

OLICANA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS OF LOCAL HISTORICAL
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Jan 18

ACROSS THE YEARS

Ratepayers confirm Vicar's reductions in cemetery fees

100 Years Ago

The Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. J. Snowdon, told a meeting of ratepayers at a meeting held in the church vestry that he would prefer to leave to them any decision in respect of rules and fees at the new cemetery. He had confirmed the recommendations and these were now before that meeting for approval. Read by Mr. H. J. Cooke the fees and the charges, showed substantial reduction in costs. For instance monumental tombs and vaults were to cost two guineas instead of ten, the larger amount having been decided upon because the church burial ground was so small and could have caused over crowding. Pauper interment fees would be only one shilling and all ordinary ones two shillings and sixpence. Mr. J. Rhodes expressed the gratitude of the gathering to the liberality of the Vicar's spirit in relinquishing the scale of charges which he had been accustomed to receive.

There was an attendance of 150 at the annual meeting of members and friends of the Ilkley Congregational Church, the close of the seventh year of the Rev. S. D. Hillman as pastor of the church. Mr. Hillman spoke of the gratifying growth of the church and said in six and a half years 179 people had been admitted to church fellowship. Several members of the church paid tribute to the large amount of work done for it. The debt was considered to be on the heavy side but it was confidently anticipated that this would be cleared by the end of the month.

75 Years Ago

Ilkley District Council discussed in Committee at an adjourned meeting the Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill but from information supplied it was learned that the proposals were extended to include Otley and Ilkley. There were further meetings in the following days and the Ilkley representatives were eager to have Leeds Road widened outside the Crescent Hotel and opposite the Gasworks. When it was argued that the scheme would not cause any more congestion of traffic at these points the Ilkley representatives were most dissatisfied. At an evening meeting of Ilkley Urban Council it was approved that "This Council whilst approving of the principle embodied in the Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill is of the opinion that the time allowed for discussing the terms of the Bill has been so short and the issues are of such great importance, that the Council

do not feel justified in supporting the Bill at the present time. All except Mr. J. W. Dixon voted in favour of the proposition.

A revolving bookcase and a table lamp were presented on behalf of scholars, teachers and friends at St. Margaret's Sunday School treat in January 1878 to the Rev. H. R. Hughes who was shortly leaving to become Vicar of St. John's, Maidstone. The event had been postponed from the summer to avoid the possibility of a clash with the jubilee arrangements held at that time. Prizewinners were—Girls: Lizzie Schofield, Annie Thompson, Agnes Procter, Agnes Adamson, Mary Jane Thompson, Annie Procter, Eveline Riley, Hilda Wetherill, Mabel Heaton, Mildred Riley, Katie Collyer, Elizabeth Thirkell, Dorothy Farrer, Agnes Adamson, Mary Jane Thompson. Boys: Harry Farrer, Reginald Webb, Joe Beanlands, Duncan Wood, Reginald Vickers, Ellis Horner, John William Barker, Fred Eaton, Stanley Harris, Harry Eaton, Alec Adamson, Oswald Thompson, Willie Raymer.

Mr. George Riley, assistant surveyor and sanitary inspector for the past two and a half years was appointed surveyor and waterworks manager to the Wellington (Salop) District Council.

50 Years Ago

January was very wet fifty years ago. At the end of the third week there had been 6½ inches of rain recorded. Of this no less than 3½ inches was in a period of less than seven days.

It was announced that Lord Lascelles would open the new British Legion Club, and the British Legion Committee proposed to ask Ilkley District Council to give a Civic reception and invite the subscribers to the building to meet him.

Members of the Ilkley and District Motor Club sprang a surprise on their president, Mr. Herbert Payne of Otley, by presenting him with a handsome silver replica of the trophy won by the club in the M.C.C. team championship in 1927. The presentation was made by Mr. Charles Thackray of Ilkley, a member of the winning team and a club member for 17 years.

25 Years Ago

Complaints that the West Riding County Council had not gritted the roads sufficiently but had lopped the trees indiscriminately in the Ilkley area were made at the January meeting of Ilkley Urban District Council. The trees included the flowering trees along the road and a resolution was passed asking the County Council to delegate the lopping of the trees on County roads in the Ilkley area to the local authority.

Ilkley council decided to offer for sale land in Strathmore Road and Cardan Drive, Ben Rhydding at 10s. per yard. There were 35 plots available and applicants would not be restricted to one plot.

Mr. J. Bowes said that he viewed with some concern a resolution by the Planning Committee that the Health Committee should consider establishment of a permanent camping site, owned and regulated by the Council. In his opinion it would be both an eyesore and unpleasant for neighbours.

ACROSS THE YEARS

13/1/78.

Local roads not much credit to Ilkley Local Board

100 Years Ago

Addingham Road was not much credit to the authority and should have been completed long since, the Ilkley Local Board was told at its first meeting in 1878 by Mr. H. J. Cooke. Mr. J. Rhodes, complaining about the delays, said when the work was first contemplated the Committee made an offer under certain conditions to make a path before the Middleton Hotel and the adjacent villas but it was three months before they received any definite answer to their proposals and then it was too late to obtain gravel from the river. They then tried to get some iron dross but at 7s 6d a ton this was considered too expensive. Had the owners given their answer earlier the gravel necessary could have been obtained from the river. Mr. W. Busfield said there were several tons of good gravel lying on the Otley Road just above the "bar" and he suggested they should apply for some of that if it was found to be available. It was agreed unanimously to accept a proposal from Mr. Cooke that some gravel or other suitable material be obtained as soon as possible for the completion of the work.

Mr. W. Hartley referred to the need for kerbing some of the paths under the Board's supervision. In need of attention was an area from Weston Road down to the National Schools. The work could be done by use of the quantity of flagging lying in different places in the village. It was felt that some of the required material for work in the village could be obtained from the cemetery land but members considered sufficient had been taken from there.

75 Years Ago

It was recalled by the Gazette in December 1877 that they had mentioned that three Nonconformists, Messrs. B. M. Hood, C. J. Muff and J. C. Naylor were likely to be nominated for the Ilkley School Board election but when the nominations closed it was found that not a single paper had been sent in on behalf of any one of these three. The only nominated candidates were Messrs. John Beanlands, grocer; Edward Fletcher, solicitor; William Hartley, gentleman; Francis Howard Humphris, gentleman; John Alfred Middlebrook, brewery manager—all Denominationalists. It was wondered what means would be taken to complete the nominations. The Gazette suspected that a lapse of memory on someone's part was a probable explanation.

Whilst skating was possible on several sheets of ice in the district a splendid area at the Craig Tarn was spoiled by people hurling large missiles upon it—a practice to be strongly deprecated commented the Gazette "especially when, as on Sunday, it comes to using one of the seats in the vicinity for the purpose. Being more than the ice could resist this went straight through.

Under the leadership of their conductor, Mr. A. T. Akeroyd, the Ilkley Vocal Society gave much pleasure to a large audience in the Congregational Lecture Hall by a rendering of Handel's "Messiah." There were 100 members of the Society and a band of 20 drawn from the Bradford Permanent orchestra. It was the first concert of the season at Ilkley. Miss Annie Docksey (soprano), Miss Elsie Bradley (contralto), Mr. Henry Brerley (tenor), Mr. Gordon Heller (bass) were the soloists, and Miss Lister was the organist.

50 Years Ago

After a long discussion at a meeting of Ilkley Urban Council it was decided on the casting vote of the Chairman that the wages of Ilkley Council workmen in non-trading departments should be reduced by a halfpenny per hour as from the end of March. It was feared by many members that this would cause

The first week in January brought a weekend of skating and sledging to the residents of Ilkley. Sharp frosts made the road surfaces treacherous during the early part of the week. However strong winds and driving rain mid-week caused the valley to be flooded at several points, traffic had to be diverted and by midnight the river was a raging torrent. The wind had dropped by the morning and the water level fell as quickly as it had risen. However, by the end of the week further gale force winds had brought the Wharfe into flood again.

Standing on a table in the middle of the King's Hall floor Jean Carter, daughter of Rev. A. B. Carter, dressed as a small drummer boy received the salute from over 150 dancers in fancy dress at the N.S.P.C.C. ball. It was a colourful evening with children joining the adults in the fun from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

25 Years Ago

To the majority of Ilkley residents the plan to beautify the southern bank of the river at Ilkley between the two bridges was very desirable. However, to one or two people it caused severe inconvenience. Mr. David Hudson of Denton, cultivated about three acres of the land as a market garden, and he had received notice to quit although his family had occupied the land for some 45 years. Mr. M. W. Dalton also received notice to quit land he had tenanted for many years to keep poultry. Mr. N. Kingswell also tenanted a piece of the land on which he kept hens, and thought the development scheme was a big mistake as there had been major flooding on some occasions in the past, and this might cause danger to children playing in the grounds.

Miss Winifred Brown, a journalist from Burley-in-Wharfedale was adopted as prospective Conservative Parliamentary candidate for South Leeds. Miss Brown had been a member of Ilkley Council since 1948 and was president of the Burley Young Conservatives.

Mrs. E. G. Tidy was elected first chairman of the newly formed Ilkley and District Ladies' Circle in January, 1953. Membership was confined to wives of Round Table members. Mrs. J. Riley was elected vice-chairman and Mrs. P. Sharpe was hon. secretary.

Jan 18

ACROSS THE YEARS

Vocal Society wins praise for High Entertainment

100 Years Ago

Ilkley could well be proud of the high class entertainment given by its Vocal Society in the Working Men's Hall at Christmas 100 years ago, commented the Gazette. Under the conductorship of Mr. J. Broughton the first part consisted of songs and choruses of a secular character and the second part of sacred music. There were several soloists and in addition a company of about 100 voices. The Gazette was warm in its praise of the work of the contributors but somewhat critical of the arrangements made for leaving the hall. It thought this was probably due to the construction of the staircase and suggested that some alteration would be much welcomed.

The Mutual Improvement Society attracted only a small attendance for the second of its programmes held at the beginning of January. There were several speakers and their performances were most entertaining and very enjoyable. The Chairman, the Rev. S. D. Hillman, expressed his regrets over the meagre nature of the audience and hoped there would be improvement at any future meeting.

A good company of members and friends were present by the invitation of the host and hostess Mr. and Mrs. Sargeant at the third meeting of the Goose Club at the Star Inn. The number of members had increased to between 70 and 80 and there were several speeches and songs during the course of the evening. High praise was given to Mr. and Mrs. Sargeant for the excellent meal and the superb arrangements.

75 Years Ago

Good and useful work was reported by the Ilkley and Wharfedale Protection of Trade Society at its first annual meeting in January 1903. In his annual report, Mr. T. Pate said some 200 debts had been put in the hands of the Society for collection during the year. Mr. J. A. Middlebrook was re-elected president and the retiring members of the Committee

were also re-elected. They were Messrs. John Beanlands, R. M. Green, J. G. Boden, F. Green, W. Tomlinson and G. W. Norfolk. In his comments Mr. Middlebrook said he believed that Ilkley would grow in the future and that the Society would grow with it. He had great hopes that much would come from the activities of the Wharfedale Estate Company's activities on the Middleton side of the river.

There was a large attendance in the Infants School on the occasion of the prize distribution in connection with the Ilkley Parish Church Sunday School's prize distribution. The Vicar of Ilkley, Dr. Muntz, was in the chair assisted by the senior curate, the Rev. T. E. Taylor. Prize-winners in the infants department were Florence Thompson (first), Annie Rishworth (second), Dorothy Mumford and Elsie Dean (joint third). Boys: Jeffrey Stead (first and special); George Lister and Norman Barwick (joint second); Eddie Wagstaff, Charlie Dalton, Freddie Burdock, Eric Learoyd, Jacky Vallerder, Fred Hunnebell and Albert Barwick (shared third).

It was reported that there was still no news of the whereabouts of the missing Solicitor Mr. Arthur Holmes, but the Deputy Official Receiver, Mr. F. Scatchard, feared the total debts could well amount to £30,000.

50 Years Ago

Ilkley enjoyed an old fashioned Christmas, with keen frost and snow on the moors and in the streets. The snow started to fall on Christmas Eve and there was a thick carpet everywhere on Christmas morning. Toboggan runs were in full use over the holiday with young folk keeping up the fun all day and late into the night. The frost, however was not severe enough to keep the tarn fully covered with ice and skating was restricted to one corner. Skiing was in progress in the grounds of Ben Rhydding Hydro.

The inmates of the New Hall workhouse at Otley were entertained over Christmas in a fitting manner. The master and Matron Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hunt, and the whole staff organised a carol service, Christmas dinner and entertainment.

25 Years Ago

It was once again a green Christmas in 1952. There had been a full programme of well-attended services at the churches, and the New Year was heralded with the ringing of church bells and watch-night services.

The Playhouse presentation of "The Holly and the Ivy" was very apt for the season. The play was produced by John and Nancy Lund, and starred Herbert Oldham, Neville Clarke, Mary Ambler, Dorothy Ambler, Dorothy Fenwick, Mary Paley, Edgar Paley and Ralph Parker.

Menston Church was filled to capacity for the Christmas day broadcast, and the Vicar, the Rev. T. C. Hammond and the Organist, Mr. H. E. Gadsby received many appreciative comments.

The Essoldo Cinema Ballroom, for 2/6 per head including a running buffet provided dancing to a ten piece band with vocalists, non-stop from 7.45 p.m. every Saturday evening. There was also on Wednesday evenings, old time, modern and sequence dancing to Bradley Hinstwick and his band for 1/6 and dancing classes on Saturday mornings for 1/- per session.

19th May 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

ILKLEY VOCAL SOCIETY GREAT SUCCESS

100 Years Ago

Under the conductorship of James Broughton the Ilkley Vocal Society gave its fourth concert in the Working Men's Hall. The Gazette said it was pleasing to notice what a fine collection of the best classical music had been performed, and the large and enthusiastic audience which had on three occasions assembled was a striking proof that the taste for high class musical works was rapidly increasing and superseding the taste for "popular" compositions. A special feature of the Ilkley Society was the choice of subjects appropriate to the season of the year at which the concerts were given. Thus in Christmas week 1877 it gave Mendelssohn's unfinished oratorio "Christus" and Spohr's beautiful cantata, "God, Thou art great". And now having entered upon the merry month of May we are to be favoured with Sterndale Bennett's "May Queen", Gade's "Spring Message", and Mendelssohn's "Walpurgis-night" all of which, as their names denote, are closely associated with this month. During the winter the rehearsals have been well attended clearly indicating the interest which the members take in the Society.

Once again Ilkley Local Board of Health agreed to draw the attention of Mr. Middleton's agents to the amount of sods being taken from Ilkley moor. Mr. Critchley thought it was an injury to the rights of every freeholder in Ilkley to remove sods from the moor and he proposed that Mr. Middleton be written to direct. Others had views and it was finally agreed on the proposition of Dr. Leeson seconded by Mr. Critchley that Mr. Middleton's agents be communicated with direct.

75 Years Ago

At the meeting of the Ilkley District Council at the beginning of May 1903 approval was given to the following recommendation, "that having in view the urgency of the Brook Street extension and the new bridge scheme this Council again approach the West Riding County Council, the Wharfedale (Ilkley) Estate Company and the Wharfedale Rural District Council for the purpose of arranging a conference, having for its object the carrying out of the whole scheme jointly by the several bodies interested." Commented the Gazette, the return of five candidates at the last election in favour of this scheme is perhaps a sufficient excuse for this excuse being adopted, though after the negotiations were so abruptly broken off by the Estate Company it hardly looks the proper thing for the Ilkley Council to go "cap in hand" as they propose to do. As however they have decided to take the initiative, it is to be hoped that more favourable terms in respect to the maintenance of the bridges and approaches, at any rate, will be obtained before any agreement is come to, for it would be anything but a good thing for Ilkley to be taxed in perpetuity with the upkeep of bridges and approaches as the County Council indicated in the agreement they submitted to the Ilkley Council some time ago.

Mr. Edward Fletcher presided over the annual meeting of the Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club in May, 1878. The annual report was presented by Mr. H. Sonnenthall who said they had received 22 resignations against an increase of 30 members. Mr. B. T. Akers, hon. treasurer said the balance in hand was just over £14 and in answer to a question from Mr. Fletcher said the tournament had made a profit of £15 15s. 9d. The following officials were elected. — President, Mr. F. B. Muff; Secretary, Mr. H. Sonnenthall; Treasurer, Mr. B. T. Akers; Ladies Committee: Miss Atkinson, Miss Clemons, Mrs. Davis, Miss N. Scott, Mrs. Sonnenthall. Men's Committee: Messrs. E. Fletcher, R. D. Grisdale, Dr. Hearder, Dr. Milne, Dr. T. Steinthal, Mr. A. Rickards. Croquet Secretary, Miss Scott.

Continuous rain was falling in Ilkley and in the Selby and Howden acres of potatoes were being inundated with the floods. Farmers had found it impossible to proceed with the sowing grain sowing and gardeners were experiencing a most unsatisfactory time with the outlook anything but promising.

50 Years Ago

Empire Day was marked at Ilkley's schools. At the Grammar School, Mr. N. L. Frazer, the headmaster, addressed the boys on the subject of India,

and explained the complications of the caste system. Mr. C. Hodges, headmaster of the Church of England Boy's School described a short tour around the Empire, the flag was unfurled and the salute taken, whilst the girls sang the National Anthem and had a short address on the Empire given by Miss Neil. Ben Rhydding Council School had no celebrations but during the course of the morning they sang one or two patriotic hymns.

A full house each evening was reported during the week after the opening of the "New Cinema". The film shown was "Dawn" starring the great English actress, Miss Sybil Thorndyke as Nurse Cavell.

The revolting amount of litter left by Whitsuntide visitors to the town was commented on in the Ilkley Gazette. The riverside was described as provoking the same sense of aversion as "coming down to breakfast with the supper table left uncleared. Newspaper, cardboard boxes, orange peel, chocolate papers and bottles were thrown around in all the popular places, such as White Wells and the Cow and Calb Rocks. However, the caterers had a good Whitsuntide with the sunshine bringing a rush of holidaymakers to the town.

25 Years Ago

The Ilkley Gazette reported that although there had been hot sunshine bringing in the crowds to the town, it finished on Whit Monday by many holidaymakers being caught in a severe thunderstorm which lasted two hours on Whit Monday. The river rose so rapidly that Naval cadets from Wetherby had to be rescued from the boating stretch and a Dewsbury fisherman was stranded in a tree on an island in the Wharfe near High Mill, Addingham.

The newspaper was full of the plans for the forthcoming Coronation celebrations, which included parades, concerts, dances and sports. Details were also given of the three former Coronation celebrations in the 20th century, for the crowning of Edward VII, George V and George VI. The Coronation celebrations for the crowning of Edward VII had been marred by a violent outbreak of measles in the town. George V's reign brought the advent of an electric lighting plant to illuminate the municipal buildings and provide fairy lights, and rain caused plans to be completely changed at the Coronation of George VI.

ADDINGHAM'S OLDEST PUB IS MADE A LISTED BUILDING

The oldest public house in Addingham, The Fleece Inn, in Main Street, has been "spot listed" as an ancient building because of its historical interest.

Now, any alterations to the building, which include the proposed new toilet block to be built at the rear, will have to be done without changing the appearance of the existing building.

Licencee of the Fleece, which is owned by the Tetley brewery, Mr. David Harrison, told the "Ilkley Gazette" this week he was "delighted" to hear the news.

Mr. Harrison, who has had a keen interest in the history of the Fleece for many years

said: "The footings of the building suggest it was built in the 16th Century. A traditional beer house, it was a place where the travelling judges used to hold their court. Those awaiting trial would be held below in the cellars."

Mr. Harrison recalled a record of a man trying to bring another man to justice for owing him 1s. 9d. Who ever lost, it was agreed would have to buy the refreshments. The man who had brought the complaint in the first place lost and the refreshments cost him more than the 1s. 9d. which he claimed he was owed.

There used to be a farm

adjoining the building where, as it was advertised in the "Shuttleworth's Guide to Ilkley, 5th Edition, 1886" they provided "Good Stabling, Post Horses and Neat Conveyance." The Fleece was the Leeds-Kendal coach stop at one time.

Mr. Harrison explained that most of the stables behind The Fleece still remained. The farmhouse kitchen was now the dining room and where the cow shed used to be was now the kitchen.

In a record of publicans of The Fleece it was found that William Wall was licencee at the pub at the time of his death on October 27, 1866.

Between 1866 and 1891 one of his daughters, Fanny, took over the pub with her husband, Thomas Dove. The couple later moved to The Swan and Fanny's sister, Ginny Wall, took over with her husband John. Ginny died when she was 36 and John eventually packed up and went to Canada.

Billy and Mary Smalles had The Fleece until 1955 and before them Mary's parents, Jim and Nellie Hillbeck. At one point a man called Priestley was licencee.

Mr. Harrison and his wife, Janet, took over The Fleece 18 months ago following the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Heap.



January 20th. 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Parish Church Ringers and Choir are entertained

100 Years Ago

Some 40 bellringers and members of the choir of the Ilkley Parish Church were the guests of several members of the church at a supper held at the Crescent Hotel in January, 1878. The Vicar, the Rev. J. Snowdon, presided, assisted by the curate, the Rev. F. T. White. A programme of dancing followed the supper. At the close Mr. T. J. Critchley expressed the thanks of the company to Mr. White for the trouble he had taken in collecting the funds to meet the cost of the evening's entertainment.

Mr. E. Newsom of Leeds was appointed as first curator of the new cemetery out of over 160 applicants. Three men had been chosen for the final interview. The salary was £60 a year. Owing to a large number of engagements the Bishop had not yet been able to consecrate the ground. This would not interfere with interments.

Infant mortality was unfortunately high with eight males and three females having died in the last quarter of the previous year. The principal cause of the various deaths which numbered 21 was bronchitis all affecting children under twelve months of age.

75 Years Ago

Ilkley was failing to hold its own as a health resort and this was not to be wondered at when visitors were deliberately denied the pleasures which they came amongst us to enjoy and which no other health resort would deny them. Ilkley was told this in a letter from the Ilkley Tradesmen's Association signed by Mr. T. R. Vickers and Mr. F. Heap in January 1903. The Association had received complaints from visitors in consequence of the restrictions at present in operation through a large area of the moor being let for shooting, and they urged the advisability of the public being allowed much greater freedom on the moor. The Traders were to be told that the question of the moor shooting was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

There were some 350 members and friends of the Ilkley St. John Ambulance Association present in St. Margaret's Hall on the occasion of the annual social gathering in January, 1903. There were songs by Miss E. Sargeant, Miss Hill, Miss Jefferson, Mr. Joe Stoddart and pianoforte duets by the Misses Schick. A sketch entitled "April Fools" was performed by Mr. G. W. Thompson, Mr. G. W. Hampshire and Mr. J. W. Gordon. Dr. Richardson welcomed the gathering and said there were still vacancies, especially among the men. Names could be given to the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Newbound. Music was provided by Mr. Dean's band, and the M.C.'s were Messrs. J. Longfellow, H.

50 Years Ago

The Ellison collection of geological specimens which were originally purchased by the Ilkley Museum, and later taken over by the Ilkley District Council was sold to the Keighley Corporation for the Keighley Museum. The collection comprised a general collection of specimens from all over the world, and was made by Mr. James Ellison of Steeton.

The hon. sec. of the Ilkley Development Society, Mr. F. S. Eckersley, stated there was an urgent need for funds to advertise Ilkley. It was proposed to ask the Council for a grant of £50 towards these ends, but there would be a balance of £63 to find. The Chamber of Trade had been required to ask their members to subscribe the sum of 10s. each.

A Charles II, four shilling piece was given to an Ilkley man as part of his salary in January, 1928, and was anxious to know the value of the coin.

Mrs. Crowe presided at a meeting of the Burley Branch of the British Women's total abstinence Society. The speaker was Miss Coleman who spoke on the evil effects of drink traffic in the country. A duet was sung by Mrs. and Miss Phillips, accompanied by Miss Grey. A short sketch was given by Miss J. Bower and Miss M. Howe.

25 Years Ago

The parents of 33 children at the time attending the Ilkley Church of England Infants School indicated a wish for their children to be transferred to the new Ashlands School when it became ready for occupation in April 1953. 23 parents expressed a wish that their children should remain at the Church of England School.

Mr. H. Stansfield Haigh of Queen's Drive, Ilkley, was elected president of the British Wool Federation at the Annual meeting in Bradford.

Frank Noble, the Ilkley cricketer, was awarded the Under 20 Bowling Prize presented by the Airedale and Wharfedale Senior Cricket League.

Feb 10th 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

Series of storms sweep with unabated force at year start

100 Years Ago

During the past week we have been subjected to a series of storms of wind hail and rain which have swept through the valley especially during the last three days," recorded the Gazette at the end of January 1878. "As a result the river has swollen considerably and over-run its boundary so much so that it was impossible for the mail cart to reach Ilkley by the usual road on Tuesday morning and the driver found it imperative to take a circuitous route in consequence of which the arrival of the mail was delayed somewhat. On the same morning the milk carts to Denton also had a very dangerous passage and with difficulty reached their destination. Early yesterday morning the storm became somewhat furious and continued throughout the day accompanied by hail storms.

Applicants for the vacant position of curator for the new cemetery were interviewed at the end of January 1878 and reduced to three. The appointment decision was deferred for a week to enable further enquiries to be made.

When Mr and Mrs Lister Cockshott returned home from the Addingham Wesleyan evening service on the Sunday night at the end of January they found their home had been completely ransacked. The police admitted they were without any clue. In the previous year three Addingham houses had been robbed and no trace of those responsible had been discovered.

75 Years Ago

Approval to a suggested toboggan slide and to a "view" station near to the White Wells was given at the February meeting of the Ilkley Urban Council in 1903. Mr J R Harper said in reply to a question that the toboggan slide would be sited on the old track on the west side of Willy Hall Spout. It was considered it would be as well not to say too much about this idea. They did not want to get the ratepayers backs up. The view station was a suggestion of Mr George Brumfitt who thought it would be an ideal place from which to sell cards illustrating many of the views. Mr Brumfitt offered to defray the cost for 12 months of erecting the station. In no way would it be an eyesore.

A weigh clerk at the Gas Works whose wages were raised from 6s. to 10s. a week was advised to look out for a better position elsewhere. Mr J W Benson thought this a silly situation. They increased his reward and told him the job was not without any future to it. Mr Horn thought this meant they were acting wisely to warn the lad that his job had its limits. After some argument it was agreed that the minute should be accepted as recommended.

Notwithstanding the abnormally wet and unseasonable summer months Ilkley Brewery and Aerated Waters Company, though seriously affected by them showed an improvement, and an increase on the previous year in turnover and trading profit. The directors thought it prudent to conserve the resources of the company and did not recommend the payment of a dividend. There had been paid out of income the cost of all renewals and improvements to plant and properties and they had also freely appreciated plant.

The balance sheet submitted at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Liberal Club presented a lamentable state of affairs, said the Gazette in February 1903. The Club was in debt to close upon £370 and apparently received little support except from members.

50 Years Ago

The Wharfedale district experienced the worst floods for several years. There was serious flooding along a 12 mile course of the River Wharfe between Ilkley and Arthington. The main road between Ilkley and Otley became impassable first at Mickle Ing and then at Escroft. At Ilkley the river rose seven feet in five hours and this transformed the valley into a series of miniature lakes.

A record evening was held in the form of a whist drive and dance at the King's Hall Ilkley with about 1,800 people attending to support the Ilkley Coronation Cottage Hospital. Mr J Denby was in charge of the whist drive and Mr H. Roe acted as M.C.

for the dancing. Prizes were presented by Col. A. V. Kitson of Leeds. Mr T. H. Firth the hospital secretary expresses the thanks of the hospital to the organisers and supporters for all their help.

25 Years Ago

A snowfall almost as severe as the memorable falls of February 1947 were experienced in Ilkley in the second week of February. Drifts varied from five to nine feet deep in outlying districts, where food supplies could only be delivered by foot. Mr A. Skinner, the Ilkley Council Surveyor, said his men had worked hard to keep the main roads clear but the farmers had had a tough time digging out buried sheep.

Ilkley people were active in helping with the Flood Relief Fund which followed the severe floods on the East coast with resultant loss of life twenty five years ago. Concerts and dances were quickly organised to raise money. Cinemas and churches had special collections and five tons of clothing were despatched to the flooded areas. "In common with the rest of the country Ilkley had responded magnificently to the Appeal."

One Of Ilkley's First Buses



The early days of motorised public transport which were clearly remembered by Mrs. Margaret Denbigh, of Mornington Road, Ilkley, in our "I Remember" column in November, prompted Mr. Sadler, of Gilstead, near Bingley, to send this photograph.

Mr. Sadler's aunt was Mrs. Buttery, the woman who owned the bus type vehicle which provided a service between Ilkley and White Cross, Guiseley. The vehicle had a long seat on either side, each accommodating six passengers.

When filled to capacity it was impossible to move, as knees from both sides met. After collecting fares Mrs. Buttery perched on a small seat suspended outside.

Mrs. Denbigh who was a passenger on the vehicle during the early 1920's, remembered humorous incidents which occurred on the bus: "My sister and myself decided to attend a fancy dress ball at Yeadon, and travelled to Guiseley in fancy dress costume, complete with neck

ruffie and beauty spots etc., to the utter amazement of our fellow travellers who were pressed knee to knee with us gazing into our faces."

"Then there was another occasion when a young man from Burley-in-Wharfedale was asked to pay his fare and firmly protested, stating that he would pay on arrival at his destination, as the bus had broken down on so many occasions and passenger had to make the rest of the journey on foot."

17 Feb /78

Feb. 10th 1978

Brook Street Sees Many Changes In 25 Years



The picture of Brook Street, taken in the 1950's when car parking was less of a problem in Ilkley, shows clearly the changing face of the town over the last twenty years.

At the bottom end of the street, next to the traffic lights, is the old Wheatsheaf Hotel, which was believed to be one of Ilkley's oldest inns

the early 1960's as part of a scheme to open up the land around the Parish Church.

On the west side at the bottom of Brook Street was Dornand Stewarts, the clothes shop which specialised in weatherproof coats and mackintoshes, and was well known for the slogan "We Shall Have Rain" across the bottom of its window.

grocers shop, and then Robinsons gents outfitters, followed by Trees greengrocers, which closed down only recently. Next was Motts china shop. The next three shops still grade under the same names - Burrells grocers, Clayton's pork butchers and Scotts the chemist. At the end of the row was Hardingham's con-

now the Gateway Hotel, upstairs.

On the corner of West Street was Lloyds Bank, which is still in the same premises, followed by Melias greengrocers, Wilfred Denton, tailor and outfitter, William Lawson, plumber, Hills jewellers and Dewhursts butchers, which is also still in exist-

CARNIVAL CRICKET CUPS TRACED TO MUSEUM

The Ilkley Tradesmen's Cricket Cup and the trophy which was presented and donated by Mr. Ernest Waddilove in 1932 to mark the occasion of women taking part in the annual Black Hats versus White Hats carnival cricket match were earlier this week traced to the Ilkley Museum.

The statement by former Ilkley blacksmith and participant in many of these annual feast week matches, Mr. Sam Rayner, of Wharfe View Road, that Ilkley Urban District Council had taken charge of Ilkley Tradesmen's Cricket Cup was well founded.

For nearly a year officials of the Ilkley Chamber of Trade have been discussing the possibility of reviving the annual Tradesmen's Cricket match but the problem had been none of them knew the whereabouts of the Tradesmen's Cricket Cup.

Then last week-end Mr.

Maurice Moody, an attendant at the Ilkley Museum after reading the story in last week's Ilkley Gazette informed both the President of the Ilkley Chamber of Trade, Mr. D. Copleston, manager of the Yorkshire Bank at Ilkley, and former President, Mr. Richard Beckwith, who has played an active part both in relation to the inquiries concerning the whereabouts of the Cup and the possibility of the matches being revived.

Both the cups were stored away on the top floor of The Ilkley Museum. The Ilkley Tradesmen's Cricket Cup fitted neatly into a heavy wooden oblong box and the cup presented by Mr. Waddilove in 1932 was in a glass panelled display case. Both the trophies are in a magnificent state of preservation.

They were brought out of storage by Mr. Moody.

Mr. Stephen Kerry, Assistant Keeper of History for Bradford Metropolitan Coun-

cil told the Gazette that the two cups had been at the Ilkley Museum at least three years since the re-organisation of Local Government in 1974 and could possibly have been there since the late 1960's.

The First "Black Hats versus White Hats" matches were played in 1880 and established in 1892. In 1932 when The Ladies first took part Miss H. Vickers as Captain of the Ladies "White Hats" team and as the Ladies team were the winners that year Miss Vickers was the first recipient of the cup presented by Mr. Waddilove.

