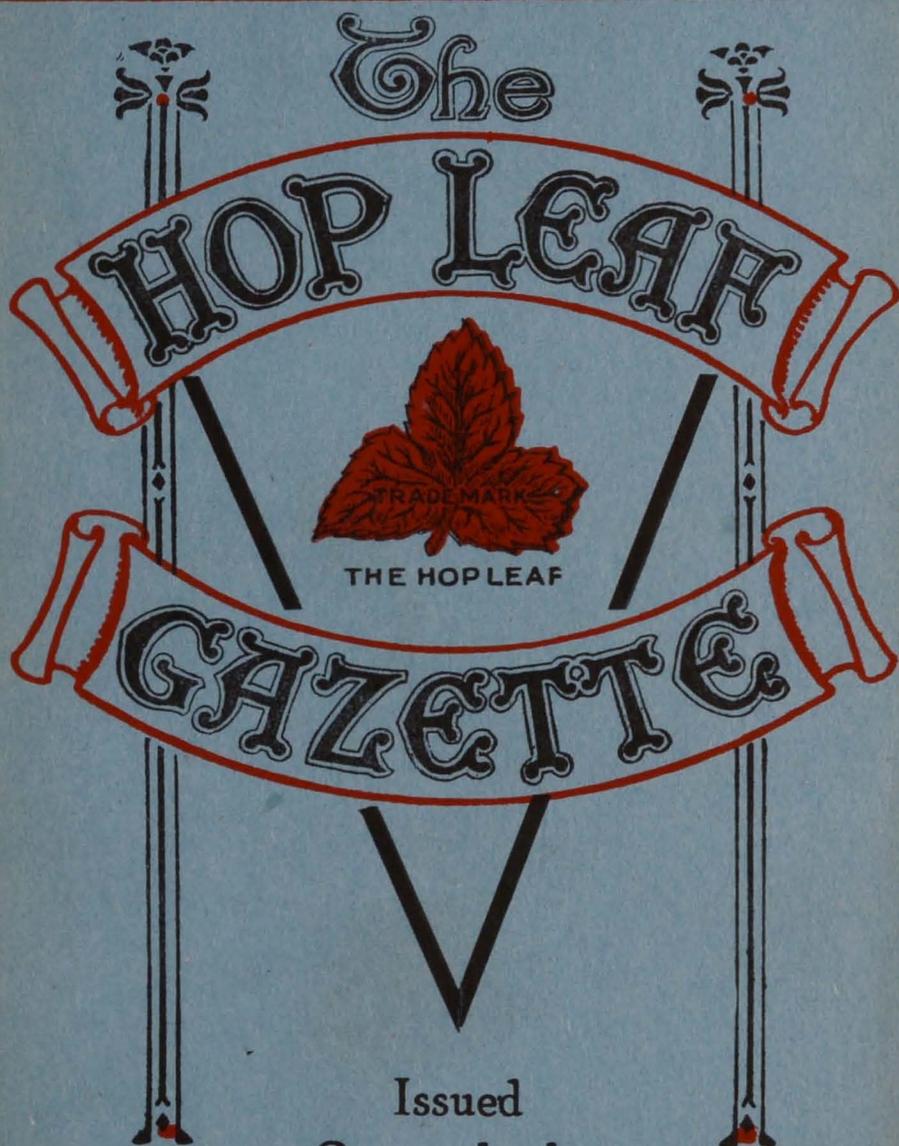


VOL. XXV.

JUNE, 1951.

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H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.

A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

The Journal of H. & G. SIMONDS, Ltd.

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. XXV.

JUNE, 1951.

No. 3.

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All communications should be addressed to—
The Editor, HOP LEAF GAZETTE, The Brewery, Reading.

Reading Borough Council



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Photograph by W. May, 7, Windsor Road, Worcester Park, Surrey.

Mr. E. W. BUCKLAND.

MR. E. W. BUCKLAND.

Judging by the testimony we receive, the reproductions of portraits of our "Knights of the Road" have always been a welcome feature of this Journal and from this aspect the value of our Salesmen can be fairly measured, since the nature of their calling represents the vital link between the Customers and the Firm.

A born Salesman, Mr. Buckland fills the position of Senior Traveller at our London Branch, and fills it well. Always a keen supporter of Club life and readily adaptable, few Representatives have met with a more spontaneous or cordial reception than that extended to him by the Officials and Members of the various Clubs and Military Messes entrusted to his care in the South-West London and Surrey area. His sound knowledge of Licensing Laws and Club Law and his keen business instinct have gained for him the esteem and confidence of his many friends in the trade, whom he is always ready to assist when required.

A prominent member of the Worcester Park Branch of the British Legion, Mr. Buckland has accepted office on the Executive Committee and is Chairman of the Social Section. His great interest in this work has undoubtedly been intensified by his service with the Royal Corps of Signals from 1941 to 1945, when he saw service in Egypt and Italy, which gave him a broader vision of the value of the Legion and its ideals.

Mr. Buckland's early training as a junior clerk at the old Branch in York Road, Waterloo, where he commenced in July, 1920, and his subsequent transfer to the Plough Brewery, Wandsworth, in 1925, served to equip him for his present post, for which he was selected in 1939 when a vacancy occurred in the travelling staff.

In past years Mr. Buckland was no mean exponent on the football and cricket fields, but now finds relaxation from his duties in attending social functions and, on his infrequent spare evenings, in the enjoyment of good literature.



Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine oft infirmities.—The Bible.

CHAT *from*



THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)

HIGH STEWARD OF WINCHESTER.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Simonds, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, a member of the Privy Council and a Fellow of Winchester College, has been elected High Steward of Winchester in succession to Lord Templemore. The City Council met specially on Saturday, April 28th, to confer the honour. Lord Simonds is a brother of Mr. F. A. Simonds, our Chairman and Managing Director.

"THE ACE OF CLUBS."

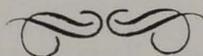
There are few more popular men in Clubland than Mr. W. Bowyer, our Home Trade Manager, and he has aptly been described as "The Ace of Clubs." In recognition of his valuable services he has been made a Life Member of the Tilehurst Conservative Club "for Service to Club and Cause." Very complimentary things were said about Mr. Bowyer's work and worth at the presentation and these eulogies were richly deserved. The number of Clubs to which Mr. Bowyer belongs is legion, and he is more than welcome wherever he goes.

CHAMPION AUTOGRAPH COLLECTOR.

Ron C. Ayers, an employee at Ludgershall, claims to be the champion autograph collector among the many members of the Hop Leaf family. The attached will give some idea of the magnitude of his collection. The name of Field Marshal Rommel is on the list. His signature is on an envelope, written from his Headquarters in France just eleven days after the Allied invasion of France in 1944. This collection of autographs totals nearly four thousand and were collected over the last twelve years. Appended is the list:—

Field Marshal Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Clement R. Attlee, H.H. The Aga Khan, H.M. Queen Alexandra of Yugoslavia, Ernest Bevin, Stanley Baldwin, Anuerin Bevan, Neville

Chamberlain, H.M. King Carol of Roumania, Sir Stafford Cripps, Winston S. Churchill, General de Gaulle, Thomas Dewey, General Sir Miles C. Dempsey, General D. D. Eisenhower, Anthony Eden, General Franco, H.M. King George of the Hellenes, H.M. Queen Geraldine of Albania, Field Marshal Viscount Gort, V.C., Beniamino Gigli, John Galsworthy, H.M. Queen Giovanna of Bulgaria, Earl of Harewood, Countess of Harewood, Field Marshal Earl Haig, President Inonu of Turkey, Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, David Lloyd George, Madame Helen Lupescu, Viscount Mountbatten of Burma, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Herbert Morrison, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, H.M. Queen Marie Jose of Italy, Marquis of Milford Haven, W. Somerset Maugham, General Douglas MacArthur, Pandit Nehru, J. B. Priestley, General George Patton, Sir Kenneth O. Peppiatt (*of Banknote fame*), H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, H.M. King Peter of Yugoslavia, H.M. King Paul of Greece, Eleanor Roosevelt, Field Marshal Erich Rommel, Field Marshal Jan C. Smuts, John Strachey, H.M. King Simeon of Bulgaria, George Bernard Shaw, Arturo Toscanini, H.M. King Umberto of Italy, H.M. Queen Victoria Eugenie of Spain, Field Marshal Lord Wilson, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, Wendell L. Willkie, Lord Woolton, H.M. King Zog of Albania.



LIGHTER SIDE.

NICE OLD LADY (*to Jailer*) *glancing at dejected-looking convict*: "How long does that poor old man have to stay in jail?"

JAILER: "He's in for life, ma'am."

NICE OLD LADY: "Poor fellow! he doesn't look as if he'd live out half his sentence!"

* * * *

"Oh, Harry, I'm so worried about the car!"

"So am I: if we don't sell it pretty soon we'll own the darn thing!"

* * * *

Harry and Sue were out driving. Harry had one arm around Sue when the car hit a bump and skidded.

"Oh!" gasped Sue, "use two hands."

"Can't," says Harry grimly, "Gotta drive with one."

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

ROBIN—A REGULAR CUSTOMER.

CROWS ATTACK HERON.

"How sweet are the flowers of garden and field
When earth wears her summer array,
How laden the air with the fragrance they yield,
How varied the hues they display."

Summer has arrived at last after the long, wet, wintry weather and we enjoy, all the more, the flowers of the field, the sweet songs of the birds and the rich, rare beauty that everywhere abounds in garden, field and wood. We have indeed much to be thankful for. Throughout the winter, and up to the time of writing, I have had a regular little visitor in the form of a robin. He comes into my kitchen, sits on my knee or the arm of my chair and sings the sweetest little songs to me. I feed him regularly with tit-bits which he takes out of my hand. And he is a perfect little gentleman. Early in the spring he assisted his wife in building their cosy home and when she was sitting he carried food to her. He is indeed a regular customer visiting me regularly from noon to eve. And while his wife was on the nest I particularly noticed that the first food he received from me went direct to her. Until she had been fed he would not eat himself.

Other husbands, please copy!

ROBINS ARE PUGNACIOUS BIRDS.

And when the young arrived he was ever busy collecting food for them, as was the mother. The baby robins soon grew strong, under such tender care, and could be seen flying about the gardens. The parents continued to collect food for them until they could fend for themselves. One thing I noticed, and it is worth recording; the parent robins would not allow their children to come near the spot where the food I supplied was obtained. As they grew up father and mother drove them farther and farther

away from what they looked upon as their own preserves and it is some time now since I have seen one of the children. With all their charm, robins are well known to be very pugnacious towards those of their own kind who dare to trespass on what they have come to look upon as their own sphere of influence. And this attitude applies as much to their own children as to other members of their tribe. On the rivers, swans appear to behave in a very similar manner and drive their offspring away directly they are capable of looking after themselves. Many strange things happen in the world of Nature which is hard for us to understand. Here, for instance, in the case of robins and swans, we have the most devoted care bestowed by parents on their children during their infancy, but directly they reach the adult stage they are met by fierce defiance and driven away from home. On the other hand, a family of long-tailed tits, perhaps a dozen or more, will keep together until the following spring, as will partridges and other families of our feathered friends. To see a family of long-tailed tits, a long, long trail, flying from one feeding place to another, is a very charming and familiar sight in the countryside and one at which I always pause to watch in the course of my rambles.

WINDY WEATHER AND FLY-FISHING.

The very windy weather experienced of late has been far from favourable for the fly-fisherman. To cast a long line with any degree of accuracy was well-nigh impossible. So I adapted myself to the circumstances and fished with a very short line. To keep out of sight of the trout I had to creep along the water's edge—often on all-fours: or at least all-threes, for with one hand I had to work my rod. The going was indeed difficult, but I persevered and did quite well.

EXCITING AERIAL BATTLE.

On a trout stream there is always much more to see than the trout. On this occasion I found over a dozen nests, including that of the grasshopper warbler—a rather rare bird. And I witnessed a most interesting aerial combat. An old heron rose from the water, and immediately she did so she was attacked by

two carrion crows. They made vicious dives at her and no doubt hurt the heron with their powerful beaks. Eventually the heron stretched out her long neck and made a fierce stab at her attackers. At the same moment she regurgitated her dinner which, as it fell to the ground was closely followed by the crows who began, ravenously to make a meal of it. The heron uttered its peculiar note *hank, hank, cronk*, and flew away in angry mood. After watching the crows feeding for some time I wended my way across the meadow to the spot and found that what the heron had disgorged was a water-rat, or vole.

I WON AGAINST GREAT ODDS!

