra, was given away by her father, the three bridesmaids Barbara Mullier, Heather Nicholson, and Angela Kyle, dressed in peach dresses, their headdress being a halo of white roses. The best man was Mr Martin Bennett.

After the wedding, Allan, who is a civil servant at Bishop Auckland Social Security, and his young bride moved into a house they have bought in Crook. They intend taking their honeymoon later in the year.

Etherley funeral

"A strange little town"

Two 15-year-old German girls from Dortmund, West Germany, spent a day at the home of Mr and Mrs Anderson, of 21 Jubilee Crescent, Shildon. The girls, Gudrun Bastine and Karen Marcholler, both with a deaf affliction, came with a party of 20 other deaf children to study and observe for themselves the British way of life. The party is staying at the Durham Agricultural College.

There is to be an exchange visit on June 25 when a party of English deaf children will visit Dortmund for two weeks.

Among them will be Mr and Mrs Anderson's 11-year-old daughter, Susan, who is also partly deaf.

"I shall be seeing other deaf children in Dortmund," said Susan, who goes to Bishop Aucklands St. Anne's School. "It's all going to be very exciting and educating."

For allowing them the freedom of their home for the day, Gudrun and Karen presented the Andersons with three pretty keepsakes. The German girls found Shildon a "strange little town," and the people helpful and very friendly.

Elocution successes

Following are Shildon and Newton Aycliffe pupils of Pauline Moses, of Shildon, who have passed elocution examinations:

London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art: Karen Scott (Junior Preliminary pass), Joanne Moody (Junior Preliminary pass), Amanda Johnson (Preliminary distinction), Angela Norris (Grade 1 pass), Leslea Batchelor (Grade 2 pass).

Poetry Society: Colin Johnson (Primary cert. credit), Lisa Toward (Junior bronze medal pass), Theresa Hood (junior silver medal honours), Mandy Batchelor (intermediate cert. credit), Lorraine Elliott (intermediate cert. credit), Joanne Cousins (intermediate cert. credit), Debbie Wise (intermediate bronze medal credit), Ian Johnson (intermediate silver medal pass), Hayley Corkin (intermediae silver medal credit), Susan Thornton (senior certificate credit), Janet Lowe (senior certificate

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE".

STORY by Robert Corkin

* * *

"The following morning, in the grey dawn, the coffin was lifted. Up it came, slimy with wet clay, rain water running from it, dripping down it's sides. Detective York and Woodroffe watched two policemen battle to get the coffin into the ambulance. As the ambulance moved swiftly away, little did Woodroffe know, as he sat in the vehicle, that he was not going to reach the Morgue . . . alive!"

Don't miss **"The Hanged Hangsman"** by Robert Corkin, in next month's issue, on sale June 1st.



From Brazil to spread the gospel

A young couple of missionaries from Brazil are visiting Bishop Auckland to help spread the word of God.

Twenty-six-year-old John Medcraft and his petite wife, Elizabeth, who are, at the moment, guests at the home of Mr Bob Moses, 6 Bedford Place, Bishop Auckland, aim to tour the country, preaching the love of God to as many people as possible before their return to Brazil next February.

The Medcrafts went as missionaries to Brazil in 1972, but before that John was with his father's firm in London, and worked as an assistant buyer.

Mr Medcraft, whose mother originated from Witton Park, found little satisfaction in such work, and it was not long before he found himself at the Bible College, both in Sussex and America.

"I believe spreading the Gospel is what God wanted me to do," said John.

Mr Medcraft saw the people of Brazil — which is the fourth largest country in the world, and is 36 times the size of the British Isles —a happy and friendly race, even though acute poverty surrounds them.

"I cover the North-East," said John. "It is a poor, backward area, and poverty is so staggering that the poorest people in this country are extremely rich in comparison."

Disease too in Brazil is frightening. "Although our work is mainly spiritual, we distribute clothing and booklets on diseases to these unfortunate people," said Mr Medcraft, who once caught typhoid.

His wife, who suffered smallpox, did not mind the risk of such diseases. "We love our work," she said.

Mr Medcraft, who was interviewed in the programme "Question of Faith," on Metro Radio, hope to travel the country with their 3½-year-old daughter Deborah, who recently could only speak Portuguese — the principal language of Brazil.

"We intend to bring hope to the people in this area, and perhaps prepare them for eternity," said John.

Steam, £2.50, of well- wing the ver and nverging the last n.

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under £5.50, ch sets cation

principal aspects are well covered.

The price is rather steep as there are only 96 pages.

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Shildon, Cradle of the Railways, Robert Corkin, 60p, Frank Graham. The years of a 12-hour working day, seven hours on Saturdays, when workmen not more than five minutes late were *allowed* to commence work, have long gone.

By today's standards thev were the bad old days. But more than a century ago rules like this formed the basis of every man's working life at Shildon.

Robert Corkin's interesting booklet creates a picture of what life must have been like there. It is No. 76 in the Northern History Booklet series.

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Transport & Travel Film Library Catalogue 1978,

OCT. '75.

"AUCKLAND CHRONICLE"

STORY

R. CORKIN.