It is understood the Tradesmen's Cricket Cup originally belonged to Ilkley Cricket Club.

Mr. Rayner was delighted the cup had been traced. He said the cup was subscribed to by members of Ilkley Cricket Club to be competed for between Tradesmen in the town interested in cricket. In

those days the Cricket Club's ground was on the site of what was to become Nile Road.

The last official match between the "Black Hats and White Hats" when the Ilkley Tradesmen's Cup was competed for was in the late 1930's.

With regard to the Ilkley Tradesmen's Cup being passed on to the Ilkley Chamber of Trade to be competed for in a revised annual tradesmen's cricket match Mr. Kerry said he would be sending a letter to Mr. Michael Diamond, Chief Arts and Museum Officer for the Bradford Metropolitan Council.

Pictured with the two cups are (left to right) — Mr. Maurice Moody (Museum Attendant); Mrs. Dorothy Haughton (Administrative Assistant); Mr. Stephen Kerry (Assistant Keeper of History) and Mrs. Margaret Brown (Museum Assistant).



17 Feb/78

ACROSS THE YEARS

Delay over cemetery land purchase due to Trustees

100 Years Ago

Slowness on the part of the trustees of the Sedbergh Estate was proving a handicap in the purchase of the cemetery grounds. It was reported to the Local Board early in 1878. Mr. Margerison said he had written to the solicitors to the trustees of the Sedbergh Estate asking them to complete the conveyance of the land which had been purchased for the cemetery grounds but he had received no answer although he had pressed the point. He suggested that a cheque to cover the amount of the purchase should be prepared as the Bishop would not consecrate the grounds until the deeds were properly signed and deposited.

Mr. H. J. Cooke said it was because the Sedbergh trustees were spread about the country that there was some difficulty in persuading them to act with speed. He was in favour of the suggestion made by Mr. Margerison and this proposition was carried unanimously.

The Board heard complaints about the number of gas lamps on public thoroughfares which were not lighted for long periods and it was agreed to communicate with the Gas Company asking for some

75 Years Ago

With 132 people subscribing and a total of £128 being raised the first meeting of the Ilkley Advertising Board was able to report a satisfactory outcome of a first year's activities at the end of February 1903. A great many posters had been distributed and photographs and advertising placed in many of the station waiting rooms. Though invited to do so, Mr. John Beanlands indicated that it was quite impossible for him to accept another year of office and Mr. J. A. Middlebrook was elected to take his place. Other officers were: vice-president: Mr. J. Beanlands, Dr. Bampton, Mr. A. H. Davis, hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Moyley, hon. secretary, Mr. W. H. Hutchinson; committee Messrs. E. Fletcher, G. Tennant, A. Blakeborough, T. W. Farratt, B. T. Akers, T. R. Vickers, F. Heap, R. M. Green, G. P. Wilson, E. B. Johnson, F. Horsfall, C. Barker, D. Featherstone, J. W. Benson, — Topham, P. Dalton, J. Sunley, B. Robinson, H. Mott and W. Tasker. Mr. Sunley approved the road that was suggested should be made to the White Wells, but Mr. Fletcher would not like it to go forth that the Board approved of this. Such an idea would mean his resign-

The Ilkley Company of the 2nd West Yorkshire Royal Engineer Volunteers held its annual prize distribution and ball at the Wells House Hotel. Captain H. E. Aykroyd who has lately succeeded Captain W. Thomson of Addingham as commander of the company presided. It was stated that efforts were being made to raise £700 to erect a drill hall and land for the purpose had been obtained in Easbe Drive. It was used at present by the railway company for engineering purposes.

There were over 400 present at the annual tea and social held at the P S A Hall which was presided over by Mr. F. E. Pearce. It was stated that the amount raised so far for the building fund was £312 17s. 5d. and most of this had been spent. As part of the Helpline Hand Fund £230 was distributed during the previous winter. A great deal of work was being done in various ways.

50 Years Ago

Mr. R. Fox of Woodlands Rise, Ilkley, was a member of a British skiing party caught in two avalanches on a Swiss mountainside. One of the party was killed and Mr. Fox sustained a badly wrenched knee. Food was swept away in the avalanche and despite Mr. Fox's condition, and the remaining members of the party suffering badly from exposure, they had to spend two days and a night on the open mountainside before they could reach shelter.

The Ilkley Coronation Cottage Hospital was in a sound financial condition it was reported at the annual meeting of subscribers. Mr. T. H. Firth, who had served as hon. sec. for six years succeeded Mr. L. Cooper as Chairman, and Mr. R. A. Law was elected hon. secretary. The death rate for the previous year had been extremely low, only 2.5 per cent, and it was obviously being used to restore patients in need of treatment to good health. Members of the committee praised the townspeople of Ilkley for the whole-hearted support received by the hospital who had made it truly their own hospital.

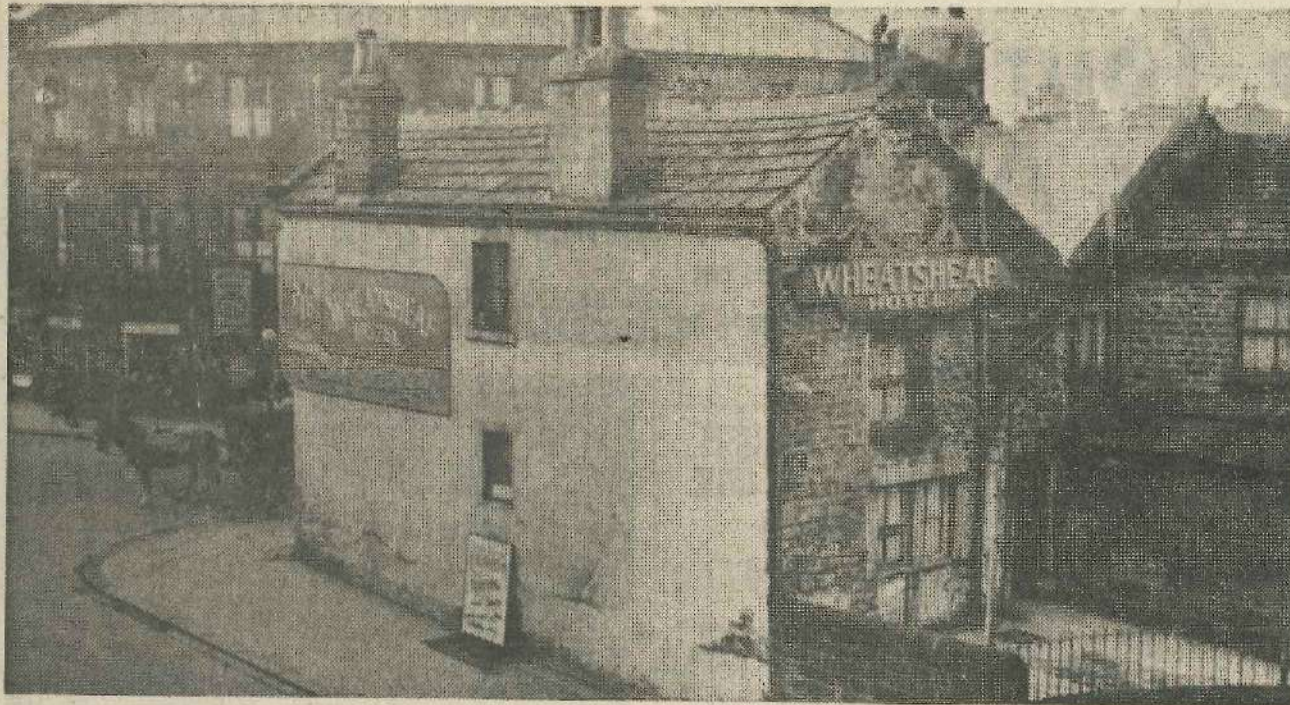
25 Years Ago

Mr. J. Brumfitt was re-elected captain of Ilkley Cricket Club first team at the annual meeting in February 1953, and Mr. J. Featherstone continued in his captaincy of the second eleven. Tribute was paid by Mr. F. G. Cottam the club secretary to the good performances by the Brumfitt brothers and Reg. Cliffe, and the whole team resulting in their winning the league championship by twelve points.

Dr. T. G. Rankine, formerly of Menston, was amongst the residents of the Island of Coll in the Outer Hebrides, who were concerned in an attempted rescue of the trawler crew of 12—eight of whom died—whose vessel sank after running aground on a reef. Dr. Rankine told interviewers of the dramatic story of how two crew members were saved by the firing of a life line from a rocket apparatus and then going out in a small boat which several times almost sank.

Feb 1978

When The Wheatsheaf Stood In New Brook Street



This scene at the top of New Brook Street in 1947 changed dramatically in the early 1960's with the demolition of one of Ikley's oldest Inns, the Wheatsheaf Hotel. It is interesting to note that horses and carts were still in use and one can be seen in the picture halted at the traffic lights.

The Inn closed in the last minute of 1959 because it was the former Ikley Urban District Council's intention to demolish the property to open out the view of the old Parish Church and of the Middleton hillside beyond, incorporating the site in a scheme which featured the Manor House Museum as its central theme.

The Wheatsheaf shared with the Rose and Crown Hotel the distinction of being one of Ikley's oldest public houses, but which of the two was the older was never proved.

Harry Speight in his book "Upper Wharfedale" published in 1900 said there was one Inn at Ikley in 1378, and

suggested this might have been the Rose and Crown, though he conceded the strong claim of the Wheatsheaf. He said the Wheatsheaf had strong claims for precedence because the sign was derived from the old crest of the Middletons.

ACROSS THE YEARS Feb. 1978.

Damage done to building in process of erection

100 Years Ago

Workmen employed by Mr. W. Plows on erecting villas in the Grove found one morning on arriving at work that mullions and other stone work of a large bay window on a second floor had fallen to the ground and in their passage had smashed a large ladder and a large stone cornice. "At first it was thought probable that the fall had been caused by the wind, which was very strong during the night, but on further examination it was found that it had been done by the jib of the crane as the paint on one of the pieces of stone corresponded in colour, and there is also an indentation on the jib as if it had struck against some hard substance with considerable force, the paint having been removed. How this could have happened is a mystery as the jib was left fastened to the other part of the crane with a strong iron wire when the workmen left the premises on the previous evening. It is supposed that some mischievous person and persons had gone to the building during the night and loosened the chain thus leaving the jib to the mercy of the wind. One thing is certain if such a thing was done the party must have replaced the chain, as the jib was found properly fastened in the morning."

Some 40 prizes were distributed by the Vicar of Ikley, the Rev. J. Snowden, to scholars of the Ikley Parish Church Sunday School at the National Schools. Mr. Snowden commented on the great improvement during the past twelve months in the behaviour of the scholars and he thought great credit was due to the teachers and children for the very efficient state in which he had found the school.

75 Years Ago

A suggestion that a carriageway be made across the moor from the Keighley Road to the White Wells was strongly criticised by the Gazette in January, 1903. "This carriageway in our opinion is totally unnecessary and tends to add another feature of artificiality to the moor which it is impossible for the Council or anybody else to improve upon even by the planting of trees, which they some years ago took in hand and by the erection of fences as ugly and as out of harmony with the surroundings," said the newspaper. Many residents regarded the carriageway as quite impossible and there were letters in the daily newspapers of Leeds and Bradford. One letter referred to the way in which Ikley's natural

beauties were being spoiled and lessened each year. Hebers Ghyll had been a beautiful bit of natural woodland and had been turned from a natural park with its appalling imitation cork entrance. Middleton Woods was another example of local "improvement." As money seemed no object why not remove the White Wells and put up a great wheel and revolving tower in its place. It would look well on the moor, said another writer. Mr. Fred Reynolds a popular writer in the Yorkshire Observer and a great friend of Ikley was similarly of an opinion that money could be spent on matters of improvement. The Gazette would have nothing of the Council's view that the carriageway would provide invalids with a better view of the surrounding countryside and enable them to imbibe purer and more invigorating air.

Meeting for its annual dinner at the Listers Arms Hotel, the Ikley Fire Brigade said there had been 11 calls in 1902 against six the previous year. The average time for water to be laid on was 8 1/2 minutes for local calls and 21 minutes for those received from outside the district. Fireman John Robinson received from his former colleagues a smoking cabinet to

50 Years Ago

At a meeting of the Bural Board, Moors and Parks Committee of the Ikley Urban Council correspondence was submitted which had taken place with Messrs. Mawson in which they had quoted a fee for preparing a lay-out plan report and estimate of the cost of laying out the land of the Irwin estate on the North side of the river. It was agreed that the Ikley Cricket Club should be allowed to stay at a rent of £50 per year, provided they allowed the Ikley Ladies' Hockey Club to use the ground during the winter months.

The newly formed 2nd Ikley Parish Church Scout Troop held a Parents party in the Church Institute. Canon Hamer wished the troop every success and Mrs. Hamer presented the Patrol cup to H. Poole on behalf of the Buffalo patrol, the award had been given to the troop by Mr. D. Crowther one of the assistant scoutmasters.

Mr. J. Drury (scoutmaster) said that the troop had 18 members, which meant that in the first five months the numbers had trebled.

The Automobile Association patrol on the main road at Burley was equipped with waders to enable him to go to the assistance of flooded motorists.

25 Years Ago

A new scale of charges for the three public halls controlled by Ikley Urban District Council—the King's Hall, Winter Gardens, and Queen's Hall, Burley—was approved at the February meeting. This followed a large deficit on the halls in the previous 12 months. For example a dance in the Winter Gardens until midnight would be £8 16s. and £11 11s. for both halls.

It was announced following a meeting of the Coronation sub-committee of Ikley Council that an allowance of 1/3 for every child should be allocated to each school in the district to provide a special tea for school-children on Coronation Day. There would be a dance for 450 people at the King's Hall Annex on 3 June and the charge for a ticket would be 5/- if purchase prior to the end of May.

A new club to be known as the Ikley Camera Club was formed at a meeting held in the Grove Schoolroom, attended by 29 people. Mr. T. L. Haigh was elected chairman of the club with Mr. E. Williamson as treasurer and Mr. I. M. Glover to be hon. secretary.

Feb/78

ACROSS THE YEARS

Ilkley Village mourns its Vicar, provider of many good things

100 Years Ago

Reversed rules on one of the pages of the Gazette rebruary, 1918, indicated the death of the vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. John Snowdon, at the age of 72. All the clergy in the area preached sermons at their Sunday services at which tributes were paid to the man who had been vicar of Ilkley since 1842. When he arrived here the old vicarage in Church Street had so fallen into decay that it was not considered habitable and at the beginning he rented a house in Wells Road. A few years later a new parsonage was built on the glebe land in the same road. The restoration and enlargement of the church took place after his arrival and in the mean time services were held at the old grammar school on Skipton Road. The re-opening services took place in May 1861. This was followed by the installation of a new organ, the erection of new schools, the provision of new bells. He conducted services at Nesfield and at Langbar, helped with the institution of St. Margaret's Church. There was an immense gathering of mourners at the funeral service, and the church was filled long before the service was due to begin. St. Margaret's choir joined with the Parish Church Choir and there was a procession from the vicarage to the church, a muffled peal being rung on the bells as the procession moved to the church. The Rev. W. Danks preached on the Sunday morning and spoke feelingly of the contribution Mr. Snowdon had given to all manner of works in the village. A month later the Gazette reprinted the various tributes which had been paid to Mr. Snowdon.

Intimate friend of Robert Collyer, Mr. John Dobson died at his home Holly Bank, Leeds Road, at the age of 64. His brother, Michael, was the founder of Craiglands Hydro. John Dobson was a student of literature and in Collyer's early days had given him much help in his choice of books.

75 Years Ago

Approving the Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill in February, 1903, the Ilkley Urban Council was told that the promoters had offered £500 towards widening Leeds Road

at the Crescent corner. Cr. J. W. Benson thought when this was linked with the improvement at the bottom of Brook Street it would make a very worth while situation. An engineer associated with the firm which intended to do the work said the Ilkley portion was to start from the top of Brook Street and there would be a double line down to the junction of Little Lane and Wharfe View Road with loops for passing purposes at Bath Street, Cemetery Road, Sunset View, Sunset Terrace and Ben Rhydding Bridge. The overhead system of electric traction would be employed as being by far the most satisfactory and the generating station would be located at Menston. According to the Bill it was intended to convey good and cattle as well as passengers. "One or two very wealthy gentlemen are at the back of the undertaking, and as the money is already available, every effort will be made to complete the line as early as possible." The scheme never got beyond Burley in Wharfedale.

The exceedingly mild weather enjoyed towards the end of February was causing various trees and shrubs to burst into leaf, and primroses and other spring flowers to make their appearance in abundance. "Indeed said the Gazette "notwithstanding the week or so of keen frost in January, primroses in some garden plots have bloomed almost uninterruptedly all through the winter. The birds are showing their appreciation of warmth and sunshine by cheerful warblings and all around there are evidences that 'spring is coming.'"

Ilkley Baptists new church was opened towards the end of February; sermons being preached by the Rev. T. Phillips of Norwich. Said the Gazette, "Four years ago the denomination began work at Ilkley in the little corrugated iron building attached to the Ilkley College and which had formerly served as a Roman Catholic place of worship. After a time their congregation so largely increased that it was found necessary to fit up a portion of the College itself, which was tenanted, for the purpose of public worship and here the work of the church has continued to be carried on up to the present, although the purchase of the premises by the Wesleyans for a Deaconess College has for some months necessitated the services being held in the College Hall instead of the large upper room first occupied which was needed for the work of the College. Messrs. Garside and Pennington of Castleford were the architects and the various works were carried out by the following.—Mr. George Smith, Ilkley, builder; Mr. T. Smith, Ilkley, joiner; Mr. W. Lawson, Ilkley, plumber; Mr. R. Nelson, Ilkley, slater; Mr. Walter Hudson, Ilkley, painter; and Mr. A. Firth, Guiseley, plasterer. Mr. J. Fry, Ilkley, had fixed the pallisades. There were crowded congregations at both the afternoon and evening services.

50 Years Ago

Ilkley King's Hall and Winter Gardens was the scene of a successful rally of the Wharfedale Liberal Association which marked the climax of a tour of the Pudsey and Otley Division by Dr. Houldsworth, the prospective Liberal candidate. The gathering took the form of a carnival whist drive and dance and between 700 and 800 people attended. Mr. W. Brown was in charge of the whist and Mr. S. Lucas was the M.C for dancing.

The continuous rain of the previous year affected the takings of Ben Rhydding Sports Club, and the accounts for the year showed a deficit of £52. Mr. H. Hingworth, who presided at the annual meeting, said this was brought about by the bad weather, not only in the summer months but right through the winter, reducing the income from both entertainments and from refreshments.

During the first 16 days of February, the rainfall reached the astonishing figure of nearly 4 1/2 inches, bringing the truth to the saying "February fill dyke."

Ross Bros. advertised the new 9 h.p. Clyno saloon car, a "fabric saloon" at a price of £160 complete (tax £9 per year).

25 Years Ago

The scheme to erect a fence across Ilkley Moor to prevent sheep from straying into the town was to be re-considered following the decision of the West Riding County Council to include the sum of £20,000 in the following year's estimates for establishing cattle grids at certain points in the West Riding, including Cowpasture Road.

The scheme for fencing the moor was abandoned following the County Council's previous refusal to provide a cattle grid, when Ilkley Council felt there would be nothing to prevent the sheep entering the town at this point.

Mrs. H. Hawkins challenged the attitude of the Town Planning and Buildings Committee regarding proposed dwellings to be erected in Clifton Road. Plans had been passed subject to the construction being entirely of stone, which would be a setback to many builders and to insist on this would not foster private building. The Committee after debate agreed to an amendment that the buildings should be stonefaced with a suitable backing material.

March/78

ILKLEY "DIG" MAY BE CALLED OFF

A dig for Roman relics at Ilkley may have to be called off following a decision by the West Yorkshire County Council not to keep a team of six trained diggers.

It had been planned to carry out a dig on land which is to extend the western section of Ilkley's central car park.

The diggers had carried out excavation work at important historical sites in the county.

For a year the diggers have been paid to work throughout the week in the job creation scheme set up by the Government.

Cr. John Brownbridge, Planning Committee Chairman, suggested that houses, roads, buses and railways were more important. The cash that the Council had to spend was like the slice of a cake and they could not increase the size of the cake.

MUSEUM SOCIETY HEARS ABOUT DRAKE'S VOYAGE

An interesting and well illustrated talk on the voyage of the "Golden Hind" was given to members of the Olicana Museum and Historical Society by Mr. Christopher Daniel of the National Maritime Museum.

Mr. Daniel was one of a crew of 20 which had sailed the replica of Sir Francis Drake's famous ship from England to California in 1974.

He told an appreciative audience about Drake, hero of the Armada and the most spectacular of the Elizabethan privateers and his circumnavigation of the globe. In 1577 his small fleet, led by the "Pelican"—later re-named the "Golden Hind"—had set sail from Plymouth. Drake did not intend sailing round the world, but to plunder Spanish ports and treasure ships in the Pacific.

He successfully navigated the Straights of Magellan, discovering that Tierra del Fuego was not part of the mainland as was believed, but failing to find the Pacific entrance to the North West Passage Drake had returned home via the East Indies and the Cape of Good Hope in 1580.

During the replica's voyage the crew used Tudor navigational equipment and followed part of Drake's route. The replica was built in Devon for a group of American businessmen and is now a museum in San Francisco.

50 Years Ago 23/1/78

The Ilkley Bath Charity which later became the Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home, entered into its 100th anniversary in 1928. There was an unusually large attendance at the annual meeting, presided over by Mr. F. G. Whiteley, who resigned as chairman after 26 years service and was elected the first President.

Mr. E. A. Wells, Hospital secretary, said they were taking patients from Boards of Guardians, hospitals and workpeople's institutions, in addition to those recommended by private subscribers, and were then in a degree helping to administer the National Health Insurance scheme. They had, in 1928 no less than 65 societies contributing and sending patients.

Mr. S. H. Fowles of Chesterfield was appointed electrical engineer and manager of the Ilkley Urban District Council's electrical undertaking.

Rank 78

ACROSS THE YEARS

Consecration of new cemetery by Bishop of Ripon

100 Years Ago

A lengthy and detailed report of the consecration of the new cemetery appeared in the Gazette in March, 1878. The Bishop, Dr. Boyd Carpenter, who arrived in the village by train, was met by local clergymen, members of the Ilkley Urban Council, churchwardens of the district and members of the church choirs. The site of the new cemetery, said the Bishop, consisted of a piece of land on the north east side of Ilkley, formerly two fields called the Great and Little Pybus, having a total area of 13 acres delightfully situated, abutting on and contiguous to the silver Wharfe, and the Middleton Woods which are not far distant forming an admirable background. The plot is about equally sub-divided between the Established Church and the Nonconformists leaving about half an acre at the north east corner for the Roman Catholics. The report goes on to describe the two chapels in some detail, and continues with references to the Curator's house and to the mortuary. The land, says the report, previous to becoming the property of the Local Board belonged severally to the Lord of the Manor (William Middleton) who gave a portion of the land expressly for the use of the Catholics, Miss Lister and the Sedbergh Trustees, from whom it was procured at a total cost of £2,000. The ground thus chosen by the Board was approved of by the Government medical inspector in June, 1876, after which operations began in right good earnest. The plans of Mr. John Shaw were selected from among those of several competitors. The tenders were let to Messrs Hogg, mason; Atkinson, slater; Crabtree, ironwork; Woodhead, joiner; Oates, plumber and Lister plasterers; iron work railings, Christopher Green, Otley and Ilkley.

Members of the Local Board were entertained by Mr. H. J. Cooke at the Middleton Hotel to a banquet to mark the completion of work at the cemetery.

75 Years Ago

The dangerous condition of the stepping stones was drawn to public attention when a boy of 11 fell into the river at a time of flood. Once in the water the boy was quickly carried downstream but his cries were heard by two men walking on the Denton side of the stream. One of the men was also quickly swept away and the other man, Mr. J. Nunns, a Ben Rhydding coal man, after pulling out the boy

could not find his own companion. However after a useless search he went to the man's home where he found clothes hanging out to dry. Apparently after emerging unobserved from the water he had made straight for home and speedily hung up his wet clothes to dry.

Mr. J. H. Marshall, Ilkley postmaster, was promoted to a similar position but with a considerable increase in salary, commented the Gazette, at Northwich in Cheshire. He had started his post office career at Barnsley in 1871 where he left to come to Ilkley in 1897. When he left Ilkley he was to be succeeded by Miss Harper, the senior clerk.

In recognition of the services he had rendered to the St. John Ambulance Association Dr. J. N. Richardson was in March, 1903 elected an honorary life member of the Association.

Part of a field owned by the Ilkley Grammar School on Springs Lane was purchased on behalf of the Coronation Cottage Hospital Scheme as a site for the new hospital. Unfortunately the Building Committee of the Ilkley Urban District Council for some time refused their recommendation of approval in consequence of there being no road or drain.

50 Years Ago

"A tiresome quarrel between two chairmen" was the description given by a member of Ilkley Urban Council to the arguments between Mr. G. Mott (Chairman of the Gas Committee) and Mr. W. B. Dorman (Chairman of the Electricity Committee) over the relative merits of electricity versus gas street lighting. Mr. J. H. Armistead said although it had always been considered essential that the chairmen of both committees should be on the Street Lighting Committee it was getting to the point that for the peace of the council they should not be included.

Further discussion on the question of the salary of Mr. F. S. Eckerley, the Clerk to Ilkley Council took place at the Council meeting. The Clerk was being paid £750 per annum, in accordance with a rising scale agreed between the Council and Mr. Ekersley in 1911.

25 Years Ago

F. W. Noble was elected captain of Ben Rhydding Cricket Club's 1st XI at their annual general meeting, with H. Rigg as vice-captain. H. E. Milnes was to captain the 2nd XI with D. A. Briggs as vice-captain. Mr. B. W. Heap was appointed team secretary, and R. H. Darby and A. V. Taylor continued as hon. secretary and hon. treasurer.

A telegram from the Queen highlighted the Diamond wedding celebrations of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lupton of North Parade.

Rain, hail and snow during the Easter week-end resulted in a very quiet holiday for Ilkley as far as the number of visitors was concerned.

Over 500 people attended an Easter dance held by the Guides and Brownies (Parish Church) Parents' Association in the King's Hall. The music was provided by the New Incores Band.

Rank 78

ACROSS THE YEARS

Ilkley Athletic Club had good year with credit balance

100 Years Ago

A credit balance of £191 11s. was reported at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Athletic Club in March, 1910, held at the Crescent Hotel under the chairmanship of Mr. G. K. Mossman, elected as officers for the following year were.—President, Mr. William Middleton; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. E. Goldwyer, R. H. Hay, L. Horner, W. F. Leeson, —, Lucey, W. Margerison, J. Middleton, Edward Middleton, G. R. Mossman, Mancoah Rhodes, T. Scott, E. H. Wade, M. Todd, treasurer, Mr. W. Milton, hon. Secretaries, Messrs. R. Tuke and A. Moon; committee, Messrs. T. W. Barr, R. Brogden, A. Kitchen, W. H. Tuke, J. C. Barker, T. S. Tetley, J. Shaw, W. Fox, G. Brumfitt.

It was reported at the annual tea and meeting of the Ilkley Congregational Sunday School that at the close of the year there were 101 male and 125 female scholars on the books. A noteworthy feature was said to be the increased attendance. Miss Clapham and Miss Dixon obtained one of the ten Sunday School prizes awarded in all England. Frank Boole obtained a first class certificate in the senior division of the scholars examination and Priscilla Graham, Beulah Bailey and Mary Smith gained second class certificates. The treasurer, Mr. C. J. Muff, gave the financial details and showed there was a final balance of £81 10s. 3d. Mr. W. E. Press reported a successful year with the Library, and there was considerable activity with the Missionary Branch activity.

75 Years Ago

Mr. J. Sunley was the convener of a meeting held in the Council Chamber for considering "ways and means of promoting a public hall," and Mr. J. G. Boden presided over some 20 people. Mr. E. Fletcher sent a letter suggesting that a company should be formed to provide regular entertainments at the existing halls rather than build a place at present and it was thought advisable to build at a later date from capital which could be increased with that object. Mr. Sunley however thought all present were satisfied that what was wanted was a public hall: the existing halls being connected with places of worship and not available or suitable for all the requirements of a health resort. Mr. E. Critchley spoke of a scheme which had been planned some time ago in Wells Road. It would cost £5,000 exclusive of the land. Mr. John Shuttleworth, after some comments, had been made about cheap land in the area, thought too much attention on this matter could be a mistake. He had taken shares at the Assembly Rooms (now Ilkley Playhouse) and it had proved to be a mistake. The same applied to the Victoria Hall. The only place which could meet with approval was a site on the Grove. Mr. J. W. Benson had favoured purchase of the Ilkley Hall Gardens but the Council did not agree. He thought the Town Hall site might be suitable but the one suggested by Mr. Shuttleworth could cost at least £15,000. It was finally decided to form a committee to ascertain what amount of support the scheme would be likely to obtain. First names put forward for membership were Messrs. J. Sunley, L. T. Leary, F. Heap, H. Moisley, J. Hood, J. G. Boden, T. Drysdale Veith, John Beanlands, E. Shuttleworth and T.

Dr. Frederick Robinson, youngest son of the late Mr. Thomas Robinson of Ilkley died from injuries received when he was knocked down by a motor car in Putney where he had been in practice for some years. The funeral took place at Ilkley Cemetery.

50 Years Ago

Viscount Lascelles of Harewood paid a highly successful visit to Ilkley to open the new British Legion Club Rooms. He delighted his hearers by giving three separate addresses, one at the civic reception in his honour, one as he opened the club-rooms outside, and yet another at a more or less informal ceremony inside the club.

He was welcomed to Ilkley by Mr. T. G. Pugh, Chairman of the Council at the Town Hall and was entertained to tea in the Committee Room, Mr. J. W. Dixon and Col. J. Muller, the president and Chairman of the Ilkley branch of the British Legion, Mr. J. B. Boden (treasurer) and Mr. H. Roe (hon. sec.) were also with the welcoming committee.

An increase in membership of 80 was reported at the annual general meeting of the Ilkley Women's Unionist Association. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. F. Whiteley and Mrs. J. H. Armistead the hon. treasurer presented the financial statement.

Mr. E. J. Jarvis, engineer and manager of the Ilkley Urban District Council's electrical undertaking was appointed Borough Electrical Engineer to the Scarborough Corporation. Mr. Jarvis had been manager at Ilkley for five years.

25 Years Ago

Ilkley Urban District Council agreed to levy a rate of 23s. 6d. in the £ for the year 1933-4, which was a record all time jump. 2s. 11d. of this was due to increased demands from the West Riding County Council, and the remaining 6d. increase was due to the Urban District Council. Despite the increases cuts in certain services had to be suffered. There were to be dismissals in the Sanitary and Highway departments, and refuse collections were to be made at longer intervals, repairs to footpaths slowed down, and no more art exhibitions.

The schoolchildren in the Ilkley area made their contributions towards the East coast flood relief fund. The pupils of St. Philip's School Burley raised £70 at a stall at the school and five members of the 1st Form of Ilkley Grammar School held a bring and buy sale. They were Carole Crawshaw, Judith Bilshy, Jane Greaves, Marjorie Hall and Dorothy Tomlin, and the amount raised was £13 14s. The total figure raised by Ilkley was £1,676.

Charles Chaplin's first dramatic film "Limelight" was showing at the Essoldo Cinema. The film co-starred Claire Bloom and Sydney Chaplin.

March 78

ACROSS THE YEARS

Weary Hill Reservoir has final complete examination

100 Years Ago

The engineer for the Weary Hill Reservoir in March 1878 wrote to the Ilkley Local Board stating that it was the intention to draw off the water and give the interior a complete examination. It was felt there was nothing wrong but a complete examination would be carried out. When this was done it would be possible to settle the account.

On the Grove Improvement account, the Clerk reported that a total of £398 11s 10d had been received in three contributions leaving £369.15s still to be got in. A question had been received from Mr. W. Flison and it was felt it would not be proper to discuss this before a full board meeting. It was felt the matter should come first of all before a meeting of the Street and Drainage Committee. It was agreed that this should be done.

It was agreed unanimously that whilst repairs were being carried out to Wells Road a crossing be carried out at the bottom of the road from Mr. Whitaker's Wellbrook House to Messrs. Sellick and Co's at the other side of the road. The suggestion was welcomed because there was said to be a great amount of traffic at this point and the improvement would be welcomed.

