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SPRING 1975

The Journal of No. 1 Radio School, R.A.F. Locking



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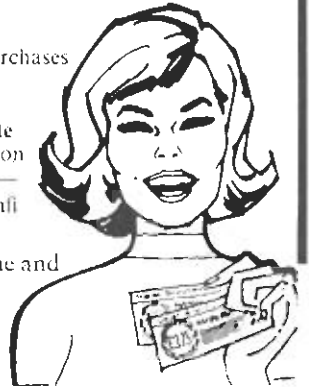
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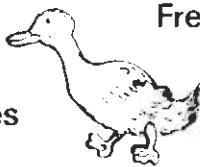
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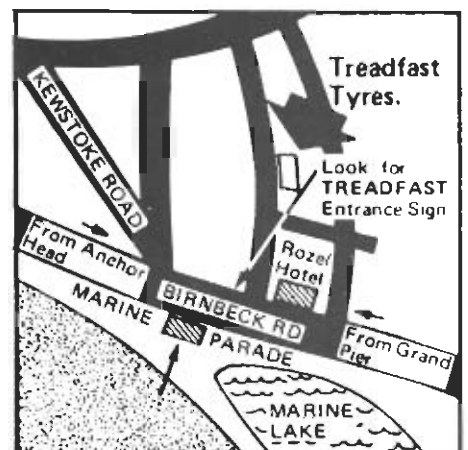
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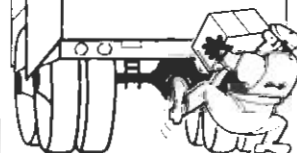
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EDITORIAL

Never having been required to write an 'editorial' before, and not being in the habit of reading them, it seemed logical to browse through some past editions of the 'Circuit' for guidance and inspiration.

I note first that mention should be made of changes in Editorial Staff. Those who read the front page of the magazine will be aware that there has been a change of both Editor and Business Manager. Our departing Editor, Sqn. Ldr. Hawkins, has been posted to Bicester to serve on the Resettlement Panel. Having a house nearby and only two years to serve before retirement, what more can he ask? He tells me that Bicester does not even have a Station magazine! Our ex-Business Manager, Flt. Lt. Pearson, remains at Locking and will now have more time to devote to his golf, his music and his beloved computer. His efforts to put this magazine on a better financial footing have been very successful and are greatly appreciated. Flt. Lt. Self steps in to fill the breach, and we thank the Angling Club for releasing his services. On the representatives' side, we welcome Cpl. Moir of Trade Practices Flight, and have remembered to include the Basic Studies correspondent in the list.

Past editorials have frequently mentioned the need for more contributions. I should like to remind all members of Locking that this magazine offers a great opportunity for you to demonstrate your hidden literary talents. In addition to fictional items, we should welcome articles on local places of interest and eating houses, recommended holiday itineraries, reports on camping sites or any other topic which you might feel is of interest to others. Have we a crossword constructor in our midst? Please do not be shy in offering your contributions! There are no experts at Locking to criticise your efforts; if there are, I should be delighted to have their assistance on the editorial staff.

Perhaps, by now, it is painfully obvious that my homework has failed to inspire, but I needed the guidance. May I take this opportunity to thank our many advertisers for supporting our magazine and to urge our few readers to support our advertisers.

THREE LOCKING APPRENTICES AWARDED UNIVERSITY CADETSHIPS

Three Technician apprentices of No. 121 Entry at RAF Locking have been awarded RAF University Cadetships leading to Permanent Commissions in the Engineering Branch of the Royal Air Force. They are Stephen Gale, Michael Addis and Stephen Priestley. All three Apprentices are 19 years old, and in the final year of their Electronic Technician Apprenticeship during which they have already successfully completed the Ordinary National Certificate Course in Electronic Engineering.

In August last year, Gale and Addis spent part of their holidays in a charity cycle ride from John O'Groats to Lands End, which raised over £84 for the Commanding Officers' Fund. The cycle ride was sponsored by station personnel and took several days to complete.



Editor: Sqn. Ldr. J. M. Mills
Business Manager: Flt. Lt. A. W. Self

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Basic Studies Sqn. Flt. Lt. C. Cho-Young
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Linesman Flights* Sgt. Mann
Trade Pract. Flt. Cpl. N. W. Moir

Ladies Page: Mrs. Sim Fellowes
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Captain F. M. Holroyd.*

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The Commandant congratulates Tech. App. Gale on his award of a University Cadetship. Looking on are Tech. Apps. Addis and Priestley.

LOCKING APPRENTICES SPONSORED ACTIVITIES FOR WESTON OLD FOLK

On Saturday, 11th January, 1975, eleven Technician Apprentices of Handley Page Flight 121 Entry at RAF Locking and their Flight Commander, Flt. Lt. Bob Manser, participated in a sponsored series of sporting activities. The aim was to raise money to help old age pensioners in the Locking and Weston-super-Mare area pay for their ever-increasing cost of heating fuel over the winter period.

Personnel at RAF Locking were asked to sponsor each of the 50 activities, some of which were rather unusual. These included abseiling equitation, changing wheels on a car, ten-pin bowling, jogging along the beach at Weston, and erecting an aerial.

At the time of going to press, £200 has been collected for the old folk, and it is hoped that £250 will eventually be collected. Readers please note that Flight Lieutenant Manser did in fact complete all 50 events, and rumours that he has been confined to SMC ever since are slightly exaggerated!

WEST COUNTRY YOUTH ORCHESTRA AWARDED THE LOCKING TROPHY

Presentation of the Locking Trophy for 1974 was made to the Weston Youth Orchestra at the Orchestra's New Year Concert at Weston-super-Mare Technical College, recently. The Director of the Orchestra, Mr. Dennis Cole, received the Trophy from Group Captain F. M. Holroyd, Commandant of RAF Locking.

The original Locking Trophy was presented in 1968 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the RAF, and as a permanent reminder of the special link between Locking and Weston-super-Mare. A replica is awarded annually to an individual or group, considered to have done most for youth service. The Orchestra was chosen for the award for the valuable work they had done in the field of youth music.

The Orchestra was formed in 1958 and gives several concerts in the West Country each year. They have made two European tours and hope to tour Germany again this year, and perhaps Canada in 1976.



COMPUTER & LINESMAN FLIGHTS

At last — Spring is nearly with us. We have discovered this by noting the number of Instructors volunteering to take their classes in the North facing classrooms, where the rooms have clear glass windows. They are then able to watch the parade of Spring fashions going to and from the NAAFI shop. "Surely not", you say, and you're right; the true reason is to avoid the soporific effects of the sun on the South side. If you don't believe that, try coming in to the Common Rooms some sunny day and we'll be there, dozing gently or planning our memoirs. (OC Radar Squadron, please ignore; 'tis mere invention).