Then I resumed my fishing. It was really hard work. The wind was almost at gale force, but in many forms of sport I have often been "up against it" and have not, by any means, always had the worse of the argument.

On this occasion I was determined to score off at least a few trout—and so I did!

LIGHTER SIDE.

The world's meanest man: He was deaf and never told his barber.

* * * *

Little Emily ran into the house, crying as though her heart would break.

"What's wrong, dear?" asked her mother.

"My dolly: Billy broke it," she sobbed.

"How did he break it, dear?"

"I hit him on the head with it."

* * * *

OLD GENTLEMAN (*bewildered at the elaborate wedding*): "Are you the bridegroom?"

YOUNG MAN: "No, sir, I was eliminated in the semi-finals."

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

Welcome to Mr. R. E. Stanley, who commenced duties in the Surveyor's Department on the 30th April, 1951.

Mr. G. V. Weait, the popular Pay Clerk, was unanimously elected People's Warden at the Municipal Church of St. Laurence, Reading, at a vestry meeting. He has attended the Church for many years, and is Hon. Treasurer.

We are sorry to record that Mr. P. D. G. Lovegrove, who served in the Building Department for over 34 years, passed away on the 1st May, 1951, at the age of 66 years. We would assure all relatives of our sincere sympathy in their great loss.

CHANGES OF TENANCIES.

The following changes have taken place since our last issue, and we wish all new tenants every success:—

- The Anchor, Yateley—Mr. C. T. Crocker.
- The Plough, Ashmansworth—Mr. R. L. St. G. Saunders.
- The Dorchester Arms, Hook—Mr. E. J. Fordred.
- The Duke of Edinburgh, Reading—Mr. C. C. Wright.
- Off Licence, 34/36, King's Road, Caversham—Miss S. E. Smith (*Daughter of Mrs. M. A. Smith, deceased.*)
- The Four Horse Shoes, Whitley—Mr. V. C. Ransom. (*Death of G. Ransom.*)
- The Shoulder of Mutton, Binfield—Mrs. J. D. P. Rice. (*Death of A. Rice.*)
- The Black Horse, Uxbridge—H. W. Bull. (*Death of Mrs. R. A. Bull.*)
- The Thatched Cottage, Emmbrook—Mrs. E. V. Gibbs (*Widow.*) (*Death of Mr. A. E. Gibbs.*)
- The Sun Inn, Bishopsgate—Mr. W. C. Bacon.
- The New Inn, Warfield—Mr. J. A. Nichol.
- The Thames Hotel, Windsor—Mrs. W. A. J. Pickin (*Widow.*) (*Death of Major W. D. Pickin.*)
- The Tuns Hotel, Odiham—Mr. W. H. Spencer.
- The George and Dragon, Newbury—Mrs. L. H. Toms (*Widow.*) (*Death of Mr. C. Toms.*)
- The Globe, Windsor—Mr. E. S. Lunn.
- The Lamb, Eversley—Mr. H. N. Edwards.

WEDDING OF
MR. L. R. TWINEY AND MISS M. C. BRADFORD.

The wedding took place at Our Lady and St. Anne's Church, Caversham, on Easter Monday, of Mr. Leo Raymond Twiney, son of Mr. P. J. Twiney, and Miss Mary Christina Bradford,



Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd., The Kennel Studio, 95, London Street, Reading.
Marriage of Mr. L. R. Twiney and Miss M. C. Bradford, 26th March, 1951.

daughter of Mr. T. W. Bradford, of Tilehurst Road, Reading (both employees of the Firm). The service was conducted by the Rev. Father M. Williams, and the hymns, sung by the Children's Choir, were "Sweet Saviour bless us ere we go," "Praise to the Holiest in the Heights" and "Ave Verum," Mr. W. Terry playing at the organ.

Given away by her father, the bride looked extremely charming in a dress of white Brussels lace, over a full taffeta skirt, and carried a shower bouquet of white carnations. The four bridesmaids were very prettily dressed in white organdie, with deep red velvet sashes, and carried posies of mixed red and white flowers. Two of the bridesmaids, Miss Anne Good and Miss Janet Hieatt, were nieces of the bride, and Miss Angela Walters and Miss Jane Prosser, friends. The best man was Mr. J. T. P. Bradford, brother of the bride. The reception was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Caversham, about seventy guests attending. The honeymoon was spent in Babbacombe, Devon, and about fifty of the guests were at the station to wish them God-speed! The happy couple were the recipients of over seventy-five presents, including one from the clerical staff, which was in the form of two fireside chairs.

PRESENTATION TO

MR. T. W. BRADFORD, CHIEF CASHIER.

FIFTY YEARS OF LOYAL AND DEVOTED SERVICE.

On Tuesday, May 15th, 1951, Mr. T. W. Bradford completed fifty years' service with the Company, and at their Board Meeting the Directors honoured him with the presentation of a handsome silver rose bowl and a cheque.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, Chairman and Managing Director, in making the presentation, spoke in the highest terms of Mr. Bradford's fifty years of loyal and devoted service to the Firm, also of his wonderful work in connection with the Social and Sports Club throughout the last thirty years.

Congratulations from all departmental heads were showered upon Mr. Bradford during the day. His achievements in connection with the Social Club have included Annual Fetes, Dinners, Outings, Balls, Games Tournaments and the formation of a Concert Party, in which he took an active part. It was due to his dynamic energy that all these events and many others proved highly successful. In each and all of these enterprises he has earned the praise of the Directors and of his colleagues as well

as the admiration of the officials of other Clubs who were entertained.

In the course of his secretaryship of the Social Club, Mr. Bradford was honoured by being presented to H.R.H. The Duke of Windsor (then The Prince of Wales) and H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught on the occasion of their respective visits to the Brewery.

H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD. ANNUAL STAFF BALL.

On Friday, March 2nd, H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., held their Annual Staff Ball in the Town Hall, Reading; the party of 750 consisting of large numbers from the Firm's branches.

Amongst the guests present were the Deputy Mayor, Col. G. S. Field, O.B.E., J.P., T.D., the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs. Neville Dawson, the Chief Constable, Mr. Jesse Lawrence, and Mrs. Lawrence. The Directors present were Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman and Managing Director), Major G. S. M. Ashby, Messrs. R. St. J. Quarry, E. D. Simonds, General Sir Miles C. Dempsey, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Mr. E. M. Downes, O.B.E. Mrs. F. A. Simonds, O.B.E., Lady Dempsey and Mrs. Downes also attended.

Music was provided by the Blue Star Players from Oxford, under the direction of Mr. Stan Rogers. Mr. F. Bowsher officiated as M.C. The Cabaret was arranged and compered by Mr. Tommy Leaver. Refreshment bars and buffets were carried out by the Simonds Hotels and Catering Department under the personal supervision of the Manager, Mr. H. C. Davis.

The Hall was artistically decorated by the Firm's Canvas Department. The floral decorations were by Messrs. Heelas Limited.

It was very pleasing to the Directors, Executives and others at Reading to meet employees from branches. Many reunions were held during the evening; one could see small parties assembled together, and the jovial atmosphere which prevailed left no doubt as to the pleasure each were experiencing at meeting old friends again. The Directors spared no effort in merging with their employees, extending a welcome to one and all. It was very gratifying to have Mrs. F. A. Simonds amongst the party. Mrs. Simonds is always willing to give evidence of her interest in the employees' social activities. Parties from long distance branches spent many hours travelling to be present, and

an equal journey on their return. Information to hand says that one and all, although very tired on their return, were well pleased with their visit.

Parties from the branches included Bridgend (41), Bristol (22), Devonport (74), Newport (19), Staines (66), and also London, Ludgershall, Brighton, Farnborough and Portsmouth.



Mr. W. P. Cripps, Mr. E. M. Downes, O.B.E., Mrs. Cripps, Mr. R. St. J. Quarr, Mrs. Downes, General Sir Miles C. Dempsey, K.C.B. K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Major G. S. M. Ashby, A.V. E. D. Simonds, Seated—Lady Dempsey, Mrs. Neville Dawson, (Deputy Mayress) Col. G. S. Field, O.B.E., J.P., T.D., (Deputy Mayor) Mrs. F. A. Simonds, O.B.E., Mr. F. A. Simonds.

The branches are to be heartily congratulated on organising their parties—everything went off without a hitch.

The Directors granted all employees a subsidy on the cost of the tickets, all being allowed to bring one friend at the reduced price ; travelling expenses are also subsidised.



Photograph by C. E. May, 90, London Street, Reading.

Major G. S. M. Ashby, Mrs. Neville Dawson, Lady Dempsey, Mrs. F. A. Simonds, O.B.E.

Mr. F. A. Simonds addressed the gathering, and thanked all who had contributed to the arrangements and welcomed those who had made a journey from great distances to visit Headquarters. He also thanked the Organiser, Mr. Walter Bradford, and the Committee.

Dancing continued until 2 a.m., all present voting the event a great success.



Photograph by C.E. May, 90, London Street, Reading.
Mr. F. A. Simonds chats with Mr. and Mrs. W. Bradford.

DEATH OF MR. F. W. KENT.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mr. T. W. Kent, a popular member of the General Office staff, on the death of his father at the age of 85. The funeral took place at Frimley Church, conducted by the Rector, Canon J. W. Partridge. Mr. Kent was an old resident of Frimley, having lived at 3, Cedar Cottages for a number of years before going to live with his son at Caversham on the death of his wife in April, 1945. He had been in failing health since November.

Mr. Kent served in the Royal Field Artillery from 1914-19 and saw active service as a gunner in France during 1915 and 1916.

He was an old member of the Frimley and Camberley Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, whose members acted as bearers. Members of Court "Queen's Jubilee," No. 7595 of the Ancient Order of Foresters, of which he was also a member, were present, and Chief Ranger Mr. J. de la Huliniere, Jun., was the organist. Mr. Kent was also a member of the Caversham Darby and Joan Club, who were represented. Family mourners were Mr. and Mrs. T. Kent (son and daughter-in-law), Miss Mary Kent (grand-daughter), Mr. and Mrs. J. Ellam, Mrs. Liddiard and Mrs. Marjorie Wheeler (nephew and nieces). Among many Frimley residents also in attendance were Brigadier and Mrs. Ling, of Maybury House, Frimley, Mr. Kent's former employers.

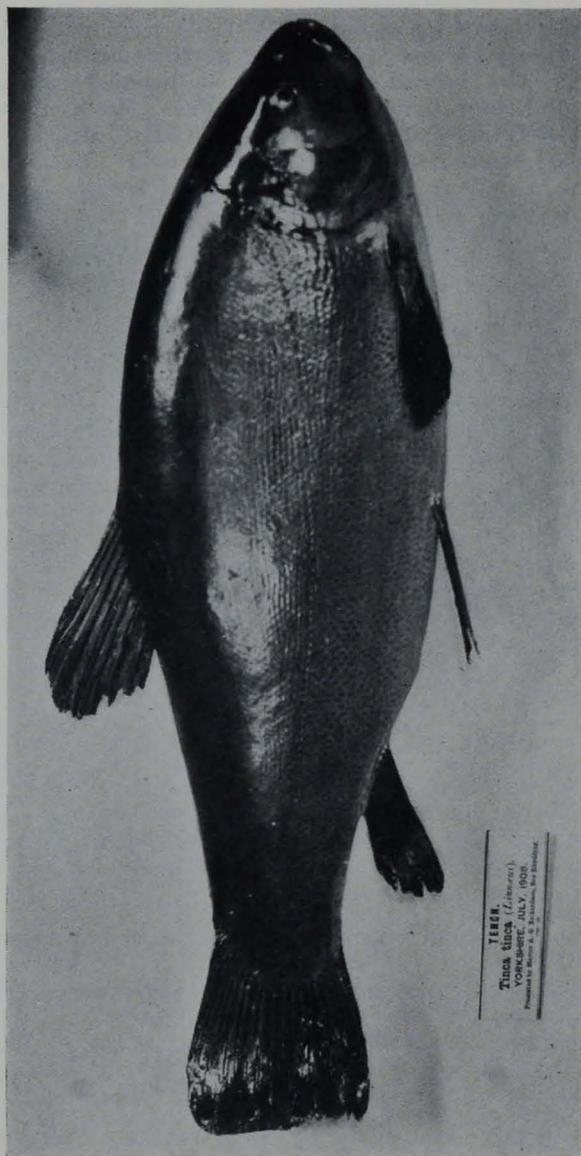
ANOTHER FISHING STORY.

MR. RICHARDSON LANDS A FINE TENCH

Our Chief Accountant, Mr. A. G. Richardson, A.C.A., tells me that in his early youth he was a very keen fisherman and how he was reminded of this fact a little while ago. Curious how events which happened in the dim past are sometimes brought to light by the oddest of incidents!