The Bishop had approved the fees suggested for the Cemetery and had appended his signature to the document. It was agreed that the document be preserved.

Ilkley Rombalds Moor Friendly Society held their annual Festival and Club Walk. In the morning they paraded the town in procession and after a business meeting at the Rose and Crown moved to the Parish Church for service and then back to the Rose and Crown for the annual dinner.

75 Years Ago

Ilkley Wesleyans were contemplating the erection of handsome church buildings on the plot of land above the present church in Wells Road, announced the Gazette in March, 1903. They had purchased some of the houses in the vicinity with this idea in mind, it was stated. The bottom house was to be used as a minister's residence. For years the rooms under the church have been sadly too small and inadequate and all large gatherings have consequently had to be held in the church. In addition to this they are much too close to be healthy and good for the children, so that the need for some such premises as are now to be erected is very great indeed. The buildings which will include a large public hall, class rooms church parlour, etc., are estimated to cost £4,500 with the land, and a considerable portion of this sum has already been raised. At a meeting in the church on one evening £250 was promised. It was later stated that further consideration was being given to the use to which the houses could be put.

There were 106 persons confirmed by the Bishop of Ripon the Right Rev. Dr. Boyd Carpenter in March 1903. There were 53 from the Parish Church, 27 from St. Margaret's, 24 from Burley and two from Denton. There was a large attendance and the clergy present were the Rev. W. S. Muntz Vicar of Ilkley; the Rev. Irton Smith, Vicar of St. Margaret's; the Rev. E. R. Buckley, Vicar of Burley; the Rev. T. E. Taylor and the Rev. A. B.

Bradford Wesleyan Cycling Club at its annual meeting passed a resolution stating "the Club is of the unanimous opinion that the proposed tramway to Ilkley is not necessary and will be a danger to pedestrians and road users in general besides spoiling the appearance of the country, and that the District Councils whose areas it will pass through are requested not to sanction it."

50 Years Ago

News of an increase in Ilkley rates of 11d in the £ was received with a good deal of dismay in the area. Coming on top of three poor seasons for the holiday caterers and on top of serious trade depression it was not thought that people would easily be able to find the extra money.

Five to six inches of snow seriously inconvenienced motorists on the Langbar Road, where drifts had formed to a depth of five feet. The roads above Middleton were blocked in a similar fashion and when cleared by the snow plough an overnight wind caused drifts all over again.

An effort was held by the ladies connected with Ilkley Rugby Union Football club to aid finances badly affected by the reduced gate takings due to inclement weather. They formed a fund raising committee which included Mrs. John Green and Mrs. John Knox to help with the organisation of dances, whist drives and fund raising events.

A runaway horse caused some excitement in Station Road. The horse pulling a flat cart belonged to Mr. Wrigglesworth, of Slisden, and was left outside the

sale rooms in Cowpasture Road. The horse bolted along Station Road, following a bus. At the top of Brook Street the bus driver who had so far evaded trouble was no longer able to do so on account of the traffic. The horse collided with the side of the bus, and then with Mr. Norman Burdock's taxi cab, and managed to escape with a cut foreleg.

25 Years Ago

Mr. Percy Crossley was elected President of the Ilkley Bowling Club at the club's annual meeting and Mr. F. Raymond Hailey was elected as new treasurer.

Mr. Alan Sowden of Dean Farm, Nesfield, was elected President of the English Golf Union. Mr. Sowden was a former President of the Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs.

Miss Jean Edwards, games mistress at Ilkley Grammar School, and a former Yorkshire hockey player was detained in Ilkley Coronation Hospital with a suspected fracture of the base of the skull. She was felt to have had an accident on her motorcycle although she could not recall this.

An advertiser of the period wishing to purchase a four bedroomed cottage with garden, was willing to pay up to £500.

April 78

ACROSS THE YEARS

Volunteer Rifle Corps made disappointing response

100 Years Ago

It was disappointing to learn at the adjourned meeting of the Volunteer Rifle Corps that the number of volunteers was no more than 20. Very little interest had been shown in the matter a roll of 150 to 200 names had been expected. Ilkley had a great many young men available it was thought but the number coming forward did not confirm this impression. The adjourned meeting held at the Crescent Hotel was anything but encouraging, said the report, the attendance being small, and consequently the business done could not be regarded as anything more than preliminary. Letters were read from other units in the area. After some discussion it was decided to adjourn for another fortnight.

A group of Ilkley people who had a high regard for the Rev. John Snowden who had died the previous month after serving for 36 years as Vicar of Ilkley decided that a presentation to his daughter, Miss Margaret Snowden, would be an excellent way of indicating their appreciation of what he and she had done for the village. The matter was dealt with in a very quiet manner and eventually a clock and a gift of £900 were presented to her.

A bus owned by Mr. Joseph Hudson, of Addingham had just left Ilkley station with several passengers on board when it was blown by a strong wind on to a heap of stones left in the road and overturned. The upper part was completely smashed to pieces but none of the passengers were seriously injured. Some sustained scratches and bruises, however. The Gazette considered it to be wrong that piles of stones should be left in the road. It called upon the local authority to do something about it. Without the stones heap in the road there would have been no accident, it maintained.

75 Years Ago

Mr. E. B. Nussey occupied the chair at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home at the Hospital at the beginning of April, 1903. The Committee's report was read by Mr. A. B. Lloyd, secretary, and showed that the revenue for the year amounted to £1343 16s 11d and the expenditure to £1268 13s 5d leaving a credit balance £75 3s 6d upon the year's working. The accounts showed that while subscriptions had decreased by £112 7s 6d there had been an increase of donations of £45 8s 10d. Messrs. Dobsons of Craiglands were thanked for a subscription of £100 contributed from Craiglands and from Mr. Ballardie and guests from Wells House. From a financial point of view, the treasurer, Mr. Pollard thought the past year had been one of the most satisfactory ever experienced but there would have been an adverse balance had the period of stay not been reduced from three weeks to two weeks. Improvement was reported in 93.5 per cent of the patients. The reports were unanimously adopted and a series of thanks expressed to those who had helped in several ways. Re-elected to the Committee were Messrs. O. Birchall, A. W. Bain G. H. Clemons, Jabez Dobson, W. Grahame, J. T. Jackson, J. I. Kirby, J. C. Naylor, B. Nussey, G. S. Pollard, H. Sutcliffe and F. Whiteley.

The district rate was reduced by as much as 7d in the £ and the Gazette welcomed this move "despite all the arguments that had been moved against the Council." Besides taking a step in the right direction it was one which would be a considerable inducement to more business men from Leeds and Bradford moving their homes to Ilkley. Besides giving a considerable measure of relief to the "long suffering and overburdened rate-payers" it would mean an increased demand for new houses and as a result far reaching benefits to the tradesmen.

50 Years Ago

Mrs. L. Reith, of Summerfield Ilkley, a co-opted member of the West Riding County Council Education Committee, resigned her position due to the ill-health of her mother. The Ilkley Education Sub-Committee recommended the County Council to co-opt in her stead, Mrs. Davidson, of Queen's Drive, Ilkley. Mrs. Davidson was a member of the Education sub-committee a member of the Wharfedale Board of Guardians, and of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees of the Ilkley Urban Council.

A most enjoyable concert was given by the 1st Parish Church Cub Pack in the Church Institute to a good attendance of parents and friends. The cubs had been well trained by Miss Smith, Miss Martin and Miss Milnes. Miss Martin and Mr. A. E. Pickett acted as accompanists. The outstanding success of the evening was a flag display by senior cubs.

25 Years Ago

A short and concise annual general meeting of the Wharfedale Division Girl Guides Local Association was held in the Blue Bird Cafe with Mrs. J. Wilde presiding. Also attending were Mr. J. C. Scott, County Commissioner for Scouts, Col. F. W. B. Maufe (Scout District Commissioner), Mrs. Marion Ridgeway (Guide Divisional Commissioner) and Miss Barron (Asst. District Commissioner for Cubs, Wharfedale). Mrs. Ridgeway praised the work of the two district Guide Commissioners, Miss K. Coffey and Mrs. A. Green.

Jack Bradley, a stage impressionist, and a native of Addingham made his first TV appearance in the show "Shop Window". Mr. Bradley was the son of Mr. William Bradley, an Addingham textile engineer. His act lasted ten minutes during which time he impersonated famous film stars. During part of that time he was accompanied in his performance by Florence Desmond, famous impersonator.

Pupils attended the new "Ashlands" Infants' School for the first time after the Easter holiday. The staff had worked voluntarily during the holiday in an effort to get things ready for the 142 pupils on the roll.

A CHURCHYARD STONE, AN OLD BELL — AND A THEORY

By Frederick Morrell

April 21st 1978.

On the grass verge opposite the north door of Otley church is a large circular shaped stone, not unlike a solid round table. It is of local stone being 20 inches in height and a diameter of 30 inches the surface is quite smooth with an overlap round the edge. This has been cut away at three different places in the circumference, and about one foot below each cut-away the stone has been indented to a depth of one inch as can be seen in the illustration.

As the stone appears to be part of the churchyard surroundings, it is only occasionally that someone interested, enquires why is it there and what was its original purpose and unfortunately no one appears to know. It has no connection with either the church interior or exterior—it is not the base of a pillar nor the lower part of a churchyard cross.

Many years ago I made enquiries from the churchwardens at the time, and other older residents of the town but with little definite information other than it had earlier connections with the market place and was taken away at some unknown date. Some time earlier in this century it appears to have been found in Bradford or Bradford Road and placed where we see it today.

I am of the opinion it was the base of a structure which supported a bell, which would be held in position by three vertical bars of iron fitted in the cut-away parts of the stone rim and soldered in the three indents below and held firmly in position by two iron rims circling the stone work.

In market towns a clerk of the market was appointed, who was responsible among other things for ensuring fair and just weights and no trading could begin until the official rang the bell as he also did at the closure of the market a practice I believe to be still in use at the Cattle Marts. The market bell would have a deeper and louder tone, and therefore be a larger size than a handbell to avoid confusion with the handbell used by the Town Crier or Bell-man.

When the Jubilee clock was erected it was placed in a position where it could be easily seen from the Market Place and Manor Square and it is reasonable to suppose that the market bell stood on, or near the same site where it could be clearly heard in the Market Place (for produce and goods) and the Cattle Market (for livestock) now known as Manor Square. At what date the bell was dispensed with is not known but as the Jubilee clock site was decided upon in 1887 it may well be the bell and its structure was taken down in 1883-1885.

A year or so ago a bronze bell was discovered in some obscure recess in the old Grammar School in Manor Square where it had evidently been placed at some time for

safe keeping and had then been forgotten. I have not actually seen this bell, but have a photograph of it, and notice the date 1767 round the upper rim.

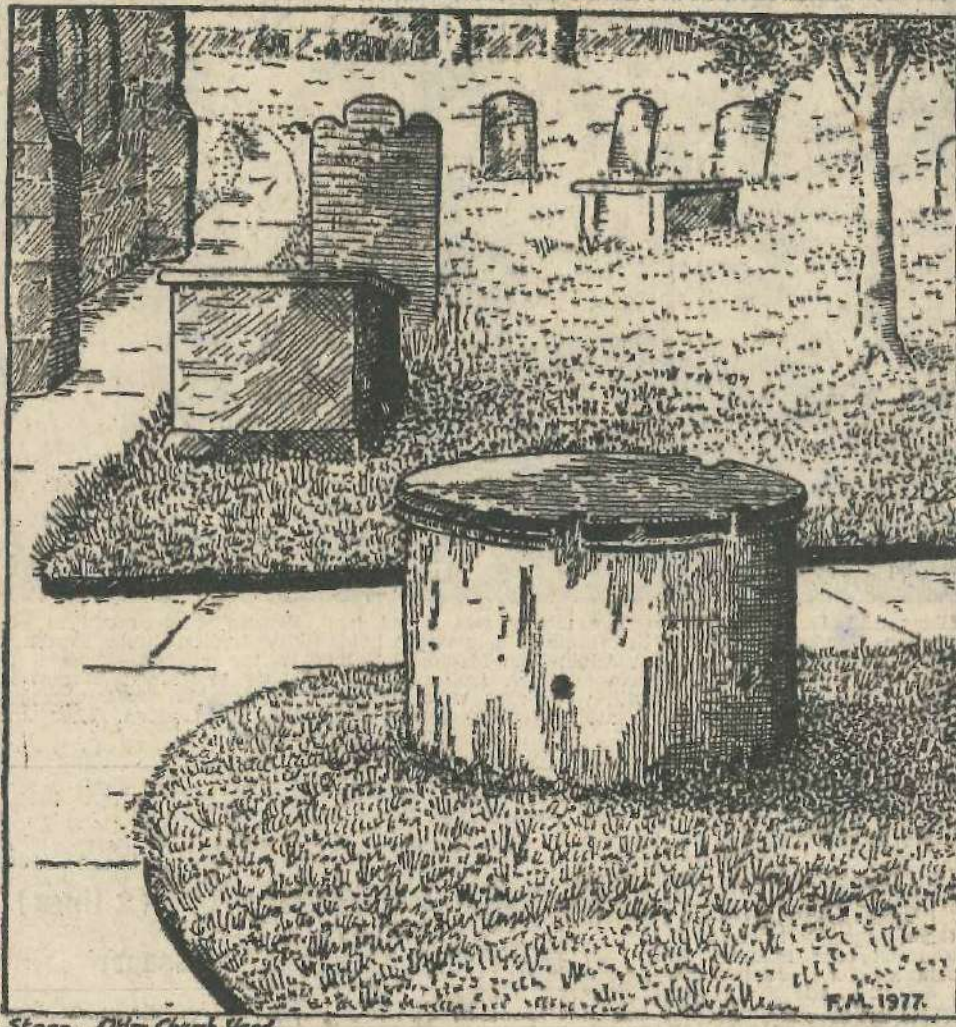
It appears to be of the static type, that is, it was suspended from above, the bell being rung by a leather thong attached to the clapper, as distinct from a bell which has a handle.

I do not believe it was a school bell, and had no connection with the Grammar School, other than being found there. It is doubtful if the school ever had more than a score of scholars at any given time, as in 1743 it was stated that "The school house was much out of repair and had been for some years and there were but few scholars." In that case there would be no need for a large bell particularly hearing in mind the school did not possess either school yard or playground.

During last century the old Grammar School was the property and offices of Mr Thomas Constable a solicitor and Deputy Steward of the Manor of Otley and when he retired in 1853 he was succeeded both in the practice and as Deputy Steward by Mr Henry Dacre who had served his articles under Mr Constable.

It is not unlikely that when the market bell was taken down, that Mr Dacre who was keenly interested in all aspects of the town's affairs took charge of the bell and stone structure. The bell he placed in his offices in the old school the stone he may have removed to his garden at Hawthornden in Bradford Road where it stayed until he moved to Caley Hall at the beginning of this century and later again moved and placed in the church yard.

This theory requires further research however. Can it be proved the bell recently found is connected with the stone in the church yard, and they once comprised the Market Bell?



Stone, Otley Church Yard.

MUSEUM SOCIETY HEARS ABOUT LONDON GUILDS

"Heraldry—The Worshipful Companies of London" was the subject of a talk given to members of the Oldiana Museum and Historical Society by Miss Nellie Saunders, a member of the society for the past 30 years.

Miss Saunders said there were 86 Guilds, or Liveryed Companies and the City of Guilds Institute was founded by them. Annually they collected £20,000 for the upkeep of it.

She showed the Coat of Arms of several companies and had many interesting facts to tell about them and their traditions and ceremonies. The Goldsmiths Company, one of the very early guilds, had commissioned and presented to the present Prince of Wales the crown worn by him at his investiture. The Needleworkers Company had received their charter from Oliver Cromwell and were the only company without a royal charter, she said. The origin of the phrase "being sent to Coventry" was that members of the Saddlers Guild were literally sent there from London for poor workmanship—Coventry being the next largest place to London where saddlery was made.

The Guilds had also provided the city of London with 600 Lord Mayors since 1192, said Miss Saunders.

Thanks were expressed by Mr. M. Pollard, Chairman, and the annual meeting of the society followed.

April 21st 1978

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ACROSS THE YEARS

Missing Ilkley Solicitor found in New Zealand

100 Years Ago

Though there were a great many people in Ilkley for the Easter holiday compared with the previous year fewer people were affected by drunkenness, recorded the Gazette. The weather was poor and trade continued in a state of depression. Many special trains brought people from Leeds and Bradford on Good Friday but on Saturday it rained incessantly all day and the number of visitors was small. On Sunday and Monday the streets were crowded and before long on the Monday a great many of the shops were closed.

The Easter Vestry meeting was held in the normal way, the Rev. F. T. White, curate, occupying the chair. Mr. John Milner was re-elected as Vicar's warden, and Mr. W. Margerison as the People's warden. Mr. J. Green was warden for Nesfield and Mr. E. Moore warden for Middleton. Messrs. H. Thornton and D. Stansfield were appointed as Ilkley Parish Church delegates at a meeting of male communicants at the Easter Vestry meeting.

75 Years Ago

Missing from his palatial residence at Rossmore, Grove Road, since November, 1902, a Bradford solicitor was found in New Zealand. A letter from a resident carried the information that it was his intention to move onto Christchurch and the police were informed. Holmes had been entrusted with large sums of money for investment the total being between £11,000 and £12,000. Investigation showed a deficiency between £3,000 and £4,000. Before he disappeared mysteriously from England in November, 1902, a bankruptcy petition was filed against him. The first hearing was expected to be before the Otley magistrates.

A proposal that Mr. J. W. Benson be appointed Chairman of the Ilkley Urban Council succeeded only after Mr. Benson had not been successful at the first vote and several other Councillors had been put up in turn before Mr. Benson was finally elected. Mr. J. W. Dixon was a strong objector to Mr. Benson's election. He claimed that Mr. Benson had not the respect of his colleagues which the Chairman of the Council should enjoy. Mr. Benson objected when he was told that he had shown an utter lack of respect for Councillors considerably older than himself in years.

50 Years Ago

Mr. W. Dobson, President of the Chamber of Trade informed members that no less than £793 was lost to the rates in 1927 because property which had previously used to cater for holiday visitors had become empty with fewer visitors coming to the town. This would affect the pocket of each and every ratepayer. He pressed for more money to be spent on advertising the town as a health resort and holiday centre, as many of the residents of the town had in the first place come out to Ilkley as visitors and then wished to remain permanently.

There was a "brilliant gathering in the Lecture Hall, Burley, when the committee organising the Wharfedale Sweet Stall for Bradford Grammar School launched a dance as their first effort. Mrs. J. G. Hutchinson, the president was helped by Mrs. Lovelock, Mrs. Lister, Mrs. Addy, Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Burnham, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. E. Atkinson, Mrs. Leach, Mrs. Shackleton, Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Suddards, Miss Archer, Miss B. Bedford, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Stephenson and the Misses Waddilove. The hall was beautifully decorated with evergreens and Spring flowers, and there were over 200 guests.

A local garage advertised a 9 h.p. Clyno car, a full 4 seater family saloon for £150 complete claiming it as a wonder car, with "all the latest complete equipment."

25 Years Ago

Ilkley was preparing for the Coronation celebrations, and with little more than a month in hand there was a great deal of uncertainty about the programme of local events. The public had little knowledge of

the decisions had been made in Committee and it was felt that members of local organisations should have been asked to participate in the arrangements.

The unveiling of the new War Memorial in Ilkley was an impressive sight, with a saluting base outside the Bluebird Cafe and hundreds of people crowding the Grove to see the parade and the dedication of the memorial. Lt. General Sir Philip M. Balfour performed the unveiling of the shrine and Canon A. H. Wellington, Vicar of St. Margaret's Church, dedicated it.

The parade was made up of many organisations, ex-servicemen and servicemen. At the end of the ceremony the Last Post and Reveille were played by boy trumpeters of the Royal Signals. The Blessing was given by Rev. E. C. Cook, Vicar of Ilkley.

Mrs. Marie Newsome was elected unanimously as President of the Ilkley Soroptimist Club, in succession to Miss E. B. Cribb. Miss I. Bellamy and Mrs. A. Glover were also elected first and second vice-presidents and Mrs. B. Lister was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

"BYGONE ILKLEY" FOR FRIENDS OF MANOR HOUSE

Every seat in the Manor House was filled for Miss Hilda Holmes' lecture on "Bygone Ilkley". For one delightful and evocative hour she brought to life, with an amusing commentary and a fascinating and far ranging collection of slides, Ilkley before the first world war.

Streets and buildings, people and "occasions" formed her subject matter, and such was the friendliness of the atmosphere she generated that members of the audience freely contributed their own reminiscences, or handed-down tales whenever a particular picture triggered off a personal memory.

Black and white slides of Brook Street in 1800 with a stream gushing down it, the Grove when it was a country lane with but a handful of cottages where the shops now stand, the bandstand, the fountain with its "monkey-rack" seat, Church Street in 1860, "new" Hydros and shops and inns now demolished, combined to give a vivid picture of the emerging "spa". Miss Holmes did not gloss over the blacker spots. In 1709, she said "it was a dirty and an insignificant village", and she spoke of the middens bordering Brook Street, the cholera epidemic, and the devastation caused by the floods of 1900.

High-hatted, bewhiskered, watch-chained gentlemen, and long skirted ladies with elaborate headgear were shown thronging the streets at carnival time, watching the circus procession, seeing the volunteers off to the 1914 war, skating on the frozen tarn in 1900, mourning at Edward VII's memorial, and rejoicing at George V's Coronation.

She admirably captured for her audience the style of life of the days before the motor-car and sophisticated entertainment with her pictures of the top-hatted Brass Band, the horse-drawn appliance of the local fire brigade, the pierrots in the Tarn Pavilion, and "Donkey" Jackson who supplied the fourfooted transport up to White Wells for those taking the waters.

Mr. John Smith, President of the Friends of the Manor House, thanked Miss Holmes for a most stimulating hour, and paid tribute to the thoroughness and the skill with which she had presented her material.

ACROSS THE YEARS

OLD RESERVOIR FAILS ITS EXAMINATION

100 Years Ago

An examination of the old reservoir by the Chairman of the Council Mr. John Milner 100 years ago showed that the beams had all rotted away and instead of their acting as supports to the spars, the spars were supporting them. The consequence was that if another high wind had come before something was done the roof would have been at the bottom of the reservoir. After a long discussion by the Board of Health it was agreed to remove the building altogether and arch the reservoir over as the other had been done. The materials would more than cover the cost of the repairs for they could be re-used in preparing a building for restoring the hose and other materials belonging to the Fire Brigade. It was decided to take off the roof and leave the matter for future consideration. Mr. William Hartley was elected Chairman of the Ilkley Local Board in April, 1878, and thanking them for their action Mr. Hartley said the position had been offered to him when the Board was formed some years previously. He had felt, however, that he had not the experience needed in Local Government and had to refuse. Now he felt that unless he had accepted the position would never be offered to him again. He was deeply honoured for the opportunity. Various Chairmen and Committees were then appointed.

Several men were fined for fighting in Brook Street and causing a disturbance on the Midland railway. Some of them were said to have been very drunk and to have seriously kicked a policeman who had attempted to quieten them.

Manor House's Place In Ilkley's History

At the last meeting of the Friends of the Manor House, Mr. Stephen Kerry addressed members on "The Place of the Manor House in the History of Ilkley".

He described first the architectural history of the house, pointing to the earliest part being the screens passage with its pointed-arched exterior doorways from this passage to the western wing had notched Caernarvon arches which were also dateable to this period. The main fireplace downstairs was also possibly of this date and so was the small door upstairs leading from the present offices into the exhibition galleries. This was below the level of the present floor timbers which suggested that it might once have led into a gallery at the end of the original hall which would have been open to the roof. The extent of this medieval building was unknown but undoubtedly contained within the limits of the present house which was bounded on the west by the foundations of the Roman fort wall and to the east by a heavy sixteenth century foundation. Exploration in the east while drainage trenches were being dug in 1976 had shown no medieval foundations beyond this, said Mr. Kerry.

The present main rooms were dateable to the late sixteenth century from the south facade with its round-headed windows in chamfered mullions and these showed that the building at that date had already two floors. The two fireplaces against the east wall, with their heavy triangular lintels, showed a common local seventeenth century form, and the king-post roof was also of late sixteenth to seventeenth century date.

The present west wing was probably built a little later since the rectangular windows with drip-moulding indicate a mid-seventeenth century origin, and the internal layout of this wing was probably changed at the same time as the interior walls about the screens passage walls without being bonded in.

Mr. Kerry reported that he was unable to throw any light on the original builder, occupier or purpose of the house, since deeds survived only from 1800. The house was called the Manor House only in 1961, before then being known as Castle House; the surviving manor court rolls for Ilkley provide no evidence of where the courts were held; and previously a cottage in the Grove had been called the Manor House, and another Manor House was to be found at Nesfield. The house had been built at about the time that the Middleton family, already lords of the manors of Middleton, Nesfield, and Stubham, took over Ilkley in 1484, but whether it was built by them as a Manor House was a matter for conjecture. It was debatable whether they would have gone to the expense of building a new administrative centre when their old centre was so close. The Manor House thus remained a mystery. There was no proof that it ever was the Manor House and it might equally have been the house of a wealthy yeoman or a vicarage.

Mr. John Smith, Chairman of the Friends of the Manor House, thanked Mr. Kerry for his interesting and informative talk before members dispersed to examine more closely the architectural details Mr. Kerry had pointed out.

The lecture was preceded by the annual general meeting in which the chairman

and treasurer reported another successful and active year and thanked the committee and all Friends for their support and help. It was unfortunately felt that in the light of rising postal and lecture costs that it would soon be necessary to raise the subscription from the present level (at which it had been since 1961) and accordingly an extraordinary general meeting was announced for October to discuss this matter. The Chairman also announced the provisional programme for 1978-9 and the elections of the committee took place.

May 1978
ACROSS THE YEARS

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FOUNDATION STONE

100 Years Ago

On May Day, 1878, the foundation stone of St. Margaret's Church was laid at Ilkley after it had been increasingly obvious in 1869 and 1870 that the Parish Church of All Saints was no longer large enough to hold all the people who wished to be accommodated in it. No movement was made in the matter until 1873 when a series of auxiliary services was inaugurated in the newly erected National Schools by the then curate the Rev. C. E. Green. The choral part of these services was found to be inadequate and after discussion it was decided to build and endow a new church. A sum of £7,000 was raised by the labours of Mr. F. W. Fison and Mr. H. A. Thorne, the Hon. Secs. and the Rev. W. Danks, the Vicar designate. The service which was choral throughout was impressively sung by the choir. The prayers were intoned by the Rev. H. G. Wilkinson of the Leeds Parish Church and the sermon preached by the Rev. W. Danks. This service concluded, clergymen from neighbouring churches moved in procession to the site of the church where the Right Hon. the Earl of Wharncliffe achieved the ceremony of laying the foundation stone and Master Geoffrey Fison, Miss Edith Fison, Miss Sylvia Wardell and Miss Winifred Danks placed a wreath of flowers upon the stone at each corner. The proposed building recalled a Cistercian building of the Twelfth Century and had been designed by Mr. R. Norman Shaw. The total length of the building was to be 140 feet and that of the nave 100 feet, by 60 feet wide and the height from floor to ceiling 40 feet. It was estimated that sitting accommodation would amount to 900 and that the final cost would be between £13,000 and £14,000. The collection on the day of the laying of the foundation stone amounted to £500.

THE BUILDINGS OF LADY ANNE CLIFFORD

Dr. E. A. Gee, formerly Head of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in York gave the annual Elsie Fletcher Memorial lecture to the Olicana Museum and Historical Society. The meeting was well attended, both by members and by visitors from the local F.E. class on Heraldry who came to hear Dr. Gee speak on "The Buildings of Lady Ann Clifford".

Much historical background of the Clifford family was explained by reference to the heraldic motifs of the Coats of Arms of the various branches. Lady Ann Clifford, born at Skipton Castle in 1589, was heir-general to the vast Clifford estates but, with her mother's help spent the greater part of her life trying to obtain her inheritance. On the death of her father, who had no sons, this had passed in the male line to her cousin, Claude. She eventually succeeded in 1649 and began her enormously daunting task of restoring the great buildings of this heritage in Northern England, beginning with Brough in Westmorland.

Skipton Castle had been badly damaged in the Civil War but she was determined to restore it in memory of her father and despite energetic protests from Cromwell, who ordered her to cease building, she continued until the work was completed in 1696.

She lived as a feudal baron, from the time of her succession until her death, moving between her houses of Skipton, Brough, Broom, Pendragon, Appleby and Barden Towers, supervising the works.

It was unfortunate that her daughters lacked her strength of character; the elder one married the Earl of Thanet and he set about undoing much of the good work. Barely 20 years after restoration he demolished Pendragon and Broom.

Lady Ann died in 1676 and was buried in the church of St. Lawrence in Appleby, Cumberland.

In thanking Dr. Gee for his interesting and informative lecture, the Chairman Mr. Michael Pollard likened the characteristics of Lady Ann Clifford to those of Miss Elsie Fletcher, whose strength of mind and tenacity of purpose were well known to those who were so fortunate as to have known her.

30/6/1978
Ilkley's Music Store in 1928



Hartley's Music Store was situated in Wells Road, Ilkley, when this photograph was taken in 1928. In front of the shop are Winnie Peckett and Edna Gascoyne and behind them a display of scenic and comic postcards.

Sheet music in the windows bears such titles as - "Tired Hands", "Lady Mary", "That's A Good Girl", "Archie of the Royal Air Force", "Gypsies", "The Desert Song", "The Swordsman", "Charmaine", "Ramona".

"The Soldiers", "Largo", "Miss Annabelle Lee", "I Love You", "Hello Little Girl Of My Dreams", "So Tired", "Bambino", "Constantinople", and "Old Oak Tree".

30/6/78
54 Year Old Poplar Tree
Felled At Ilkley



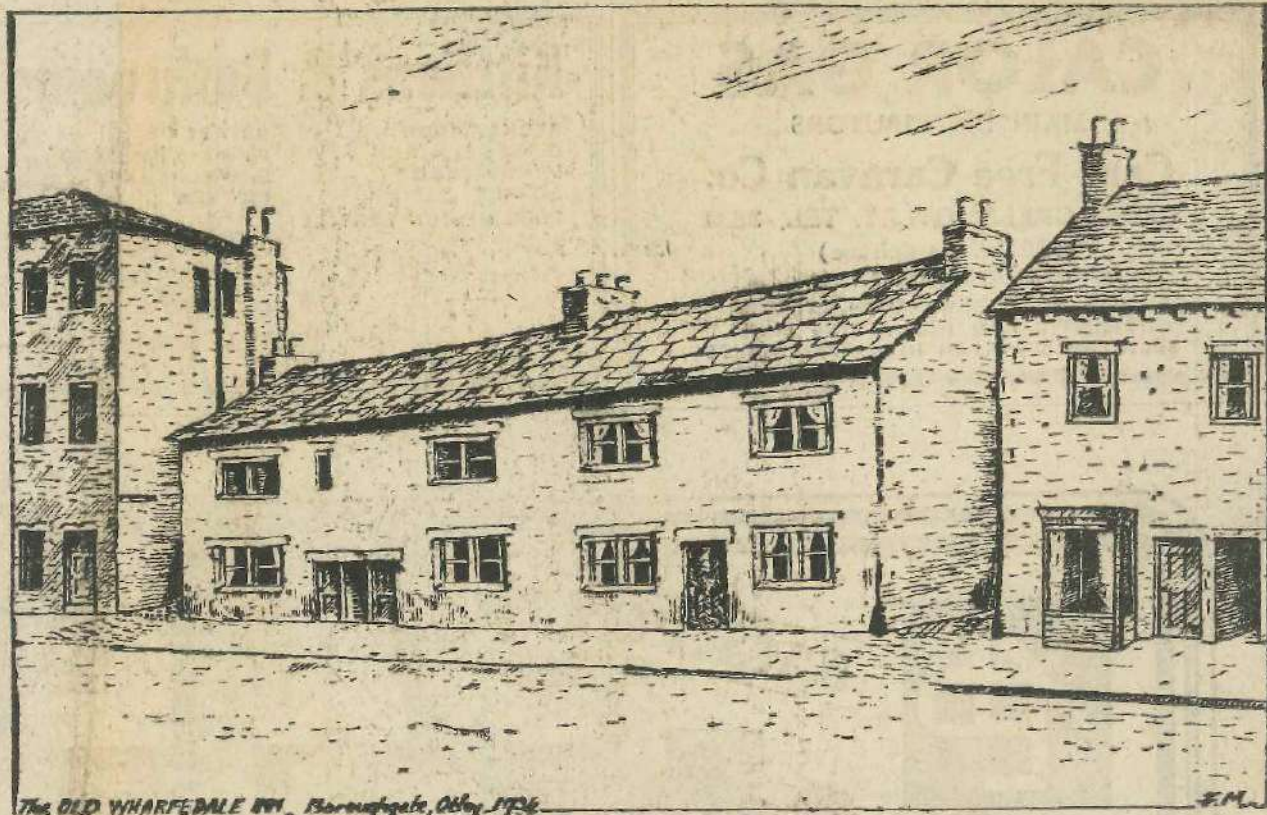
A 54 year old poplar tree near the junction of Mavfield Road and Little Lane, Ilkley, has had to be felled this week because the bottom part of the trunk was badly rotten.