We have a new member in our midst again. Don Foord who spent his summer leave on Gan last year is back with us to start his eighth year in Linesman Flight. We asked what he did in the Indian Ocean; after a pause, we rephrased the question and he replied: "Before or after I'd been in the Mess Bar?" It seems to us he picked daises because he's now wearing them above his old Sergeant's stripes — well done, Don.

He shouldn't really be with us at Locking. Out on Gan, he went to see his boss about his posting:-

"Where am I going to, Sir?"

"Saxa, Foord!"

But he thought it was a joke and his homing instincts led him here and we haven't the heart to move him. Besides, he organises the Block sessions.

Actually, we've found a slot for Don. He's now the Chief co-ordinator for the Linesman close circuit television set-up and we eagerly await to see what results the production team of Don, Steve Bradley and John Facey can produce. Our interest has been heightened considerably since they've been making enquiries about BLUE filters! For the Type 80?

We had our Christmas outing in early February. Don't ask why February, come to 5(T) and let Computer Flight teach you LOGIC. And all will become clear later. The author missed the outing and everyone is keeping quiet, so I don't know how it went. However, "Little George" is now paying regular visits to the dentist after attempting to pick up his kitchen table with only his teeth! Which George? 5(T) will be able to link the name to a face!

A lot of the staff recently have been packing their bags and disappearing to Newton for Technical Instructors Technique Courses. One chap was seen packing a bra in his case, and when asked why, replied:-

"When I saw the course title, initially, I thought it might be necessary."

Think on.

TRADE PRACTICES FLIGHT

What better way to begin my first contribution as Trade Practices Flight representative than by wishing my predecessor, Sgt. Dave Pimm, all the best in his new post. Dave, I'm told, is now languishing in the holiday camp atmosphere of Arborfield, prior to his rumoured tour in Benbecula. It must have been something you wrote, Dave! Having just completed a tour there, I can only repeat the station motto, which is apt for an unaccompanied tour "You're never alone with schizophrenia".

Now that the festive season is over we look forward with tightened belts to the next time. Only 286 shopping days to Xmas, folks! A vote of thanks is due to those who won the barrel of beer in the Sergeants Mess Christmas Decorating Competition. The same representatives also went to great lengths to organise a buffet to accompany the tasting ceremony. This was enjoyed by everyone in a most convivial atmosphere and I am sure that all members of the Flight will join me in expressing our appreciation.

On the arrivals side, we welcome back Chf. Tech. Karl Wigglesworth who rejoins the team after a two-year tour in Hong Kong. We also welcome Cpl. Denis Cruze, who arrived from Benbecula during November. Denis is a busy fellow, his son was born in November and his AOC's Commendation arrived some weeks later. (I'm still trying to work it out). Anyway, congratulations, Denis, on both counts, and good luck on the T.I.T. course. I'd just like to know where you find the time.

Congratulations are also due to Chf. Techs Pat Dodsworth, Ron Grant and Ray Hill, and to Sgt. Gill Fielden on their recent T.I.T. course successes. Ray has just left quarters for the stock-broker belt in Locking Village, and we hope the settling in is complete. Also worthy of mention is Chf. Tech. Arthur Morris who gained a credit in his open University course. Arthur is keeping the subject a secret, however.

That just about wraps it up this session, except to say goodbye to Chf. Tech. Pete Evans, who leaves us soon for West Drayton. I must not forget to mention our "Fisticuffs" director, Neil, and wish him continued success in the boxing world.

Finally, a thought-provoking proverb, often heard at my last unit (Benbecula), "He who laughs last is as thick as two short planks" !!!

N.W.M.

RADAR SQUADRON

Sqn. Ldr. Burr has taken over as OC Radar Sqn. from Sqn. Ldr. Winchcombe who will be departing from the station in the near future, to M.O.D. Sqn. Ldr. Burr has served at Locking in the past, as an instructor and as a member of the now defunct Trade Standards Centre. His previous appointment was at Aberporth as OC Eng, where he spent just over a year. We wish him well in his new post.

Ch. Tech. Brian Murby will, by the next issue, have departed to civvy street to take up an appointment at Berkeley Nuclear Power Station. All the best, Brian.

R.W.H.

STUDENT SQUADRON

With the closure of Handley-Page Flight recently, the Squadron is now down to a 'streamlined' five Flights:-

AVRO — DEs and the remaining apprentices;

DE HAVILLAND — Non-MODs;

WESTLAND — FTs;

HAWKER — Pre-employment courses and mechanics; and finally

PEd Flight.

The new look Squadron is undergoing major surgery in the staff department and we extend a warm welcome to our new boss — Squadron Leader Bill Barker, who is hot-foot from the sharp end at Training Command. We wish our old boss, Squadron Leader Ian McIntosh many happy days in his new post in Belfast. We also welcome Captain Asgarzadeh of the Imperial Iranian Air Force, and wish Colonel Golestanian well on his return to hotter climes. Flying Officer 'Big Al' South has departed for Honington and Flight Lieutenant John Cole is returning to jumping duties at Abingdon where he will be joined by Corporals Evans and France.

Flight Lieutenant Terry Ferren is reluctantly handing over his Non-MODs and marching to 1(T) Block, while Flight Lieutenant Bob Manser is posted to the Nimrod OCU at St. Mawgan and promises not to accidentally drop any depth charges on Maxwell Block.

We congratulate F S Cawley and Sergeant Cook on their promotions. F S Cawley is posted as SWO at Colerne and Sergeant Cook will be taking over his job, wielding the big stick as discipline NCO.

Also, we welcome to the fold Sergeant Hawkins and Corporal Schleswick fresh from hardship tours in Germany and Cyprus respectively. We wish all of the new regime success in maintaining the "entente cordiale" with our friends in the 'T' Blocks.

C.S.B.

COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON LINK

Marconi Block has of late been indulging in lifeboat drill, and if things don't alter, by the time this article is in print you will be able to see lifebelts fixed to the outside of the block. Why? You may well ask — it's because of the water — we keep telling them that we get floods but they won't believe us and during the last bad spell of wet weather, poor old OC Comms Equipment had to move offices to prevent being swept away. Mark my words, one of these days Marconi Block will sink — then you will all be sorry.

By and large however, the Squadron has been well 'afloat' over the past months, especially over the Christmas period. Equipment Flight hopped down to the Long John Silver for a skittles evening which was much enjoyed by all who attended. An impromptu cabaret was staged by Eileen and Barry Martin, who sang a duet; Tony Horry, by the fluke of the evening, won the skittles. The best time was said to have been had by Harry (Barley Wine) Austin, who for obvious reasons was unable to appreciate this for about three days.