Last summer a junior member of Mr. Richardson's staff—Miss Margaret Stronach, the daughter of our Head Maltster—was on holiday in her native Scotland, and one day happened to visit the Royal Scottish Museum at Edinburgh. She saw a magnificent specimen of a golden tench as one of the exhibits and underneath was an inscription to the effect that it had been presented to the Museum by a "Master A. G. Richardson, Ben Rhydding—1908."

Thinking that the donor might conceivably be our Chief Accountant she took a snapshot of the fish, and on her return to Reading showed the photograph to Mr. Richardson, who confirmed



TENCH.

Tinca tinca (Linnaeus).
Yorkshire, July, 1908.

Presented by Master A. G. Richardson, Ben Rhydding,
1908. 109.

that he it was who caught the fish some 43 years ago and had completely forgotten the incident.

He tells me that he was on holiday in Scotland in 1907, and his father took him around the Royal Scottish Museum. The only tench exhibited was a specimen of less than 1 lb. in weight, and excitedly he told the Curator that he would catch a much better fish and send it along. Next year he was fortunate to capture a golden tench, which scaled 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., in the lake in the grounds of the late Lord Illingworth (former Postmaster-General), at Denton Park, Ben Rhydding, Yorkshire.

A photograph of the exhibit is reproduced on previous page.

THE "OSTRICH" AT COLNBROOK.

Reprinted from *The Old "Ostrich Inn,"*
by kind permission of F. J. Camm, F.R.S.A.

"The history of England is the history of its roads, its taverns, inns and hostelries. Of all the main roads of this country none is more romantic than the Bath Road, constructed by the Romans and extending from Hyde Park Corner through 106 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of winding roads, pretty villages and attractive towns. The Bath Road was at one time the most literary and fashionable road. Along it passed the cognoscenti and the intelligentsia, on their way to cure the vapours by taking the waters at the famous bath—the Roman wells popularised by Bladud who virtually created Bath itself. The Bath Road holds quite a place among all road travellers in the south. It has been the scene of many epic rides on bicycles. It is associated with famous names and exploits and deeds of derring do. One has only to ride as far as Brentford, or Hounslow, or Colnbrook, particularly the latter, to enter a world of past glory, ancient history and present delights. At Brentford Julius Caesar, in the year 54 B.C. crossed the Thames ford and defeated the forces of Britain. On Hounslow Heath—Highwaymen's Heath—immortal highwaymen such as Claud Duval and Dick Turpin ordered the traveller to stand and deliver, and with mask and pistol relieved coach travellers of their purses and other valuables. So near to London, yet so full of the romance and glamour of the past.

Dotted along the Bath Road are the famous hostelries where the highwaymen quaffed their mead and exchanged badinage with mine hosts and the bonifaces of the time.

The oldest of the old inns along the Bath Road, and fourth oldest in the country, is the old "Ostrich" at Colnbrook. Its foundations were planted in the year 1106, when Henry I was on the throne. Those were the days of the pack horse and saddle, which was the only method of conveying goods and passengers in those days; for the carriage of people and goods by road vehicles such as the post chaise and later the stage coach did not come into general use until the middle of the sixteenth century.

'The Ostrich' is located almost exactly opposite the seventeenth milestone from London and it retains a great deal of its original structure and all of the *bonhomie* of the old country inn. It is the mecca for foreign visitors from all quarters of the globe.

831 YEARS OLD.

This old sentinel of the highway has witnessed in the 831 years of its life the passing pageant of our national history and the development of road, sea and air travel. It has housed the famous, and in days of old its gaslights and its candles glowed out a cheery welcome to the benighted traveller offering him warmth, good cheer and a good bed. Colnbrook, until the building of the by-pass was on the main road to London. Almost overnight the busy village of Colnbrook faded back into its colourful past with the opening of the new road, which sucked away its trade and its prosperity, even as Brentford, the capital of Middlesex, suffered the same fate with the opening of the Great West Road.

It is fortunate in one way that the inevitable development of our roads leaves untouched these old villages with their half-timbered cottages, their village greens, their inns and their taverns.

GAMES AND MUSIC.

Today the old 'Ostrich' is presided over by the genial Wally Fleckney and his charming wife Beattie, who are ever ready to welcome the stranger, provide him with the best of drink and food and to carry on the rich heritage bequeathed to them by a long succession of famous landlords. For there is nothing parochial about 'The Ostrich.' The locals do not, as is so often the case, assume proprietorial rights and resent the intrusion of a stranger from town. They throw a pretty dart and push a pretty halfpenny, while, if your taste is for Crib or other card games, you may join in.

In the Saloon musicians of fame will provide you with a merry sing-song at most weekends.

Colnbrook has the distinction of being located half in Bucks and half in Middlesex. It has four parishes and it is watered by four streams. Colnbrook reached the peak of its prosperity in the coaching days, the leisurely period when England was building up its Empire and its foreign trade. The traveller was served by many inns in this ancient village, but none has achieved the fame of that which is the subject of this book. It would be impossible to recall even a tithe of its history within the space available, and it is only possible to proceed by anecdote to give the reader some idea of it.

HOSPICE, CRANE, OSBRIDGE, OSTRICH.

The inn was built in 1106 by Milo Crispin and it was named 'The Hospice,' which, during the centuries has been corrupted into its present form. Early in its history it was known as 'The Crane,' and it is thought that the similarity of the crane to the ostrich was responsible for its name. The ostrich as a bird was known in Roman times, and it is therefore quite feasible that the name was taken from it. Over sixty murders have been committed there, and the Blue Room, which was the lethal chamber for a long succession of predatory landlords, is still there for the visitor to see and to reflect upon the grim tragedies enacted within its precincts. Most famous of the murders was committed in the sixteenth century by the landlord of the time, one Jarman, who, with his wife, made a profitable side line out of the liquidation of their guests after they had retired for the night. They had a trap door built in the centre of the Blue Room. They had a code. As soon as a rich traveller arrived Jarman would inform his wife that a fat pig was available if she wanted one, and she would reply by asking her husband to put him in the sty until the morrow.

THE BEDSTEAD, TRAPDOOR AND BOILING CAULDRON.

Now the bedstead was so contrived that a hinge on the trap-door would debouch the sleeper into the brew-house vat of boiling liquid immediately beneath.

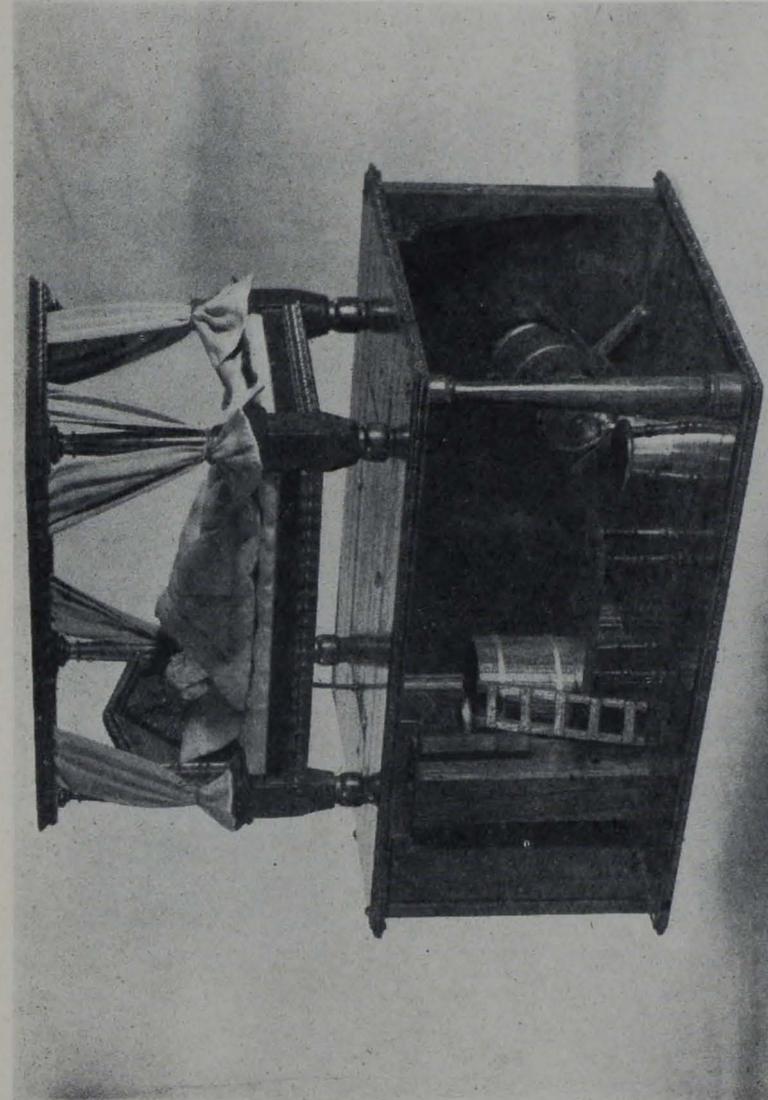
A spy hole ingeniously secreted behind a cupboard provided the rascally landlord with a means of observing when the victim went to sleep, when the trap was released and the sleeping guest incontinently dropped into the boiling liquid especially prepared for him. With this picture of the lethal trap in mind, we may pass to the arrival of one, Thomas Cole, a rich clothier with

a business at Reading, who was one of the regular customers of the period. A successful business man, he always carried large sums of money with him, and it is not surprising, therefore, that he was marked out as the next on the list in the series of gruesome murders. Somehow, he managed to escape on a number of occasions when the trap was set. The Great Fire of London prevented him from making an expected visit, and on another occasion he was ill. On a third occasion a friend by the name of Gray, who lived at Gloucester stayed with him. Naturally, the landlord became suspicious, even nervous at the succession of frustrations, for it seemed that Cole had a charmed life. The wife, however, nagged him for his nervousness, and for being such a coward to suggest that on his next visit he should be permitted to sleep elsewhere whilst the trap was laid for a less elusive victim. There were the two of them, huddled like wizard and witch around the fire and the cauldron arguing until the wife, as is the custom with wives, got her way.

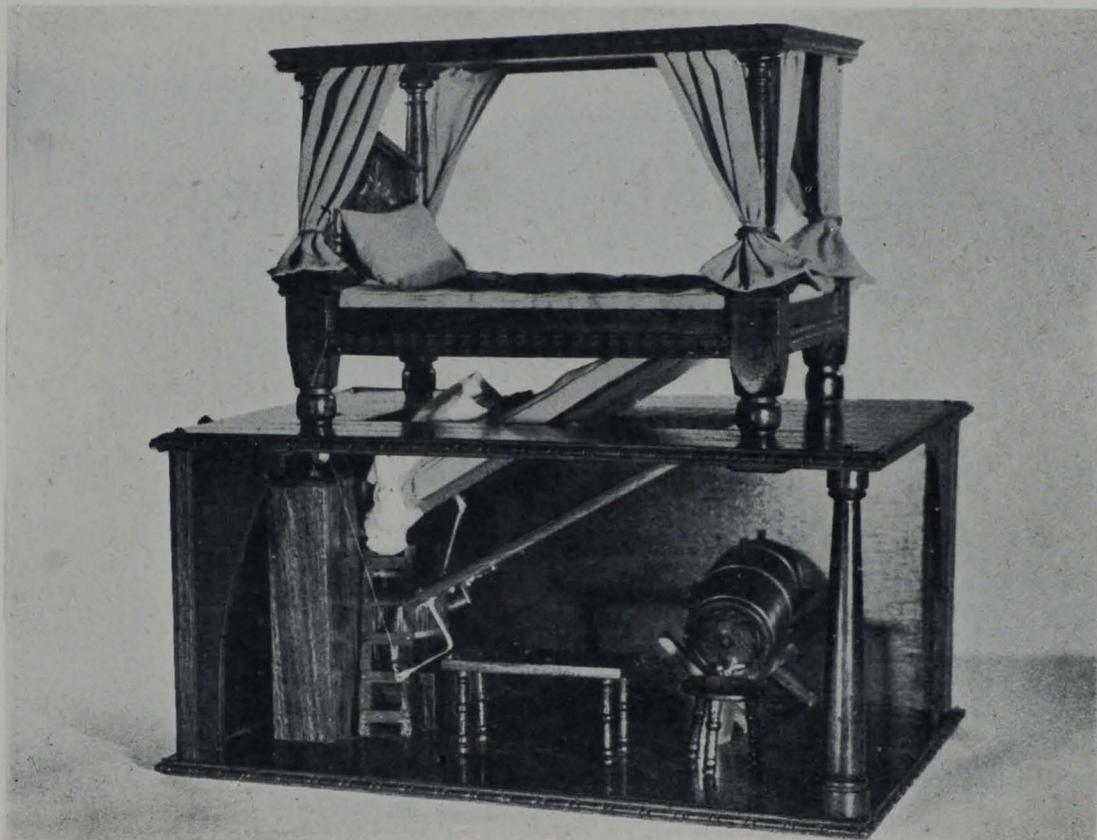
COLE-IN-THE-BROOK.