Mr. Brian Johnson, of Addingham, who carried out the felling operation, said it was impossible to drop the 75-80 foot tree in one piece because with the trunk being rotten it could have fallen in any direction. He had had to lop the two tops from the tree, using the wind to guide them in the right direction, and then cut the trunk down in about ten sections for safety.

Mr. Johnson, who has been felling trees since about 1945,

said poplars were not difficult trees to work with because they had branches on either side of the trunk, which made them easier to climb, and the tops were much stronger than those of beech or sycamore, which were more dangerous to work in.

He added that he was never happy when felling trees, much preferring to do preservation work like taking out dead limbs or shaping trees, because any trees felled were irreplaceable. Whenever possible he tried to make owners change their minds about having trees felled, but it was not possible to save this particular poplar because of the extent of the rot.



The Old Wharfedale Inn, Boroughgate, Otley, 1726

SOME OLD OTLEY PASSAGES, GINNELS AND YARDS

By Frederick Morrell

Like all medieval towns, Otley even down to the early 19th century, contained considerable areas of open space consisting of their own town fields. Where these fields remained unenclosed until a fairly recent date, it was impossible for the town to grow outwards because the open fields involved rights of common pasture after harvest time. The owners of such strips could not sell any of the open fields for building on as they would have interfered with the pasture rights of the townspeople.

Most of the large burgage property in towns such as Otley, invariably had a large garden or courtyard at the rear and as space became more valuable as the population grew in the mid 19th century, we find owners and speculators acquiring such sites and erecting two or more cottages, usually facing one another across a paved yard, little thought given to hygiene.

Such properties became known as "courts" or "yards" which were entered by a narrow passage alongside the existing frontage property.

This type of "in-building" continued inside the small town area almost up to the present century, and almost all have been swept away. An example is yet to be seen in the town centre, where in Cross Gate are two houses which have been squeezed into the back garden of property now occupied by Curlew Pottery.

BULLOCK FOLD

Most properties bore the name of the owners who collected the rents, such as Siddall's yard in Kirkgate which contained four houses, the only approach to them being by a very narrow passage still to be seen alongside the Yorkshire Bank. Further on, in the yard behind Hick Ferns, was a small factory and two houses all demolished, the site now being occupied by Fine Fare.

The next opening was a thoroughfare connecting Kirkgate with New Market Street, sometimes referred to as Barbers' passage, but correctly as Bullock Fold, on either side of which were small warehouses and workshops. Woolworth's now occupies most of the site.

Across the road, next to Kirkgate Vaults, is Maude's Yard which once had two or three cottages. The name is derived from the earlier owners of the "Vaults", named Maude who were Wholesale and Retail Spirit

Gay Lane had Wardmans' Yard on the right hand side, and Lambert's Yard (with two cottages) on the opposite side. A little further on, behind Bloomfield House was Bloomfield Square in which was built a cotton factory in 1818, a little later converted into a malt kiln, and in 1828 it was reconstructed into twelve cottages.

Higher up and on the other side of the road was Fountain Yard with two cottages, and almost opposite Garfield House was Peckitt Hall, but why it was so named is not known, as it consisted of about nine cottages forming three sides of a square.

BROWN'S COURT

Probably the best remembered was Brown's Court in Westgate, entered by a covered passage just above the Co-op premises. How many houses it contained is not known, but some were demolished in 1875.

The Leeds Industrial Co-operative Society first began business in Otley, in two rented shops on Westgate Hill in 1873, next to the Half Moon Inn. Two years later they purchased the shops, and also six houses behind (in Brown's Court) from Hammonds' Exors for the sum of £1,460. All this property they pulled down and built the present premises, consisting of a draper store on Westgate frontage (now a self service centre), and in a covered arcade a boot and

shoe, grocery and provisions, and butchers' stores.

Incidentally the L.I.C.S. built six houses in the Granville area to re-house those from Browns' Court.

At the top of Westgate Hill was West Terrace, a neat row of six houses, each fronted with a garden, and an additional entry to the rear by way of a passage in Westgate. A car park now occupies the site. Further on was Dawsons' Yard (6 houses), Well Hill (4), Union Street and Union Terrace (28 and 5), Jennings' Yard, approached by a passage contained 6 houses, and West Avenue beyond Masons' Arms, had eight houses.

The buildings show in the sketch were situated at the bottom of the present bus station. On the extreme right, the first opening was a narrow passage which led to Thackerays' Square with six houses in a very confined space and next to the house with the bay window was Foundry Yard, where in 1849 Robert Elliot started in business as an ironfounder. The firm moved to Gay Lane in 1887 as printers engineers.

The next building was originally the Carpenters Arms, the name later changed to the Wharfedale Inn, which closed in 1907 and became Refreshment Rooms and lodging house. The adjoining building comprised two cottages which had a narrow passage between the front doors leading to the rear. All these were demolished in 1934-35, the last occupants being Mrs. Sarah Russell, and her mother Mrs. Granger, locally known as "umbrella Mary".

To the left of the above was Meeting House Yard, so named as being the open yard behind the old Methodist Meeting House in Nelson Street. In 1907 this open space was walled and roofed in, to house the guns and limbers of the new formed Territorial Artillery, and the right way which connected Nelson Street with Boroughgate was replaced by a very narrow ginnel to the east of the yard which will be remembered by older residents as the Drill Hall Passage.

The large building on the left of the sketch, was shared by John Smith, of Tadcaster Breweries, the Masonic Lodge, a firm of solicitors and an architect. This was demolished a few years ago to make way for a modern supermarket.

(To be continued)

ACROSS THE YEARS

Brewery Street intentions
receive approval

100 Years Ago

The use of a field near Brewery Street for the purpose of erecting slaughter houses and stables was regarded as an ideal suggestion by Dr. Leeson who said it was of the greatest importance to a place such as Ilkley that it should have slaughter houses outside the town to encourage visitors to come here. It was a view generally not acceptable to the majority of Councillors and the idea of building them close to filter beds even less acceptable. It was finally agreed to follow the purpose of the minutes which earlier had bought the field for the building of stables, erecting a depot for rubbish, and erecting slaughter houses.

It was agreed that a footpath which was being partly repaired to the cricket field near the Old Bridge should be completed by the Ilkley Local Board. The first part was being repaired by the Middleton Hotel Company on the grounds that it was a favourite public walk. It was considered that the footpath along Cowpasture Road should be cleared of building materials and improve the appearance of the vicinity.

75 Years Ago

Objections to a man taking part in a carnival and procession at Ilkley because he admitted that he no longer lived in Ilkley and furthermore that he did not know what was meant by a carnival were voiced at an Ilkley meeting in May, 1903. Mr. J. W. Dixon had criticism to make of Mr. A. B. Lloyd but Mr. William Dobson who was in the chair was not prepared to accept these. Mr. Lloyd had things to say, he said, and he thought they should be prepared to listen to them. It was agreed unanimously to hold a carnival and procession, Mr. Dixon being the only person to vote against.

Objections to Ilkley Urban Council decision to close two-thirds of the moor and the refusal of the Clerk to the Council to provide an explanation for the reason caused Mr. F. Sutcliffe of Moorfield, Ben Rhydding, to protest in a letter to the Ilkley Gazette. The rough methods of the Moor Ranger had caused Ilkley people and visitors a considerable amount of irritation and friction in respect of the moors. Mr. Sutcliffe had been deliberately refused an answer by the Clerk to the Council and he required an explanation.

50 Years Ago

On the property market a detached villa known as Merlemède, Valley Drive, Ben Rhydding, was withdrawn at £1,450, and two Parish Ghyll Road properties were offered for sale with no bidders.

A farewell supper and presentation by the 1st and 2nd Parish Church Scouts and Cubs was given in honour of Rev. W. Gleeson, the curate of the church who was to leave at the end of May, 1928. He was awarded the gold "Thanks" badge which was presented by Mr. E. Hinchcliffe, the scoutmaster. The Misses J. Martin and J. Smith (Cub mistresses) and A. Milnes, J. Drury, A. E. Pickett and J. E. Bowes were also present.

Burley-in-Wharfedale and Burley Woodhead gained many successes at the first Wharfedale competitive Folk Dance Festival to be held in the King's Hall. Out of nine classes they gained the leading place in six. In addition to this they won all the open classes in which they took part.

25 Years Ago

Mr. John Hardy, a representative of the Ben Rhydding ward since 1949 was elected Chairman of Ilkley Council at the annual meeting in 1953. Mr. Fred Atkinson was elected vice-chairman.

An Ilkley man was killed, and seven other residents injured, when the 7.15 a.m. business train from Skipton collided with an engine at Forster Square station in Bradford. The train was carrying about 100 passengers, and three coaches were severely damaged. One passenger was thrown from an open window on to the track below, and another had his legs trapped by large pieces of woodwork. It was 30 minutes before he was released by firemen, police and railway workers using axes, crowbars and jacks.

Mr. J. Hadley was re-elected Chairman of Addingham Parish Council for the third year in succession.

20 May 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

CONTINUOUS RAIN SPOILED
THE WHIT HOLIDAY

100 Years Ago

Heavy rain over the Whit period caused the number of visitors to be exceedingly small, reported the Ilkley Gazette in 1878. Many people spent much of their sojourn promenading the hall and corridors of the railway station beguiling the time by games or hide and seek. Some climbed the moors and then the Cow Rock, but there were not many who took advantage of the invitations to enjoy public tea in the congregational tea rooms and in the Primitive Methodist school rooms. Addresses were given at the respective places of worship by the ministers associated with the places.

Strangely enough at Bolton Abbey the weather was everything that could be desired and a cricket match between single and married members attracted a good measure of people. There was a "capital

tea" in the late afternoon much enjoyed by the children of the village. In charge of the tea tables in the Hall grounds were Miss Demaine (Bolton Abbey farm), the Misses Belairs (Bolton Rectory), Mrs. Hay (Rhyddings Farm), Mrs. Carr (Cat Ghyll Farm), Mrs. Petyt (Stank House), and Mrs. Mather (Bolton Farm). The Rector, the Rev. C. Bellairs, presented the choir boys with a handsomely bound book as a reward for the assistance they had rendered in the services at the Priory Church, at the same time intimating that these had been presented through the generosity of Mr. T. H. Wade of Ilkley who given £2 the previous Sunday to be distributed in prizes. A programme of athletic sports was then indulged in.

Certain quarry owners were to be warned that if they shipped any more refuse, stone or dirt in Spicey Ghyll they would be proceeded against. It was said on behalf of some quarry owners that this would create great hardship. Since the 1900 flood they had suffered severely and lost money every year by being unable to tip into Spicey Ghyll.

75 Years Ago

Damage done to the moor by contractors in the area and also by the owners of the railway in the vicinity of the Cow and Calf Rocks, were condemned at the 1903 May meeting of the Ilkley Urban District Council. There was a so criticism of the condition of some of the roads and of the approaches to the new bridge. Mr. Jackson understood that some stone for the new bridge had been supplied by Mr. A. Waugh who said the builders had come to him complaining they were badly in need of stone and he had supplied a small amount to enable them to get on with the job. Not much stone was involved and it simply permitted work to proceed. Mr. Midelbrook said he was unable to find any reference to this matter in his agenda and it was decided to abandon the discussion.

A blacksmith and farrier Thomas Ingle, who was a short-hand pupil of Mr. J. W. Walker gained his certificate from Pitman's for their examination on theory. His studies had begun only at the beginning of the year. Mr. Walker was a reporter on the Ilkley Gazette.

Contractors for the new Wesleyan Sunday School were let as follows.—masonry work, Mr. T. Learcyd; joinery, Eagle and Mawson; plastering, Oswald Lister; slating, Messrs. Neison, Pickett, Shibley; Painting, Messrs Walton, Bradford.

The Rev. T. A. Young of Ilkley who had completed his four year probation was admitted to the approved list and ordained as a Primitive Methodist minister. Mr. Young succeeded the Rev. A. E. Goodall at Ilkley as third minister in the Otley circuit and was re-novating to Chester Street as second minister of that circuit.

25 Years Ago

Representatives of the daily newspapers published in the vicinity visited Ilkley, had a look at the lack of official decorations to mark the Coronation, sought explanations from the Councillors involved, and published photographs to illustrate the fact that there was probably no other place in Great Britain with so little decoration colour.

The cold wet weather on the day did not affect Ilkley as much as some places, as there were only a few arranged events. There was nothing to indicate any Coronation fervour in Ilkley and the streets were deserted in the town centre for most of the day. In the villages however the community spirit produced some delightful parties.

Part of a chimney stack was demolished and fell through the roof causing dislodged tiles and cracked ceilings when lightning struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Lightband in King's Road, Ilkley.

British Rail offered an all-in bargain holiday, a week in Bonnie Scotland" inclusive of travel, meals on route, full board and sight-seeing tours

50 Years Ago

Proposals for the establishment of an extensive additional bus service all round the Ilkley District by the West Yorkshire Road Car company provoked lively discussion at the Ilkley Urban Council meeting. Buses making a total of 420 journeys a day already ran into Ilkley with an increased service at the weekends. Some of the vehicles owned by a private company were a disgrace but this matter was in hand. Mr. W. Dobson said that as the West Yorkshire Road Car Company had spent thousands of pounds on a modern garage in Ilkley employing local men, and they maintained a good service he felt that their application should be supported. It was agreed after much debate to refer the subject back to committee.

There was an entry of about 40 for the ladies' stroke competition on Ladies' Day, when the annual open meeting on the course of Ilkley Club was revived for the first time after the first world war. Mrs. C. Kitson of Ilkley and Miss K. Platts of Headingley returned

9th June 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Sunday School Festival had a surplus

100 Years Ago

The Church Sunday School festival of the Ilkley Parish Church had £6 to spare for expenses 100 years ago and the good nature so obviously existing made the event happy and successful, said the Ilkley Gazette. It was unfortunate that the Sunday School had not maintained the flourishing position which it had occupied 12 months previously but with some 180 scholars on the books and an efficient staff of teachers it seemed reasonable to suppose that the ensuing year would be accompanied by marked success.

The most beautiful summer-like weather, ideal for the hay-making season, visited Ilkley early in July. Farmers secured earlier and better hay than had been done for a long number of years but circumstances still left a position where heavy crops remained to be gathered in.

It was wrong that men should be allowed to come into Ilkley with their cabs and be allowed to ply for hire, it was argued at the Ilkley Council meeting. It was stated if people would report these men they would be reported to Otley and cases made of them. Mr. M. Hainsworth thought this was not the attitude to be taken, especially by one man against another; that it should be a matter for the Local Board.

It was decided to rescind a Local Board decision that lamps should be lighted on moonlight evenings only on the grounds of shortage of money, the matter becoming the responsibility of the Committee.

75 Years Ago

Many people would not be prepared to look with favour on the level piece of moorland at the top of Brook Street for a bandstand but it would have its advantages both in good weather and indifferent, said the Gazette. It was a general opinion that Brook Street itself would be a much better site and would be welcomed. A bandstand in Brook Street would be welcome and central "and if it was covered the band might continue to play during a shower of rain instead of under the railway bridge as is now so often the case while the audience might also find shelter under the verandah at Moon's corner. Outdoor band performances of course are not very desirable things in wet weather, but sometimes a shower comes on unexpectedly and is over directly. Against such a contingency some places more fortunate than Ilkley have covered buildings into which both performers and audience can retire. . . . These things apart a covered bandstand is said to be very desirable, and certainly such a structure would be a considerable advantage and no little attraction into the bargain."

At a petition for the appointment of a liquidator on the voluntary winding up of the Troutbeck Hydropathic Company (Limited) of Ilkley, it was stated that the Company was formed on 7 December, 1900, with a capital of £12,000 in £1 shares. At a general meeting on 28 March a resolution was carried unanimously for the winding up of the company but there was some difference of opinion as to the appointment of a liquidator. It was stated that Mr. E. Whitham of Halifax should be appointed but Mr. W. Robertshaw of Keighley has also been appointed. Polls were asked for but not taken because it was the view of Judge Bompas at Leeds Bankruptcy Court that the petitioner's proxies were not in order. His Honour held that Mr. Whitham had already been appointed and he ordered that Mr. Robertshaw should also be appointed.

Two women who drank of the water from the dripping well at Low Mill, Addingham, frequently condemned by the medical officer for Skipton, died from enteric fever at Addingham. There were also deaths from whooping cough reported to the Inspector of Nuisances.

50 Years Ago

Impressive scenes were witnessed at St. Paul's Retreat, Middleton Lodge when a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament was held in the grounds. Rosary was led by Father Kenneth, this was followed by a sermon by Father Norbert, and Benediction by Father Bradley of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Ilkley.

The Municipal Orchestra which had proved so popular in Ilkley in the previous year was booked to play a 13 weeks season from Saturday, July 1. The orchestra was to be conducted by Mr. H. M. Collins, who was well known as musical director of the Ilkley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society. The whole of the concerts were to be given in the Winter Gardens, with the popular dances on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

In the "Children's Corner" the emphasis was on passenger aeroplanes. "A fast aeroplane can fly from London to Paris and back in less than a day. A very fast aeroplane can now fly at more than 100 miles an hour, and passengers can wine, dine, read and even sleep in the big, comfortable saloons with which these ships of the air are fitted." A picture showed the new triplane with three sets of wings, seaplanes and a strange looking machine called a "monoplane". The latter was made entirely of metal, and had a very comfortable saloon, with the pilot sitting right at the front of it so that he could see where he was going and whether the engine was working properly.

25 Years Ago

A credit balance of £92 was reported by the chairman of the Menston Coronation Committee at their final meeting. He said that the money would be used to buy some Coronation trees to plant in the autumn. Mr. A. Young spoke of the success of the pageant "The Menston story", and of the pull-together spirit of the people responsible for its showing. It was on the researches of Miss E. M. Fletcher that the pageant was based, and it had been produced by Mr. Norman Stephenson.

Children of the residents of Peel Place, Burley, held a Coronation tea in the open air. The street was gaily decorated and amplified music was provided by Mr. Taylor. The party was organised by Mrs. G. Ledger and Mrs. S. Kelly. Rose Queen, Sylvia Ripley and her retinue were amongst the young guests. Each child was given

16th June 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Changes to Cemetery at Parish Church

100 Years Ago

Commenting on the proposed changes to the cemetery at Ilkley Parish Church, the Ilkley Gazette said in June, 1878, that it did not in any way wish to question the work of the Local Board but it could not help asking why at the present time there should be "this desecration of God's Acre, the place of all others sacred by the trampling of common feet." The Gazette asked "Why should the graveyard which has stood in good stead for so many years, be so defaced that the owners of so many respective plots should not be able to recognise their several graves. We do not attempt to call into account the power of the Board relative to the matter, or to deny that the churchyard is in a most deplorable state, and needs to be thoroughly renovated and put in order, but we would contend that all the ground need not be levelled for the accomplishment of the desired improvement; at least taking into consideration the number of new graves, would it not be better to defer the question of levelling for a few years, when it might become more feasible than at present."

The argument might be raised by some that there is offered to relatives the option of erecting a monument in memory of departed friends, but we would remind them that there are many who can ill-afford such an expense, especially under existing circumstances in trade, and it is unfair that such should be made to suffer because they can not do what others in a better position may be able to do. We think it only fair that the voice of the whole community should be heard on this important question, for who can have more right to say whether a place so dear to them by the many memories of the past which it brings should pass under the hands of the leveller."

The body of a new-born babe was discovered in Mill Gill on a May Sunday afternoon just below a rustic bridge which spans the stream. Police were called and a large bruise was found on the forehead. The body was that of a fully developed male child and awaiting further investigations it was taken to the Royal Hotel.

Serious damage was done by an extensive fire at Otley where a two storey building became a mass of flame. The damage was estimated to be £20,000 and was so firmly held that the main task was to prevent the fire from extending to much older property adjoining. The Atkinson brothers who rented a portion of the basement floor also suffered most severely in their manufacture of paper folding machines. Stock which had accumulated for sixty years was lost by Wm. Walker's.

75 Years Ago

Toffs from Ilkley and nobles from Headingley were those most interested in a new rifle range at Ilkley in 1903, said the Gazette. The site was on Hawksworth Moor and there was at least one Ilkley man who had never handled a rifle before who distinguished himself by registering a bull. In a commentary in the Yorkshire Evening Post, their cartoonist, Kester commented, "At the outset it had seemed that one

carried one's life in one's hand going among such people with deadly weapons and doubtful aim, but when a few choice spirits retired to a House of Congratulation after the proceedings it was stated that the evening day had passed off without a hitch and not even an Ilkley visitor had been shot."

A site for a new hospital was secured some months ago at the bottom of the Grammar School field on Springs Lane but difficulties have arisen with regard to the making of a road and providing proper drainage. The plans at any rate were disapproved by the Council at their meeting in April. Pending other being submitted for the construction of a street and necessary sewer for outlet of drainage, but what has since been done in respect to this matter we can not say."

A book published in 1868 had much to do with Romalds Moor and one of these came to light in 1903. It stated, "has it not struck many an old observer that the famous old well at Ilkley owes its origin to a landslide of which it has been the cause. Before they found their present exit the water of the spring swelled high within the mountain side until it was no longer able to contain them. When down they rushed carrying with them from the steep side of the hill the mass of land on which the bath houses stand, and also the conical mound on which the clump of trees is now growing; giving not merely to the powerful spring of water, the life and soul of the village of Ilkley, but forming one of the most natural theatres which it is possible to conceive. What a place for the landscape gardener to adorn, is here; plant the music saloon where the clump of trees now stands, make it as appropriate to the scene around as your taste will permit; lay out the steep hill side around as a garden; the rockeries are already made, they only want a little arranging and adorning; plant shrubs and flowers; form walks, winding ones they must be; place seats, all the kinds you can imagine, along the sides of the walks, tier above tier until you nearly reach the edge of the hill above when you may defy all the watering places in England to produce a scene more beautiful."

50 Years Ago

A large "Summer Sale" advertisement took up half the front page of the Ilkley Gazette fifty years ago. The bargains on offer included pure silk dresses for 20/- each, a fawn tweed all wool coat for 10/-, wool jumper suite at 10/- each, children's wool frocks for 5/- and "art silk directoire knickers—non ladder" at 5/- a pair. All these were on sale at M. Johnson's summer sale at 39 The Grove.

Lt. General Sir Robert Baden-Powell addressing the Leeds contingent at a Scout "Jellibree" in Wakefield attended by 200 Wharfedale boys, described them as an "ugly looking lot," but said "I expect your hearts are all right and that's what counts with Scouts."

Ilkley fast bowler, Mr. G. W. Smiles was presented with a silver mounted cricket ball, with which he performed the unique feat of capturing eight wickets for three runs against Guiseley. The ceremony was performed during the interval of a home match against Earby. The presentation was made by the Captain, Mr. P. McCarthy.

25 Years Ago

Renovation and repairs to cost in the region of about £4,500 were to be started on the Ilkley Church of England schools. This was to include repairs to the structure, a new floor in the hall, repairs to the playground, provision of wash basins, and painting and decorating.

It was announced at a meeting of Ilkley Education Committee that Mr. Ronald Leigh was to take up an appointment as head of Menston County School in September. Mr. Leigh was then the headmaster of Otley Junior mixed school.

A full length colour film of the Coronation entitled "A Queen is Crowned" was showing at the Essoldo cinema.

Middleton Hospital was advertising for student nurses at a starting salary of £230 per annum, rising to £240. If resident a deduction of £108 per annum was to be made for board residence. At the same time there was a vacancy for a ward sister at a salary of £425 per annum.

23rd June 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

Death in Mill Gill of fully grown child

100 Years Ago

The death in Mill Gill of a fully grown child caused a sensation in Ilkley in June 1878. It was fully grown and must have lived from one to three days. Dr. Johnstone thought the child could not have lived for very long. He found an abrasion about three quarters of an inch deep by one inch in diameter and a congested spot at the back of the head. These must have been caused immediately, said witness, or not more than 15 minutes after the child was born. A verdict of "found drowned" was returned.

A serious storm in 1878 caused damage in Chapel Lane where houses were under some four feet of water and it required considerable agility for some residents to escape. The gait at the lane was totally inadequate for the quantity of water. Most of the water went through to the main road where it forced a passage through new buildings in course of erection by Mr. Ingham. There was further damage in Bridge Lane and from streams pouring off the moor.

Members of Yorkshire Naturalists Union visited places in the district surrounding Ilkley. They visited the moorland and Bolton Abbey and had a substantial tea in the Working Men's Hall. After tea there was a general meeting in the Institute the principal speaker being Mr. Henry Clifton Sorby of Sheffield president of the Union.

75 Years Ago

The speed limit was continually set at defiance, said the Ilkley Gazette, in 1903 points out that Miss Dorothy Levitt had covered the London to Edinburgh motor run in less than 24 hours. It was questionable whether any motorist existed who in a day's ride did not exceed the 12 miles an hour at some point of his journey, providing the car was equal to it. The penalty for furious driving was to be a very severe one, but on a country road where few people and other vehicles were stirring the motorist would not have to live in such continued dread of the traps, the police so ingeniously devise to haul up before the beaks.

The extension of the Skipton to Grassington Railway line was already causing concern said the Gazette, that much destruction of the Ilkley part of the Wharfe Valley could follow. Much had been said and written as to how the opening out of this district was likely to affect the popularity of Ilkley as a holiday and health resort. However the large influx of visitors at holiday times so far had in no way reduced the number patronising either Ilkley or Bolton Abbey, though in no respect to other classes of visitors the inhabitants were not yet in a position to accommodate such a number likely to effect either Ilkley or anywhere else. If they were Ilkley would still be able to hold its own in the matter of public favour for whatever attractions the Grassington district might possess, and they were considerable, there was not the same interesting variety and charm of scenery, or the same features of interest that were to be found in such abundance in our own portion of the dale.

50 Years Ago

It was decided that the long awaited scheme to widen Springs Lane was to proceed, and Ilkley Council agreed that tenders should be accepted for the carrying out of the work at the earliest possible date. The railway company representative said that the only thing that had held up their decision

was the position of the weigh-bridge house, but they now had the Railway company's authority to proceed.

Two employees of Ilkley Urban District Council Edward Johnson the driver of the motor lorry and Fred Francis, his assistant were instrumental in saving two twelve year old girls from Gateshead on Tyne from the River Wharfe at Ben Rhydding, who instead of meeting their mother in town had gone to play on the stepping stones and fallen in the river. Despite the heavy current the men managed to rescue them to the home of Mrs. Hart in Back Weston Road where they were staying.

Otley market prices included potatoes at 1s. 8d. per stone, cherries at 1s. per pound, cucumbers at 9d. each, halibut at 2s. per lb., plaice at 1s. 4d. per lb., kippers 3d. per pair, shrimps 5d. per pot and eggs at 1s. 6d. per dozen.

25 Years Ago

The Baptist Church hut, which had been recently erected was opened by Sir Malcolm Stoddart-Scott, M.P. for the Ripon Division. He praised the work of the Baptist Church in Ilkley with their efforts to attract the youth of the town to the Scouts and to church activities. The hut measured 50 feet by 20 feet, and was gaily decorated with red, white and blue streamers, shields, flags, crowns and photographs of the Royal family.

Mr. J. Oates was elected as new captain of Ilkley Rugby Union football club, at the annual general meeting, with Mr. S. Atkinson as his vice-captain.

Ilkley secondary school sports were held for the first time in the school's own field. The weather was ideal and there was a record attendance of parents and friends. The champions were—Senior Boys: G. Rusted; Senior Girls: Shirley Lowe; Junior Boys: J. Ramsden; Junior Girls: B. Featherstone. Mrs. J. R. Walker, a school governor presented the cup to the winning house, Wheatley.

Major Lewis Francis Harden Kershaw, an old boy of Ilkley Grammar School, was awarded the D.S.O. for his part in the Battle of the Hook in the Korean war.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Heir to Weston Estates comes of age

100 Years Ago

Exotic decorations were carried out to the grounds of Weston Hall 100 years ago to mark the coming of age of William Christopher Dawson, heir to the local estate. The tenantry of the idle and Weston estates were present, the non-commissioned officers of the Otley Company of the 2nd W.Y.E.V., the children and parishioners of Weston and the Otley Engineers Band were present during the afternoon having marched up from Otley accompanied by members of the Otley Fire Brigade. The guests were entertained in a large marquee erected on the lawn near the hall, and at the head of the table were Capt. W. C. Dawson, Mrs. Dawson and Mr. W. C. Dawson. Mr. Pickard on behalf of the tenants of Idle, Weston, Snowdon and Brompton on Swale presented the heir apparent with a solid silver goblet bearing the inscription: "Presented to William Christopher Dawson, Esq., by the tenantry of the estates of Weston, Askwith, Snowdon, Idle and Brompton on Swale June, 1878" together with an illuminated address and 31 signatures. Sergt. Siddall on behalf of the non-commissioned officers of the Otley company of the 2nd West York presented Capt. Dawson with a portable time piece. Mr. Joseph England, game keeper, presented a massive silver cup and the Rev. W. R. B. Arthy presented an elaborately worked silver salver. Captain Dawson replied as each presentation was made to him. The following day 850 of the inhabitants of Otley were entertained at the Mechanics Institute and then there was a sham fight in which 500 of the Leeds company of the Otley W.Y.E.V. took place with 600 of the Leeds company. They arrived at Otley by special train at 3 p.m. and proceeded on the Burley Road as far as Weston Park from which they were divided by the river. Here they entered a field and were instructed to act as if they had a real enemy to encounter. The river was crossed by a flat barrel bridge. Eleven companies went through a long series of evolutions watched by the Dawson family.

Burley's Local Board decided to paint its lamp posts after Mr. Mason had drawn attention to the fact that they were rusting away from want of paint. It said that several sign posts in the village were in a dilapidated state.

75 Years Ago

The bridge over the stream at the bottom of Heber's Ghyll is at last completed, said the Ilkley Gazette in June, 1903. It is a stone structure of great strength and character well in keeping with the rustic surroundings. Its capacity is enormous and we can hardly imagine a flood large enough to wash this bridge away. The contractors, Messrs. Dean Brothers, have done their work exceedingly well, and we have nothing but praise to accord them. What unnecessary delay has been occasioned in the reconstruction of this bridge? The relative merits of iron and stone structures were debated in the Council Chamber over and over again, but those who favoured an iron bridge can hardly with justice complain of either the appearance or stability of the new stone structure. "The Gazette referred to the appearance of these woods at an early time and said that one time people proceeding in the direction of Addingham Moorside used to cross over a

rustic bridge and wander along a winding footpath through the woods, one of the most charming and pleasant walks imaginable" but now this is changed and instead we have an up to date macadamised road with unclimbable railings to keep people out of the wood, "for all the world as if the roadway bordered some rich gentleman's game preserve instead of being the property of the ratepayers and purchased for their unrestricted use and enjoyment."

We hear on very good authority that the District Council contemplate effecting the removal of the moor tramway and also the unsightly building in Hangingstone Road connected with it, said the Gazette in 1903. That the tramway has ever been an eyesore goes without saying, but the occupiers of the quarries must have found it an inexpensive and ready means of transferring the stone from the quarries to the road below. However, it ought to go and likewise the building with it and if the Council can come to some satisfactory arrangement for its removal they will effect a great improvement and restore to this part of the moor something of the pristine charm and beauty that has long been lacking, and even more so, if they could also bring about the closing of the quarries themselves.

50 Years Ago

Children at Burley Woodhead were led by Burley Brass Band in procession to the cricket ground for their annual "field day." There was a fancy dress parade with prizes awarded to Joan Saver, Lizzie Andrews, Alistair Smith and Donald and Denis Towler. Tea was provided in the Wesleyan Sunday School at which Mrs. Butler welcomed the children, followed by sports and a Punch and Judy show.

Miss Owen, of London, was to take over as principal of the former Wharfedale School, Ben Rhydding, to be known in the future as "Winton school." Mrs. Wadsworth (nee Wray) the former headmistress was leaving to make her home in Weymouth, Dorset.