AP Flight also organised a skittles evening, this time at the Borough Arms. Bill Richards astounded everyone with his 'backwards - between the legs' action and although he was unsuccessful in hitting any skittles with this method, he did manage to clobber the 'dumbwilly' (that's the chap who sets up the skittles). Comms Org Flight did things in a little more style and whisked themselves away by coach to the Mendip Hotel for a cabaret and dinner. Staying with Comms Org leads me nicely into the "hello" and "Goodbye" bit . . .

It's goodbye to Les Mayne, who is now commuting between Locking and Cranwell; his chair has been taken over by Willy Williams who, so my spies tell me, is to be seen wrestling daily with his Moped. Another recent addition over there is Mick Joyce, who has recently returned from abroad — sorry to be a bit vague about this, Mick, but your mates didn't know exactly where from! Moving over to Comms Equipment Flight, Tony Snell and Andy Anderson have arrived from Germany, whilst we have lost Colin Jaques, who has just gone over there. Barry Martin (of duet fame) should by now be in Cyprus and the outside world has gained two new civvies in the form of Chick Fowler and Tom Galbraith.

On the athletics side, Derek Stevens has recently discovered his powers as a high jumper. It all happened like this there he was on a wet Friday night arriving at the mess drops his wife at the door goes and parks his car. Not wishing to get wet he runs towards the mess main entrance with just a touch of the Roger Bannisters. Suddenly, our Derek is airborne and doing a perfect 'outside loop'. Someone, for security reasons, has erected a rope barrier to restrict parking trouble is that in the dark you can't see it, and no-one thought to include a warning lamp. Luckily, Derek is now fully recovered although it did hurt him for a bit when he laughed!

That other Derek has been at it again; yes - you guessed; all mouth and sea boots, Derek Horman, the one who dangles his rod every Wednesday and at weekends. He is in the medals this time, two Golds, one for catching his record breaking fish already reported in a previous issue, and another for being runner-up in the "Fish of the Year" award, both for the Bristol Channel area. Derek did not stop here however; he came second in the Training Command Championships and was first in his section in the same competition. How does he do it, — well, according to Derek, the same as anyone else!

We have a budding film animator in the Block by the name of Alan Lane, who is at the moment going round the Comms Equipments catching them in embarrassing positions. He films them in the hope that future trainees will have an easier understanding of their inner workings. You never know — this could be the start of something great, so watch out, Dougal.

Just before we sign off, Bill Hellyer has just won an award of £20 for designing a trimming tool for use on ILS. Having had to 'Twinge' ILS for many years with a screwdriver, I for one know this to be a very welcome contribution.

Well, that's it for now. Easter will be upon us before the next issue is out, so 'White Rabbits' to you all!



MAXWELL HOUSE

By the time this edition is printed, several members of staff will have 'escaped' to pastures new. Squadron Leader Jim Hawkins has now joined the Resettlement Team at RAF Bicester on his last tour of duty. Jim, who is an avid supporter of Swindon Town Football Club and Gloucester County Cricket Club, was threatening to fly off to join the M.C.C. Team in Australia as England's answer to Thompson and Lillie after the ignominious defeats in the first four Test Matches. If it wasn't for the fact that he was the busy editor of this magazine, he would have gone. This meant that Colin Cowdrey had to go instead.

The eventual posting of Squadron Leader Jim Christie has occurred, two years and two 'barrels' after the last rumour had started. He is leaving us to join the FECTS staff at Wyton. Despite his lofty appearance he will especially be remembered for his 'Kung Fu' activities and size 12 boots, which were very effective against any opposition.

Squadron Leader George Scott has decided that three months occupying the little cupboard under the stairs was a bit too much to bear. He has therefore decided to return to teaching Physics and Chemistry to the Sixth Form of a well-known Public School in Dorset, where there just happens to be a thriving sailing club.

Flight Lieutenant Chris Fleckney, the chap who rides around camp wearing dark glasses with a football strapped to his bicycle clips, joins the Computer Flight staff at Cosford. Chris was responsible for many things during his stay here at Locking, such as table tennis, sub aqua etc., but he will be better known in the Squadron for his P C game and for trying to replace Harry Hanson's empire by "Yip's Take-Away".

Sergeant Ron Twist, our Discipline NCO is leaving us after nearly three years with the Squadron. Ron is a keen cricketer who has organised the Sgt.'s Mess Cricket Team and has spent many hours refereeing hockey matches on the station. He will also be remembered by ex-apprentices and airmen for Drill and Ceremonial activities over the years. The high degree of smartness of our Guards of Honour and route lining contingents owe a great deal to the efforts of Sergeant Twist, who is being posted on well-earned promotion to Machrihamish as a Flight Sergeant. We wish all the above Officers and Sergeant Twist the best of luck for the future. We also extend a warm welcome to Wing Commander Graham Bowden, Flying Officer John Crouch and Sergeant Ben Thomas, who join the Squadron.

The most notable achievement of 1975 so far has been the unplanned attempt of Flt. Lt. Peter Lacy, the "Evil Knevil" of Maxwell Block, to break the world record for man-powered flight on his RAF bicycle on the slopes of Hutton Hill. Unlike our American hero, he managed only one somersault before landing in a nearby ditch. In true officer fashion, he was still wearing his SD hat as he crawled out. Although he didn't quite clear the hedgerow, our hero's attempt was entirely non-polluting and energy conserving. The MT Flight has promised to straighten the front fork to ensure greater stability on lift off.

Just back from a week's ski-ing holiday in Austria are Flt. Lt. Dave Jacklin and his wife Diane. The holiday in Austria was the star prize in a raffle of which the Jacklins were the lucky winners. There is a rumour that the Jacklins have been banned from buying any tickets in the Flowerdown Fair raffle, so that us lesser mortals will have a chance.

Mr. Trevor Ward has now joined that band of elite golfers by "holing in one" on the 14th green at Weston-super-Mare Golf Course. Trevor has promised a round of drinks as soon as he gets the insurance money. !!

If anyone is looking for Flt. Lt. Chris Cho-Young, he is still in Room 106A next to the metal cupboard, four wooden lockers past the bookcase on the left hand side of the PLO filing cabinet, opposite Don Bird's Slip Tests in between the Radio and Electronics Summaries. If in doubt, ring Ext. 274.

And finally, Sqn. Ldr. Alf Degger, (landscaper extraordinaire) is offering a suitable reward for the return of his almanac which disappeared after only one day's display on his office wall. He promises to offer a free pardon provided the almanac is returned by "Miss July".