Cole was stupidly prevailed upon to make his will before he retired and to place it in the safe keeping of the landlord's wife. Jarman, by this time was petrified with nervousness and the portent of coming disaster. His further appeals to his wife proved unavailing for the gospel of gold transcends the philosophy of power. Besides, a fair sum of money had been spent in preparing the fire and the vat, and so the deed was done.

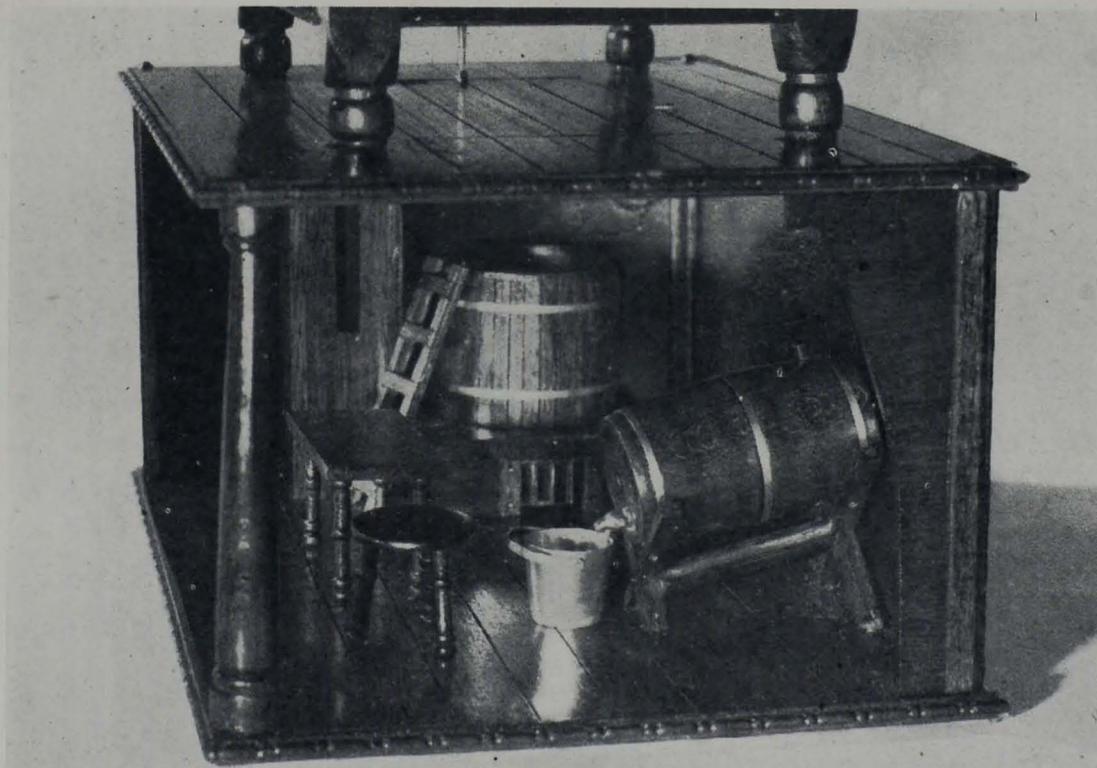
Unfortunately for Jarman, Cole's horse was found wandering in the streets of Colnbrook and this caused a hue and cry for its owner, who was well known and when last seen was entering 'The Ostrich.' His body was recovered some time later from a nearby brook and it is said that the village takes its name from that incident—Cole in the brook, which has been corrupted to Colnbrook. However, whether true or not it is a nice story and worthy of its setting. There is no need for me to record how the guilty couple were brought to book, compelled to confess, and punished, by what means is unstated, but probably they were slung from one of the gibbets with which the old Bath Road abounded. There was one at Longford and several on the Heath. Anyway, that is the last reported murder that took place at 'The Ostrich.' This story is the subject of a novel by the first English novelist, Thomas Deloney, contemporary of Shakespeare. The title of the book is 'Thomas of Reading.'



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Reproduced by kind permission of Mr. F. J. Camm, Editor of " Practical Mechanics," who built the model.



Reproduced by kind permission of Mr. F. J. Camm, Editor of " Practical Mechanics," who built the model.

AS IT WAS, SO IT IS.

The inn is timber and brick, plastered and picturesque. It has the overhanging front, by means of which the travellers from the coach could sidetrack the bars and enter their rooms from the top of the coach. It would be untrue to say that all of the building is the original, but portions of it undoubtedly are. It is possible that the original 'Hospice,' later 'Crane' and 'Osbridge' was just a beer-house, where the locals had their noggin of rum, or their tankard of brew. It is certain that several additions have been made. The 'Hospice' was given by Milo Crispin—'*quoddam hospitium in via Londinae apud Colebroc*'—in 1106 to the Abbot of Abingdon, in trust 'for the good of travellers in this world and the salvation of their souls in the next.'

ROYAL VISITORS.

Later it became a well-known meeting place for visitors to Windsor Castle. There are records which prove that it was used as a robing house where ambassadors donned their periwigs, powdered their hair and donned their ermine robes before undertaking the last stage of their journey to the Castle. Froissart, for example, states that four ambassadors to King Edward I 'dined in the Kynge's chamber and after they departed lay the same night at Colnbrook.'

DICK TURPIN.

Dick Turpin used the inn as a hideout and whilst there had a very narrow escape from the attentions of the Bow Street Runners. He jumped from his bedroom window into the courtyard, mounted his horse and pranced into a meadow, crossed the ford of the Colne and sped across the country. The present landlord will show you some of the relics of the highwaymen's days, including one of Turpin's pistols.

KING JOHN.

There is a traditional story that whilst on his way to Runnymede to sign Magna Charta King John had there a libation of ale. Like most old inns I am unable to deny that Queen Elizabeth slept the night at 'The Ostrich.' For she spent most of her time, according to history, sleeping at inns, so she must have slept at 'The Ostrich.' Q.E.D.!

There is another fine story connected with 'The Ostrich.' When King Charles I was on his way to London from Windsor to be tried at Westminster Hall, two of his faithful retainers, Captain Fanshawe and John Dowcett, followed him. A messenger dispatched by the King to meet them and carry

instructions as to how they could help to defend him was not recognized by them. As the two of them rode into Colnbrook they were greeted by one who said that he had arrived from London that morning and he advised them to be careful of the bandits and highwaymen whom he had encountered along the road. He invited them into 'The Ostrich' as he wished to give them some valuable information. No sooner had they arrived inside than they became suspicious of the rather larger number of guests than normal, and those suspicions proved to be well founded for they were both set upon and locked in a secret part of the building and menacingly told they would be murdered if they shouted for help.

A FREE FIGHT.

Soon, however, a large number of armed men arrived in the yard and Lord Richmond, the King's messenger, who was to have met them, demanded to have them produced under threat of razing the building. A free fight took place between the armed men and those in the inn, as a result of which one of the scoundrels was killed and five severely wounded. The two men were finally released and continued their journey with Lord Richmond to London.

The courtyard is still there, cobblestoned as it then was, and you can stand there and cast your mind into the past and reconstruct in your mind's eye that historic scene. Entering the courtyard through massive doors below a low arch and turning left, one can obtain a vista of the roofs and the dormer windows and the general aspect of this famous old inn.

THE ROOMS.

The inside of 'The Ostrich' is as redolent of the past as the outside. There is a wide antiquated staircase and the adjacent walls display numerous curios of interest to the visitor. On the first floor is a fine dining room, beautiful oak panelling and the bedrooms, not forgetting the one used by Dick Turpin. These rooms are practically in their original condition.

One of the earliest landlords was one Buckingham, who used the pile of money he made there to get into Parliament, at a time when our judges were the best that money could buy! You will find his name in the earliest editions of Debrett.

In 1648 the Manor Court was held in 'The Ostrich,' and Samuel Mills, with several others, was fined for 'selling beer by illicit measures to prejudice of the inhabitants.' But the old inn always gave full measure of thrills.

Alas, Colnbrook does not today bask in the sunshine of its former glory, for at one time it had a corporation, an annual fair, a famous market and court of pie-powder, which was a summary court formerly held at fairs and markets to administer justice among itinerant dealers: that was in the early part of the eighteenth century.

There is no fear today of you who read this book becoming the sixty-first on the list of murders. You are only likely when you visit 'The Ostrich' to be 'killed by kindness,' and a warm and sunny welcome on the part of Wally Fleckney and his charming spouse Beattie will always await you when you visit, and as a result, will undoubtedly revisit, this shrine of all that is best in English inn life."

THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT.

By kind permission of the Officer Commanding, Regimental Headquarters, we are privileged to reprint the history of the above Regiment which appeared in the programme of the Presentation of Colours to the First, Second and Third Battalions by His Majesty the King.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT.

"The Parachute Regiment can claim the 22nd of June as its birthday, for it was upon that day in 1940 that Mr. Churchill called for the formation of 'a corps of at least five thousand parachute troops, suitably organized and equipped.'

"A Parachute Training School was soon formed at Ringway, and No. 2 Commando chosen for training in parachute duties. As the scope of training increased, the title of No. 2 Commando was first changed to '11th Special Air Service Battalion' and then to '1st Parachute Battalion.' In September, 1941, this Battalion joined the 2nd and 3rd Parachute Battalions in the 1st Parachute Brigade, which had been formed under the command of Brigadier R. N. Gale, O.B.E., M.C., in the previous month. In October, 1941, Major-General F. A. M. Browning, D.S.O., was ordered to form an Airborne Division. Under his guidance The Parachute Regiment, which on 1st August, 1942, was formally established as a Regiment of the Army Air Corps, steadily expanded, until by the end of the war it comprised seventeen battalions and a number of independent pathfinder units. Not all the Battalions were raised at home; three were formed in India and two in Egypt. Members of the Regiment are volunteers; originally drawn from all arms of the service; they now come from the Infantry Regiments of the British Army.

"As the number of parachutists grew, so did the organization created by the Royal Air Force for training and dropping them. These tasks were entrusted to squadrons of 38 and 46 Groups, whose history is closely linked with that of The Parachute Regiment and whose casualties in the course of these duties have been severe.

"By 1941 it was found possible to mount an experimental raid in Southern Italy. This small but historic operation took place on 10th February, 1941, and was directed against the Tragino aqueduct in Apulia. A year later, on 27th February, 1942, a successful attack was made by a company of the 2nd Parachute Battalion on the German radar station at Bruneval on the coast of France. From then onwards the operations of the Regiment increased in scope as the technique of airborne warfare developed and more resources became available. In North Africa the battalions of the 1st Parachute Brigade were dropped on widely separated objectives, and in the subsequent fighting earned for the Regiment, which now wore the red beret, the name of 'Red Devils' bestowed upon it by the enemy. In the attack on Sicily, the same Brigade was dropped by night with the task of seizing the Primosole Bridge. The 1st, 2nd and 4th Parachute Brigades then saw service in Italy. When 1st and 4th Brigades returned to England before the invasion of Northern France, 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade remained, and later on took part in airborne operations in Italy, Southern France and Greece.

"The night of 5th/6th June, 1944, marked the first divisional airborne operations of the war. It was then that the 6th Airborne Division, which included the 3rd and 5th Parachute Brigades, landed in Normandy. This Division was commanded by Major-General R. N. Gale, O.B.E., M.C., who had raised it. There followed the operation at Arnhem on 17th September, 1944, by the 1st Airborne Division, which included the 1st and 4th Parachute Brigades, and which with the 82nd and 101st U.S. Airborne Divisions, formed the 1st British Airborne Corps. On 24th March, 1945, 6th Airborne Division, forming part of the 18th U.S. Airborne Corps, took part in the crossing of the Rhine and the subsequent operations which led to the final destruction of the German Army.

"The Parachute Regiment is required not only to execute landings from the air, but also to play the part of a Regiment of Infantry of the Line in fighting on the ground. In the campaigns in North Africa and Italy, Normandy, Greece, the Ardennes and Holland, and the advance across Germany to the Baltic, battalions of the Regiment have fulfilled this duty for long periods at a time.