Mr and Mrs. Arthur Hill of Denton Park, opened their home to 60 wounded soldiers from Chapel Allerton. Tea was served in the hall followed by games and sports in the grounds.

A well-known Addingham angler, Mr. J. Wilson of Lowhill Lane, fell from a wall when fishing the Wharfe and broke his leg.

25 Years Ago

The problem of sheep on the moor was under discussion at the monthly meeting of Ilkley Council. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries had recommended that the maximum stocking of the moor should not exceed 600 sheep. The Clerk was asked to look into the matter of who had the rights to the grazing.

Coronation medals were received by Council Chairman, Mr. J. Hardy, the former Chairman, Mr. Eric Wolfe, Mr. B. E. Townend and Mr. A. Skinner.

An appeal for more help to be given by members of Ilkley Rugby Club in the work of altering and improving the amenities and the playing areas was made at the annual general meeting. The President, Mr. Geoffrey Brook commented that there was a decided lack of support from players in the matter of these improvements.

The July 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Slaughterhouse led direct to bedroom chairman reported

100 Years Ago

The Committee had come to a standstill with regard to the slaughterhouse suggestion and some attention should be given to the matter. Mr. J. Milner told members of the Local Guild 100 years ago. The slaughterhouse could not continue in their present circumstances and it would be a great help if the butchers co-operated in the matter. In one instance they had actually found an opening out of a slaughterhouse into a bedroom and if an epidemic were to break out in the village the Board would be blamed for allowing such nuisances to exist. It was finally agreed that members of the Committee should meet butchers in the area with a view to coming to some amicable arrangement.

Mr. Lewis Sherlock of the Crescent Hotel was granted a special license for supplying refreshments on a field adjoining his premises on the occasion of the Brass Band contest. A license was also granted for retailing refreshments at the Ilkley College Hall for a bazaar to be held in aid of St. Margaret's building fund.

75 Years Ago

The 3rd Lancashire Royal Engineer Volunteers spent the second year in succession in camp on the north side of the river near to the Bridge House and had a most enjoyable time. There were almost 100 tents and over 500 men together with 17 officers and four drill instructors. The troops arrived at Ilkley station and headed by the drum and fife band and the bugle band marched to camp by way of Brook Street, Church Street and Bridge Lane. The appearance of the men was exceedingly smart, said the Gazette, and after the preliminary work there was freedom to spend their time in the town in the way they wished. Col. H. T. Crook, formerly attached to the Liverpool engineers, was in command. There was a drum-head service at 10.30 a.m. on the Sunday and attended by a large number of civilians, the men being drawn up in the form of a square. Reville was sounded at 5.45 on the Monday and there was a full programme of events. There was the construction of a trestle bridge over the river and one exciting event was the rescuing of horses which fell off the bridge into the river. The annual inspection took place on the Thursday and on this day there were two excursions from Manchester. Friday was a wet day. The trestle bridge was completed whilst another section dismantled the barrel pier bridge. The annual sports took place on the Saturday and the men left for Manchester on the Monday afternoon.

A waggone party crossing Ilkley Old Bridge had the alarming experience of one horse falling over the parapet whilst a second horse was suspended by the harness. It was eventually dragged over the side and with the harness and the pole breaking both horses fell some 20 feet into the river. The horses were cut and bruised but were not seriously injured.

In a discussion about the future of Ilkley moor and the attitude of the moor ranger to visitors it was decided that Messrs. Dean Brothers be informed that on the expiration of their present tenancy the tramway, stone dressing shed

and every thing connected therewith must be cleared away; that the three Hangingstone Quarry tenancies be renewed subject to the six months usual notice at the same rentals as paid at present; that the rent for Mr. James Reece's quarry, Spicely Ghyll be fixed at £15 a year and that the tenancy be renewed on these terms if required.

The parish church organ which had been undergoing considerable alteration and improvement was the subject of a special recital by Mr. Isaac Hirst and a service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Robertson, Vicar of Bradford.

50 Years Ago

Ilkley Bowling Club won the Skipton Hospital League Cup. Out of 8 matches played they won six scoring 1,807 points. The winning Ilkley team members were: J. Rayner, A. Powell, S. Rayner, H. Lawrence, H. Eaton, J. Simpson, F. Moiseley, E. Naylor, R. Townson, D. Binns, H. R. Boddy and A. Kendall.

A special general meeting of members of Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club took place to consider the proposed new pavilion and also some matters of administration of the club's affairs. Mr. E. Fletcher, who presided explained that the new pavilion was going to cost £3,500 and the committee had come to the conclusion that the matter would have to be postponed. In the meantime certain improvements and repairs to the existing pavilion would be carried out.

Mr. A. Durrance on behalf of a group of members asked for more details about the administration of the annual tournament, its aims and financial details, and was told that the aim was to improve the standard of play of members, to induce people to join the club, it also did good for the township, and provided the weather was fair they usually could make a profit.

25 Years Ago

Over 400 people attended a Conservative Association annual garden party in the garden of Norwood House, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Behrens. The function was attended by Col. Malcolm Stoddart Scott and Mrs. Stoddart Scott. Prizes were won by Mrs. Pilling, Miss Neale, Miss M. Knox, Mrs. W. B. Sallitt, Mrs. R. H. Tolston, Miss Hawksworth and Mr. B. Armitage.

A public enquiry was held in Ilkley Town Hall to consider an appeal made by Messrs. A. Green Ltd., Timber merchants against Ilkley Council's decision not to allow them to develop a piece of open land on Skipton Road opposite the Ilkley Moor Hotel as a parking ground for their vehicles. Strong objections to the bid for parking ground were lodged by Mr. Skinner Surveyor and Engineer to Ilkley Council, residents of Middleton Villas, the manager of the Ilkley Moor Hotel and from Mr. Edwards, the Managing Director of the Ilkley Moor Hotel. A. Green Ltd., was represented by Mr. Alister Lonsdale.

A party of 20 girl guides from Burley attended a camp fire and sing-song at Harewood, attended by the Princess Royal. The Guides were taken by their leaders, Miss G. Monkman and Miss M. Bickle.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Summer-like weather brought best loads of hay

100 Years Ago

During the past week we have had some most beautiful summer-like weather and the sun at times was exceedingly powerful; in fact the thermometer has registered higher than during the past few years. It has been most appropriate weather for the hay making season, and it is needless to state that the operations in connection therewith are being carried out under the most favourable circumstances. Those farmers who took time by the forelock have secured earlier and better hay than has been done for a long number of years. There are, however, many tardy ones who do not seem to approve of practically carrying out the adage of 'making hay while the sun shines' consequently there are still some heavy crops to be gathered in."

Most of the publicans carried on a roaring trade during a good part of the Feast Day. On the cricket ground Addingham beat New Wortley by 120 runs against 67. Later on a gala was held in a field adjoining the Junction Inn where the Skipton Concertina Band was in attendance. The gala was liberally supported but in the evening the upper part of the village was quite deserted and the business done by the proprietors of shooting galleries, sweet stalls and swinging boats was small.

75 Years Ago

It was decided in June that figures concerning people who had crossed the moor during Easter should be published. It was also agreed that people who had some complaint of the interference by the moor ranger should have these matters considered. At the same time it should be pointed out that the moor rangers should be told that he was within his rights when he asked complainants to return to paths from which they said they had deviated, and also that they should be told that the whole of the moor was not as free as was suggested a portion being reserved and let for purposes of a sports character. The meeting was adjourned to the end of May when the Committee inspected Mill Gill, the new road to White Wells, White Wells buildings, Rocky Valley, Hangingstone quarries and the site of the tram road and engine shed. It was agreed that the three Hangingstone quarry tenancies be renewed, subject to the usual six months notice, at the same rentals as paid at present. There was some argument about this and it was thought to be more business like to let the quarries by tender. It was finally decided that the question of the three hangingstone quarries be let by tender and Spicely Ghyll quarry be closed.

By seven votes to five the Council decided to rescind a decision taken on 31 October and 3 December, 1902, and that Mr. J. H. Dean be recognised as holding the permanent position of Clerk at the gasworks. Mr. Dixon protested that the gas works was still over-staffed and that the affairs of the town be conducted in a business like way. They could not afford to keep the Clerk or any other official merely as a figure head. They had to make sure that officials earned their money. He was convinced they could do all the work with less staff.

The accident on the Ilkley Old Bridge had been a most alarming affair, said the Gazette, but the large increase in road traffic of late years and due to the advent of cycles and motor cars now taxed the strength and the capacity to such an extent that its stability was beginning to be questioned. "It would be a pity however to see the old bridge replaced by a modern structure but in the event being made to free the new bridge, it might be relieved of vehicular

14th July 1978.

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50 Years Ago

Probably the first ever ordination to take place in Ilkley Parish Church took place when the Bishop of Bradford ordained, as Deacons, Mr. Philip Lea, and Mr. Ralph Harrison Place. Mr. Lea was licensed to Ilkley Parish Church and Mr. Place to St. Barnabas' Heaton.

The result of a vote amongst Ilkley ratepayers on the question of Sunday games on land in control of the Council was a majority in favour of 223. A special meeting of Ilkley Council was called to consider the result, and a decision was made to allow residents to play tennis, bowls and putting at Middleton after 1.30 p.m. on Sundays and to open the children's recreation ground in Leeds Road all day Sunday.

25 Years Ago

A scheme put forward to convert part of Ben Rhydding Hydro into self contained flats and to develop the grounds for housing, was the subject of a public enquiry following an objection made on behalf of the owner, Mr. G. V. Tonner.

Mr. B. E. Townend acting on behalf of the Council pointed out that the hydro was in a very bad state of disrepair due to non-occupation. Mr. Tonner had tried to sell the hydro on various occasions without avail, and Ilkley got no revenue from the property as although the rates were high it was unoccupied.

Mr. A. G. Hardingham was formally invested with the chain of office as President of the Rotary Club by the former President Mr. W. Hill.

Flying Officer Philip Howard Crawshaw of Ilkley was to take part in a Coronation fly-past before the Queen in Hampshire he was to pilot a Meteor 8 Jet aircraft.

28th July, 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Keighley Blacksmith Had Fatal Injuries

100 Years Ago

The death of a Keighley blacksmith, his 12 year old daughter and injuries to three other people when their carriage overturned opposite the Jolly Sailors Inn in Addingham Main Street 100 years ago was the subject of an inquiry at Addingham. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to a pure accident but they added a recommendation that "the trustees of the Otley and Skipton turnpikes be requested at once to widen that part of the road in Addingham from Joseph Steels to Vickers Fortune's both inclusive. Evidence showed that the horse, a gentle animal, bolted on reaching the water trough on the Silsdon Road. When the vehicle had been righted it was discovered there had been no damage to the harness and the horse was stopped without difficulty. Mr. J. Hudson said the trap was not damaged to any great extent."

A large portion of the £13,000 to £14,000 for St. Margaret's church had already been raised for St. Margaret's Church and to add to this from a bazaar was raised a total of £1,578.

75 Years Ago

The necessity for a considerable increase in the accommodation of the Parish Church and more particularly the growth of the Ben Rhydding portion of the parish and the consequent desire for some spiritual provision in the nature of church services, etc., nearer at hand, some time ago led to a scheme being inaugurated for a church in this district.

Meetings were held to consider the question of embarking upon a scheme and considerable amount of promises of financial assistance being obtained a very eligible site for the erection of a church was secured at the corner of Bolling and Ben Rhydding roads. The Bishop of Ripon had shown considerable interest in the movement and other helpers included the Bishop of Richmond, the Earl and Countess of Harewood, Sir Francis and Lady Powell. The church, we understand, will have seating accommodation for 300 and at present it is proposed to erect the chancel and nave, or to expend in round figures about £3,000 leaving the tower to be completed later.

Opened by Mr. A. E. Brotherton M.P. of Arthington Hall the first of a series of fairs was held at the Winter Garden of the Wells House Hotel and gave a realistic picture of old English village life. Great credit was due to Mr. R. F. G. Baxendall son of Mr. J. W. Baxendall who had designed the village. Mr. Walter Woodhead had painted some pretty scenery for use in the tableau and dramatic performances.

A bowling green and quoits ground was erected in North Parade as part of the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon activity in July, 1903. The first game took place between Mr. B. M. Hood and Mr. T. D. Veitch, the game being won by Mr. Veitch by eleven votes to nine. Afterwards an exhibition game being played between Messrs. W. Lawson, J. Rayner, E. Wall and J. Richardson. Lawson and Rayner first met in a game of doubles and the first pair scored 13 points against six, and then Lawson beat Richardson by eleven points to ten. Rayner beat Richardson by eleven points to three. Mr. Hood provided all present with tea and a hearty vote of thanks was

The Wesleyan history at Ilkley goes back to the early years of the last century with the erection of a place of worship in Addingham Road dated 1834 and the church in Wells Road was erected in 1870. In 1903 Sunday schools were erected at a higher point than the church, and now the Sunday school has become the church and the church pulled down and converted to flats. In June 1902 £1,050 was given for Sunday School activities. Plans by Adkin and Hill were accepted and the following firms secured the following contracts. — Mr. L. T. Learoyd; Eagle and Mawson, joiners Ilkley; W. and H. Pickles, plumbers, Shipley; Thomas Nelson, slater Bradford; Oswald Lister, plasterer, Ilkley; J. W. Walton, painter, Frizinghall. The whole undertaking is estimated to cost £4,500 and £450 is required for furnishing.

50 Years Ago

There was a big entry for the Ilkley Lawn tennis tournament which celebrated its 40th anniversary, and weather conditions and the condition of the courts both looked very good on the eve of the event. There were to be 785 matches played on the whole of the nineteen courts, and the turf on all of the them was described as "velvety and close cropped".

Canon C. J. Hamer, vicar of Ilkley, dedicated the colours of the 1st and 2nd Ilkley (Parish Church) Scouts and Wolf Cubs at a special afternoon service. The parade was led by the band of the 2nd Otley troop which included members of the 2nd and 3rd companies of Ilkley Girl Guides. Scoutmaster E. G. Hinchcliffe was in charge of the parade, with Miss Menforth in charge of the Guides.

There were three flags dedicated. Mr. E. Pickett, churchwarden presented the one for the 1st Troop Mrs. A. Robinson, Glenburn Ilkley, presented the 2nd troop colours and the King's colours were presented by Mr. F. J. Hawkins, of Etonia, Ilkley.

A clearance sale at Jones' the drapers on the Grove offered all wool tweed coats for 10/6. Leather gloves for 3/6, beaded French evening gowns for 55/- and all wool undervests and trunk drawers for 4/6.

25 Years Ago

Two Ilkley men trapped by rising floods in Mossdale Scar Pot, near Conistone in Upper Wharfedale were rescued in the early hours of Sunday morning during the last week of July, largely owing to the initiative of a Skipton girl.

The two men were Edward Ackrod (23) a laboratory assistant from Bridge Lane, Ilkley and Eric Leonard Woodrup, at that time serving with the R.A.F. of Colbert Avenue, Ben Rhydding. Flood water had caused waterfalls from boulders inside the pothole and the two men could not walk but had to swim, they were carried by the current for 100 yards, at times with over-hanging rocks only six inches above their heads. They were rescued by the Upper Fell Rescue Team, together with police, from Skipton and Grassington.

During the same week two Ilkley Grammar School girls, Jean Hogz (17) and Elizabeth Baxter (16) had a miraculous escape after falling 200 feet from cliffs, near Hawkser, Whisby.

4th Aug. 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

ILKLEY WAGES BILL WAS MORE THAN EXPECTED

100 Years Ago

Ilkley Local Board's total wages payments 100 years ago amounted to £100 and members wished to know if this figure was likely to continue. Mr. H. J. Cooke said he had intended asking questions about this figure, considering that under the present circumstances it was the duty of the Board to keep the administrative work at the very lowest figure, and he could not see work had been done for that amount, although there was no doubt about its having been done. It was a point which each Committee should take into consideration, as they could not afford to expand so much. It was agreed that the surveyor should report on how much work had been done over the past month.

It was agreed to leave for arbitration the matter of the appointment of a curator and it was agreed that it would be better to leave the choice of another man to arbitration. The reason the Committee had not done this in the first place was on account of the expense which would be entailed thereby.

A full bench of magistrates heard a case at Otley Court in which Thomas Bentley, known as "Soldier Tom," was charged with assaulting a railway policeman. Bentley told the Bench that he thought the whole matter had been dealt with on a previous occasion when he was fined 20s and costs after being reported to the station master. Defendant was fined 10s and costs and was warned by the Chairman of the Court, Mr. A. Fawkes, that if he appeared before them again, he would be much more seriously dealt with.

75 Years Ago

The Mid - Yorkshire Tramways Bill (which has been promoted with the object of constructing tramways through a part of Wharfedale and Airedale embracing in its scope of operations Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, Baildon, Guiseley, Menston, Otley, Burley, Ilkley, and other places) has during the week been under the consideration of a select committee of the House of Lords who have in the preamble of the Bill and in the natural order of things it is now safe to assume that it will in due course receive the Royal assent, probably at no very distant date either, said the Gazette. An arrangement was come to with the Keighley Corporation which did away with their opposition and the only other opponents were the Midland and North Eastern Railway Companies. The manager of the Midland Company showed how very largely the construction of tramways in other districts and consequent cheaper fares had effected his company and pointed out that the proposed scheme would set up a very serious competition with the existing railways in the district. Figures showing the decrease in Traffic in districts that were now served by similar tramways as well as the railways were given by both the Midland Company and the manager of the Great Northern Company, the latter Company in Yorkshire having lost £18,000 a year through this cause alone. "In more ways than one the construction of these tramways promises to be a good thing for Ilkley," it was reported.

The new pedestrian craze has caught on at Ilkley, Thursday evening witnessing a walking march from the top of Brook Street, through Addingham over Bolton Bridge and back through Beamsley and

the Holmes, a distance of 11 1/2 miles," said the Gazette. Enormous interest centred on the event, thousands of people witnessing the start and finish, while crowds of villagers were to be met with all along the route taken and several people other than competitors footed the whole distance, with others on conveyances or on cycles. The walk was promoted by Mr. W. Tasker and Mr. G. W. Tennant. A. Gray, employed by Mr. P. Dalton, butcher, Church Street, made the pace the whole distance and after leaving Bolton Bridge secured a lead of half a mile. Hill at Bolton Bridge was second S. Bitchcliffe third, P. Moisiey fourth, F. Fryer fifth, and A. Sykes sixth. There was an enormous crowd in the field at the finish and two pence each was charged for admission. The finalists as the first six were Gray Hill, Moisiey, Sykes, Bitchcliffe and W. Mott in that order.

50 Years Ago

In presenting his annual report, the Ilkley Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H. T. Bates, dealt with the health of the residents of Ilkley during 1927. He stressed the importance of the newly acquired playing fields and woodland on the Middleton side of the river, which he considered helped to make Ilkley a true health resort.

Despite a severe outbreak of measles there were no deaths from the disease, there were few cases of complications. Mild scarlet fever had occurred at different times of the year, but an outbreak had been controlled.

He said that 1927 had been one of the wettest years on record, and August was the wettest month of all.

A party of Ilkley Grammar School Scouts under the leadership of their Scoutmaster, Mr. R. Elliott, left Grimsby en route for Antwerp for a camping holiday in the valley of the Meuse. The party intended to trek through Belgium with packs on their backs and hoped to cross the Belgium/Franco frontier.

The Board of Education inspectors drew the attention of the public to the fact that there was a deplorably small number of boys from the local elementary schools who gained places at Ilkley Grammar School. The number of County Minor scholarships awarded was much below the average for neighbouring areas. It was put down to the fact that many parents in Ilkley were able to pay for the secondary education of their children, and allowed them to leave the primary schools before the scholarship examinations.

25 Years Ago

A varied August Bank holiday, with the hottest Bank holiday Monday for years, was reported in the Ilkley Gazette, many visitors being caught by the sudden changes.

The Soroptomist Club of Ilkley presented Ilkley Urban Council with a park seat to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Mrs. Marie Newsome, President of the Club, made the presentation to Cr. J. Hardy (Chairman of Ilkley U.D.C.) in New Bridge Park where the seat was to be sited in a position favoured by the old people of the town.

Ilkley Urban Council expressed itself willing to ask for Ministerial sanction to close the Ilkley Parish church graveyard, carry out a scheme of improvement and maintain it. Ilkley Parish Church had found over the years that it was increasingly difficult for

S 18 Aug 78
**DANCE AT THE
 MEN'S HALL**

Council, said the Gazette, intended to renew the tenancies of all the quarries, the Committee dealing with the matter having come to this decision after careful consideration of the question.

50 Years Ago

Over 1,000 brace of grouse with a market value of over £500 were shot on the moors in the Wharfedale district during the first week of the season in 1928. Ilkley moor provided the best sport, with birds on the moor, strong, healthy and numerous. There was, however, a disastrous season as forecast on the Duke of Devonshire's moors at Bolton Abbey, which was the reason why King George V did not make his customary visit.

50 Years Ago

Ilkley enjoyed a very successful Bank Holiday weekend, with record crowds recorded in the town. Enormous numbers of people poured off buses from every direction, charabancs laden with passengers and special trains full of day trippers. Traffic was very heavy in the town, with cars and motor vehicles headed for the West Coast resorts.

Large crowds of visitors went to watch the open lawn tennis tournament and cricket matches on the Ilkley ground. An orchestral concert in the band stand in West View Park was particularly well attended. There were many camps of boy scouts in the district, and at Middleton about 50 members of the Fleetwood and Carnforth companies of the Church Lads' Brigade.

The West Yorkshire Road Car Company started a regular service from Ilkley to Highfield near the Cow and Calf rocks. The buses ran hourly in the mornings, then half hourly during the afternoons during the summer months.

A ladies' cricket match was one of the principal features of a very successful gala held by Burley Sports Club. During this match Miss F. Hes scored 100 runs, and was also responsible for 6 of the opposing team's wickets. Miss M. Mann scored 43 for the other side.

25 Years Ago

A party of 15 pupils at Ilkley Grammar School, who had acted as hosts for three weeks, had to have special transport arrangements made for them owing to strikes in France. The party travelled by way of Southampton to St. Malo, and Mr. Salmon, history teacher at the school, planned to stay in St. Malo until he heard that all the children had arrived safely and to assist if necessary.

Mr. A. Harrison of Mayfield Avenue was awarded first place by the judges in the vegetable garden competition. Mr. P. Saunders of Hampshire Close was the owner of the prize-winning garden in the competition.

Mr. W. W. Spooner of Spooner's engineering works purchased Mayfield Farm, Little Lane, from Mr. Hubert Binns, with the intention that part of it should be used as a recreation ground by the Spooner Sports Club. It was his intention to provide a football ground and a cricket pitch. Mayfield Farm had been in the possession of the Binns family for three generations.

25th Aug. 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

**VIOLENT THUNDERSTORM
 VISITS ILKLEY**

100 Years Ago

One of the most violent thunderstorms which have visited Ilkley for many years past began in late Saturday afternoon in August 1878 and continued until late in the evening. Said the Gazette, the lightning at times was exceedingly vivid and was a danger that followed the flashes with great rapidity were terrific, happily, however, there was no damage done either from the lightning or water though the bees rising on the moor were very much swollen and there was a slight flood in Bridge Lane, in this district the storm seems to have been a general one, and the damage in some towns is considerable. The full force of the storm seems to have been experienced on the other side of the river over Denton and Middleton. The streamlet known as Bow Beck increased above a yard owing to the narrowness of its bed. Some cows belonging to Mr. George Lister were in some difficulties as they attempted to recross the stream were in some difficulties and were carried down a considerable distance but all except one were fortunate in being able to regain the land a mile down stream. The bridge arched which the peak and an outlet into the Wharfe just below the stepping stones & erected only a few years ago was undermined and is expected to collapse.

The number of the congregation of the Ilkley Catholic Church had increased well beyond the small number attending the picturesque Middleton Lodge. It was finally decided to build on a small piece of land in Stocks Road given by Mr. Wm. Middleton, the whole including a school, in addition, to a chapel and costing a total of £1,500. The consecration of the building took place at the end of August and on the same afternoon there was the consecration of the Catholic section of the cemetery.

75 Years Ago

It was announced in the Gazette 75 years ago that Mr. J. W. Dixon, Chairman of the Free Library Committee, had made application to Mr. Carnegie and pleaded his case so well that he had received an intimation that Mr. Carnegie was prepared to contribute £3,000 towards the building and equipping of a free library for Ilkley. "More than anyone else Ilkley will be indebted to Mr. Dixon for Mr. Carnegie's most generous offer. A better opportunity for securing a free library Ilkley will never have," said the Gazette, "and if the Council do not now do something in this direction it will be to their last disgrace." A penny rate had to be levied so that there could be money to stock the library when built and a site must also be given for the building the cost not being a burden upon the penny rate.

Arrangements for a carnival proposed to be held on the August Bank Holiday in aid of local charities were now assuming like definite shape, said the Gazette in 1903, and already the prize list in connection with the procession had been drawn up. To carry out the full programme the Committee had decided that £50 would be required at least and up to the present £25 had been collected. In addition to various entertainments and sports it was proposed to have horse leading provided sufficient money was forthcoming. A water carnival had to be

abandoned as the 1st Lancashire Volunteers would be encamped in the field alongside the river. The procession would be formed at the top of Brook Street and the principal streets paraded.

There was only a moderate attendance at the Ilkley Swimming Club's monthly competition at the Victoria Baths in July, 1903. The best winners in the monthly medal competition were C. Stoddard, E. Waugh and H. Pollard and the final resulted in a win for Stoddard. A diving competition resulted in M. Hudson and E. Hattersley securing nine plates each and as Hudson retired the prize went to Hattersley.

50 Years Ago

Exactly 50 years previously the foundation stone of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Stoddard Road was laid, and the jubilee of this event was marked with special services at the church.

Burley-in-Wharfedale troop of Boy Scouts returned home after ten days in Belgium the party consisted of 18 Eovers and Scouts under the leadership of Scoutmaster J. Rayner. Excursions included visits to the former battlefields and cemeteries of the 1914-18 war, and the troop attended an International Service to celebrate the signing of the Kellog Peace Pact. Two of the Burley Scout, colour bearers stood each side of the American flag whilst it was presented by an American lady and dedicated by international clergymen.

25 Years Ago

The Gazette described the weather as having an autumnal chill in the air. There was an absence of sunshine, heavy showers and very low temperatures. Football pitches were in good condition following a very wet summer, and many summer sports and outdoor events had been ruined by the weather. With a record entry for the Ilkley Agricultural show, the organisers were in need of fine weather.

Mr. Stephen Brown of Nesfield, the Craved District coroner, had a fortunate escape from a capsized yacht in rough seas in Bridgehouse Bay, near Kirkcubright. He was with two Skipton Doctors, Dr. John Goodall and Dr. Cedric Robinson. They were all wearing lifebelts and were picked up by a small dinghy with an outboard motor. Mr. Brown was carried on shore by local farmers for about quarter of a mile. He was suffering from exposure but all three were fully recovered the next day.

11th Aug. 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

**Death rate showed the
 greatest increase**

100 Years Ago

The Medical Officer's report presented by Dr. Scott for the quarter ending 31 June showed there had been thirty-nine births, six marriages and twenty deaths in the township of Ilkley. The returns showed an increase in each division compared with those for the corresponding period of 1877, but it was to be regretted that this increase should be proportionately greatest in the death rate, it was reported. Such a high birth-rate — 18 males and 21 females — had not in any preceding quarter been presented to the Board. Four of the marriages were presented at the Parish Church and two at the Congregational. The deaths comprised 15 males and five females, and the death rate showed an increase of two-thirds over the number registered during the previous corresponding period, but it could in no way be attributed to any defect in sanitary arrangements, seeing that not a death from typhoid fever had happened during the three months, said Dr. Scott. The chief sources of the rise in deaths were to be found in a greater number of visitors having died in Ilkley and to three cases of inflammation of the lungs brought about by the east winds which prevailed during the early part of the quarter, he said.

A letter was read from Mr. Mills to Burley Local Board asking if the Board sanctioned the diversion of the old footpath and bridle road by Mount Stead as proposed by him in 1877 — he having substituted others in lieu thereof according to plans that had been sent to the Board and requesting an immediate answer. After some conversation the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Mills that the Board declined to have anything to do with it.

The fourth annual show in connection with the Ilkley Floral and Horticultural Society was held in a field abutting on the grove and Chapel Lane, placed at the disposal of the Committee by Mr. W. Lancaster. "It would be almost impossible to conceive a more unfortunate day on which to hold such an event as the morning opened very wet and it continued to rain almost incessantly until the evening, at times with great force. One noteworthy feature of the show was the handsome prize given by Mr. E. H. Wade who takes a great deal of interest in these matters, for the best cultivated cottage garden or allotment. The prizes for this were won by — 1. John Robinson; 2. M. Rennard; 3. A. Pirith," reported the Gazette.

75 Years Ago

In July 1903 the foundation stones were to be laid of the new Wesleyan Sunday School and church buildings now in course of erection on the plot of land adjoining the church in Wells Road, and which when completed will not only serve a long felt want but likewise greatly improve the appearance of this part of Wells Road. The cost of the whole undertaking is about £4,500. The land cost £1,050, and the various contracts will amount to £3,000, while £450 is expected to be spent on the furnishing. Towards this £4,500 — £2432 15s 6d has been either promised or received up to date so that there has been something like £2,067 yet to raise. The subscriptions total £1,063 8s but to this amount has been added £969 7s 6d proceeds of a bazaar last year, and a £400 grant from the Twentieth Century Fund. The stones will be laid by Mr. S. Kellett, Mrs. Hepton, Mrs. J. T. Jackson, Mrs. S. P. Myers, Mr. T. S. Simpson and the Rev. Dr. Stephenson who will each be presented with a silver trowel by the trustees and in addition the Rev. John Hornabrook (Manchester), the Rev. Dr. Muntz (Vicar of Ilkley), Rev. F. H. Blanchford (pastor, Ilkley Congregational Church) Rev. W. H. Ibberson (minister, Ilkley Baptist Church) Rev. A. Markham and the Rev. T. H. Mallinson (Ilkley Wesleyan Minister) will also take part in the proceedings.

No little excitement and amusement has been afforded many Ben Rhydding residents during the last week or two through the rough work undertaken by members of the local cricket club in the removal of their pavilion from the old ground in Boking Road to the new ground in Brick Houses. The structure is of considerable dimensions and not erected in sections, it had to be removed bodily on rollers; an operation both slow and difficult. Night after night it was gradually shifted and as it was very necessary that it should not be left during stages of the transition in a position likely to cause obstruction to vehicular traffic, once or twice, in order to avoid this, the removal had to be continued long past midnight; on one occasion it being four o'clock in the morning before the pavilion could be left. During the present week however the transference from the old to the new ground has been affected, much to the joy of those on whom the bulk of the work has fallen," said the Gazette.

1-9-78

ACROSS THE YEARS

WORKING MEN'S HALL COMMITTEE AGREE

100 Years Ago

After one or two delays the annual meeting of shareholders of the Ilkley Working Men's Hall Committee was held under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Conyers. There had been a small loss upon the working of the past year and this together with a decrease in billiard receipts, from £597 the previous year caused the number of tickets to be issued to fall to £20. Billiard receipts in the year ended June, 1877, amounted to £111 17s. 7d. but in 1878 the figure was no more than £71 12s. 11d. The directors accounted for the loss by the changes which had taken place consequent upon the decrease of building in Ilkley, thereby many who were frequenters of the Institution having left the district. The three retiring directors Messrs. J. Brown, W. H. Conyers and E. Dean were re-elected as were also the Chairman, Mr. Conyers the hon. secretary, Mr. G. Newbould, and the auditor, Mr. P. B. Tillotson. A committee of management for the year was then appointed as follows:—Messrs. G. Clarkson, J. Hardisty, J. W. Rushworth, N. Dale, E. Peacock, T. Harrison and I. Dean. The committee was requested to use every endeavour to make the place attractive and useful.

Messrs. Dacre and Son offered at the Royal Hotel the newly erected villa in Cowpasture Road, Ilkley, known as Belgrave House which contained 490 square yards or thereabout. It contained in the basement two kitchens, servants hall, larder, butler's pantry, coal cellar and conveniences. Ground floor: dining room, drawing room, morning room, small study, entrance hall and lobby laid with Milton tiles and with partition in stained and cut glass. Bedroom and attic floors: Five large bedrooms and four small bedrooms, bathroom and fire place, lavatory and conveniences. There was speaking tubes fixed on all the landings.