C.C-Y.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION FLIGHT

Many of the old faces have now disappeared from the Gymnasium, and a younger element have been posted in as replacements. Flying Officer Alan South has been posted to RAF Honington as P Ed O, and is already missing our 'hive of activity'. Flight Sergeant Pete Keymer has retired and has collected a plum job as Deputy Manager of Stowmarket Sports Centre (a multi-million complex). We all wish them the very best in their new appointments.

Amongst the workers, Corporals Steve France and Glan Evans are undergoing Parachute Jumping Instructor's courses at Abingdon, and will soon be joined by Flight Lieutenant John Cole who has been posted back on to parachute training. He will be working with the SAS and Parachute Brigade on their basic training.

New arrivals are Flying Officer John Middlewick from OCTU and Sergeant Jim Hawkins from Laarbruch. The latter will collect his 'crown' in April and fill the F/S post. Corporal Keith Christie arrived recently from the School of PT — much to the delight of the station soccer club. Having been an apprentice professional with Chelsea for 2 years and captain of the RAF Youth team, he is much sought after on Wednesdays and at weekends.

J.C.



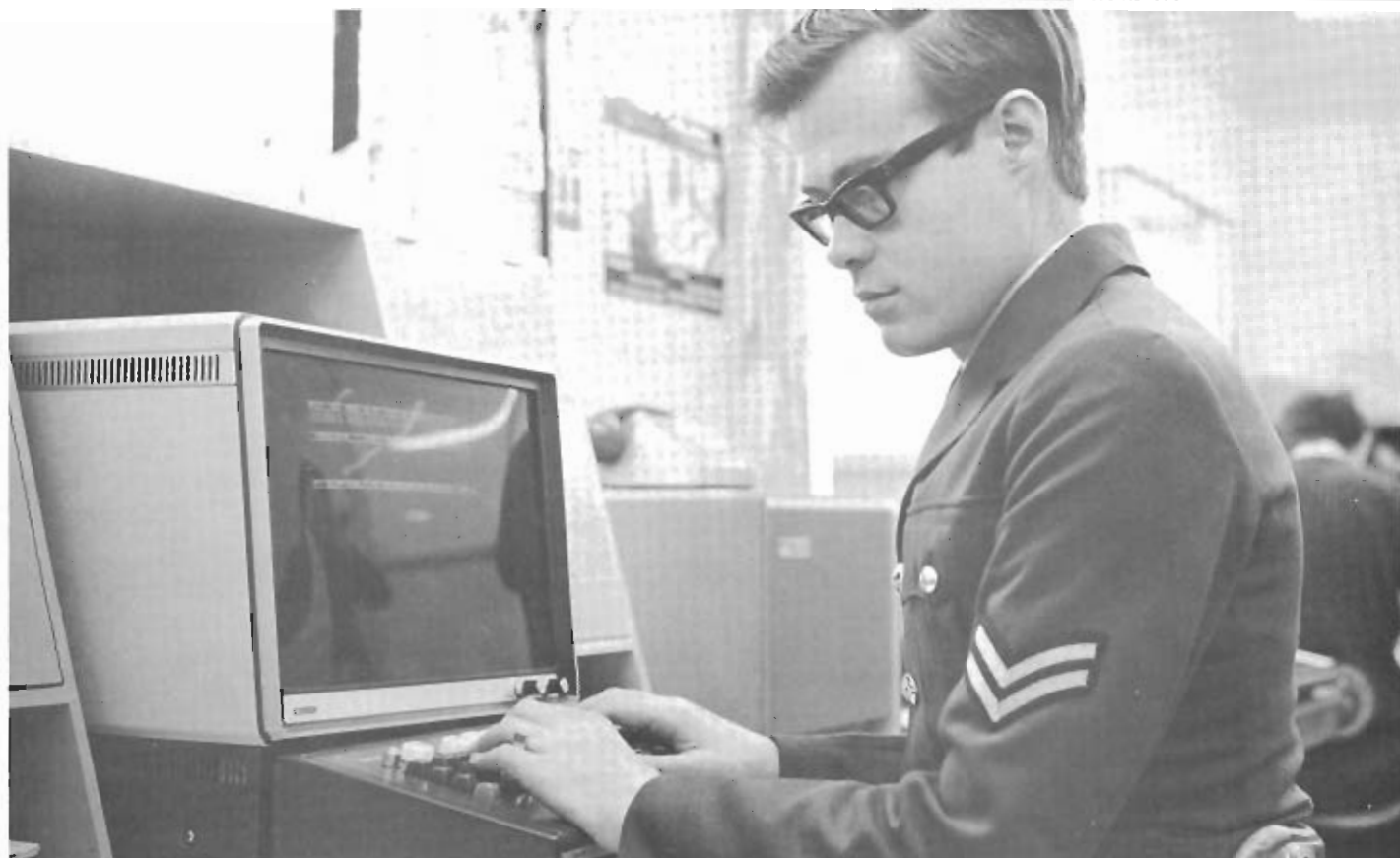
RETIREMENT OF MR. ERIC EVANS

Mr. Evans started work in the GPO in 1928, as a temporary Civil Servant. He worked in the Post Office until 1947. He was then transferred to the Ministry of Food, which closed in 1954 when he moved to the Air Ministry at RAF Locking.

During his 21 years service at this Unit he served in a number of sections, including Civilian Administration and Programme Planning.

His main hobby is 'messing about in boats' and he is in fact the owner of a new six-berth yacht on the River Dart in which it is his ultimate intention to live and sail virtually round the world.

He was presented by the Commandant with a Unit plaque and Long Service Certificate, and from his colleagues, he received a marine barometer.



Corporal R. I. Bailey of Supply Squadron who recently received an award of £25 from the M.O.D. in recognition for his suggestion concerning the use of computer stationery.



SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY 1974

For many of us, Christmas 1974 is now a pleasant memory and even more so for 47 senior citizens from the Locking area who attended a party given in their honour by personnel of RAF Locking, just before Christmas in the Sgt.'s Mess.

The party was organised as a joint effort by a large number of people from all sections on the station. It could not have been such a success without the help of Mrs. Barbara Bromwells and ladies of the Wives Club and the CMC, WO Mennell, and staff of the Sgt.'s Mess, who provided the festive fare and drink. Also worthy of mention were the airmen trainees of Student Squadron who organised the food parcels, the Western Band who provided the musical entertainment and the members of the Sgt.'s Mess who, by their voluntary contributions, provided meat vouchers for all the old folk attending.

Mrs. Tombs, who is seen in the photograph cutting the Christmas cake with the Commandant, has declared that the 1974 Christmas Party was the 'best' she has ever attended in 83 years.