"The history of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, which belonged to the 3rd Parachute Brigade from August, 1943, until the end of the war, is so closely bound up with that of the Regiment as to be part of it. The story of The Parachute Regiment is also inseparable from that of The Glider Pilot Regiment, The Indian Parachute Regiment, and those other arms and services which supported the Regiment in battle, and which, with it, comprise Airborne Forces as a whole.

"188 officers and 2,004 men were killed in action whilst serving with The Parachute Regiment. Their names, together with those of 10 officers and 120 men of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, have been recorded in a Roll of Honour, to be lodged in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in November."

The programme also contained a relevant article headed "The Origin of Colours."

THE ORIGIN OF COLOURS.

"The custom of carrying flags in war is one of the deepest antiquity. Such flags have always had two main purposes: to serve as a rallying point in battle, and to mark the presence of a person of superior degree.

"In feudal times banners were carried by each commander, so that his followers could distinguish him in action. Such banners carried the badge or coat of arms of the family concerned. It is said that the expression 'Colours' dates from the time of the Spanish Armada, when many captains of hurriedly raised troops were men of yeoman stock who bore no coat of arms. These commanders depended on the different colours of their flags to distinguish them from each other.

"In the seventeenth century it was customary for Colours to be carried by each company as the personal flag of the officer commanding it. A battalion then had ten or more companies. Towards the end of that century regulations for the use of Colours were for the first time prescribed. They allowed for Colours with varying emblems for Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels, Majors and Captains of companies.

"In 1707 the number of Colours in a battalion was reduced to two, and in 1751 it was ordered that (except for the Foot Guards) the first or King's Colour should be the Great Union, while the second or Regimental Colour should be of the colour of the Regimental facings. Colours were borne in action by their Regiments until late in the nineteenth century, and frequently bore the cuts and shot holes of the actions at which they had been present. Colours were originally carried on pikes, and, although

the spearhead has now been replaced by the Royal Crest, the term 'Colour Pike' is still used to describe the staff on which Colours are carried.

"Special veneration has always been paid to the Colours of a Regiment, and when uncased they are received with the highest honours. Colours are carried only by officers; the King's Colour is always carried on the right of the Regimental Colour. The term 'Colour Serjeant' formerly denoted those N.C.Os. who acted as escort to the Colours. Although a Colour Serjeant now has other tasks, this is still his privilege and duty.

"In Regiments of Infantry of the Line (with the exception of Rifle Regiments) the battle honours awarded before the Great War, 1914-18, appear on the Regimental Colour, while ten of the battle honours awarded for the Great War are carried on the King's Colour.

"The Colours of The Parachute Regiment as yet carry no battle honours. This is because those for the Second World War have not yet been decided."

We are very grateful to the Officer Commanding for permission to reproduce the foregoing, which will be of intense interest to our readers at home and abroad.

HOTELS AND CATERING DEPARTMENT.

Amongst the numerous expressions of appreciation of our hotel service, which we receive, the appended letter is of particular interest, since it gives a general impression of one who covers a wide area in the West, and regularly uses our Houses:—

7th May, 1951.

"The Manager:

DEAR SIR,

As I am not accustomed to writing letters of this nature I will ask you to bear with me and trust that my tone will not sound too familiar; in point of fact, the reason for my writing concerns *your* business and you may rightly say that it is not my concern; however, I feel so strongly on the matter that I must get it off my chest.

The greater part of my life is spent in hotels, both for living and for eating. In this particular line Simonds have done a marvellous job of work. I always find that a meal in a Simonds

Hotel is enjoyable—the cutlery is clean, the linen is clean and the service can be relied upon ; in particular I would mention

The Bath Arms at Cheddar,
The Lockyer at Plymouth,
The Queens at Newport.

I, of course, use many of your houses but the above stand out in my mind.

Regarding the 'Queens' at Newport, your Architect has made a grand job and it is a pleasure to use the house.

Another house which I use for a lunch tavern is the 'Sceptre' at Bristol. I used not to go to this house because of its reputation but I was tempted to call when I heard of a change of Managership. I now use this house whenever I am in Bristol. The young couple there have done a grand job of work and I shall be very glad to take my business friends there for a cold buffet and a beer at lunchtime.

Another house worthy of mention is the 'Cumberland' in Bristol, the Clements are nice people.

Now I have a word to say about beer—and believe me I have been in a lot of hot water over this subject. My business centre is Burton-on-Trent and, as you might expect, I know a few brewers personally. Before coming to Bristol I drunk nothing but Bass—now I drink Tavern, or nothing : all the people who I have introduced to Tavern admit it is a pleasant beer and become keen. One great point about Tavern, it is consistent, whether it be in the London Inn," Penzance—Marazion—Reading, Swansea or Bristol, it is the same, whereas even some famous beers vary one bottle from another in the same crate. Congratulations to your Brewer for giving me Tavern.

And now I want your help. I cover an area, Aberystwyth, Swindon, Bridport and everything south-west of that line. I must admit that I enjoy my Tavern in the most unexpected places but I can't get it in Cardiff. Will you please therefore tell me if I can get Tavern in Cardiff.

And whilst on the point of Cardiff, don't you think it is about time you built a nice hotel there—I always stay at the Angel but I'd swap it for the Queens at Newport any day.

In conclusion, I do hope you will not take my enthusiasm as impudence but in these gloomy days it is a treat to see a Company going ahead and taking the chance. My hearty congratulations to you and thank you for the service you are rendering to me and the general public.

I shall always take great pleasure in recommending the name of Simonds and if ever you start a Hop Leaf Club, I'll be your first member.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd)

MR. F. W. FREEMAN RETURNS TO READING.

(From the "Berkshire Chronicle.")

"The many friends in Reading and District of Mr. F. W. Freeman will be delighted to welcome him back to the town and congratulate him on his appointment. Mr. Freeman, who was educated at the old Kendrick School, Reading, later entered the employment of Messrs. H. and G. Simonds, the Reading brewers, and served in many departments. After being appointed to manage the Firm's Brighton Branch, he was later transferred to a similar post in connection with the Firm's important Devonport brewery. He has now come back to Reading to take over the position of Home Trade Manager in succession to Mr. W. Bowyer, who is going into well-deserved retirement. Mr. Freeman was for many years hon. secretary of Caversham West Ward Conservative Association, and during the war he was a member of the Reading Special Constabulary."

LIGHTER SIDE.

PASS THE MILK.

"She must certainly have a sixth sense."

"Why?"

"There's no sign of the other five."

* * * *

FASHION NOTE.

*Her latest dress was cute,
She always bought the best,
So, like his ancient suit,
He was often pressed.*

WORDS OF WISDOM.

What Nature does not reveal to thy spirit, thou wilt not wrench from her with levers and screws.

Fair flowers don't remain lying by the highway.

He must be a good shot who always hits the mark.

Say no ill of the year till it be past.

The stone that lieth not in your way need not offend you.

The statesman wishes to steer, while the politician is satisfied to drift.

You will find angling to be like the virtue of humility, which has a calmness of spirit and a world of other blessings attending upon it.

Faith builds a bridge from the old world to the next.

Every little fish expects to become a whale.

Good nature is the beauty of the mind, and like personal beauty, wins almost without anything else.

He is not the best carpenter who makes the most chips.

CRICKET.

The season opened on April 28th in not very good weather, the day being cold and windy, but the close result of the game more than made up for the conditions under which it was played.

Details of other games are as follows :—

" A " TEAM.

April 28th v. READING EXTRA " A." Drawn.

Batting first on a very easy paced wicket, A. J. Hawkins and E. Jones started very cautiously, but after about 25 minutes' play Jones was bowled for 6, and the total then stood at 11.

Runs still came very slowly and only 20 were scored in the first hour.

At 26 another wicket fell, that of H. K. White, who was bowled for 5. Then E. Barrett came in and the rate of scoring increased, and 29 runs were put on for the third wicket which fell at 55, Barrett being caught when he had made 13.

W. J. Greenaway then joined Hawkins, but was run out most unfortunately for nil.

Hawkins was then joined by R. J. Lambourne, and they took the score to 85, when Lambourne was bowled for 12. After F. J. Benham had made 2, the innings was declared closed at 96 for 4, Hawkins being not out with a very well earned 54.

The bowling was very good, Barnwell taking 2 for 14 and Barry 1 for 9.

Our opponents' innings opened in dramatic fashion, Tully being bowled with Lambourne's fourth ball for a " duck."

Eighteen runs were added for the second wicket at which point Bartlett was caught out for 10.

George then joined Fox, and they added 27 runs, when George was caught for 18. Two runs later another wicket fell, Fox being caught for 17. When the next man came in only about five minutes was left for play, and when stumps were drawn our opponents had made 52 runs for the loss of 4 wickets.

Our most successful bowlers were R. J. Lambourne (2 for 20) and J. Gardiner (1 for 7).

May 5th v. FRIMLEY.

This game was played in very unsettled weather, and rain held play up on three occasions, but we thank our friends from

Frimley for a very fine sporting game, even though we did not pull it off.

Batting first, our opponents lost their first wicket with their total at 2. Then Coggins came in and proceeded to hit our bowling very hard, and when he was out when the sixth wicket fell he had made a very good 59. Skelton (22), Alderton (18) and Warner (18) also played very well and the last wicket fell at 139.

K. Organ bowled very well throughout and took 5 wickets for 48 runs.

Hawkins and Jones opened our batting and after they had put on 34 for the first wicket, of which Jones had made 19, we thought things looked very bright, but we had reckoned without bowlers Edwards (5 for 8) and Roberts (4 for 8), and our next nine wickets only put on 16 runs, and we were all out for 50, thus losing the game by 89 runs.

May 12th v. PINKNEYS GREEN.

The weather was much kinder to us in this game which resulted in a draw.

Batting first, our opponents totalled 134 for 7 wickets, for whom Denton (45), Hester (35), Kean (20 not out) were their most successful batsmen.

E. Jones was our most successful bowler, taking 4 wickets for 17 runs.

Our first wicket fell at 5, and when the second fell at 9, things looked very black for us, but a very fine stand by A. J. Hawkins and W. G. Neville took the score to 67 before the next wicket fell; W. G. Neville's contribution being 37. A. J. Hawkins then continued to score steadily, and when stumps were drawn was 37 not out, and our total 84 for 4 wickets.

Kean was our opponents' best bowler, taking 3 wickets for 9 runs.

May 19th v. WALTHAM ST. LAWRENCE.

Again the weather was very bad, and although the game was started, when our total had reached 10 for 1 wicket the game had to be abandoned.

"B" TEAM.

May 5th v. MORTIMER "B."

Batting first on a good wicket our batsmen failed badly against the bowling of H. Steele (3 for 6), Kemp (2 for 7), A. Steele (2 for 5), Neville (2 for 9), being all out for 34 runs, of which R. Evans made 15.

Our opponents hit off these runs for the loss of 2 wickets, thereby winning the game by 8 wickets, and continued to total 89, of which Dow (24), Bedford (17), H. Steele (15), Vinal (15 not out) were their most successful batsmen.

H. K. White and F. Wells were our most successful bowlers, taking 4 for 24 and 4 for 36 respectively.

May 12th v. GREYS GREEN.

This match was marred by an accident to our wicket-keeper, L. Henson, who was cut over the eye with the ball, and was taken to hospital where the injury was stitched. We trust that soon he will return to his place behind the stumps.

Our opponents batted first, and their first wicket fell at 22, after which our bowlers were well and truly caned, and their next wicket did not fall until 139 runs were on the board, of which Frewin had made 51. At the fall of the fourth wicket the innings were declared closed, of which Cowper had made a brilliant 83, the total being 184.

Our best bowling came from F. Wells, who took 2 wickets for 59 runs.

Against the very good bowling of Hunt (4 for 14), Brunner (2 for 11) and Stacey (2 for 11), we were all out for 69 runs, of which Wells (26) and Robertson (18) in a stand of 42 for the seventh wicket, losing the game by 115 runs.

May 19th v. STRATFIELD TURGIS.

Batting first, our opponents made 143, of which Daly (43), Smith (25), Skinner (24), Mackay (20) were their best batsmen.

Our most successful bowler was L. Field, who took 4 wickets for 32 runs.

Again our batting collapsed against some very fine bowling by Dunn (5 wickets for 3 runs) and Pitman (3 for 8), and were all out for 18 runs, and lost by 125.

N. L. T.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

A GARDENING MORAL.