Lots two and three being numbers 18 and 19 Tivoli Place with the gardens, yards and appurtenances thereto respectively belonging thereto. Number 18 (also known as Aiten House) being also now occupied by Mr. Giles Mortimer and number nineteen by Mr. Joseph Seeley. Each of these houses contains on the first and attic floors, five bedrooms with bathrooms and conveniences; on the ground floors, dining room, drawing room and entrance hall; and on the basement a large kitchen, larder, etc.

Lots four and five: the four newly erected dwelling houses in Richmond Place, Ilkley, with the gardens, yards and appurtenances thereto respectively belonging and occupied by Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Thomas Wilson and Mr. Tillotson. Each house contains on the first and attic floors, six bedrooms, bathroom and conveniences; on the ground floor two sitting rooms and pantry; on the basement two kitchen, larder, cellar, etc.

Lots six, seven and eight: All those three shops and dwelling houses in the Grove Road in Ilkley aforesaid respectively occupied by Messrs. Keyworth, Robinson and Turner, replete with every accommodation for carrying out an extensive business, as also suitable apartments for lodgers; the premises being situate in one of the principal streets in Ilkley.

Lots nine, ten and eleven: All those three plots of building land situate on the west side of Bolton Bridge Road containing by admeasurement as follows: Lot nine being the southern part of the sale land 1890 square yards; lot ten containing by admeasurement 965 square yards; lot eleven 770 square yards.

75 Years Ago

A bazaar promoted by the Bolton Abbey Church and held in a large marquee near the stepping stones was opened by her Grace, the Duchess of Devonshire. The object was to raise £300 to pay for the organ water motor for necessary

repairs to the organ. In all there were seven stalls all attractively displayed. It was reported during the week that so far the bazaar had raised over £200.

The Prince of Wales was one of seven visitors who went shooting at Brown Bank, Hazlewood Moor, seventy-five years ago. He paid a visit to Harrogate during one afternoon and returned after a week's stay where the total number of grouse collected amounted to 1,100.

The annual gala promoted by the Ilkley Swimming Club took place at the Victoria Baths in August, 1903.

50 Years Ago

Some remarkably high temperatures were recorded at Ilkley weather station for so late in the season with shade temperatures in the late 70's.

Ilkley Grammar School students who gained successes in their School Certificate examination for 1928 were:—T. Boyle, S. Douglas, J. Horrocks, H. Kirby (all with matriculation); E. Arnott, A. Barnes, D. Crawshaw, R. Goldberg, V. Hinchcliffe, G. Ingle, C. Knapton, K. Mallinson, R. S. Smith and H. B. Stansfield.

Mr. George Brown of Oak Royd, Burley, in giving his impression of the United States and Canada to a Gazette reporter, following a six week tour arranged by the National Chamber of Trade said he had seen nothing to compare with Wharfedale all the time he had been away.

Drastic cuts in rail fares were announced by the L.N.E.R. The return fare to Harrogate from Ilkley was to be 2/4 instead of 4/8, Burley and Harrogate 2/- instead of 4/-.

Miss Gwen Farrar and Mr. Billy Mayerl received a pre-emptive reception with their "Road Show" when they visited Ilkley each receiving two curtain calls at the close of the evening.

25 Years Ago

Ilkley experienced the worst summer floods in 18 years, according to a local farmer with land adjacent to the river. The boatman, Mr. W. Dell, lost 6 out of 10 of his rowing boats at an estimated financial loss of £600.

Continuous rain which ruined hopes for a profit from the Ilkley Agricultural Society show brought about a loss of over £800, the attendance being between 2,000 and 3,000 instead of the hoped for £15,000.

Winners of prizes for the best council house gardens were presented with their awards by Mr. F. Atkinson, deputy Chairman of Ilkley Urban Council. The winner in the flower class was Mr. Harold G. Saunders, 1, Hampshire Close, Ilkley; second, Mr. Benjamin Brown, Prospect Road, Burley; third, Mr. Wallace Parker, Wyvil Crescent, Ilkley. In the vegetable class the first prize was awarded to Mr. Albert Harrison, Mayfield Avenue, Ilkley; second, Mr. Henry Hollings, Hampshire Close, Ilkley; third, Mr. Wilfrid Marsh, Stocks Hill Estate, Menston.

Popular Hobby

Collecting old jars and bottles of all shapes and sizes is a hobby that has found increasing popularity this year.

Locally tips closed many years ago have been the scene of much activity as collectors dig for pottery and glassware which usually is little affected by the years of decay in a refuse tip.

A recent development at Burley - in - Wharfedale revealed the site of an old tip from which many "treasures" have been unearthed. When work began on the excavation of part of the riverside Memorial Gardens at Ilkley in connection with the main drainage scheme one of Ilkley's old refuse tips, used during the last century, was discovered. A ten year old Ilkley boy, Jonathan Roberts, of Bridge View, took advantage of the discovery and for many weeks could be seen digging up relics of the town's history. His collection of old speciality bottles and jars reached over 1,000 and he was very selective about the items he kept.

He found many bottles of all shapes and sizes including cod bottles, oriental toothpaste pots and bottles with marble stoppers as well as products of local firms like Ilkley Brewery and Worfolk, the Ilkley chemist. There were also ink bottles, pots, wells, poison bottles and a number of decorated vases and jars.

15th Sept. 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Leeds Jury's Criticism After Ilkley Accident

100 Years Ago

The action of a local doctor in sending an insensible man sixteen miles in a cab to Leeds Infirmary was strongly criticised by jurymen at a Leeds inquest 100 years ago. It appeared that the man, who was too weak for drink, slipped on stone steps and it took three hours to get him by road. It was found by medical examination that the skull was fractured and the brain lacerated. The jury requested that the Ilkley doctor be informed of their views but the Gazette added a footnote saying that "reason to believe that the derogatory statements are much exaggerated, if not altogether unfounded."

A reverend gentleman, the Rev. A. C. Downer, who not far advanced in years, accepted the offer from St. Silas's Hunstlet of the vacancy of Vicar of Ilkley in succession to the late Rev. John Snowdon. The patron of the living was Mr. L. S. Hartley of London who failed to exercise his privilege and consequently it became that of the Bishop.

Several members of the Ilkley Local Board commented on the habit of several villagers in Ilkley in setting fire to the chimneys in their cottages to clear them instead of having them swept. This habit caused a dense smoke which proved very dangerous. It was agreed to institute proceedings against those offending.

75 Years Ago

There was only a poor attendance for the brass band contest at the Bridge Hotel at Ilkley in September 75 years ago and Mr. W. H. Smith who had organised the event lost heavily on it. Mr. Frank Owen of Manchester was the judge and placed the winners in the following order:—1 and certificate, Greengates; 2, £5 and certificate, Great Horton; 3, £3, Cowling; £2, Denholme; £1, Parsley. Two medals, given for the best individual playing, were gained by musicians in the Parsley and Clayton bands.

Local Councillors were strongly concerned about the cost of the new bridge over the river Wharfe, both its cost in the first place and its subsequent repair in following months. Cr. J. W. Dixon had written letters about this to the local daily Press and pointed out that at a special meeting of the Council there were no reporters in attendance and that the meeting was composed of Councillors favourable to the proposals. Mr. Dixon claimed that a minority wishing to attend a conference was ruled out by the casting vote of the Chairman. They wished to prevent the placing of an unjust burden upon present and future Ilkley ratepayers. The Council might be fairly called on to contribute something for road improvement at the bottom of Brook Street and in the event of the Wharfedale Company dedicating the bridge as a free bridge for ever the Council should be responsible for the upkeep of the southern half of the bridge.

Mr. T. J. W. Pate, who came to Ilkley as a partner in the joinery trade and subsequently served in joinery building operations of one sort or another died in Ilkley in September, 1903. He was an income tax collector, an assistant overseer, and afterwards sanitary inspector and hackney carriage inspector. He worked up an extensive business as a house and estate agent. For some time he served the Ilkley Free Press in its early days and acted as correspondent for several daily papers. Aged 61, Mr. Pate was buried at Ilkley Cemetery.

50 Years Ago

The Baptist rally of young people of the Craven district was held in the Ilkley Baptist Church. There were representatives from Barby, Sutton-in-Craven, Gilsburn, Skipton and Keighley with refreshments being provided by the Ilkley members. The Rev. J. Tinker presided.

A traffic census taken over a period of seven days at Burley on the Ilkley and Bradford roads showed a substantial increase on the census of 1925. On the Ilkley road, which was the busier of the two an average of 7,050 tons passed over the road each day, which was a 16 per cent gain on 1925. The average number of vehicles was a 25 per cent gain on 1925. The average number of vehicles was 25 per cent higher than the previous census.

The Station Garage, Ilkley advertised new Morris Minor cars from £125, Morris Oxford from £200, Morris Cowley from £160, Morris Six from £365. These models they claimed were to give the Morris car company "a new reign of supremacy."

25 Years Ago

The Rev. T. M. Morrow conducted the Harvest Festival services at the Ben Rhydding Methodist Church and the evening service was conducted by the Rev. F. Goodwin Britton. Mrs. S. Simpson gave the address at the children's service in the afternoon.

A letter was delivered at the Ilkley Town Hall addressed to "The Clerk, The Illegals Urban District Council, Town Hall, Ilkley."

A complaint about a mechanical road sweeper in use in Addingham was to be sent to Addingham Parish Council to the West Riding County Council Highways Department. Sweeping the road, the machine covered the pavement with gravel to such an extent that pedestrians were being forced to walk on the roads, and the grates were often blocked with gravel.

British railways offered special buffet car excursions to Blackpool illuminations for 8/6 return from Ilkley. Cheaper still was the return fare to Morecambe illuminations at 7/- return.

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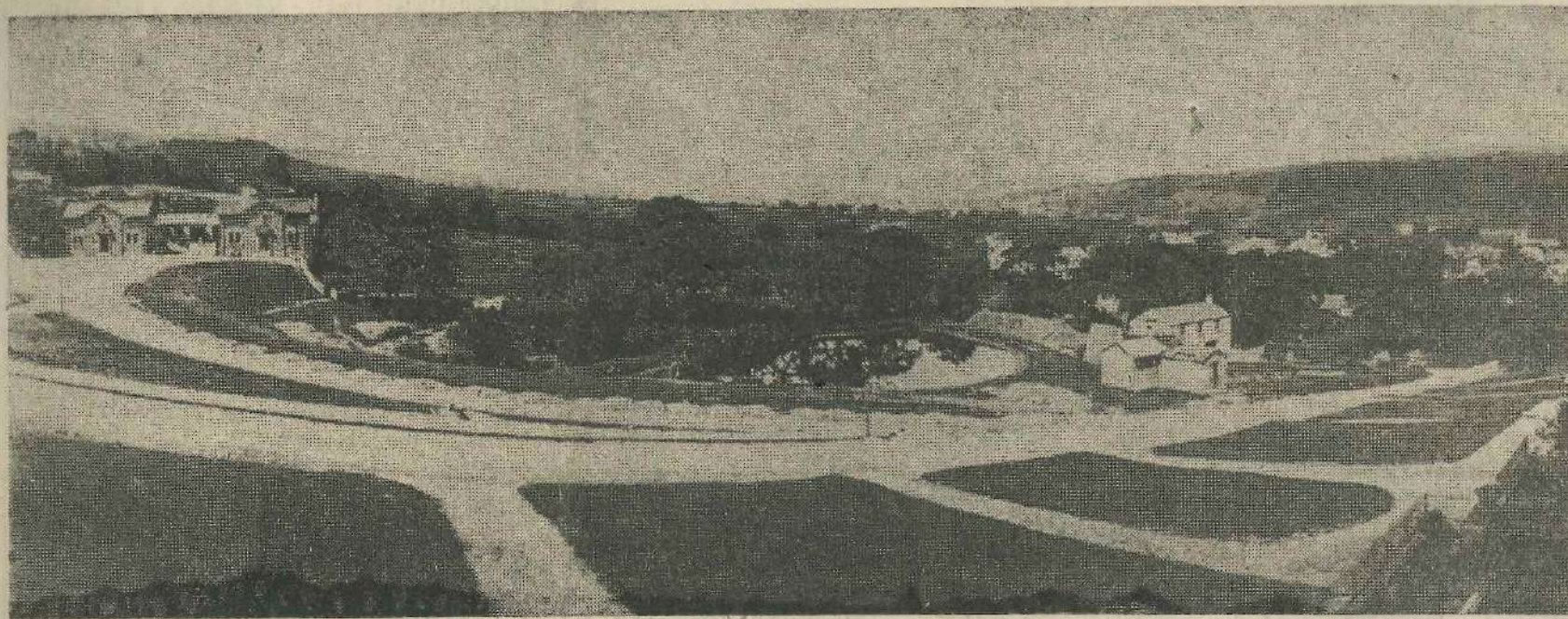
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THE CORN MILLS AND DAMS FROM WELLS ROAD IN 1866



The streams ran off the edge of the moor and round the site of the future bandstand, merging on the north side as they flowed westwards to Wells Road and formed a substantial dam above Wells Promenade. The Upper Corn Mill was built at the foot of Queen's Road with the Lower Mill Dam and the Corn Mill below them. So they remained until 1868 and then two houses were built in the Upper Mill Dam—Mill Brook and Linndale they were called—and the Royal Hotel was built in the Lower Mill Dam.

At the beginning of January, 1886, work on improving Mill Gill, which had been sold to the council by William Middleton, Lord of the Manor, had begun but by the end of the year a shortage of money had cut down the pace and there was far less to see than the workers had hoped.

During the year a deal of brushwood had been cleared and it was expected that immediately this had been accomplished there would be a start on the construction of erine Tattersall.

footpaths. Yet at one stage of the year work had slackened to a halt and by the end of it money was running short and not all the bridges had been constructed.

The Gazette at a private meeting of the Permanent Improvements Committee of the Local Board had announced that it was recommended that £10,000 should be borrowed. It was a statement the Gazette said would be received with surprise, and perhaps incredulity, but the fact remained that "this determination has been arrived at by a representative meeting of members of the Local Board."

DEVELOPMENT

It was believed by the Gazette that there was good reason for believing that the scheme would include the full development of Mill Gill, the enclosing and beautifying of the Canker Well site, the erection of new town's offices, the flagging of footpaths, and perhaps the transformation of the Riddings into a park and recreation ground.

The offer of the Riddings to the town had been made by William Middleton and most gratefully accepted by the Board. It would mean an increase in rates but as money could then be borrowed on easy terms and there would be an assured return for the expenditure, this should not stand in the way. Advantages were springing up on every side and the assertion so often made that Ilkley's inhabitants were behind the age and blind to the signs of the times would fall to the ground. "Ilkley must advance or fall contentedly to the way side," said the Gazette.

The Mill Gill scheme, said the Gazette, included a rockery behind the fountain at the top of Brook Street, with entrances on each side of the drinking

converging to and meeting at the bridges; band stand about the centre of the middle portion of the gill, alcoves for seats, a subway on the eastern side of the present oak bridge, a small lake, ornamental rockeries and six entrances.

It was under consideration, also, to ask the owners of property in Wells Promenade to give a portion of land at the side of the gill. As the land was useless and the present ugly wall would be replaced by palings affording a full view of the walks, there was little reason to doubt that the request would be granted.

It was with the middle portion, however, that the Local Board started to deal and this part of the scheme included walks on each side of the gill, a bridge with a rockery on each side at which the walks would meet together with a level space for a grandstand. At the top the beck would be enlarged to form a small lake and "other pleasing features would be introduced. The natural beauties of the ravine have been left untouched and the overhanging trees will be interfered with as little as possible so that from the very centre of Ilkley residents and visitors can in a moment enter upon a scene of sylvan loveliness to a scene which has not inaptly been designated as a 'bonny bit of Bolton'."

RESORT

The entire scheme could be carried out for under £150 and it was not often that a health resort had the opportunity of acquiring such a splendid property at such a small cost or one which would show such a good return for the money laid out.

Said the Gazette, the Local Board is to be commended for the active manner in which it has taken up the subject, and it is to be hoped that before long the members of that body may see their way to complete the scheme with the extra ground sought from the owners of property. The possession of such a retreat would have a wonderful effect on the Ilkley season.

The Mill Gill scheme included an announcement that the chairman of Ilkley Local Board, Mr. W. Holmes, deprecated the inconsistency of the members in trying to spend money on Mill Gill to complete what had already been started when other things needed doing. They had

plained. Mr. E. P. Dove thought the attitude to the gill represented a most miserable stroke of business policy. He said he knew there was a determination not to spend money on gill improvements. This was accepted by Mr. Jabez Dobson, amongst others. He was not prepared to serve on a committee bound down to such a paltry sum as some people demanded.

This attitude continued. Footpaths, bushes, trees improvements and so on received attention but they were all small improvements which made Mill Gill look better but did not bring about a great change in the district. A great many of the suggestions were discussed "in committee and decisions reached without the arguments being reported." Many of the decisions were never carried out, being suspended and then forgotten. The two houses in the upper gill remained more or less untouched but there were constant changes in the lower gill. The lower corn mill was pulled down and the Royal Hotel built in its place; there was a new Methodist Church and a new Sunday school building. The Methodist Church was eventually pulled down and a new Methodist Church erected where the Sunday school had been and for some time arrangements were continued with the Reform Church to share their buildings for services. The flats which took the place of the pulled-down Royal Hotel were followed by another set of flats further down Wells Road.

— R. M. GREEN

WORKSHOPS WHICH SERVED ILKLEY FOR 50 YEARS DEMOLISHED

Two wooden buildings erected in Castle Road, Ilkley, in 1921 and which served as garages and workshops for the car body building firm of Messrs Chambers Bros, were demolished last weekend.

The firm was founded at the turn of the century in huts further on Castle Road by Mr. Thomas Chambers and carried on by his two sons, the late Messrs Ernest and Wallace Chambers.

Mr. Ernest Chambers died in 1958 and Mr. Wallace Chambers died in 1973. Mr. Ernest Chambers' second son Mr. Harry Chambers took over

the business on the death of his uncle. Mr. Wallace Chambers and was principal of the firm until its closure in June, 1976.

The buildings which were pulled down at the weekend were obtained from an army barracks at Ripon. There were three huts and one of these during the 1930 was used as a dust proof compartment for hand painting of car bodies.

The Chambers family business at the turn of the century until the advent of the motor car was a firm of Wheelwrights and was mainly concerned in the making of

wheels and carts for horses and later they were specialists in renovating and making up the bodies of used or damaged cars. The framework of the bodies of cars in those days being made partly of wood as compared with the alloy metal of today's cars.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Chambers and the family and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Chambers lived in the semi detached bungalow alongside the premises for many years. The last occupant of the house was the widow of Mr. Walter Chambers, Mrs. Jessie Chambers. She left the house

some eighteen months ago and now lives in Leconfield House in Cowpasture Road. The family building which some time ago was converted into a single bungalow was burned out in December of last year.

Mr. Harry Chambers is at present living in Scarborough. The eldest son Mr. Eric Chambers who worked for some years after the second world war is a Baptist Minister in Wellington, New Zealand, and the youngest son of Mr. Ernest Chambers, who lives in Ilkley is a director of a plastic concern.



When Pork Pies cost Three Old Pence

George Fox, the noted Ilkley pork butcher whose business for many years occupied premises next to the Star Inn in Leeds Road, was the first in the area to operate two travelling shops.

These, pictured below, were two Daimler vans converted from private cars by Chambers Bodyworks, Ilkley, in about 1928.

In the days when pork sausage was 1s 4d per lb, pork pies were 3d each and you could buy pork joints from 1s to 1s 6d per pound, the two vans travelled the Dales selling pork products.

The vans were loaded each

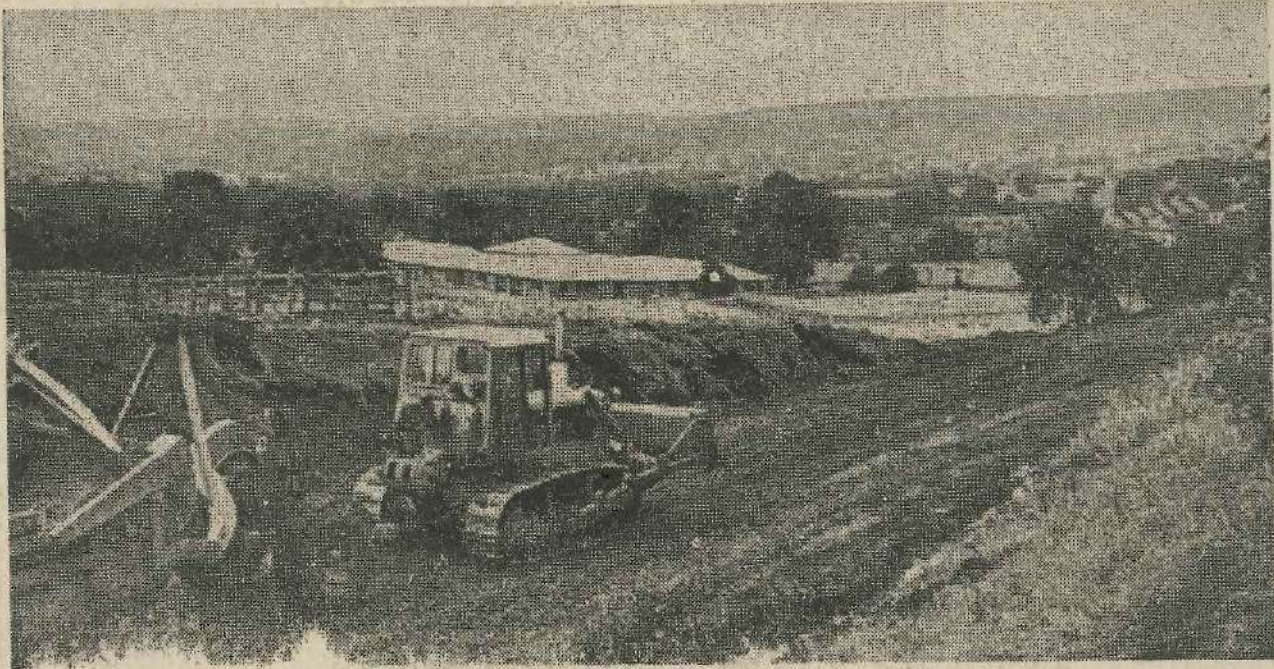
morning — except Monday when they were cleaned—and set off on their regular routes at about 7.30 a.m. They usually returned about 9.30 p.m. as most of the markets at which they called did not close until 8.00 p.m. When the driver arrived at each stop he simply parked the van and lifted up the side panels and back to form a shop.

The business was closed down some years ago.

Pictured with the two travelling shops are left to right—Mr. E. H. Lynch, Mr. B. Barker, Miss Olive Evans (now Mrs. Goodwin, of Ilkley) Mr. Harold Wilkinson.



22/9/78.

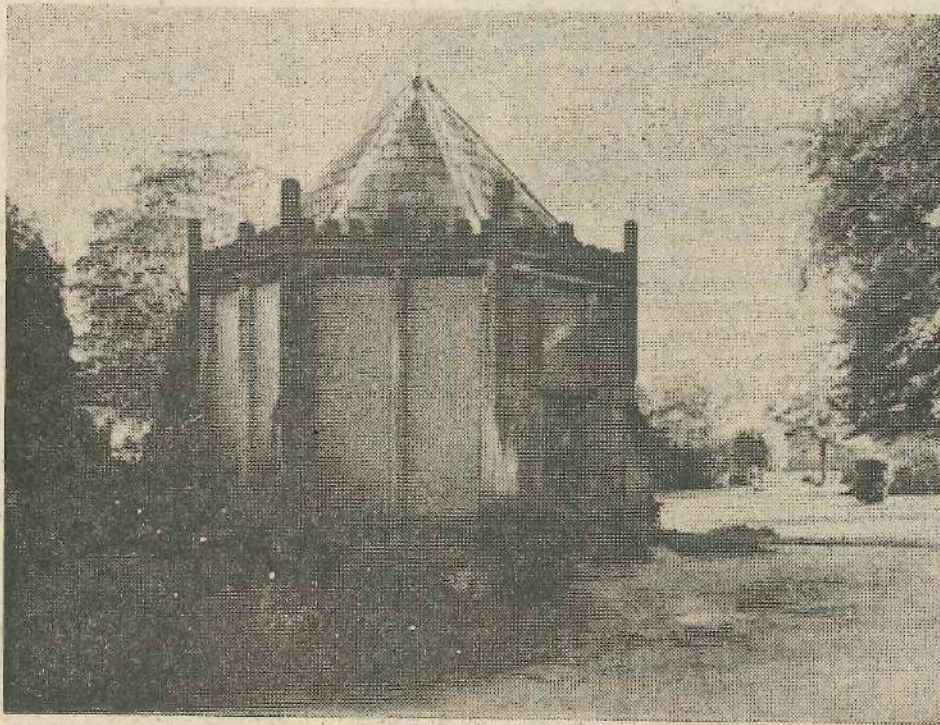


Looking towards the east, picture shows work starting on the levelling of the former railway embankment, with the new Addingham Middle School in the background.

22/9/78

29-9-78.

New lease of life for Burley Round House



It was with some surprise and not a little annoyance that the villagers at Burley saw workmen boarding up the old 'Round House' in the Grange grounds last week—particularly in view of promises given by Bradford City Council about the future of this distinctive local building.

But further inquiries by Burley Community Council have revealed that far from signifying the end of the building the boards are a prelude to alterations that should give it a new lease of life.

"The Community Council has been assured that the boards are only temporary," said Mr. Collin Hunter, a member of the Community Council. "We have been told that a different kind of glass has been ordered for the windows and that when this is fitted the Round House will be cleaned up."

"The Community Council plans to develop the building

as a small cultural and social centre will be used as a basis for its future use," he said.

"The assurances given by Bradford are specific, as also are the expectations of local residents. By the next meeting of the Community Council on October 12 action should have been taken."

The old Round House which has been a landmark in the village for many years has served a number of purposes mainly as an informal meeting place for older residents. Because of its increasingly dilapidated condition it ceased to be used about two years ago.

29-9-78.

RESIDENTIAL COURSES AT DENTON HALL

Denton Hall, near Ilkley, one of the finest examples of the architecture of its period in Yorkshire, which was acquired by the N.G. Bailey Organisation in 1976, has opened its doors for residential training courses.

This stone built listed building, designed by the famous architect, John Carr, of York, is dated 1770 and has many fine and distinctive features. It now provides the N.G. Bailey Organisation with offices for central management and as a management training centre.

Previously, course members have been accommodated in an Ilkley hotel but, following refurbishing of the hall to a high standard, 32 people can be accommodated there overnight and a further 17 in nearby buildings.

The first residential training course at the hall was launched for safety representatives within the organisation, followed by a course for the organisation's operating managers, and speakers included Mr. F. J. Cnapple, General Secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, and Mr. N. S. Bailey, Managing Director of N. G. Bailey and Co. Ltd.

The management training centre includes two lecture rooms and a fully equipped lecture theatre. There is a dining room in the hall to seat 64 people and recreational facilities, and the carved oak furniture is by Thompson, the famous Yorkshire Dales craftsman.

When the N. G. Bailey Organisation purchased the Denton Park Estate two years ago, they not only acquired Denton Hall, but also cottages, the former school and school house, together with farmland totalling about 2,500 acres.

6th Oct. 1978.

ACROSS THE YEARS

NEW VICAR APPOINTED BY ILKLEY PARISH CHURCH

100 Years Ago

The induction of the Rev. A. C. Downer as Vicar of Ilkley took place in September, 1878. He succeeded the late Rev. John Snowdon, who had been Vicar of Ilkley for some 36 years. Mr. Downer was met in the churchyard by the Rev. A. F. Irwine, of Bingley, and Rural Dean, but there were few people to assist with the event. Apparently only a few people knew that it was taking place. Messrs. Milner and Margerison, the churchwardens, led the party to the north entrance after the church had been entered from the main door. The Vicar rang the bell in accordance with the ancient custom.

The ninth chapel anniversaries in connection with the opening of the Congregational Church were held when morning and evening services were conducted by the Rev. S. D. Hillman, pastor. There was a children's service in the afternoon. Collections for the day amounted to a little over £30.

There was trouble at the Otley Court during a case in which an Ilkley man, John Lancaster, was summoned for permitting a disagreeable stench from swill buckets which were connected to some workshops where a number of men were employed. It was suggested that the tubs should be entirely removed. An order was made for the abatement of the nuisance complained of within a month.

A most effective piece of stained glass had been placed in the Ilkley Parish Church in his memory by the family of the late Rev. John Snowdon. It occupied the window over the font and the subject had been chosen to suit the position. Said the Gazette "The treatment is simple and natural and the whole story is unfolded at a glance long before the eye can read the text which immediately runs underneath," suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not."

75 Years Ago

G. H. Charlesworth who took eight wickets for four runs and made 20 runs before he was run out was an outstanding contributor for the White Hats in the annual cricket match at Ilkley in the Feast Week in 1903. Even so he was on the losing side because R. M. Green's team scored 138 runs against 94. The principal speaker at the annual dinner at the Listers Arms Hotel was the Chairman of the Ilkley Urban Council, Mr. J. W. Benson who emphasised the need for a public hall and a concert room. They were something Ilkley lacked, he said. In addition to the municipal officers, the Council was also determined to provide a good supply of pure water. At the bottom of Ilkley the town had been asked to subscribe £2,500 to a scheme which would almost entirely be devoted to the removal of an area around the bottom of Brook Street and bring about a great improvement. The Ilkley Gazette, however, "strongly deprecated" what Mr. Benson had to say and particularly his appearance at purely social gatherings for the sole purpose of airing his views on various local matters, which to our mind savours too much of taproom oratory. There are times and seasons for all things, and a festive gathering to which all are

welcome is scarcely the place for one-sided views being given on any matters. In the Council Chamber or at a public meeting Mr. Benson has a perfect right to express his views on other matters that may be brought forward, and on such occasions he may stand well either as a local reformer or patriot; but is it not somewhat belittling to his dignity to appear in the role he did on Wednesday night, pre-arranged as it all appeared, and as the mouthpiece of a party determined at all cost to saddle Ilkley with a burden that all by far are not agreed will be to Ilkley's benefit."

50 Years Ago

A big six wheeler, 40 seater motor bus overturned on the road between Menston and Burley, fortunately with no passengers on board. The driver and conductor had a miraculous escape from severe injury. The bus was badly damaged, the front axle broken the roof and woodwork smashed and the windows shattered.

A meeting, held at the Station Hotel to try to form a Flying Club for the Ilkley District was called by Mr. H. Charlton who read a letter from Mr. O. I. Wood of Middleton, president of the North Yorkshire Federation offering his support. It was agreed to find out how much support there would be for the venture throughout the district, and then hold another meeting and invite Mr. Wood to preside.

Mr. W. W. Spooner of Ilkley together with his family went to celebrate the Golden wedding of his father, Dr. Spooner at New College Oxford. Dr. Spooner was the originator of the expression "spoonerisms" as once when announcing a hymn he said "Kingquering congs their titles take" and after a hush repeated the same slip, it then became the talk of Oxford, and students used to spend hours inventing "spoonerisms".

25 Years Ago

The first Ilkley Trades Fair was a resounding success with the enthusiastic backing of 31 members of the Ilkley Chamber of Trade. It was opened by Cr. John Hardy, Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council who was introduced by Mr. William Hill, President of the Ilkley Chamber of Trade. Mrs. Hardy was presented with a bouquet by Miss Patricia Dean.

Ninety ladies were present at a dinner held to commemorate the presentation of the Charter to Ilkley and District Ladies' Circle. Congratulations were received by Mrs. Tidy Founder Chairman of Ilkley Ladies' Circle.

The annual elections for House Officials took place at Ilkley Grammar school. The results were: — Athens House; Senior Captain, R. Carline; Junior Captain, D. Woodhall; Sparta House; Captain, T. Preston, Junior Captain, A. Miller. Troy House; Captain, M. Turnbull; Junior Captain, P. Butlin.

6th Ilkley Wolf Cub pack won the challenge shield at the Annual Cub Rally held at Ben Rhydding. The rally was organised by Miss W. Barron, Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs. The Challenge shield was presented to the winners by Mrs. J. C. Scott.

ACROSS THE YEARS

NEW VICAR OF ILKLEY READS HIMSELF IN

100 Years Ago 50 Years Ago

The new Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. A. C. Downer, preached his first sermon in the Ilkley Parish Church in October and this fact brought a large congregation. The Rev. F. T. White, read the prayers, and the Vicar based his comments on the quotation Hebrews 1-2 "God, who at sun." Mr. Downer read himself in at the afternoon service "in the presence of a large concourse of people" and in the evening he read the prayers and the lessons and again delivered an able discourse, the Church being even more crowded than in the morning.