A COMMON OR GARDEN INDIFFERENCE

The old garden rake
had fallen off its hook in December.
I remember seeing it there,
lying face down on the hard ground,
lying as if by mistake
it had been pushed over
by a stray dog perhaps
or next door's cat
or even the wind, come to that.

In January came the prowling winds,
the long knobby fingers
outstretched, stroking the rigid spine
of the old rake. Here and there
the shaft began to flake into fine
sinewy strands where least it was
bearing up to Winter's pace,
clinging to the muddy border, a dank,
exposed, vulnerable place.

February was a broken month
of winds and rain. More than once
I saw the garden flooded
and brooded over my position
as non-horticulturist, aloof
observer of unorganised nature.
A belated Samaritan gesture,
I felt, would have saved face,
putting the rake back in its place,
rusted wretched thing,
ready to do its job again
come the early Spring.

* * * * *
What is this life if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare

No time to stand beneath chalk-boards
And stare as long as ancient overlords

No time to see when woods we pass
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass

No time to see in broad daylight
Empty rooms full of desks, what a peaceful sight

A poor life this if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare



ANGLING CLUB PARTY

Mrs. Vivian Self presented Sgt. Ted Morris with the RAF Locking Summer League Freshwater Angling Trophy and Sqn. Ldr. Vic Ludlow with a medal as runner-up.

WO Summers was also thanked and presented with a gift from the club members for his work as OIC the previous year.

The Club has attended 46 RAF and Local matches during the summer season, and was placed second overall in the Bristol Channel Federation of Sea Anglers. Chf. Tech. Derek Horman came second in the Training Command championships and was awarded a gold medal for landing a record fish at Minehead. The fish, an 11-lb. 6 ozs. Pollack, was 3-lb. 6 ozs. over the record.

The star of the evening was certainly 13-year old Stephen Hill, who boated a 36-lb. conger eel, which he claimed was 'taller than his dad'.

A.W.S.



Stephen Hill, with his 36-lb. conger eel.





THE CRAFTSMAN

Some of you have asked me to describe exactly what a craftsman is. This is an impossible task and one may get as many opinions as the number of people asked. The first indisputable fact is that craftsmen make things. In the case of the woodworker he will use tools developed over hundreds of years to fashion timber into items of use, and possibly beauty. A craftsman, in this case, is therefore someone who simply makes things in wood.

It may be that he will have acquired, over many years, a vast knowledge of his tools, his materials, and many "tricks of the trade" or short cuts to performing operations. From the latter is derived the word "crafty" which is defined as tricky, sly or cunning to imply that someone has employed some understanding or tactic with which we ourselves are not familiar, to gain advantage.

An experienced craftsman will have come to love his timbers and will have pride and pleasure in the use of his well proven tools. Those who upholster, amid the smell of walnut and old oak, feel they are rubbing shoulders a shade closer to nature with craftsmen long gone, who took their time and made the furniture with their own hands and ingenuity.

In the rush and hustle of present time there is less and less room for craftsmen, particularly the woodworker; yet no man or boy made anything really worthwhile where speed was the master of his intention. In our own way, however inadequate, we seek kinship with the old craftsmen; we strive to increase our skills and knowledge of working in wood, continuing the bond between craftsmen old and new and occasionally knowing the pride and joy of a job well done.





JUNIOR CRAFTSMAN

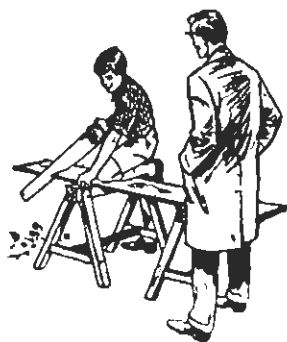
Many boys, absorbed in viewing the escapades of their particular TV or football hero, never have the fun of making things. In consequence, few are able to achieve the satisfaction of producing something they want with their own hands.

School woodwork periods are usually not more than two a week which is not enough to sustain the interest of most boys, particularly those that have no chance to use wood and tools at home.

There would be a much wider interest in woodworking if the opportunity were presented for a lad to make something, finish it in a reasonable time, and be able to use it.

With this in mind a section of the woodwork club will be set aside during the Wednesday evening classes for boys over 12. They will be under the complete guidance of the instructor who is experienced in both woodwork and handling youngsters. It is an opportunity for a few, 3 or 4, to become experienced in the use of basic hand tools to make something worthwhile and qualify for the title of 'Junior Craftsman'.

FLT. LT. A. SELF



JUDGING OF BRITISH LEGION STANDARD BEARERS



On Thursday, 6th February, 1975, Flight Lieutenant Colin Lovegrove and his wife, Flying Officer Beverley Lovegrove, were invited to carry out the judging of the Royal British Legion (Women's Section) Standard Bearers at their South West area conference.

There were 5 competitors, and the winner, who comes from Dorset, now goes forward to the National Championships. The overall winner of the National Championships will carry the standard at the Festival of Remembrance later this year.



N.B. Additional copies of this magazine are available from the Business Manager – FLT. LT. SELF – Maxwell (3T) Block.



RING IN THE NEW A Retrospective Conversation

- FATHER – “. . . and my great-grandfather was what they called an “electronics teacher”.
- SON – “I know what a teacher is, Daddy, but what on earth is – er – electronics ? ”
- FATHER – “Well, um, I’m not really sure. You see, the old man died back in the seventies and my grandfather told me that was when they stopped having electronics teachers. Of course, that meant no-one could learn electronics any more, so the subject does not exist now. Whatever it was, nobody knows – people now call it a dead language. Things were very different in those days, you must realise.”
- SON – “Mmmm. Tell me about the 1970’s, daddy, please”.
- FATHER – “Oh, apparently it was a tech–tech–technological age, or something. There used to be lots of machines to do things for you, like let you go to places without walking, do difficult sums just by pressing buttons, light the houses without candles, see pictures in a sort of box that showed what was happening in other villages.”
- SON – “I know about that, Daddy – the box is called a ‘telly’ or something or other. My friend’s father kept his idols in one.”
- FATHER – “Well, that is very blasphemous, I’m sure, but in those days, in fact even when my grandfather was a child, you could get coloured pictures in those boxes, sent by magic from the head village.”
- SON – “Why can’t we see those pictures now ?”
- FATHER – “Because they don’t make them any more.”
- SON – “But why ?”
- FATHER – “Well no-one knows how to cast the right spells. In the old days, I believe, there were special magicians who cast the spells to make the picture boxes and the lights and the counting machines and the horseless carriages all work.”
- SON – “Ooh! Daddy, tell me about those spells.”
- FATHER – “Well, son, it won’t do any good. My grandfather told my dad a lot about them. For instance there was a man called ‘Ohm’ who caused a thing known as the ‘Ampere’ to make the magic lights glow and make bits of metal turn round and round – and we all know how rare they are – metals, I mean.”
- SON – “I don’t understand why things are so different now.”
- FATHER – “By the gods, child, I’ve told you. The guild of electronics teachers was closed down in the 1970’s.”