*I had a little spot of ground
Where blade nor blossom grew,
Though the bright sunshine all around
Life-giving radiance threw.
I mourned to see a spot so bare
Of leaves of heathful green,
And thought of bowers, and blossoms fair,
I frequently had seen.*

*Some seeds of various kinds lay by—
I knew not what they were,
But, rudely turning o'er the soil,
I strewed them thickly there ;
And day by day I watched them spring
From out the fertile earth,
And hoped for many a loving thing
Of beauty and of worth.*

*But as I marked their leaves unfold
As weeds before my view,
And saw how stubbornly and bold
The thorns and nettles grew ;
I sighed to think that I had done,
Unwittingly, a thing
That, where a beauteous bower should thrive,
But worthless weeds did spring.*

*And thus I mused : the things we do,
With little heed or ken,
May prove of worthless growth, and strew
With thorns the paths of men ;
For little deeds, like little seeds,
May flowers prove, or noxious weeds.*

BRANCHES.

BRIDGEND.

Kenfig and District Darts League held their " Finals " night at the Kenfig Hill Conservative Club on Saturday, May 5th, and our Mr. R. C. Pitts had much pleasure in presenting the trophies to the captains of the winning teams. We should particularly like to congratulate the Farmers' Arms, Cefn Cribbwr, League Champions, on winning the " Simonds " Cup.

The league final positions and Cup winners are as follows :—

<i>League Champions</i> ...	Farmers' Arms, Cefn Cribbwr.
<i>Runners-up</i> ...	Walnut Tree, Pyle.
<i>Knock-Out Cup</i> (for 8) ...	Farmers' Arms, Cefn Cribbwr.
<i>Knock-Out Cup</i> (for 4) ...	Ditto.
<i>Knock-Out Cup</i> (for 2) ...	Walnut Tree, Pyle.
<i>Individual Champions</i> ...	Bankers Hill Inn, Cefn Cribbwr.

Our House, The Three Horse Shoes, Bridgend, was again honoured by the Llangeinor Hunt Meeting there on Wednesday, March 21st.



Photograph by Angus Photos, Bridgend, Glam.

Mr. R. C. Pitts presenting the Stirrup Cup to the Master of the Llangeinor Hunt when they met at the Three Horse Shoes, Bridgend, on Wednesday, March 21st, 1951.

This was quite an attraction for the people of Bridgend, and a large crowd watched the proceedings.

THERE IS A "TAVERN" IN THE TOWN.

In every town and hamlet,
Wherever you may go,
You'll find a "Hop Leaf" as a Sign,
And one thing you will know.

You've found another SIMONDS house
Where beer is of the best;
Just walk inside, and call your drink,
The name has stood the test.

Most men have a fancy
For a dark ale or a light;
Whichever kind that you prefer,
You'll find that it's just right.

If you should need a "pick-me-up"
You simply cannot fail;
Just ask for it by name and say
"A glass of 'TAVERN' Ale."

R. F. C., *Bridgend.*

BRISTOL.

The advent of the kinder season of the year has automatically closed down our winter sporting activities until September. Bristol's "Hop Leaf" Skittles and Darts Leagues' Competition honours and Knock-Out Cups were as keenly contested for as ever, and we hope to be able to give complete results in our September notes.

One very noteworthy skittles performance was by our own Brewery "Stragglers," who, in 1949-50, finished right at the foot of "B" Division of the league. By virtue of perseverance, good sportsmanship and first class team work in 1950-51, they won promotion to the senior circle itself—no mean achievement!

The final match, to decide promotion, was won by one pin only—on the result of the very last "wood"—but better late than never!

Our congratulations to every member of the team, and particularly to the staff organisation under Mr. A. W. Bold

(*Chairman*), Mr. W. H. Wheeler (*Treasurer*), Mr. E. W. Clarkson (*Captain*) and Mr. K. F. Blacker (*Secretary*), which made this success possible.

Now for "A" Division honours! We hope at least to give a good account of ourselves and to meet many more new and old Simonds friends as we travel around during 1951-52, enjoying our games with them as we have in past years in the lower division. May our efforts not be too unworthy of the higher grade!

JACOB STREET BREWERY A.F.C.

Another outstanding feature of the Winter Sporting Season was the entry into the Bristol and Suburban Football League of the Brewery team and the keenness of all concerned, despite the deplorable weather conditions week by week, which during one period caused nine consecutive matches to be put off.

During April the team had to play two and three games each week in order to complete their fixtures. No honours came their way—they were not expected during their first year—but the experience gained will be of the greatest value in the future, and should encourage both Executive and players to continue their good work as worthy wearers of the "Hop Leaf" emblem, in every corner of Bristol, setting an example to all in sportsmanship and friendliness, and thus earning the respect and admiration of all who meet them, both on and off the field.

(Top scorer for the season was Mr. B. Bambury, the Captain, with 21 goals; with Messrs. G. Andrews and R. Williams 11 and 10 each respectively.)

THE "WINE VAULTS," CLIFTON.

The above fully licensed establishment, which enjoys a very high reputation over a wide area, came under the "Hop Leaf" banner early in April, upon the retirement from business of our very good friend, its former proprietor, Mr. J. C. Mason, who for some years past had slowly but surely guided its destinies from something of small account to a business which already boasts a tradition and has acquired an atmosphere of its very own in the city.

Our products have always been especially favoured in this Clifton "port of call," and we hope that many of our "Hop Leaf" friends from other areas will find their way there as time passes. Its restaurant is particularly valuable in these days to many who prefer its comparative privacy for a meal, rather than

make the journey into the city, and in many ways the "Wine Vaults" satisfies an urgent need in that part of Bristol.

Our resident Manager, Mr. R. J. Manning, has had a long experience in the Trade, and is admirably fitted to look after our new interests in the area, and the needs of all our friends who seek it out.

We invite all our distant friends to make themselves known to him there. They may be sure of a friendly welcome and good service. It's quite near the Botanical Gardens and Zoo in Alma Vale Road, not far from the famous Durdham Downs!

LONDON.

The Firm's Annual Ball was voted a great success by the seven members of London Stores staff who, with their wives, made the trip to Reading in March. A breakdown on the road delayed some of the party, but despite this, all agreed that the function was a most enjoyable one, and through these columns extend their thanks to the Directors for their generosity and to the organisation for a well planned evening.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the sudden death of Mr. A. A. W. Powell, a clerk at this Branch. A very popular member of the staff, Mr. Powell joined the Firm in 1937, and, as a Territorial, he was early on active service as an A.A. Gunner after the outbreak of war. He saw service in Norway, North Africa and Italy, and rejoined the Firm after demobilization in 1946.

The suddenness of his death which occurred in his sleep on Friday night after work as usual during the day cast a great gloom over us all, and his ever cheerful disposition and keenness will be greatly missed at the Branch.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and two children in their grievous loss.

Mr. Powell, who was 30 years of age, was interred in Fulham Cemetery on May 10th. Mr. S. M. Penlerick, Manager, Mr. G. W. Oram, and two of his colleagues were amongst those who attended.

Mr. F. E. Gardiner, another former London Branch member, who had retired on pension in October, 1946, also passed away recently. "Frank" Gardiner, who joined the Firm in October, 1913, was for many years the Firm's Racecourse Representative,

and was a very popular personality with our many racecourse catering friends, who have asked us to include them in our sympathy which we express through these columns to Mrs. Gardiner and family.

LUDGERSHALL.

It is with regret we have to report the death on the 2nd of January of Mr. G. E. Roynon, who was formerly the Wholesale and Retail Traveller at Ludgershall.

Mr. Roynon was one of the first travellers at Ludgershall, and was a well-known figure in the district. He had a large number of customers in the farming world, and "George" as he was known to all and sundry, was never happier than when mixing with these folk in the various market places in the district.

Right up to the time of his retirement he remained faithful to his push bike on which he must have ridden many thousands of miles during his career.

On February 28th, after fifty years' service, Mr. H. Nuttall ceased active work, and we wish him many years of happy retirement in which to enjoy a well-earned pension.

For some time Mr. Nuttall's health has not been of the best, but no doubt the rest will restore him.

He joined the Firm at Brighton under the late Mr. W. G. Bayliss, and afterwards went to Farnborough.

In 1915 he was transferred to Ludgershall where, under the late Mr. W. H. Wigley, he ran several sub-depots on the Plain during the 1914-18 War. He joined the Wiltshire Regiment, but an injury to his arm led to his discharge after several months in hospital. He afterwards served in the Ludgershall Office, and then for some years was our senior military traveller on the Plain.

In his younger days he was a keen cyclist and an all-the-year-round swimmer off the West Pier, Brighton.

Mr. Nuttall is a very keen gardener, and no doubt he will spend many happy hours of his retirement following this pursuit.

ANNUAL BALL.

Several of the staff, headed by Mr. Paice, came to Reading for the Annual Ball, and spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

PORTSMOUTH.

In the last issue of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE there was, under the Portsmouth Notes, published a photograph of Sergeant L. G. Graham, Grenadier Guards, greeting Sergeant J. Ockenden, V.C. In the paragraph appertaining to, and in the caption underneath the photograph there was reference made to Sergeant L. G. Graham, V.C. Sergeant Graham is not the holder of this award, and we would apologise for its having appeared in print. The error occurred as the result of a misunderstanding during a telephone conversation upon this article.

At the same time we would express our apologies to Colonel B. A. Halford-Walker, Officer-in-Charge, Recruiting Centre No. 42, to whom we referred as Major B. R. Halford-Walker.

FAREWELL TO MR. C. R. HOLMAN (MANAGER).

A pleasing ceremony took place in the offices at Portsmouth Branch on May 4th, 1951, when presentations were made to Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Holman, to mark the occasion of their departure from Portsmouth, Mr. Holman having been appointed Manager at our Devonport Branch. Mr. Holman was presented with an inscribed silver desk calendar and Mrs. Holman with a powder compact. The presentations were made by Mr. R. B. Bryson, Chief Clerk, and in a short speech he congratulated Mr. Holman on his appointment to the important position of Manager of the Devonport Branch, and wished him and Mrs. Holman, and their son Michael, every success and happiness in the future. Mr. Bryson also thanked Mr. Holman for all he had done for the staff at Portsmouth, particularly for his part in the improvement and extension of the offices.

Mr. Holman was greatly touched, and in his reply said that he would miss everyone at Portsmouth. He thanked the staff for their good wishes and their gifts to Mrs. Holman and himself. The calendar would be placed on his desk at Devonport Branch (the same desk before which he had so often stood in the past), and would remind him of his happy stay at Portsmouth.

Mr. Holman assured Mr. F. C. Cowlin, who will be succeeding him as Manager of Portsmouth Branch, of the same loyal support of the staff as he himself had received in the past. A toast was then drunk to Mr. and Mrs. Holman and their son, and the ceremony ended on a happy and cheerful note.

On Wednesday, May 2nd, 1951, the officers and members of the R.N.E.B.S. Memorial Club, Southsea, held a farewell Dinner and Dance in honour of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Holman (Portsmouth Branch Manager) on the occasion of their departure to Devonport.

The President, Mr. H. E. Carpenter, toasting Mr. and Mrs. Holman, thanked them for everything they had done for the members and the Club.

Mr. Holman suitably replied, and presented the President with a silver plated antique tankard, suggesting a "Quiz" competition be held between the members—Ladies versus Gentlemen.

Proposing the toast to the visitors, Mr. A. W. Leggatt, Vice-President, extended a hearty welcome to Mr. E. D. Simonds, Director of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Cowling (Portsmouth Manager) and Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Hingston (Representative).

Mr. Duncan Simonds, being called upon to reply, thanked the President, officers and members for a wonderful reception, assuring them of the same support from both himself and Mr. Cowlin as in the past.

Musical honours and many farewell handshakes terminated the very enjoyable evening.

On the evening of the 9th May, 1951, the Snooker Spring Handicap Final of the Southsea Club was played between Mr. Arthur Crick, the Managing Director of the Southsea Hotels, Ltd., Southsea, and Mr. C. R. Holman. After two very closely contested games Mr. C. R. Holman proved victorious and was awarded the Silver Cup presented by Vernon Smeed, Esq. The handicap was as follows:—

Mr. A. Crick—Scratch. Mr. C. R. Holman received 24 points.

We publish herewith a photograph of the interior of a most delightful licensed restaurant in Osborne Road, Southsea. It is the "Cut Loaf," and most heartily do we recommend our "Hop Leaf" friends to visit this establishment when in Southsea. In addition to most excellent food and service, there is available Simonds beers and wines from the famous House of Messrs. Saccone & Speed, Ltd.

The Proprietors, Mr. "Bill" Holker and Mr. "Tommy" Harris, are genial hosts, whose first care is for the comfort, well-being and satisfaction of their patrons.