There was a large gathering at the Craiglands Hotel for the annual autumn ball and where additions were in contemplation. The largest room in the district was filled by dancers and there were times when nearly 100 stood up at one time and "great zest was displayed by the numerous company present." The band under Mr. W. Dean performed splendidly, while Mr. E. Roberts, Mr. Graddon, and Mr. J. Ross acted splendidly as stewards. The following Tuesday numerous members of the staff held their annual ball up to three o'clock in the morning.

Ilkley National Schools held the annual Harvest Giving Solree. There were part songs by the choir with songs and duets by Misses Whitaker, Mrs. McConnel and Mr. Sim Cowling supported by speeches and readings from several gentlemen. Mr. A. Broughton was at the pianoforte and he also conducted the Parish Church choir through many creditable performances. The chair was occupied by the new vicar, the Rev. A. C. Downer supported by his churchwarden, Mr. John Milner, and the Revs. W. Danks and F. T. White.

75 Years Ago

The driver and the fireman, both residents of Ilkley, were badly scalded by escaping steam when an engine burst in Bramhope tunnel. The driver was William Schofield (47) of Brook Street, and the fireman Jesse Hudson (31) Brewery Road, and after the train had come to an unexpected halt the guard George Moore walked down alongside the train and found the driver and fireman lying alongside the engine. It subsequently proved to be that the tube of the engine had burst. They were given attention by a passenger on the train and taken back to Leeds. Both received scalds and cuts but after having their injuries attended to they were allowed to go home.

There was a large attendance for the annual tea and entertainment over which the Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. Dr. Muntz, presided over in the new Infants Schools in mid-week. He was supported by the Rev. Irton Smith (Vicar of St. Margaret's) and the two curates the Rev. T. T. Taylor and the Rev. B. Ronald, and by W. Mitton and S. Wheldon, churchwardens. Dr. Muntz said they had a debt of about £1500 on the church schools but they had already raised a good deal of it, and on the Ben Rhydding Church an amount of £1650 had been raised on the church and a further £300 on the organ. They had received a great many kind letters and these were most encouraging.

There was some argument 75 years ago about the cost of the new area at the bottom of Brook Street and the bridge across the river Ilkley Urban Council offered to provide £2250 the Estate Company £8750 and the County Council £6250. Commented the Gazette "the present offer is probably the best that will ever be got from the County Council, though we confess that to us the idea of taking over the maintenance of the new bridge and approaches is exceedingly distasteful."

Yorkshire County cricketers enjoyed a change of sport when they visited Ilkley at the invitation of Mr. Arthur Jenkinson of Iddlesleigh, Ilkley and played a couple of rounds of golf over the Ilkley course. The Yorkshire cricketers consisted of Messrs. Wilfred Rhodes, Percy Holmes, Edgar Holroyd, Arthur Mitchell, Arthur Wood, Arthur Dolphin, Abe Waddington and W. Ringrose, the scorer.

It was decided not to run buses up the Grove to Heber's Ghyll. Mr. F. Sugden moved that the application should not be granted as 75 per cent of the local residents were against the scheme and only 20 per cent were in favour of the proposed bus route.

Addingham Post office which had been in the same building for over 130 years was closed on Sunday 1st October and the letter box sealed up. Owing to failing health the post-mistress at Addingham for 46 years, Miss S. M. Lister retired. She did however retain her position as registrar of birth and deaths. Mr. Douglas Simpson of 119 Main Street, Addingham was appointed successor to Miss Lister.

Half day trips by L.M.S. Railways were advertised to Blackpool for 5/- per head return, leaving Ilkley at 12.15 p.m. and returning after viewing the 300,000 coloured lights at 9 p.m.

25 Years Ago

The Trades Fair came to a triumphant conclusion when over 12,000 people had passed through the doors. On the final Saturday people had to queue outside waiting for the visitors to leave to make more room. People spent many hours around the stalls.

A resolution of the Publicity Committee of Ilkley Urban District Council to get 8,000 copies of the Ilkley Guide printed at a cost of approximately £325, and that £270 should be spent on newspaper advertising in 1954 was confirmed at the monthly meeting of the Ilkley Council.

The Cow and Calf Hotel was withdrawn from sale by auction at £10,000. The owner, Mr. John Noble was to sell owing to ill health. The bidding had started at £8,000.

The 29th Battalion of the West Riding Home Guard carried out an extensive reconnaissance in the Wharfedale area extending from the north of Addingham to the South of Yeadon. They were visited by Lt. Col. R. C. Laurance and his second in command Major O. J. Pirth during the exercise.

RT TO TAKE TOLLS TURNPIKE ROADS

Compliance with a requisition signed by six Police Supt. Croft convened a meeting in the vestry of the Parish Church, in the third quarter of the last century to consider the desirability of abolishing the toll bars on the Otley and Skipton turnpike roads. Accordingly, at the time appointed, a number of ratepayers assembled behind the church for the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Thompson, the Chairman of the Local Board, Mr. Hirst, the Clerk, and several others of that body were present.

By some means, however, it got abroad that the meeting was illegal and could not be held in the vestry on account of a notice of it not having been posted on the church doors. One present expressed himself to the effect that 'they could afford to pay what bit was given by Commissioners without a lot of gentlemen pocketing brass'; while another asserted regarding notices on the door of the edifice that 'they pool'd 'em down if they didn't suit church folk'.

These and other expressions were uttered for a short time during which discussions were going on amongst knots of persons assembled around the vestry door when it was decided to adjourn to the large room of the Albion Hotel (a name adopted by the Wheat Sheaf for a period) which was done and then there was a good muster of ratepayers.

The members of the Local Board, however, with one or two exceptions did not attend here, and the meeting was principally composed of parishioners in some way or other connected with 'horsey' traffic. Mr. John Green was proposed as Chairman by Mr. Mackenzie, but Mr. T. Marvell was subsequently chosen to fill the post.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said they were all aware that the meeting had been called on an endeavour to do away with the toll bars. It was called at the church, but as it was not right for it to be there, they had assembled in the room in which they were found. He would like to hear from anyone who had anything to say on the subject.

Mr. John Dobson read a document which had "been put into his hand". It read:

"On 25 January, 1871, the Otley Local Board received a letter from Mr. Robinson containing a paltry remittance of £5 towards repairing the road for the year 1869, 1870." In concluding the letter states "the trustees have authorised a payment of £5 as the allowance for the current year after which it will cease as the debt upon the road will by that time in all probability be discharged and the tolls removed."

"In stead of the tolls being removed," the document continued, "the Board were surprised to find that the tolls were increased, and at once ordered their Clerk to apply to the Clerk of the Peace for the last statement of accounts where it is shown that the debt was paid off and a balance left in the hands of the Treasurer amounting to £395 8s 8d on 31 December, 1871."

The accounts for 1872 should have been sent to the Clerk of the Peace on, or before, the 1st March, 1873. The Otley Local Board, through their Clerk, have made three applications for a copy, and have received replies stating that no statement had been made, the last letter being dated 4 June, 1873.

"The Board are also advised that the allowances have been very unjustly proportioned and a large amount of the funds illegally expended; also that the letting of the tolls to Messrs. Bowers was an illegal act, the debt at the time, if not paid off, could have been, there being sufficient property and cash to clear it of debt."

The Otley Local Board considers that the above statements and facts are ample, and that it is the duty of the Commissioners at once to take off the tolls as their office and

legal right to continue the tolls for the purpose of distributing the proceeds to the several townships."

Mr. Rigg asked how it was the tolls had been raised if there was not power to do so, and Mr. John Dobson replied there was no difficulty in answering that question. He went on to say,

"They could easily do anything if there was no-one to oppose them." Mr. Dobson read from the general statement of the income and expenditure of the Otley and Skipton turnpike trust for the year 1871 from which it appeared that the balance from the previous year was £692 11s 5d which, added to £640 for rent of tolls, brought up the total income to £1,332 11s 5d. The expenditure included allowances to townships towards the repair of roads amounting to £114 4s 5d; repayment of principal £177 16s 10d, and other current expenses such as salaries of officers, £41 10s and other items raising expenditure for the year to £59 5s 5d and leaving a balance of £873 11s 5d. The debt owing was shown to be £477 17s 7d."

R. M. Green

13/10/78.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Gas Application and School Board

100 Years Ago

An application by the Ilkley Gas Company to seek powers to purchase the Gas Works caused some criticism 100 years ago. At a special meeting of the Ilkley Local Board the Chairman, Mr. William Hartley, thought it expedient to call a meeting of the Board to consider the matter. He thought it had been considered desirable by some of the Board to obtain powers to purchase the Gas Works eventually, and the question in his mind was as to the advisability of placing the monopoly in the hands of the Gas company which would be given them by the extra powers they proposed to acquire. It placed the Board in a very queer position and he much against the interests of the ratepayers. He thought they would have to call a meeting of ratepayers.

Mr. H. J. Cooke thought in the interests of the ratepayers they ought to withstand the application. The company undoubtedly was seeking to monopolise the electric and any other kind of light. Mr. Cooke said gas was much cheaper in Ilkley than in other towns and on that ground it would be in the interest of the ratepayers that they should oppose the application; they could afterwards go into the subject of obtaining power to purchase the gas works. He proposed and Mr. G. Newbould seconded that the Board's solicitor be instructed to take the necessary steps towards opposing the application of the Ilkley Gas Company for further powers.

The news said the Gazette which rapidly spread over Ilkley in the early part of the week, to the effect that a School Board had been officially ordered, was of the most unwelcome character, and awakened surprise and indignity in nearly every household in the place to whom it reached. It had been generally considered that the question had been shelved for a time at least by the increased school accommodation being provided which would be much in excess of the requirements of the place—hence the intensity of feeling which this piece of news engendered. The inhabitants were called upon at once to elect a board of five members which must be done before the 23rd of next month, and to this there appeared to be no alternative, though it was heard that it was likely that a public meeting of the inhabitants might be shortly held to consider what action they should take.

75 Years Ago

Only five people attended the meeting called at Ilkley Town Hall by the Chairman, Mr. J. W. Benson, to discuss the explosion caused in the railway tunnel at Bramhope by the bursting of a steam chest on the engine. The fireman, Jesse Hudson, was blown off the engine by the force of the explosion, and although terribly scalded about the neck, the driver, Willie Schofield, made his way in the dark to find and apply the Westinghouse brakes to prevent the train backing down the incline, afterwards going to the assistance of Hudson who was lying unconscious on the line. After treatment at Leeds Infirmary the injured were allowed to go home but it was expected to be sometime before they were back on duty. Under the Employers Liability Act their weekly allowance could not be over £1 and it was considered raising a sum of money for their benefit.

With the object of raising funds to provide the working expenses for another bazaar in aid of the building fund of the P.S.A. brotherhood a successful concert took place in the Congregational Lecture Hall. Miss Madge Minikin, Miss Annie Langton, Mr. C. Hindle (tenor) and Mr. R. Fearnley (bass) and Mr. Ernest Betram (elocutionist) were the soloists. Miss Hilda Yeates (Leeds), Miss E. S. Horn (Horsforth) played the violin and the piano, respectively, and the other four divided as duettists and quartettes.

A number of local tradesmen were finding it difficult to pay their way 75 years ago and there were three more who had to give up.

50 Years Ago

The "Black and White Carnival" held in connection with the Ilkley Tradespeople's Black Hats v White Hats cricket match was one of the most successful annual functions in Ilkley.

The Automobile Association issued a warning that roads running near rivers such as the Otley-Ilkley road, were then liable to be foggy at night, and that motorists should avoid them if possible, or be prepared for fog.

A letter was received from an Ilkley resident concerning road traffic in Ilkley. "I notice when the Council refer to road traffic they always bring in the question of widening The Grove. What should be done is to move on the cars which are left standing there for a long time. There is plenty of parking room provided for all." He felt buses should be allowed to run up The Grove to Hebers Ghyll.

25 Years Ago

Howard Spring's play, "Jinny Morgan," was presented at the Ilkley Playhouse by the Players. A critic commenting on the Players production described it as "a competent production, providing interesting if somewhat grim entertainment for good-sized audiences."

The Wharfedale Music Festival had incurred a loss £56 14s. 5d. bring a bank overdraft to £62 14s. The Committee decided that the following three years, which brought the festival up to its 50th year, would be in the nature of a testing time and if in that period there was no indication of the Festival paying its way serious consideration would be given to winding it up.

Over 12,000 attended the Trades Fair arranged by the Ilkley Chamber of Trade. There were so many eager to enter the Fair that queues had to be formed until some of those inside had left.

Ilkley Moor Hotel was advertising a Saturday Dinner Dance, with music by Stan Smith and his Ilkley Moor Quartet.

'FACE-LIFT' FOR ILKLEY RAILWAY STATION

Work has started on a major "clean-up" scheme for Ilkley's railway station, with workmen sandblasting the stonework on the inside of the station as the first step.

A British Rail spokesman said this week that the entire building would be stone-cleaned and its appearance generally

improved by the provision of new poster boards, new litter bins and new seats. In addition there would be general painting, and the station would be re-signed. There would be no structural alterations, and the work was expected to be finished in two to three months.

The spokesman said Ilkley, Dewsbury and Bingley stations were being

improved with money left over from the Environmental Passenger Facilities Improvement Budget as part of a scheme for general lineside tidying up. Some of the money would also be used for additional cleaning of carriages, he said.

Ilkley Railway Station is listed as a building of

historical and architectural interest. It dates back to the 1860's, when local contractor Mr. Israel Thornton successfully tendered an estimate of £2,770 for its construction. It was later extended by the Midland Railway Company when the line was built through to Skipton in the 1880's.



20 Oct. 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

ANNUAL MEETING OF CRICKET CLUB

100 Years Ago

A year and threequarters had elapsed between the laying of one rate and a second, alleged Mr. J. Milner at the monthly meeting of the Ilkley Local Board. He reckoned if they laid a rate at the time he was speaking they would be able to lay a second before the end of March and win back something of the time lost. Mr. H. J. Cooke thought considerable time had been lost by the delay occasioned and to act then was only reasonable.

Otley magistrates. It was alleged, had refused to allow the Board any costs in a case concerning nuisance caused by pig-styes, and after a vigorous speech by Mr. Cooke and a demand by Mr. Milner it was unanimously agreed that payment of costs be demanded.

The annual general meeting of the Ilkley Cricket Club at the Listers Arms Hotel had its best attendance for some years, indeed claimed one speaker "for all time." Mr. T. S. Tetley was elected chair man on the proposition of Mr. W. Whitaker and Mr. G. Brumfit. It was agreed after some discussion that the management of the club should be vested in a president, eight vice-presidents, hon. treasurer, hon. Secretary and captain of the first eleven, and a committee of 12 members. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Leonard Horner be president for the coming year. It was considered that the prize for batting should be awarded to Mr. M. Hainsworth and for bowling to Mr. T. Whitaker.

The first meeting of the Ilkley Vocal Society for the 1878-79 session was held in the Concert Room of the Working Men's Hall, where 100 people were enrolled as members.

75 Years Ago

There were now much more favourable terms facing the Ilkley Urban Council over the bottom of Brook Street and the New Bridge scheme, said the Chairman, Mr. J. W. Benson, in a long contribution on the present proposals. The Council accepted the terms put forward by the County Council after some amendments had been defeated.

Mr. J. T. Jackson described the first proposal as a "most scandalous agreement" but found support for an amendment which read "the County Council's offer to contribute £5,000 be accepted subject to satisfactory arrangements being made with the other two

This was moved by Mr. J. T. Jackson and seconded by Mr. J. W. Dixon. Mr. Benson was responsible for a long review about the history of the scheme and the various amendments which at different times had been put forward. Mr. Jackson said they had now practically everything they had asked for and he was not going to stand stupidly in the way of the scheme being carried through. Mr. John William Lowe, formerly assistant master at the Ilkley National Schools and then headmaster at the National Schools, Wellow, near Bath, was married at the Guiseley Parish Church to Miss Florence Eleanor Pullan, of

Guiseley. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar of Wellow, the Rev. Le Gendre Horton. The bridesmaids were Miss Pullan, sister of the bride, and Miss Lowe, sister of the groom, and one of the bride's cousins. Mr. James Lowe, brother of the groom, was best man. Two schoolmasters, Mr. J. Whitaker and Mr. J. Mitchell, were the groomsmen.

The cost of the various works of the Brook Street scheme had been apportioned as follows.—bridge 42 feet wide strong enough to take 30 ton traction traffic, £9,800; New Brook Street to bridge £1,410 10s.; New Brook Street (from Bridge to Denton Road) £1,215 5s.; Road works on bridge, £192; purchase of two public houses for improvement of Brook Street bottom, £4,100; District Council's Surveyor estimate for improvement at bottom of Brook Street, £260; total of £16,977 15s.

50 Years Ago

"In the very midst of a horror of a train disaster at Cafield, Gloucestershire were Mrs. Jenny Wade of Wellington Road, Ilkley with her thirteen year old daughter, Moyra, and Eric, her eleven year old son," said the Gazette. During the crash fourteen people were killed and large numbers injured including Moyra whose leg was trapped and broken in two places. Mrs. Wade who suffered from cuts and bruises, was taken to Bristol General Hospital together with her daughter.

"Pound Day" at the Ilkley Corporation Cottage Hospital was again the usual wonderful collection of every conceivable kind of gift that could be useful to the institution. Matron was at home to the donors who took their gifts in baskets and boxes. Scores of children took firewood, which they had chopped themselves baskets of flowers and produce from their gardens, and even boxes of matches.

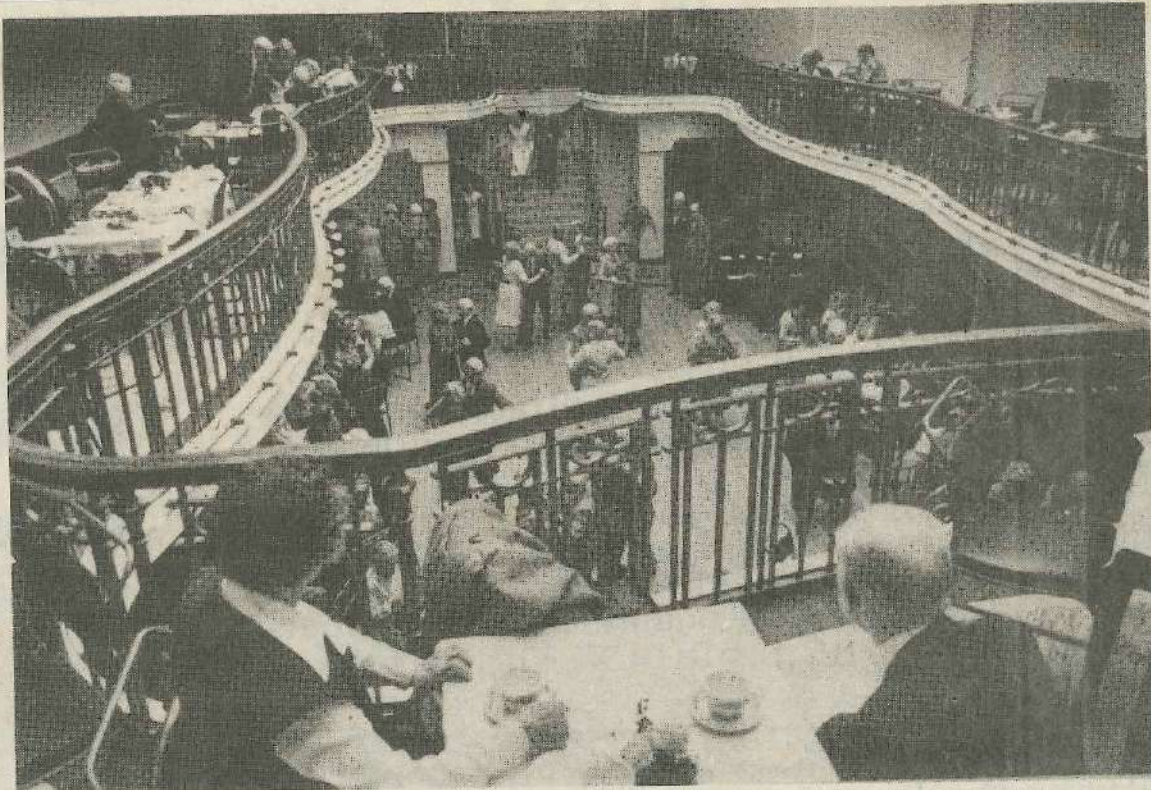
Ben Rhydding Parish Church held a successful whist drive and dance in the Winter Gardens with 250 tickets being sold. Mr. Ashworth and Mr. Ilngworth were the M.C.'s for dancing, and Mr. F. Crawshaw and Mr. H. Digge were in charge of the whist. Mrs. Ashworth presented the prizes.

25 Years Ago

A membership of 72 with 4 junior members, 15 of whom were new members, enrolled during the year was reported by the Hon. Sec. of the Wharfedale Naturalists Society, Miss M. M. Bartle at the Annual General Meeting. Miss Bartle paid tribute to the work done for the society by Miss E. M. Brown before she left the district following her marriage. Mr. A. C. M. Duncan was elected president to succeed Mr. H. J. Williamson, with Mr. E. Skinner as vice-president and Miss M. M. Bartle as Hon. Secretary.

A group of Ilkley postmen were awarded with safe driving awards. They were Messrs J. M. Horner, G. Williams, H. Chapman, E. Britton, W. A. Crowther, F. J. Haswell, F. Burridge, T. Hurtle, F. Mellor and G. Featherstone. The awards were presented to the men by Mr. John Hardy, Chairman of the Ilkley Council.

To dance, left, or to chat, below left, the bright young things of the 1920s and 30s returned to Ilkley, for a Tea Dance.



Cups of nostalgia

THE Winter Gardens, Ilkley, was just the place for a revival of Thé Dansant.

It brought back memories for people who had been bright young things in the 20s and 30s who are now mostly in their 60s and not so light on their feet any more.

But they remembered it well, the era of the Tea Dance, which lasted until just after the Second World War. "Young ones today don't know what they are missing," said one grey-haired lady tapping her feet as couples fox-trotted past.

They thought it might catch on again, at least with people of their generation.

The afternoon of valetas, military two steps and barn dances, progressive and otherwise, took them back to the days of tea dances at the Majestic Ballroom in Leeds, the New Victoria in Bradford and the Grand Hotel in Harrogate.

Only one or two couples attempted the twiddly bits, those complicated reverse turns and chasses so beloved by Come Dancing contestants,

the rest manoeuvred their way around the floor rather carefully.

There was rather a shortage of men and some of the women ended up dancing bust to bust like Joyce Grenfell's "stately as a galleon" ladies.

My partner for the waltz was Eric Smith, aged 80, who had not set foot on a dance floor for 10 years. A former chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council, Mr. Smith was a keen dancer in his youth — his favourite dance as the charleston. He remembers when the men used to wear white gloves so as not to mark the ladies' dresses.

"I may not be able to walk so well now but I can still dance," he said proudly.

The reason for the revival was to raise money for the Abbeyfield (Ilkley) Society which provides a "home within a home" for elderly people. The society has just bought a second house in Ilkley to convert into bed sitting rooms and needs to raise funds to supplement a government grant.

The chairman of the Society, John Hardy, confessed that they had stolen



the idea of holding a Thé Dansant from the Ilkley Evergreen Society, who last year held a successful Palm Court afternoon at the Winter Gardens.

Mr. Hardy recalled his own days at Miss Dorothy Slicer's dancing class in Saltaire. The whole class used to go to tea dances at the Grand Hotel in Harrogate several times a year. It was, said Mr. Hardy, a very pleasant and respectable way of spending an afternoon.

It was also a way of getting to meet a girl without a chaperone. Mr. Hardy said he had given up dancing now but he planned to have one dance just for old time's sake.

Ben Macarty was the MC for the occasion. He used to frequent the tea dances held at the Savoy and the Grosvenor-House Hotel when he lived in London. He had the right kind of voice for an MC and his wife said the last time

he used it to full effect he brought the furnishing department in Harrods to a standstill by shouting "Shop!"

An Ilkley quartet gave a short recital before the dancing got underway and the dance music was provided by Mr. Bradley Hustwick at the piano. Mr. Hustwick, who is 75, used to have his own band and still plays regularly for old time dancing.

In between dances there were egg sandwiches and home made cakes and endless cups of tea. The Winter Gardens, which has a certain 30s look, was a most appropriate venue. Just one thing though, before the war it would have cost you 1s. 6d. for music with your afternoon tea, now it was 50p and worth every penny, said the customers, if only for the memories.

JILL ARMSTRONG

ACROSS THE YEARS

ILKLEY ORDERED TO FORM
A SCHOOL BOARD

100 Years Ago

Mr. C. J. Newstead had received a requisition ordering him to take the necessary steps to hold an election of a School Board within 28 days. The Board was to be constituted of five members. We hear further that the returning officer, Mr. Newstead, has fixed Saturday December 21 as the day when the poll will take place in case there should be one and that nominations will be received upto four o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, 14 December. Doubtless this intimation will take the inhabitants generally by surprise as since the final order was issued at the beginning of the present year asking that necessary accommodation should be provided, the Roman Catholics have erected a new school, capable of accommodating above 100 children which we are given to understand will be opened in a short time. The decree has, however, gone forth, and our usual serene atmosphere will accordingly soon be stirred by a School Board election, and we may fairly look forward to a lively contest, should one take place, there being no doubt a diversity of opinion on this subject.

Mr. G. Adkin presided as head of the table at the annual dinner of the Ilkley Cricket Club which reported that the ground had been levelled and improved and the club was quite free from debt. A new pavilion had been erected which was an advantage to the players and an ornament to the ground. The batting had not been up to the previous year's standard but the bowling had been every bit as good. W. Lister had an average of 6.85 runs per wicket for 950 balls. T. Robinson had also done well playing in every first eleven match for home and away games in the last two years. Mr. J. J. Dixon, of Guisborough had been appointed professional for the next year.

75 Years Ago

The Addingham ratepayers at a public meeting had under consideration a demand on the part of Mr. Ellis Kay for an unclimbable fence along the footpath leading from the bridge to West Hall Farm in the Nessfield township. Formerly a ferryboat was used to cross from one side of the river to the other but some eight years ago this primitive and sometimes dangerous mode of transit was superseded by an equally dangerous footbridge. The late Mr. J. C. Kay, father of Mr. Ellis Kay at the time said he would raise no objection to the creation of the bridge or impose any conditions, provided the footpath on the other side was fenced off in the interests of his tenant. The Parish Council agreed to this though they never dreamt of anything but an ordinary fence such as common to the neighbourhood being required. Mr. Ellis Kay, however, will not agree to a rustic fence and an iron one would mean an expenditure of at least £20. It was pointed out at the meeting in question that there was an undisputed right of way across the river at the old ford against the High Mill as well as at the ford in present use at Fisher Fountain and that the bridge could be removed to either of these points for less than £20. The meeting after favourable discussion expressed itself favourable to erecting a reasonable fence and it was decided to communicate this opinion to Mr. Kay through his solicitors before any further action was taken.

In the matter of efficiency encouragement or even payment for services is not everything and in the case of the Ilkley Fire Brigade efficiency has been secured not so much

through any direct action of the Council as by the continual hard work and excellent methods of Captain Powel, said the Gazette. Together with the excellent loyalty and enthusiasm of men under his and not a little also to the active interest by Mr. J. A. Middlebrook, the hon. superintendent, it continued that the Ilkley brigade is singularly efficient we have had several times practical opportunities of judging and the display they gave on Saturday afternoon was more than sufficient to confirm us in this belief. A very profitable half hour may be spent looking over the Fire Brigade Station and inspecting the engine and other equipment and Capt. Powel will, we know from experience, be only too happy to show residents and other visitors over the place and explain the uses of the various appliances.

In a comparatively small place like Ilkley it is necessary that some provision should be made for storing the water so that there may be no lack of this priceless commodity during those periods when nature is more lavish with her otherwise countless gifts. At Ilkley we have just completed the construction of a large reservoir to hold some eight million gallons and though the undertaking has been a very costly one involving a total expenditure of something like £22,000 the money has no doubt been very well and wisely spent, which we or those who succeed us will probably some day strikingly realise.

50 Years Ago

At the Ilkley Wesley Band of Hope during October, about 96 people were enrolled and received cards for the session. They offered a varied syllabus comprising visits from the churches, and Scout and Guide troops. Lessons were given by Miss Lister, and piano solos by Master Stanley Mines, recitations by Miss Linda Loveday, Miss Alice Hummel and Master Dennis Smallwood.

The Church of England held their opening meeting of the winter session in the Ben Rhydding Church Schoolroom. This took the form of a social gathering under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Singleton. The programme was arranged by the organist, Mr. J. Whitehead and Messrs. F. Crawshaw and W. Pollard provided a musical evening. Glees were sung by Messrs. Crawshaw, Whitehead, Pollard and Polden. Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Polden and Miss Polden rendered solos.

25 Years Ago

A suggestion that book salesmen connected with the sale of encyclopedias were obtaining an introduction to parents by means of forms taken home by school-children was to be investigated on behalf of Ilkley Education Sub-Committee.

Mr. Michael Foot, M.P. for Devonport, and Editor of the "Tribune" newspaper was the principal speaker at a meeting organised by the Ripon Divisional Labour Party in the Essoldo Ballroom.

There was a large attendance at Burley Salem Bazaar, which at one time was one of the highlights of the village Feast week, and in 1953 was all that remained of that once popular period. The Chairman was Mr. Arnold Brears, supported by the Salem minister, the Rev. E. Horne.

Mr. D. Modley was elected chairman of the Ilkley and District Cycling Club at the annual meeting. The treasurer was to be Mr. A. E. Pocklington and the secretary, Mr. C. Lancaster, with P. J. Taylor as Racing Secretary.

27-10-78
GOOD SUPPORT
FOR SOCIETY'S
LECTURES

After a successful summer programme of excursions to places of historical interest in the North of England, the first two lectures of the Ilkley Museum and Historical Society were well supported, despite the unavoidable alteration to the night of the meetings.

In September Mrs. May Pickles, of Ben Rhydding, with the help of beautiful and informative slides, spoke on the visible remains of the boundaries of Ilkley and other Yorkshire townships and parishes. These were marked in a variety of ways; hedges, ditches, boundary stones, rivers, tumuli and other prominent features. But country-wide these were in urgent need of being identified and recorded before modern rural and urban developments eradicated many of them.

A team of volunteers, one of whom was Mrs. Pickles, were working on the Yorkshire Boundaries Project, which grew out of a W.E.A. class tutored by Mrs. Jean Le Patourel. It involved researching documentary evidence, field work and the recording of results. Some of the results of that work were clearly and concisely described by Mrs. Pickles, who was thanked by Mrs. E. Eagle.

A no less interesting topic was the subject of Mr. John Goodchild's lecture. He is the archivist for the Wakefield Metropolitan Council and has just published a book on "The Coal Kings". His special interest and the subject of his lecture was "The History of the Yorkshire Coal Industry". It was illustrated by slides of rare photographs and historical documents, many of them from his extensive, private collection. Again, modern developments were rapidly eradicating the evidence of that very important part of the county's history. Improvements to the environment, such as the beautification of "slag heaps" (not slag heaps, as generally thought) and the forward-looking policies of the National Coal Board should not remove the need for the development of a Museum of Mining housing a comprehensive collection of the historic evidence of this most Yorkshire of industries. Mr. Goodchild was thanked by Mr. T. Sutters.

WINTER GARDENS NEED BECOMING URGENT

100 Years Ago

Craig Tarn, in more genial seasons the popular promenade during leisure hours, is now somewhat deserted being found too bleak and cheerless and the want of Winter Gardens in a less elevated position is felt. There certainly was a rumour some time ago that one of our local magnates intended laying out a parcel of ground in a central part of Ilkley for this purpose. Though no apparent steps have been taken as yet, perhaps another year may find us in the position of Elysian Fields well suited to the taste of those to whom the Tarn presents no attractions.

It was said by the Ilkley Gazette that considerable difference existed between 1872 and 1878. It reminds its readers that in 1872 "how shall we spend the evenings" was a constant and almost unanswered question. Lectures were then a rarity but they had since become held at the different places of entertainment. Events meant there were so many various incidental gatherings of interest that people could hardly complain "of our village as the dull place it once was branded." The Vocal Society thought there were at its lectures and weekly rehearsals many people who missed the events held at the beginning and would have wished to be there. There was still time for them to join and to take part. People were reminded that meetings were held for practice from October until April and should at once "get rid of this idea, and have their names entered at the very next rehearsal."