- SON – “Why was that ?”
- FATHER – “I believe it was quite difficult to learn the spells and the electronics teacher used to live in very small huts. So I suppose the people thought it was easier to do something else, like Basket Weaving.”
- SON – “But you didn’t say it was the electronics teachers who had to keep the telly-somethings and the other machines working.”
- FATHER – “Ah, but they taught the people who did. They knew the spells and the magic arts: they even helped to invent the machines. Some of them were even called “education officers” who were very famous for inventing the “Systems Approach”, which we still use when building our huts and training our boys to grind axes.”
- SON – “Oh Daddy, it does sound lovely - but why can’t WE be like the people of the 1970’s ?”
- FATHER – “Hush child: don’t say things like that. When you do your compulsory sociology degree you will learn that our way is best. But it is getting darker now. Fetch the tinderbox and light the candle; your mother will be back from the forest with the firewood soon – you don’t want her to find that you haven’t skinned the rabbit, do you ?”

SWEET PEA



THE PARACHUTE DESCENT

Parachuting is becoming more and more a popular sport, in which both sexes are attracted towards the anticipated excitement danger and taste of adventure.

The Royal Air Force organise numerous courses which are designed for the pure novice, and although competition is fierce for places on these courses, one can expect a vacancy in a fairly short time.

What feelings does one experience on one’s first descent ? Is fear natural ? Will the parachute open ? The following is a short account of the thoughts and reactions of the average parachutist about to complete his first descent

After the 3 days of synthetic training (commonly known as ‘sympathetic training’) the dreaded day then arrives. You look at your chute with dread and manage to be ‘all thumbs’ with your adjustments. Waiting is the worst part, and as you watch the Rapide aircraft taxi towards where you are waiting, you secretly hope that it will be cancelled because of high winds or low cloud. No such luck ! The Instructor inspects and checks

you all, cracking corny jokes at which the pupils laugh loudly, using up some of the nervous energy. Scrambling on board the aircraft, one wonders if the other pupils are having the same doubts as oneself. They all look so calm, and have fixed grins when they glance at each other. The Instructor ignores everyone, and settles in a corner with the latest copy of ‘Playboy’ – usually stolen from one of the pupils. The aircraft takes off and slowly ascends to 3,000 feet – which appears more like 3 miles to the pupils. P hour is approaching, and you wish that the aircraft was fitted with a loo. People are now checking equipment, and the Instructor beckons you forward.

Me ? Yes, you !! Do you really mean me ? Come here !! Your heart is thumping, your legs are wobbly, and the others are watching all your movements. Will he jump ? Now is the time for decision. One is thinking that all one has to do is say ‘no’ and one can sit down again in the safety of that aircraft. What will the others think of me if I refuse ? I’ve got to do it, if so-and-so can do it then it must be easy.

You stumble over the others and step outside onto the wing. As if by magic, the fear vanishes and you begin to concentrate on what you have been taught. The wind is blasting into your face, and as the word ‘Go’ is shouted by the Instructor you instinctively release your grip.

Falling away from the aircraft, you notice through your perspiration filled goggles, the Instructor grinning at you and performing a rather rude gesture. You strain to keep the correct free fall position and determinedly count the required number of seconds. Where’s the handle ? Oh! it’s on the other side. You pull it so hard, that it’s a wonder that it doesn’t come away from the harness. Will it open ? A crack and a jerk answers your last question, and you are dangling 2,000 ft. AG1 on the end of a parachute.

This is more like it ! Your nervous energy is now being rapidly expended, and you start to gaze at the views, and experiment with the handling of the parachute. This is what it is all about, and you can understand why parachutists say that it is the second greatest thrill on earth. Fast approaching the ground, you carefully select your correct position and prepare for landing. The ground appears to rush up towards you, and you instinctively raise your legs and try to climb back up your rigging lines. You close your eyes, and then feel the bump as you land in a sprawled heap.

Your ears are deaf to a nearby Instructor who is busily bawling at you. What’s he on about ? I did it, didn’t I ? You swagger to your feet, and feeling 10 ft. tall you quickly gather up your chute so that you get back to the area where the other pupils are waiting to jump.

“How did you get on ? ” “Are you alright ? ” “Nothing to it, it was easy.” Just do

The voice of an Instructor interrupts: “Pack your chute for your next jump, and try and do it properly this time !”

Thoroughly deflated, you begin to go through the whole nervous rigmarole again. Will my parachute open ? Will . . .

J.C.

FLOWERDOWN FAIR 1974 — PRESENTATION OF PROCEEDS



Mrs. F. M. Holroyd presents a cheque to Air Marshall Sir Kenneth Porter, who accepts on behalf of the RAF Benevolent Fund. Looking on at the ceremony are the ladies representing the stall holders

THRIFT SHOP PRESENTATION TO MENDIP HOSPITAL



Sister Ramjug of the Mendip Hospital receiving a ripple bed from Mrs. F. M. Holroyd. Looking on are Miss Sankey (Assistant Matron), Mrs. Diane Jacklin, Mrs. Margaret Ludlow and Mrs. Sylvia Maddox

IN CONVERSATION

Have you ever noticed those little fashion photographs on Page 3 in the Weston Mercury ? I recently had the opportunity of asking the Editor where one could purchase clothing shown, locally, to which he replied:- "I'm glad you asked me that. I don't think you can. The pictures are sent from the manufacturers, not local shops."

The logic of men !!!

Do you know — there is not one woman employed on the Weston Mercury ——— The Editor assured me that he thought women made excellent reporters, and was considering having one, when he increased his paper to 36 pages. Read what you will into that !



PARENTS

Would any proud parent with a son or daughter whose career or hobby would be of interest to the rest of us, please contact either myself or Mrs. Ludlow, who will be responsible for future publications.



KEEP — FIT AND YOGA CLASSES

It is proposed to alternate between these two types of exercise on a Monday afternoon in the Roundel Club, between 2.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. Children of all ages are welcome, either as participants or disrupters ! We cater for all !



THRIFT SHOP

Two ripple beds were presented to the Stoberry Ward of the Mendip Hospital in Wells, by The Thrift Shop. The beds, costing £75, were purchased from the proceeds of the Thrift Shop.