Interior of the "Cut Loaf," the licensed restaurant in Osborne Road, Southsea.
 Photograph by Wright & Logan, 1a, Albert Road, Southsea, Hants.

We welcome to our Portsmouth staff Mr. Frederick C. Cowlin, who assumed the Managership of this Branch on Saturday, May 12th. Mr. F. C. Cowling, who has spent the greater part of his life in Portsmouth, is very well known in local business, sporting and naval circles, in particular, being a keen supporter of the Portsmouth Football Club.

Until recently Mr. Cowling was the South Hampshire Manager for Messrs. Charles Hammerton & Co., Ltd., having succeeded his father in that position in 1939. Prior to joining Messrs. Charles Hammerton & Co., Mr. Cowling served for many years with the N.A.A.F.I. as a buyer. We would take this opportunity of expressing to him our hearty welcome and earnest good wishes for his complete success under the "Hop Leaf" banner.

We have great pleasure in reproducing a photograph of the President and Officers of the Landport Liberal Club, Portsmouth, outside their new extension which was reported in our last issue.



Maurice Studios, Photographers, 40, Somers Road, Southsea, Hants.

President and Officers of the Landport Liberal Club.

Messrs. Johnson and Andrews were the respective winners of the recent Darts and Snooker Handicap Competitions held at the British Legion Club, Portsmouth (No. 1), Queen's Crescent, Southsea. After the finals, keenly contested on the evening of Friday, May 4th, the winners were presented with tankards by their President, Mr. V. Hugo, and Mr. C. R. Holman. The runners-up in the Darts Competition was the popular Club Steward, Mr. M. Carrol, and Mr. Adams was defeated in the final of the Snooker. The runners-up received bottles of Princess Elizabeth ale as consolation prizes.

The prize-giving over, Mr. C. R. Holman, the Manager of the Portsmouth Branch of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Limited, was presented by the President, Mr. Hugo, on behalf of all the members, with an inscribed Ronson lighter as a farewell gift. Mr. Hugo remarked on his efforts on the Finance Committee of the British Legion (No. 1) Club.

In a short speech Mr. Holman thanked the President, officers and members of the Club for this gift, which he said, will ever remind him of their very fine Club, of which he had the honour to be a member. He wished them all success and prosperity in the future.

Readers of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE will, we know, join with us in expressing to all relatives and friends of the Officers and Men of H.M. Submarine *Affray* recently lost while on exercise our sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences. The loss of this vessel and her gallant crew has been severely felt throughout the country, but particularly by the City of Portsmouth and its neighbour, Gosport. The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Sir Denis Daley, has opened an "Affray Fund" and would be grateful to receive subscriptions for same.

Would readers wishing to donate please forward their moneys to Sir Denis?

About 90 members were present at the Annual Dinner of the Havant Branch of the British Legion, presided over by Mr. J. Rankin McIlroy, President.

Toasting the President, Mr. J. H. Clutterbuck said that the President, whose membership number was 4, was one of the five present at the Dinner who helped form the Branch 26 years ago.

The President said he was sorry to tell them that Mr. A. Watts (Chairman of the Club) was very ill and unlikely for some time

to come to continue to play his very important part in the activities of the Legion.

We publish a photograph of the enterprising and popular Secretary and Steward of the British Legion Club, Copnor. Legionaires to the Portsmouth area would find this Club well worth a visit.



Photograph by J. Curtis, 2a, Hillborough Crescent, Southsea, Hants.

The popular Secretary and Steward of the British Legion Club, Copnor.

LIGHTER SIDE.

DILL: "Yes, we're all settled in our own home, and the furniture is beautiful. You ought to drop in and see it soon. Most of it goes back to Louis XVI."

JENKS: "Cheer up! I'm in the same fix! All of mine goes back to Bloomingdale's the 15th."

* * * *

SHE: "I want that car in the window."

HE: "Well, it's in the window!"

SALISBURY.

"THE HAUNCH OF VENISON."

This beautiful old chop house, one of the showplaces of Salisbury, has been under the control of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Hotels and Catering Department for four years. During this time a programme of tasteful redecoration and restoration has produced a perfect blend of ancient and modern.

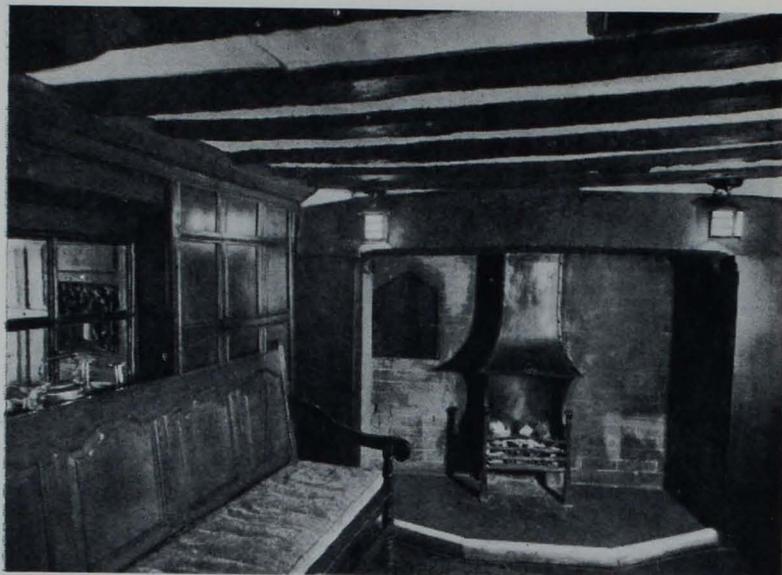
Built in 1320, the Haunch of Venison was originally a hostelry outside the walls of the Cathedral City, and many legends have been handed down regarding some of its strange customers and their even stranger doings. Not least of these legends regards the finding, in the old baking oven a couple of centuries or so ago, of a man's hand severed at the wrist, still holding a marked playing card. Needless to say, in these days of law and order, "The Haunch" is no longer a gaming house, but the weary traveller can be sure of a cheerful welcome and a glass of one of Simonds fine brews in one of the beautifully appointed old world bars, whilst on the floor above he will find fare and service to gladden his heart. Mr. and Mrs. P. Dell, the present Manager and Manageress, cannot always promise the juicy lamb chops and selected mixed grills of former days, but they keep a Table which is a joy to behold in these difficult "food controlled" times.

As the accompanying photographs will show, "The Haunch" has an atmosphere which is quite unique and enchants many visitors from overseas. Its increasing popularity is ample proof that the slogan of Mr. H. C. Davis, the energetic Manager of the Hotels and Catering Department, "The best possible service and comfort at the lowest possible tariff" is more than ever attractive to the public these days, and pays handsome dividends.



Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.

The "Haunch" from the Butter Market.



*Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.*
A cosy corner of the Main Bar.



*Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.*
A general view of the Grill Room, with the Restaurant beyond.



*Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.*
The Restaurant.



*Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.*
The Grill Room.



*Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.*

The new Cloisters Bar, a skilful blending of old and new.



*Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.*

The Main Bar, with its old-fashioned sherry taps still in existence, but no longer in use.



*Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.,
The Kennet Studio, 25, London Street, Reading.*

A general view of the modern Kitchen, fully tiled throughout.

STAINES.

THE LATE MRS. E. M. FORDHAM.

We regret to record the sudden death of Mrs. E. M. Fordham, of the Off-Licence, Beacon Hill Road, Hindhead, on Thursday, March 1st.

Mrs. Fordham, who had lived in the Hindhead district for most of her life, was known as a person of great kindness and public spiritedness, and her passing will be a great loss to her countless friends.

THE HINDHEAD WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

The first Annual Dinner of the above Club, organised by the Sports Committee, took place at the Club on Friday, April 6th, to mark the end of the Games Tournament Season during which the Club scored successes in snooker and dominoes, and were well placed in other events.

The Club President, Mr. T. Whitehead, who was in the Chair, proposed the loyal toast, and Mr. R. Carter, the Vice-President, proposed the toast of "The Club." Mr. A. Burch replied, and this was followed by toasts to the Ladies and the Visitors; the latter being replied to by Mr. L. T. C. Brown (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)

Cups and Trophies were presented by Mr. B. H. Quelch (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.), followed by a short speech by Mr. R. G. Burns, Sports Secretary of the Club.



"Herald" Photo: Langham's, 114, West Street, Farnham.

Receiving the "da Costa Billiards Cup" from Mr. B. H. Quelch at the Hindhead Working Men's Club is Mr. R. Carter (Manager, The Woodcock Hotel, Hindhead). Behind stands Mr. Woods who was runner-up.

A social evening and entertainment followed the Presentations, music being supplied by Kemp's Band, with Maurice Davies and Billy Phelps.

We congratulate Miss A. Richardson on her marriage to Sergeant N. Fairbrother, R.A.M.C., in Hong Kong, on Saturday, May 5th.

Miss A. Richardson, who joined our staff at Woking Branch in June, 1942, and was transferred to Staines when that Branch

closed in August, 1950, sailed for Hong Kong on March 16th, and anticipates remaining there for a further twelve months. She bade us farewell on Friday, March 9th, when Mr. E. Gosney presided over a gathering of her many friends in the General Office at Staines.

After opening the proceedings Mr. Gosney called upon Mr. B. H. Quelch to make a presentation to Miss Richardson which consisted of a case of fish knives and forks and a cruet set.

We hope to publish a photograph of the wedding which took place in the Cathedral at Hong Kong in a later issue.

CHURCH WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

Another first Annual Dinner which took place recently was that of the Church Working Men's Club on April 14th, at the Village Hall.

A company of about 100 sat down to dinner which included, among its guests, Countess Lloyd George, Brig. H. A. Nash, O.B.E., and Lt.-Col. E. A. Rose, C.B.E.

Col. Rose presented the games trophies and Mr. J. Mitchell (Secretary) who proposed the toast of "The Club" told the story of its early beginnings 30 years ago.

The toast of the visitors was proposed by Mr. P. E. Charman, who welcomed the ladies, in particular, Lady Lloyd George. Mr. L. T. C. Brown responded.

The catering arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Boyce & Son, of Guildford, and the evening concluded with an entertainment by "Jandor."

We should like to take this opportunity of recording our thanks to all of our friends in Clubs in this area for extending invitations to our Sales Staff to attend the many Annual Dinners, Concerts and Prize Distributions recently.

We have spent many happy evenings at the various Clubs, and we regret that space prevents us from recording the details of each function.

The Staines and District "Hop Leaf" Darts League Finals were played off at the Pack Horse Hotel, Staines, on Tuesday, May 22nd, being a most successful season to a grand conclusion.

A large crowd witnessed some brilliant throwing by the players and every match went to three legs, with each team

requiring the elusive double. This also applied to the Singles Final, in which there was some very high scoring by L. Thompson, of the Three Horse Shoes, Feltham, who proved a worthy champion.

The League Champions and winners of Section 2 were The Shears, Sunbury, who received the Championship Cup. The runners-up and winners of Section 1 were the Foresters' Arms, Chalvey, who received the runners-up Shield.



Mr. F. H. V. Keighley presenting the Championship Cup to "The Shears," Sunbury.

L. Thompson, the Individual Champion, in addition to receiving the Individual Championship, was also presented with a 24-piece cutlery set.

Mr. F. V. H. Keighley, who was introduced by Mr. E. Gosney, kindly attended to present the prizes. The League Champions and runners-up received electric irons. The runners-up of each Section received tea masters, and the third team in each Section received leather wallets. A 7-piece fruit set was presented to Mr. S. Babb, of The Swan, Staines, the runner-up of the Individual Championship.



Mr. F. H. V. Keighley with the Committee of Staines and District "Hop Leaf" Darts League.

STAINES AND DISTRICT "HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

All league matches have now been played and final positions of the teams are as follows:—

SECTION 1.

	Played	Won	Lost	Legs.		Pts.
				Won	Lost	
Foresters' Arms, Chalvey	... 24	19	5	55	17	55
Three Horse Shoes, Feltham 'A'	24	17	7	48	24	48
Swan, Staines	... 24	17	7	48	24	48
Morning Star, Datchet 'A'	... 24	18	6	43	29	43
Prince of Wales, Englefield Green	24	14	10	42	30	42
Beehive, Englefield Green	... 24	13	11	40	32	40
Nag's Head, Slough	... 24	13	11	35	37	35
Stag and Hounds, Virginia Water	24	12	12	35	37	35
Royal Oak, Slough	... 24	10	14	33	39	33
Plough, Slough	... 24	9	15	27	45	27
Rising Sun, Datchet	... 24	3	21	21	51	21
Ostrich, Colnbrook	... 24	4	20	21	51	21
Morning Star, Datchet 'B'	... 24	6	18	20	52	20

SECTION 2.