75 Years Ago

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Local Government Board sanctioning a portion of the east end site of the portion of the town hall site with a frontage of 25 yards to Station Road for public library purposes. It was agreed that Mr. Carnegie be informed of this and that a penny library rate will be included in next year's estimate with his consent. A portion of the money set apart for contingencies to serve their purpose could be voted at once to serve their purpose and that of a good many people. Mr. Dixon thought the matter was very urgent and if they proceeded with the scheme at once it would provide work for a good many people.

Plans for 21 houses for Mr. G. C. Gamble in Mornington Road, Ilkley, were approved and Mr. Molesley drew attention to Mr. Hoffman Wood's plans and asked how this was so. The same bye-law governed both and should be interpreted alike to all parties, he maintained. The plans submitted were considered on their merits and no individual matters were considered in such matters. Mr. J. W. Benson said as in the bakehouses they had no freedom in this matter. If they did not act in accordance with the Factory Act, then the Home Office would institute proceedings. Mr. Middleborough thought other arrangements would probably be made to deal as reasonably as possible with the parties concerned.

The contract for the construction of Panorama Drive Reservoir had been measured

up and certified at £3342 10s. 2d. as follows.—Original contract, £7424; two extra contracts for strengthening retaining wall and providing emergency outlet £536 9s. 0d.; extras £381 16s.; total £8342 10s. 2d. The engineer reported that water was turned into the reservoir on August 21 and that it filled to overflowing in just three weeks, the total water when full to overflow being 11,173 square yards, greatest depth 13ft. 6ins., contents 8,105,590 gallons.

50 Years Ago

The annual dance, held in the Winter Gardens, Ilkley, in connection with Ben Rhydding Sports' Club was a carnival organised by the ladies committee of the club. To add to the festivities, balloons, streamers, comic noses and hats were distributed amongst the dancers during the course of the evening. Mr. L. S. Fielden was the M.C. and Messrs A. G. Wood and E. J. Harding were in charge of the whist drive. A spot dance competition was won by Mr. Waller and Miss Labatt.

Mr. S. Tipping of Ilkley was elected Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Auctioneers and Landed Property Agents.

Ilkley's objection to the proposed amalgamation of Otley and the Wharfedale Rural Area into one local authority was laid out very clearly before representatives of the County Council. Regardless of the fact that Hawksworth had a natural affinity with Guiseley it was pointed out that Denton, Middleton, Neshfield and Langbar could be much more effectively administered from Ilkley.

To combat wet weather Molesley's Shoe shop advertised "Dalafield Gaiters" with the lightning fasteners, "on and off in a few seconds" in tan, grey, prune and fawn at 18/9. Pure wool jumpers were on sale at 4/11 and skirts in tweed at 5/- but the cost of permanent waving a full shingled head was 30/-.

25 Years Ago

Ilkley Chamber of Trade decided to try to arrange a meeting of their own representatives, hoteliers, and members of the publicity committee, with a view to attracting conferences to the town. There was accommodation in the town for smaller conferences and Mr. N. Tomblin expressed the opinion that to have upwards of 100 people staying in the town at the weekends would be far more advantageous than spending a great deal of money on newspaper advertising.

West Lodge, Burley-in-Wharfedale, was formally opened as a nurses' home in connection with Scalegate Park Hospital by the Chairman of Ilkley Council, Cr. John Hardy. A former children's home, the house had been used to accommodate about 30 nurses, with 12 bed-sitting rooms, a lounge and a recreation room.

Local scouts, members of the Air Training Corps and other youth organisations were co-operating to build a public bonfire on the river between the Old and the New Bridges. The fireworks for the event had been donated by Col. Ernest Weddillove, and there was planned to be a programme of community singing.

10/11/78

FIREWORKS ABUSE LED TO COURT ACTION

100 Years Ago

Letting off fireworks in tap rooms and other places gave as much sport to the local constabulary representatives as it did to those who otherwise took part in it. It claimed local people. They could therefore see no point in exhibiting police notices in various places cautioning offenders. The scenes and noises at some of the public houses were such as to be better imagined than described. The Ilkley Gazette commented. The two principal fires in the district were to be found at the High School and the College and around these were the usual collection of fireworks.

Ilkley Local Board decided at its November meeting to petition the Home Secretary that the graveyard in connection with the Parish Church be closed for all interments except in cases where the graves were bricked up to the surface, the reason assigned for taking such urgent steps in this matter being on account of the spectacle which presented itself on a grave being re-opened a few weeks previously. General approbation was shown to the action the Committee had decided upon in taking reference to this question.

Mr. H. J. Cooke complained at a meeting of the Local Board that Mr. Milner had been to his house stating that several lamps in the district had not been lighted. He went in search of the lamp lighter and ascertained they had all been lighted and consequently they must all have been turned out. Together with other members of the Council Mr. Cooke maintained that this was wrong and said in some cases it was always the same lamps that had been omitted from time to time. The Chairman said it was his opinion a deal of land had to be traversed and the Clerk said it would soon be a question for them to decide whether two men were sufficient for the work.

75 Years Ago

Ilkley Orpheus Glee Union held in St. Margaret's Hall a well attended and highly successful concert. The soloists were Mr. Edwin Eagle with two Irish songs, Mr. Joe Stoddard with capital renderings and Mr. Albert Harrison with a song which had been composed for the occasion by Mr. J. A. Barnshaw, the conductor. Another singer was Mr. A. Titterton. Mr. G. W. Thompson was in charge of the catering programme. Dancing was wound up by Mr. W. Dean's band and as M.C.'s there were Messrs. T. W. Crawshaw and Percy Stewart. The stewards were Mr. Norman Bland and Mr. J. T. Smith.

Under the Ilkley Liberal Association there was a large gathering to welcome Mr. J. Hastings Duncan, M.P. for the Otley Division and Mr. T. Williams Nussey M.P. for Pontefract. Mr. B. M. Hood president of the Association occupied the chair and was supported by Mr. J. T. Jackson, president of the Otley Association. Mr. W. A. Lupton, Mr. F. Stelltham, Mr. W. M. Wade, Mr. R. S. Dower, Mr. J. C. Naylor, Mr. Joseph Wood, Mrs. B. M. Hood, Mrs. W. M. Wade and Mrs. R. S. Dower. The Association was of recent origin and Mr. Hood said it was its first meeting. There was argument at the end of the meeting when Mr. George Beard was given authority to address the meeting and spent

a deal of time attacking most of the speakers of the evening.

Mr. Albert Wilson addressed the Ilkley Photographic and Scientific Society on "The Weather" before a good gathering of members. With the aid of charts and diagrams he explained the various phenomena associated with the weather and gave a good deal of interesting information connected with meteorology generally. Mr. J. E. Wilson president was in the chair.

Dr. Prodsham, formerly Curate at St. Margaret's came to Ilkley for the benefit of his health after an accident in Auckland, New Zealand when his carriage had been struck by an electric tram and smashed. Dr. Prodsham escaped with a contused head and severe shock to the system. He became so ill that he was ordered by his medical advisers three months complete rest in England, "perfect quietude being absolutely necessary to recovery."

50 Years Ago

Arrangements to give Burley improved postal facilities were discussed at a Burley Urban Council Meeting. This would give an earlier morning delivery and a later last collection at night.

Mr. H. B. Booth of Ben Rhydding together with the Ben Rhydding station master, Mr. Richardson in an effort to reduce the number of perch in a small private lake in Ben Rhydding caught 150 perch in five days.

Armistice day was to be marked with a special solemnity as the 11 November fell on a Sunday. There was to be a special united service at St. Margaret's Church, and the two minutes silence would be kept by everyone on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the seventh month of the year.

Tickets for the afternoon service were reserved for relatives of men who had fallen in the 1914-18 war, who were to follow the parade into church for the special service. On the Sunday evening a special concert was to be given in the New Cinema, in aid of the Ilkley branch of the British Legion.

25 Years Ago

Concern was expressed by the treasurer, Mr. E. G. Cruxton, regarding the non-payment of subscriptions at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Council of Christian Citizenship. From a total of 100 members only 58 had paid their annual dues. The secretary, Mrs. T. R. Matby paid tribute to the leadership

of Capt. L. J. Sargeant, president of the joint churches venture.

Despite pouring rain, hundreds of people lined the streets of Ilkley to watch the Remembrance Day parade. The procession was led by the Ilkley and Burley Prize Band, under the conductorship of Mr. W. L. Warburton, and it marched down Brook Street to Ilkley Parish Church, where the remembrance service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. C. Cooke.

One of Ilkley Grammar School's most distinguished Old Boys' Major General Sir Colin Gibbons presented the prizes at Speech Day. He had been in charge of "Special Operations Executive" during the war, to support resistance movements in occupied countries.

10-11-78

MAYPOLE SCENE ON WALL OF ILKLEY SHOP

An Ilkley shop owner is anxious to obtain information about a picture which has come to light during alterations to his premises. The picture, which measures about two feet by three, is on tiles and depicts a maypole scene. It is on the wall of the former Maypole grocery shop in Leeds Road, now a motor accessory shop run by Mr. Ken Harts-horne, of Sandholme Drive, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

Several customers have said they remembered seeing the picture before alterations covered it up, and Mr. Harts-horne wishes to find out how old it is. He is anxious to preserve it, and if the tiles on which it is painted can not be removed intact he intends to leave it in position. Scraps of old newspaper found nearby are dated April 1935, which Mr. Harts-horne thinks would be about the time the premises were taken over by Maypole

3-11-78.

MORE ABOUT THE YARDS AND PASSAGES OF 19th CENTURY OTLEY

By Frederick Morrell

This article is the continuation of one which appeared in the Wharfedale Observer in July regarding the old yards and passages of the Otley of the 19th century. Older residents may remember that directly opposite the Garden of Remembrance in Bondgate, standing back on a cobbled forecourt was a short row of houses which included a rope-maker and a clogger, and behind these was a yard (I never knew the name of it) containing six houses numbered 29 to 39 Bondgate. All these were demolished some 30 or 40 years ago and the Fire Station built on the site. Also in Bondgate near the old Cock and Bottle Inn was another un-named passage which led to two cottages.

Comparatively recently a row of five well built houses, situated between Walkergate and Boroughgate known as Lawson's Buildings were pulled down in the interests of a supermarket. In Mercury Row directly opposite the Bethel Mission, is Ivy House (once the home of the Nunns' family, well-known as curriers) and alongside is a covered passage which led to two cottages. A similar passage in Boroughgate, known as Post Office yard, also led to two or three houses. Nor must one forget what may be the most frequented, and probably one of the oldest thoroughfares in Otley, which we know as the Bay Horse Passage and Bay Horse yard (formerly North Gate), for here were once quite a number of houses on the west side, serving as "tea rooms" on Fridays. The Manor House passage was and yet is a right of way for foot passengers between Walkergate and Crow Lane, and is a typical ginnel with a high wall on each side, similar to the old Drill Hall passage. The name dates from about 1860, and derived from the "Manor House Inn" at the entrance of the passage, which received an inn licence in that year.

Homely Community

Finally there was Paradise Square at the corner of Charles Street and Walkergate which for many generations had housed a small compact and homely community. The sketch which I made a few years ago shows the backs of the houses on the Charles Street side the doorways being on the inside of the 'Square' the entry to which was by two vehicle openings in Walkergate, and by the doorway in the wall on the right of the illustration. Unfortunately all the buildings in this area—those inside Paradise Square, and six soundly built ones facing Walkergate—were demolished about twelve years ago in order to supply car-parking facilities for visitors to the town.

The name of Paradise Square is most unusual.

although such a name can be found in Sheffield and a 'Paradise' once existed in Marsh Lane, Leeds but what the true definition is, I have been unable to find out. In any case in the 18th century the area was known as Tanners' Fold, being the enclosure (or fold) behind a tannery in Crow Lane, and many older residents may remember a row of cottages in Crow Lane opposite the western end of South View Terrace, and alongside the cottages, a large low archway above which was carved "T.F. 1767" the initials of Thomas Flesher a tanner.

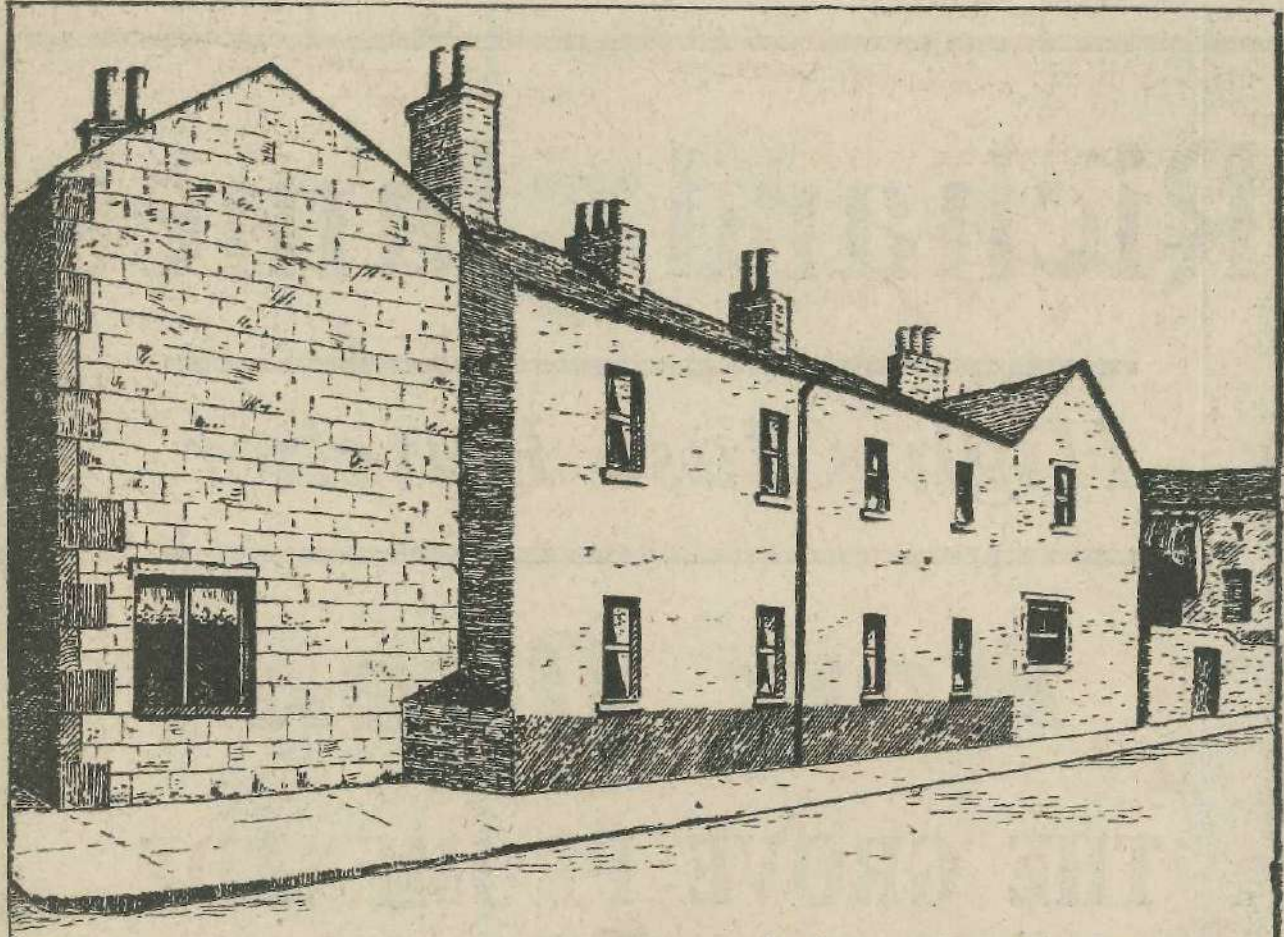
Hive of Industry

Tanners' Fold must have been re-named Paradise Square early in the 19th century, as we find it so named in 1822. In that year it must have been a hive of industry some of the occupants being John Mawson and Joseph Renton (both described as stirrup-makers). William Marston (stone & marble mason) William Mawson (stirrup-maker). William Longfield (turner in wood & metal). & Simon Longfield (whitesmith, gunsmith, bridlebit and stirrup-maker). The last named was one of the volunteers of the Otley Armed Association in 1798, and to whom we are primarily indebted for preservation of the Charter seal and coat of arms of the Association and also the original list of names of all those who volunteered to serve in the same.

The first reference to the Longfield family in Otley, is the early 18th century when Joshua Longfield, a blacksmith married Isabel Brown of Otley in 1728 and their descendants continued in trade of Smiths until the close of the 19th century.

Simon Longfield moved from Paradise Square to premises in Sugar Street (a building still in use, I believe), but his son, William, transferred the business in 1845 to a site alongside the then new Leeds Road (opened in 1842), trading as a whitesmith, silversmith and general engineer. The work prospered and included contracts for the army in such articles as spurs and buckles, which were silver plated in addition to steel hooks and meat jacks. He was succeeded by his son William Flesher Longfield (born 1845) who in addition to being an engineer, was also an artist of local repute, holding drawing classes in the Mechanics' Institute, now the Civic Hall, where some of his paintings are to be seen in the museum there.

It was his son, the late Mr. W. E. C. (Ernest) Longfield who some thirty years ago, was very helpful to me in collecting together many interesting items of local interest handed down from his great-grandfather Simon, and which are housed in the museum at the Civic Centre.



The Bottom of Charles Street, looking S.E.

ILKLEY LOCAL BOARD IS ILLEGALLY CONSTITUTED

Ilkley Local Board formed itself in 1864, chose its Chairman and officers, met half a dozen times and then found it was illegally constituted and suspended its activities to September, 1868. For some time opposition by Dr. Wm. Macleod on behalf of Ben Rhydding and Wheatley residents caused some delay but Dr. Macleod was pressed by local residents and withdrew his opposition. The first election was held at the end of 1869, there were 77 candidates nominated for the 18 places.

There has been left to us no accurate account of the way in which the Local Board was accepted as being illegally constituted. Certainly they did not agree with each other and quarrelled continuously. The final minute book made no reference to the matter. It bore the date 18 March, 1865, and intimated that a deputation was to seek legal advice "as to our duties under the present emergencies." Another four years, or about that, were to pass before it was decided that a membership of 18 was six too many for a Local Board and the number reduced to 12.

Responsible for reducing the membership of the Ilkley Local Board from 18 members to 12 was Mr. John Gaunt, who did so after some argument. He told them he believed that:

(1) I am one of those who believe that with a smaller number of members the business of the Board could be conducted more expeditiously more beneficially to the ratepayers, and with much more comfort, satisfaction and credit to the members themselves.

(2) The Board has been for some time a disunited body, on many occasions very undecided and uncertain in its action—not infrequently undoing at one meeting that which it had done at a previous one—thereby producing a want of respect for its decisions in the minds of the ratepayers generally.

(3) I can not discover that any of the neighbouring Boards are constituted by so large a number of members as this Board; indeed, on inquiry, I have ascertained that many have nine, but none has more than 12 members; and I know positively, that the Local Government Board generally, if not always, recommend nine.

(4) I hold the opinion that the time has now arrived when the interests of the ratepayers demand a compact and united Board—firm but considerate—exercising a careful and continuous supervision, through the committees, over the income and expenditure—not opposed to reasonable improvements but taking to be well assured of their necessity, and that they will conduce to the interests of the whole of the ratepayers; and only undertaking them when the Board is fully satisfied that the general financial condition of the ratepayers is such as to enable them, without hardship, to afford the extra expenditure.

Mr. Gaunt said he felt convinced that with a smaller Board they could work better. They frequently found that members of committees were absent and those members afterwards came before the full Board and asked what had been done in Committee, thus causing a great waste of time. Ten members were too many to have on a committee. If

a smaller number on the Committee, they would have a more regular attendance, because instead of depending upon other members being present they would attend themselves. It was for the benefit of the Board and the benefit of the ratepayers that he had brought forward the proposition.

Mr. H. Morton seconded the proposition.

DISCONSOLATE

Mr. E. P. Dove could see disconsolate faces around the chamber. He did not doubt Mr. Gaunt's sincerity but it appeared to him that the Chairman (Mr. W. Holmes) looked like a lioness about to be robbed of her cubs. He would rather have seconded a proposition to have made Ilkley a corporate borough with their Chairman in the proud position of Mayor. He moved as an amendment that the number remain as it was.

Seconding this Dr. J. F. Little considered that once Mr. Gaunt reflected on "the terrible consequences" of his resolution, he would withdraw it. Had Mr. Gaunt's resolution been in force some time ago, Dr. Little would not be a member of the Board and there were others in a similar position. As Ilkley was about to double the population owing to the "disfigurement" caused by the new railway they ought to keep up their present number of members.

"No Board, I know of, contains so many men of high intellect as the Ilkley Local Board." Dr. Little thought the late Chairman would hardly have agreed with the motion and he did not think their present Chairman would like to lose lambs from the flock. "The Board has very much improved of late years; its qualities are excellent, its spirit is excellent and it will be for the inhabitants of Ilkley to say they will have none but the cream of Ilkley on the Board."

Mr. Gaunt said if Dr. Little would think as much as he talked he would perhaps act differently. He (Mr. Gaunt) would remind Dr. Little that chaff was not argument.

Mr. Gaunt's motion was carried by six votes to four, and Dr. Little gave notice that at the next meeting he would move a motion to rescind the one just carried.

R. M. Green

3-11-78.

FR

Local Board Re-examines its Membership

There was a rumour, said Mr. John Dobson, that there was sufficient money in the hands of the treasurer to pay all the toll road debts, and as a consequence it was expected that the tolls be paid off. It had been said, and in print too, that it would be a great advantage to the people of Ilkley for the commissioners to collect the tolls as the £90 which they forwarded to the Local Board would involve a two-penny rate if they were.

If the rateable value of the township was in the region of £18,000 a penny rate would almost raise the amount paid by the Commissioners to the Local Board as a portion of the cost of keeping the road in repair.

Mr. Dobson said his experience taught him that visitors to watering places did talk of charges made and if the people of Ilkley were parties to an agreement for keeping on the tolls when there was sufficient property to pay off all debt, he had no hesitation in saying they had robbed the visitors. As the meeting appeared to be somewhat irregular, he thought it would be best not to pass a resolution but to obtain signatures against the bars being continued.



JOHN DOBSON

excursionists" it said in a leading article, "while many of our residents would have an extra amount to pay without much probability of a return for their generosity. But if they are willing to make this concession to those who resort here for pleasure and relaxation we have nothing whatever to say against them. They may do this and more also; but when another much heavier tax is levied—and this can not be very far distant we only hope this will be willingly borne. But we suppose that if the debt is paid off the road in question the office of the Trust Commissioners is, or ought to be, at an end. Under such circumstances therefore, we must expect to see 'the bars' ere long removed."

Police Supt. Croft had originally called the meeting to take place on land behind the Parish Church, but this had been transferred to a meeting house in the Albion Hotel for some years previously the Wheat Sheaf Hotel alongside.

R. M. Green

LEGAL MEETING

The Chairman observed that if the meeting was not a proper vestry meeting, it was at any rate a legal ratepayers meeting.

As the Ilkley Local Board had almost unanimously resolved to oppose the abolition of the tolls, the best thing they could do would be to appoint a deputation from a ratepayers meeting and let them see that the inhabitants were against the Board's policy. He proposed and Mr. T. Sergeant seconded, a resolution which was carried with one dissentient. A further resolution appointing Mr. J. Dobson, T. Sergeant T. Clarkson, J. Green W. Kendall and W. Dobson as a deputation to wait upon the Trust Commissioners and urge them to abolish the tolls, proposed by Mr. D. Lister seconded by Mr. Hawksworth, was carried unanimously.

It was the Ilkley Free Press which some weeks previously in February had supported the attitude of the Local Board to the toll bars. The Commissioners of the Otley and Skipton turnpike road had paid £90 to the Local Board reducing the total cost of its maintenance within the area of the Ilkley township to £193. Without that contribution Ilkley ratepayers would have been required to find a further twopence and the Free Press could see no reason to justify this. Those who used the roads, the Free Press contended, were the persons to defray the cost of keeping them in repair.

SCPTICAL

The Free Press changed its mind after the meeting of ratepayers, but said it was still sceptical. "Those who would most benefit by the bars being abolished would certainly be the visitors and the

17 Nov. 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

Railway extension from Ilkley and Addingham

100 Years Ago

The recent meeting about the provision of a railway at Addingham brought some serious thought about the possibility of an extension from Ilkley to Skipton. A special meeting was called to the Ilkley Men's Hall to discuss proposals in December, 1878 and emphasis was placed upon a need to arrange a line through Skipton into and from Lancashire. This was particularly needed for the conveyance of lime and limestone from the Craven district, it was argued. It had been recognised some 30 years before when a bill was granted for the construction of a line between Arthington and Skipton. This was not proceeded with. Colonel Robinson of Skipton, one of those to address the meeting, said if it was considered necessary 30 years previously to have an extension to Skipton it was then imperative that such a line should be provided. Ilkley was at present double the size it had been ten years ago. Skipton had increased greatly, two to three thousand houses, mills and other buildings having been added. It was especially essential that the link for Ilkley with Skipton should be provided. There were loud cheers when he reminded them that there was an agreement between the North Eastern and the Midland Railway Companies but he could see no reason why it should not be put on one side. There was outlined a memorial which it was intended to present to the two railway companies by a deputation, and this was accepted. In a comment on the situation, the Ilkley Gazette, referred to the disadvantages that could accrue if the railway were to be extended and feared it might lose its reputation as a quiet watering place. It reminded its readers of the occasion some years previously when a black sheet was hung from side of Brook Street "scaring human beings and horses and causing the stranger emerging from the station to enquire if there was a plague raging in the place and whether this was not a dismal flag of caution."

75 Years Ago

Mrs. Hastings Duncan, wife of the member of Parliament for the Otley Division occupied the chair at the Recreation Room of the Spa Hydro when the annual meeting of the Ilkley and Wharfedale Orphanage was held. The finances had shown some improvement she noted and there were comments from others on various sources of income. Addressing an "At Home" held at the Riddings Road Lecture Hall, Mr. B. M. Hood, president of the Association, said the Conservative party at the present time was on the rocks and the Liberals were never in a better position than they were today. The M.P. for Otley, Mr. J. H. Duncan said he could not imagine any occasion when the Liberal party field seemed fairer than it did today. Mr. J. T. Jackson, president of the Otley Division Liberal Society, said they all distrusted Mr. Chamberlain and his party. There was a thread of inconsistency running through his whole career.

St. Margaret's Hall was crowded to welcome Mr. Albert Chevalier. It was believed to be his first visit to Ilkley and the various friends assisting him with their laughter and their applause won him many new friends. Miss Tresilian Davy sang some new songs as well as some of the old ones, whistling solos were contributed by Miss Flossie Behrens and Mr. A. H. West, the accompanist contributed three admirably played pianoforte solos.

Conservatives in the Otley Division chose Mr. C. H. Cottrell as their successor as agent to Mr. J. W. Whitaker who had held the position for many years. Mr. Cottrell continued not only as agent for the whole division but also acted as registration agent for the Otley side of the division.

50 Years Ago

"Poppy Day" in Ilkley despite depressing weather conditions which gave the streets a deserted appearance raised £214. The event was organised by Miss Johnston, the hon. secretary with Mrs. J. C. Ford in charge of the Addingham collection, and Miss J. Kirby in charge of the Ben Rhydding collection.

Ilkley Urban Council was to bring a Bill before Parliament during November, 1928, which provided for the construction of a new reservoir, the erection of a swimming pool, and the establishment of municipal golf on the moors. Also it was to establish and maintain an information bureau for the purpose of providing information and advice to visitors to the town.

E. G. Rycroft, Ilkley's left winger who was Captain of the Ilkley Rugby Union Football Club during the previous season was selected again for the Yorkshire team to play Lancashire at Bradford. This was to be his third county Championship match.

Diamond rings for "gifts that last" were advertised in a series of unique designs from £3, and with 22 carat gold wedding rings. The advertiser promised a handsome wedding present given free with each.

25 Years Ago

The President of the Old Olicanians, Mr. H. Fairbrother, in his speech at the association's Forty-Sixth annual dinner said that it was evident from the bearing of the boys and girls at Speech Day that Ilkley Grammar School was being run along the right lines to produce the right type of person to meet the needs of the day. He handed over his president's badge to the President-elect, Mr. G. M. Robertshaw.

Three portraits of local children were selected to go forward for final judging in London in the "National Charming Child" competition. They were Eleanor Holmes of Wharfe View, Menston; Adrian H. Hague, Wharfedale Drive, Ilkley; and Elizabeth M. Layfield, Prospect Road, Burley.

Ilkley Players' November production was "Play for Ronnie" which was well received by Playhouse audiences. Shirley Hepworth played the lead, together with Yeoman Stead, Margaret Bowen and Mike Thornton and Colin Hepworth. The play was produced by Edgar Paley.

A graphic eye-witness account of 1953's successful Everest expedition was given to Ilkley school-children by Mr. T. D. Bourdillon, a member of the expedition, and in the evening the same lecture was given to the general public. Both had

24 Nov. 1978

ACROSS THE YEARS

Boys caused trouble by letting off fireworks

100 Years Ago

At a special meeting of the Ilkley Local Board the following tenders were accepted—Cunliffe and Bolton Bridge Roads, Messrs. Clough and Emmott for levelling, channelling and kerbing.

At the North View Hotel, a solid silver watch guard was presented to Mr. Samuel Lambert for his attention to the wants of the cab-men at the railway station. The presentation was made by Mr. T. Geldert.

Young boys in Ilkley had caused considerable trouble in the town by letting off fire works, it was reported by the police and a great deal of damage had been caused by them. A youth was fined 10s and costs for the offence.

75 Years Ago

Members of the male and female sections of the St. John Ambulance Society held a joint social in St. Margaret's Hall. The event was well attended but a "preponderance of ladies was a somewhat deplorable feature seeing that dancing constituted part of the evening's amusement". Excellent songs were rendered by Miss Hill, Miss E. Sargeant, Mrs. Owen, Mr. Joe Stoddard and Mr. Percy Chapman. The accompanists were Miss Billwood, Miss Booth (Bradford) and Mr. J. H. Dean.

Mr. J. W. Dixon was made Clerk to Ilkley Grammar School governors to succeed Mr. Latimer Darlington it was reported in the Gazette 75 years ago. The Gazette said he was an accountant by profession and at one time occupied an appointment in the scholastic profession as a teacher under Mr. W. J. Kaye principal of Pembroke College, Harrogate. As a member of the Ilkley Urban District Council he was better known and especially during his period as Chairman of the Finance Committee had proved himself to be a man of excellent business abilities. He was certain to fill the position to which he had just been appointed with great credit.

Ben Rhydding Methodist Church held its annual tea and concert and despite the unfavourable weather there were a lot to tea and the event was much enjoyed. In charge were Mrs. Dove, Mrs. Bellhouse, Mrs. Braithwaite, Mrs. Oates, Mrs. Ingham, Mrs. Flesher, Mrs. C. Firth and Mrs. Dawson.

A gold medal was presented to Mr. E. Naylor at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Swimming Club, and silver medals to E. Stoddart, J. Crossfield and E. Waugh, Dr. Johnstone was the president and there was a £10 16s loss on the balance sheet.

50 Years Ago

For several years the Ilkley Grammar School authorities had deplored the lack of competition for the scholarship places available in the school, which had been much below the average of neighbouring areas and the country generally. In the words of the headmaster, Mr. N. L. Frazer, at Speech Day he felt that a great wrong was being done to the children of the area.

"Can law replace War?" was the subject of an address by Mr. H. Eagle, of Ben Rhydding, hon. secretary of the League of Nations Union, Ilkley Branch to a meeting of the Ben Rhydding Church of England Men's Society. Mr. Eagle said there was a definite danger of young men growing up and looking upon the glamour and glory of war and not knowing its horrors. The Rev. W. Mulholland, vicar of Ben Rhydding, called attention to the high degree of armament at that time which still prevailed in the European countries.

25 Years Ago

A crowded meeting of Addingham people in the High Council School decided to keep on with their efforts to provide a public hall for the village as a war memorial even though they were warned that it could take up to 14 years before they were successful. The hall would cost approximately £11,000 it was estimated. They had already raised over £3,000 in the village and Mr. W. Holmes paid tribute to the committee for raising this amount.

The games mistress at Ilkley Grammar School, Miss Jean Edwards, was chosen to captain Yorkshire Women's Hockey Association second team to play Durham at Ripon.

Ilkley Rugby Union Football Club 1st team defeated Otley by 8 points to 5, a penalty goal providing the margin of victory. Both sides were repeatedly penalised for incidents arising out of pure animosity and there were cautions administered to players of both sides giving rise to a "far from good match".