N.B. Copy for the Summer '75 Edition of "CIRCUIT" must be handed to the Editor by 17th May.

LADIES PAGE



SPOTLIGHT ON:-

THE WEBBINGTON HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

When I was asked to write the Ladies Page of 'Circuit', I decided to make it my passport to places not normally on Locking's social calendar. My first choice was 'The Webbington', an inspiring country house nestling at the foot of Crook's Peak. It originally belonged to the Tiarks family who have connections with a well-known 'pongo' who did rather well in the marriage stakes recently. It is now owned by Mr. Alan Wells, a Westonian by birth, and son of a local poultry farmer. When I contacted Mr. Wells, he kindly invited my husband and I to be his guests for dinner. This was where my troubles began. My husband, to say the least, was not amused with my plans. I think at times he finds me just a little too unpredictable ! However, after much cajoling and I might add, a few rash promises, he agreed to accompany me.

On arrival at the Webbington, it was my turn to panic. It is a strange place to visit in the dark and I was for once comforted by the fact that my husband carried those few extra 'beer pounds' I usually complain of. We were greeted by Alan and his wife Julie, the latter receiving me rather coolly. (Later in the evening, she explained that she thought I was from 'Men Only' as her husband had been discussing a coverage by that magazine. Any 'Circuit' reader wishing to follow this up should contact Paul Raymond — not me !)

We then had dinner, and as they say, the way to a man's heart etc., etc., . . . My husband began to realise that my crazy idea had some definite advantages. We were most impressed with the menu, which was vast, varied and extremely reasonably priced, ranging from a chicken dish at £1.20, to an enormous 'T-Bone Steak' for approximately £2.50. There is a very comprehensive wine list and although not at Mess prices, were not exhorbitant. Alan and Julie then joined us and the champagne began to flow. This was the moment when my husband got his own back. I was voted driver for the return home ! Have you ever tried swinging on tomato juice, whilst everyone else is becoming pie-eyed on bubbly ? (I have a photo to prove it !) However, not to be outdone, I decided this was the moment to ask my more risque questions, regarding the entertainment provided. I gleaned some interesting facts about the 'exotic dancers', but for a more colourful and detailed description, I will refer you to my husband and Geoff Jones.

Extensive new buildings are almost complete. These include a new stage and dancing area and many top personalities have been booked to appear during the coming months among whom are Bob Monkhouse, Tommy Cooper, Lonnie Donegan and later on Gene Pitney and Roy Orbison. I think that perhaps we have been a little unjust in the past towards the Webbington. Certainly it is a place where one needs to go in a group, and with an open mind, prepared to enjoy the slightly unsophisticated humour. We have spent four great evenings there !!

1st LOCKING RAF BROWNIES



The Brownies about to set off to London to see "Aladdin on Ice"

During December, the pack set off in a convoy of cars to the Cheshire Homes. We presented the residents of the home with blankets; the Brownies had knitted squares, which we sewed together. We also entertained them by singing our Brownie songs, accompanied by the guitar, played by Diana Breeding. We were given coffee and squash, and it proved to be a rewarding evening.

We became quite adventurous, and during the Christmas holidays we set off by coach to London to see "Aladdin on Ice". We left the station at 9 a.m. and toured the sights of London first. We saw the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square, and managed a trip down the Mall, before finding out that coaches are not allowed!

It was a wonderful outing and we arrived home at 9.30 p.m. rather exhausted, but all very happy.

One Saturday morning, several Brownies visited the Church of England Children's Society shop in Weston, with Brown Owl and Padre Tasker, where they presented the toys they had made. On another Saturday, we all enjoyed a pantomime by the Locking Guides, given in the Village Hall.

We welcomed several new Tweenies to the pack this year:- Debra Catley, Julie Sutton, Sarah Moor, Hedyeh Asgarzadeh and Julie Pounds.

Julie and Yvonne Ball were presented with the Writers Badge. We were very sad to have to say goodbye to them, due to a posting, as they had both worked very hard as Brownies. They gained many badges.

Tracy McLoughlin and Patricia Fould also gained their Writers Badges. Janette Roberts gained her Toy Makers Badge. Julie Prior won the Cup as the Brownie with the most points. The Imps won the Shield as the Six with the most points. Stephanie Marr had her 1st Year Star, and Gillian Christie gained her Music Badge. Well done to all these Brownies.

We were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Voile, our Commissioner, to one of our meetings; she joined in all our activities and spoke to all the Brownies.

On Friday, February 21st we celebrated our 21st Birthday, and Thinking Day, by having a party in Locking Village Hall, with the Locking Guides and Brownies.

On Sunday, February 23rd we held our Thinking Day Service with the Guides at the Church of England RAF Locking.

We would love to see more parents and friends at our Church Parades.

TAWNY OWL



The Brownles, with Brown Owl and Padre Tasker, presenting toys to the Church of England Children's Society Shop in Weston.

UNFURNISHED MARRIED QUARTERS

MOD have decided to introduce a trial scheme effective from 1st April 1975, whereby a percentage of station married quarters may be emptied of the scaled furniture pack and the rent reduced accordingly.

The number of quarters that may be defurnished could vary slightly according to the requirement of each station but MOD have proposed up to 5% of the total number of station quarters.

An individual may opt for an unfurnished quarter any time after 1st April 1975, providing he has a minimum of 6 months to serve and can be expected to remain at his station for at least 6 months. There will in future be 2 waiting lists, one for furnished and one for unfurnished quarters.

In an unfurnished quarter certain items only will be retained, these are as follows:-

1. Carpets and curtains.
2. Cooker.
3. Electrical Plugs.
4. Portable electric heaters of the standard type.
5. Dustbins.

The charges for furnished and unfurnished standard married quarters are as detailed, below, but exclusive of garage rent — 7p per day.

| TYPE | DAILY | | ANNUAL Defurnished | ANNUAL SAVING |
|------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Defurnished £ | Furnished £ | | |
| B | 0.57 | 0.65 | 208.05 | 29.20 |
| C | 0.67 | 0.76 | 244.55 | 32.85 |
| D/WO | 0.79 | 0.88 | 288.35 | 32.85 |
| V | 0.85 | 0.96 | 310.25 | 40.15 |
| IV | 1.00 | 1.13 | 365.00 | 47.47 |
| III | 1.13 | 1.28 | 412.45 | 54.75 |
| II | 1.28 | 1.45 | 467.20 | 62.05 |

If you are interested in this scheme you are advised to contact the Families Officer at the earliest opportunity to obtain any further information.



WHERE SHALL WE GO ?

"Grandma and grandpa are coming for a week," I told my children when they came home from school one day.