	Played	Won	Lost	Legs.		Pts.
				Won	Lost	
Shears, Sunbury	26	21	5	56	22	56
Rising Sun, Stanwell	26	20	6	54	24	54
Phoenix, Staines	26	28	8	50	28	50
Three Horse Shoes, Feltham 'B'	26	16	10	47	31	47
H. & G. Simonds, Limited	26	17	9	44	34	44
Railway Tavern, Feltham	26	14	12	43	35	43
Jolly Gardeners, Sunbury	26	14	12	40	38	40
Duke of Wellington, Bedfont	26	12	14	37	41	37
Garibaldi, Staines	26	9	17	34	44	34
Feathers, Laleham	26	7	19	32	46	32
Railway Hotel, Staines	26	11	15	32	46	32
Airman, Feltham	26	11	15	31	47	31
Three Horse Shoes, Shepperton	26	8	18	25	53	25
Load of Hay, Bedfont	26	5	21	21	57	21

PHILLIPS & SONS, LIMITED, NEWPORT.

RETIREMENT OF MR. A. E. PAYNE.

On the 31st December last the staff gathered together on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. A. E. Payne, of the Bottling and Wine and Spirit Department.

Mr. S. C. Saunders was in the Chair, and said that although he had known Mr. Payne for only eighteen months or so, he had a great regard for him, and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. Saunders then called upon Mr. W. E. Hall to present, on behalf of the staff, a fireside chair. Mr. Hall referred to Mr. Payne's long and faithful service to the Company. Over fifty years had passed since Mr. Payne had started as an office boy at 4/- per week and, on behalf of the staff, asked Mr. Payne to accept this gift with the staff's best wishes for good health during the coming years for himself and Mrs. Payne. Mr. T. H. Antill, Mr. F. H. Weller and Mr. D. Haddon also spoke.

Mr. Payne thanked them all for their kind remarks and for the handsome gift which, he assured them, he would enjoy to the full.

The Newport party who attended the Annual Ball thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and wish to express their appreciation to all concerned in the arrangements for a very enjoyable entertainment.

We are pleased to welcome to our staff, Mr. B. E. Read, who has been transferred from the Bristol Branch.

ABERTILLERY LICENSED VICTUALLERS' BANQUET AND DANCE.

The First Annual Banquet and Dance of the Abertillery Licensed Victuallers' Association, which was held at the Bush Hotel, Abertillery, proved to be a great success.

In his Presidential speech Mr. W. J. Jones, Manager of Messrs. Webbs Aberbeeg Ltd., spoke of the difficulties of the trade and the need for the utmost effort on the part of the licensees to provide that "public service" for which the trade had become renowned.

After an excellent meal and the speeches were concluded, an interval was arranged while the dining room was cleared for dancing. A six-piece band then provided music for the dances to complete a grand evening.

The Firm were represented by Mr. S. C. Saunders, General Manager, and Mr. H. J. Thomas, Tied House Supervisor.



Photo by courtesy of The South Wales Argus.

Abertillery Licensed Victuallers' Association Annual Banquet and Ball.

TALBOT HOTEL, NEWPORT.

In our issue of March, 1950, appeared a report and illustrations of the "Smugglers' Bar" at the above hotel. It has proved to be a very popular bar, and our tenant, Mr. Don Miller, has since developed another idea which culminated in the opening on the 13th April of the "Aquarium Lounge." This room adjoins the "Smugglers' Bar," and was redecorated and equipped with a modern counter and back fitting by the Firm. Mr. Miller then tastefully refurnished the room, and installed four glass tanks containing tropical fish on pedestals around the room.

The bar was opened by Mr. S. C. Saunders, General Manager, who praised Mr. Miller's foresight and hard work, which had given his patrons such an interesting and comfortable bar.



Photo by courtesy of The South Wales Argus.

Opening of the Aquarium Lounge, Talbot Hotel, Newport, Mon.

WELL DONE "THE GLOBE," LLANARTH STREET!

The end of the season found both the Ladies' and Gents' teams heading their respective divisions of the Newport Table Skittles League, the Ladies having triumphed for the second time in succession.

A celebration supper on the 26th February was attended by Mr. S. C. Saunders, General Manager, and Mr. H. J. Thomas, Tied House Supervisor.

When presenting the trophies Mr. Saunders congratulated Mr. Billy Hazell, Captain of the Gents' team, and Mrs. Tidmarsh (wife of the tenant), Captain of the Ladies, on their splendid achievement and stated that it was the policy of the Firm to encourage sporting activities in their houses, and he hoped that the happy spirit existing in the "Globe" would carry them on to further triumphs.



Photo by courtesy of The South Wales Argus.

The "Globe Inn" Skittles Celebration Supper.

DEVONPORT.

We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. C. R. Holman, who has been transferred from Portsmouth Branch, and will be taking up his duties as Manager at the Tamar Brewery as and from June 1st, in succession to Mr. F. W. Freeman, who has been transferred to take over another appointment at Reading.

Our congratulations to Mr. C. Strong, of the General Office, whose wife presented him with a son on April 28th. Mrs. Strong and son, we are glad to say, are progressing favourably.

We congratulate Mr. G. Rees, also of the General Office, on his marriage to Miss W. Thomas at St. Nicholas Church on the 12th May. A fireside chair, subscribed for by fellow employees, was presented to him by Mr. F. W. Freeman who, when congratulating him, expressed the best wishes of everyone for their future happiness. Mr. Rees suitably replied.

"HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

There was a record attendance of members and supporters at the Exmouth Hall, Devonport, on Monday, May 28th, to witness the Finals for the Cup and Individual Championship for the season 1950-51.

The Chairman of the League, Mr. A. W. Sorrell, carried out the duties of compère and referee in his usual capable and efficient manner, and was also responsible for the bar arrangements which proved highly successful.

Mr. Sorrell welcomed our President, Mr. E. D. Simonds, who had travelled down specially from Reading to present the trophies and prizes, and thanked the Officers of the League, also Mr. F. W. Freeman and Mr. R. E. Wright, of the Tamar Brewery, for their splendid assistance.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Simonds thanked Mr. Sorrell, Chairman, and Mr. Johnson, Secretary, also the Officers for their efforts in the organisation of the League, and all players and supporters for their keen interest which had been the means of assuring a successful season.

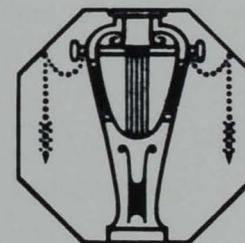
The Shield winners were the Weston Mill Hotel team, who have been successful in winning the League for three years in succession, and therefore will retain the trophy; the team from the Camel's Head Inn were runners-up.

The Cup Final between the Standard Inn "A" and Weston Mill resulted in a win of 6 games to 3 in favour of the Weston Mill.

In the Individual Championship, R. Mearns, Abbey "A," proved to be a very skilled competitor, and won all games. A score of 180 with three darts was registered by him in the game against A. J. Sorrell, of the "Standard."

The final positions were:—

	Played	Won	Lost	Fov	Agst.	Pts.
Weston Mill Hotel ...	36	32	4	226	98	64
Camel's Head Inn ...	36	28	8	195	129	56
Abbey Hotel "A" ...	36	27	9	204	120	54
Lord Beresford "A" ...	36	27	9	198	126	54
Standard Inn "A" ...	36	24	12	184	140	48
Stoke Vaults ...	36	21	15	166	158	42
Simonds Social Club "A" ...	36	20	16	167	157	40
Simonds Social Club "B" ...	36	19	17	168	156	38
Steambridge Inn ...	36	18	18	176	148	36
Lord Beresford "B" ...	36	16	20	159	165	32
Swan Hotel ...	36	15	21	152	172	30
Standard Inn "B" ...	36	15	21	147	177	30
Abbey Hotel "B" ...	36	15	21	145	179	30
Tamar Hotel ...	36	15	21	145	179	30
Chester Cup Inn ...	36	12	24	148	176	24
Freemasons' Arms ...	36	12	24	135	189	24
Grapes Tavern ...	36	10	26	114	210	20
Brown Bear Inn ...	36	9	27	123	201	18
Prince Alfred Inn ...	36	7	29	124	200	14



LIGHTER SIDE.

"I understand Charlie died a pauper."

"Is that so?"

"And if he had lived another month he would have become a man of considerable means."

"How do you make that out?"

"Why, one more month of payments and he would have owned a car, radio, electrical refrigerator and house."

* * * *

"Well, I guess I'll have to get a new car."

"What's the matter with the old one?"

"Not a thing—but I can't pay for it!"

* * * *

FLORA: "The static is just awful on our radio set. Is yours clear?"

DORA: "Oh, no, not yet! We've got three more payments on ours."

* * * *

An old Scotsman slipped on the pavement and rolled under a steam roller. The last thing he did before being flattened out was to roll on his side. He figured he might as well have his trousers pressed for the funeral.

* * * *

"I hear Mrs. Clancy's boy got killed when his car crashed into a gatepost."

"Yes, orful, ain't it! One of them post-mortems you read so much about, I guess."

* * * *

Stay at a Simonds Hotel

- BASINGSTOKE, Hants.**
RED LION HOTEL. 'Phone : 535.
- BRISTOL, Glos.**
★THE SCEPTRE TAVERN, Baldwin Street. 'Phone 25965.
- BRIXHAM, Devon.**
BOLTON HOTEL. 'Phone 233511.
- CHEDDAR, Somerset.**
BATH ARMS HOTEL. 'Phone 25.
- CIRENCESTER, Glos.**
CROWN HOTEL, West Market Place. 'Phone 288.
- DARTMOUTH, Devon.**
ROYAL CASTLE HOTEL. 'Phone 25.
- EGHAM, Surrey.**
ANGLERS HOTEL, Bell Weir Lock. 'Phone 99.
- EYNSHAM, Oxon.**
EVENLODE HOUSE. 'Phone 215.
- FARNBOROUGH, Hants.**
QUEEN'S HOTEL, Lynchford Road. 'Phone 1000.
- FROME, Somerset.**
GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place. 'Phone 2584.
- HUNGERFORD, Berks.**
THE BEAR HOTEL, Charnham Street. 'Phone 178.
- KENNFORD, Nr. Exeter.**
ANCHOR HOTEL (on Exeter-Torquay Road, Kennford By-Pass). 'Phone : Kennford 274.
- LONDON (Bar and Restaurant).**
★THE DEVEREUX, 20, Devereux Court, Strand, W.C.2. 'Phone : Central 4740.
- NEWBURY, Berks.**
QUEEN'S HOTEL, Market Place. 'Phone 47.
- BACON ARMS HOTEL, Oxford Street, (on Bath Road). 'Phone 408.
- NEWPORT, Mon.**
QUEEN'S HOTEL, Bridge Street. 'Phone 2171.
- OXFORD.**
EASTGATE HOTEL, In "The High." 'Phone 2694.
- PAIGNTON, Devon.**
GERSTON HOTEL, Victoria Road. 'Phone 5016.
- COVERDALE HOTEL, Dartmouth Road. 'Phone 568011.
- ★ WATERSIDE HOTEL, Three Beaches. 'Phone 57553.
- PLYMOUTH, Devon.**
★THE LOCKYER, Lockyer Street. (Luncheons, Dinners, Private Dining Room). 'Phone 42631.
- READING, Berks.**
SHIP HOTEL, Duke Street. 'Phone 302911.
- ★CHEDDAR CHEESE, Broad Street. (Bar and Restaurant.) 'Phone 381811.
- ★MARQUIS OF LORNE, Friar Street. (Bar and Restaurant.) 'Phone 317611.
- ★GROSVENOR HOUSE, Kidmore Road, Caversham. Bars, Banqueting and Dance Rooms. 'Phone : Reading 72045.
- SALISBURY, Wilts.**
★THE HAUNCH OF VENISON, Minster Street. 'Phone 202411.
- STAINES, Middlesex.**
ANGEL HOTEL, High Street. 'Phone 156.
- PACK HORSE HOTEL, Thames Street. 'Phone : Staines 41.
- RAILWAY HOTEL, Kingston Road. 'Phone 46.
- STOKENCHURCH, Bucks.**
KING'S ARMS HOTEL. 'Phone : Radnage 43.
- SUNNINGDALE, Berks.**
SUNNINGDALE HOTEL. 'Phone : Ascot 208.
- SWINDON, Wilts.**
GODDARD ARMS, High Street. 'Phone 204211.
- WARGRAVE-on-Thames, Berks.**
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- WINDSOR, Berks.**
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