"Where shall we take them ?" asked the elder.

"Can we show them those big stones we saw last Easter ?" asked the younger.

It was this conversation which prompted me to sit down today — a cold, wet November day — and write this article. So often we find that when friends arrive we have no idea where to take them in the area. We, here in Locking, are so lucky to live in such an interesting area, both geographically and historically. Can I give you some ideas to ponder over in preparation for the better weather when we will be going for drives, picnics and day excursions ?

The area I am to deal with is within a 70 mile radius of Locking or a 2-hour drive from here. It stretches to the south coast (the shores of the English Channel), along the shores of the Bristol Channel as far as Minehead in the south and Cardiff on the north side, and inland to Bath in the east as well as south to the Salisbury Plain.

Geologically it is extremely varied. It consists of a high red sandstone plateau in Exmoor — the central area of an alluvial plain bounded on the north by the limestone foothills of the Mendips which stretch east/west from the Bristol Channel into Wiltshire — whilst in the southern and eastern parts are rolling vale and hill formations. There are several peculiarities, particularly on the west side of the area. Few people realise that Glastonbury was at one time a settlement on an island, surrounded by marshes. Nearer Weston-super-Mare, we have two islands off the coast — Flat Holm and Steep Holm. These, along with Brean Down, which is part of the mainland, form part of the Mendip Hills — a peculiarity in so far that a range of hills extends not only to the sea, but INTO the sea.

Historically this is also a very important area. It saw the pre-Christian era as an area with small settlements of people, and the Roman invasion when it became an important area of Romano/British activity. This was followed by an extremely important period of Celtic monastic life. Tradition has it that King Arthur had his court of Camelot somewhere in the south of Somerset, but here legend and reality become a bit confused. By the 8th Century, the area was known as the kingdom of Wessex and by the middle of the next century, it emerged as the most important kingdom of England under the leadership of the great King Alfred. He not only subdued the Danes but united all the kingdoms of England under one crown, with the exception of a small area in East Anglia. From then on this West Country area played its part in the events of

history — during the civil war of the mid-17th century, and again at the end of the same century when the famous Monmouth Rebellion took place, and was finally crushed at Sedgemoor.

In this first article I am to look at the places of interest in the immediate vicinity. Obviously, Weston-super-Mare is where we start. As suggested by the name, it is by the sea. It grew from a hamlet of 100 people to a town of importance in the late 19th Century, when the people of the Victorian era came to Weston to "take the air" which was supposed to be good for people suffering from bronchial complaints. It is basically a seaside resort with all the usual holiday amenities:— swimming, theatres, amusement arcades, sailing and two piers. There are some beautiful walks around the town — away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday-makers. To the north of the town, rise the wooded slopes of Worlebury Hill, where one can spend many hours walking along the beautiful paths. There is an Ancient British settlement (not very impressive) but it does tell us that people settled here many hundreds of years ago. If one follows the paths through these woods which lead to the north one comes to Sand Bay and Kewstoke. One path consists of many steps, known as Monks Steps, which leads from the top of the hill right down to the waters edge. This path was at one time used by monks and fishermen, bringing their catch back to their settlements on top of the hill. In the church of the small village of Kewstoke, is a wooden cup said to have been found in the church wall recess in 1852, in a bloodstained condition, and believed to have belonged to Thomas—a-Becket.

In the town there is a small museum, which houses, amongst other things, some Roman remains. These were found on Brean Down when a Roman habitation was unearthed about twenty years ago. Brean Down is a mile long headland to the south of the town. In 1897 Marconi sent a wireless signal from here across the Bristol Channel — 9 miles away — the longest distance signal that had ever been transmitted. Brean is a headland of natural beauty, with bracken-covered sides and green tufted summits. From the end of this headland one can see the islands mentioned earlier. Flat Holm — 7 miles west — has a lighthouse and is said to be the burial place of the knights who murdered Thomas—a-Becket. Steep Holm — 5 miles west — is more barren, and is a nature reserve. Part of the latter forms the Trust in memory of the late Kenneth Alsup — the BBC television personality.

Clevedon is another pleasant place to spend a few hours. It is situated on the shores of the Bristol Channel about 10 miles north of Weston. There, one can find Clevedon Pottery — an industry carried on by the seventh generation of one family. A manor house called Clevedon Court is also worth visiting. It has a 14th Century chapel and a great hall, plus a collection of glass and pottery. Here, the author Thackeray stayed, and wrote most of 'Vanity Fair'.

Perhaps the best known place of all in the West Country is 7 miles from Locking. It is Cheddar — famous for not only its cheese and strawberries but also for its caves and gorge.

It lies in the heart of the Mendips. The gorge is an awe-inspiring spectacle, with its massive cliffs rising sheer to dizzy heights above the roadway. One wonders what colossal upheaval in the distant past created this ravine. The caves are now illuminated by electric light, which brings out the full effects of formations of stalactite and stalagmite. Guided

tours of the caves are a particular speciality of the town. The town is full of souvenir shops selling everything from pottery to cheese, cider, strawberries and cream and local brewed wines. One unusual place to visit, is the Cheddar Motor Museum. It contains many veteran cars and motorcycles dating back to the late 19th Century, most of which are in working order.

Two miles east of Cheddar one comes to Axbridge. Once the Norman kings hunted stags on the Mendips from here. Today, it has some interesting timbered Tudor buildings, including one called 'King John's Hunting Lodge', which was an early Tudor merchant's house, only recently restored.

A necessary visit for the children is to Ambleside Water Gardens, at Lower Weare. It has gardens and aviaries, which are a delight to see, especially since one forgets, because of the peace and quiet, that the busy A38 road is only a few feet away.

Four miles north of Cheddar one can find Burrington Combe. It is similar in formation to Cheddar Gorge, but less majestic and much quieter. It was here that the Reverend Augustus Toplady, sheltering from a storm, wrote the hymn: 'Rock of Ages'. One gets the feeling while walking or driving through here that this gorge has stood since the world was created. The highest point on the Mendips is accessible from Burrington Combe. It is Black Down, which affords good views across the Bristol Channel to South Wales. Once the Romans mined these hills for lead. Now cavers crawl beneath the combe in deep underground passages, to explore the wonders under the earth.

In the next edition of 'Circuit' I will give you some more ideas of places to visit, but these will be further afield. In the meantime, I hope that this article has encouraged you to go out and find out more about the immediate area in which you live.

ARLENE CHRISTIE

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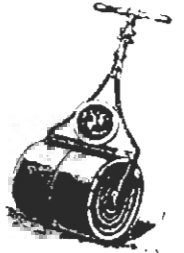
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