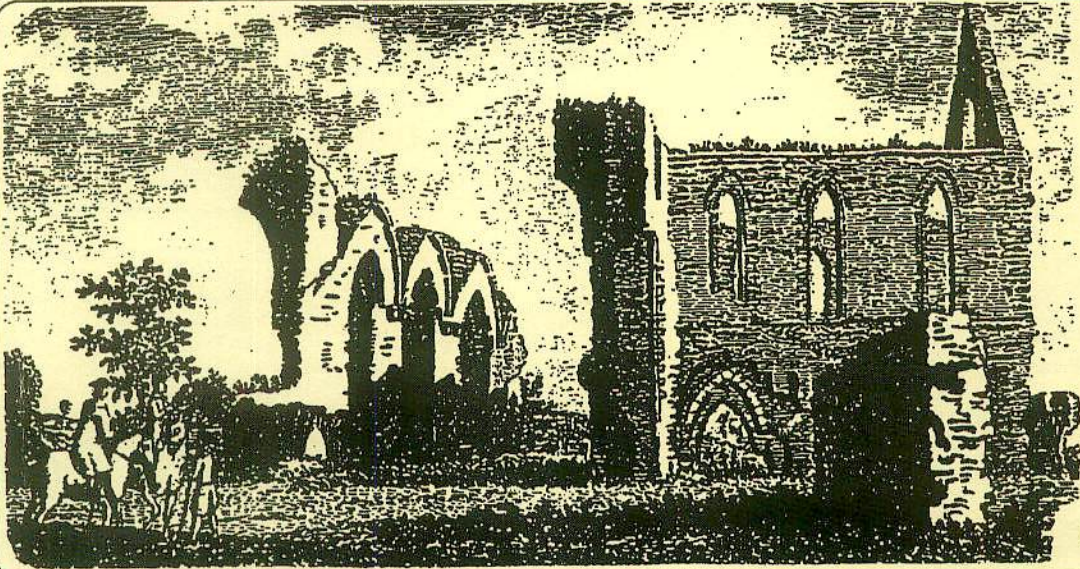


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Send & Ripley History Society

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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 157

Mar/April 2001



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Send & Ripley History Society

Established 1975 as Send History Society

Registered Charity No 296324

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Cover illustration Send Barns Farm, c1920, from a postcard in the Ken Bourne collection - see Ken French article, page 2.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

First of all, may I apologise for the printing error which occurred in the last edition of the Journal, which, through a blip in the printing equipment, caused two pages to be reduced roughly to half size. Apologies to the author of the text accompanying these photographs, which are reproduced again at the end of this Journal. The photographs, as will be seen, refer to flooding in the Ripley area, and the subject is certainly not yet out of date.

Not connected with the above, but as part of an attempt to improve photographic images and the speed of reproduction, the author has obtained a new scanner/copier, which can reproduce in black and white and colour. This is the first stage to hooking up to a computer and transmitting information via email or other means. A feasibility study is at present being carried out with the Print Unit at the University, with a view to producing the Journal on disk to insert into their printing machine, thus reducing or eliminating set-up and printing errors.

We welcome two new advertisers, who appear in this edition of the Journal. One of them is Peter Croucher, who has a repair business in Mayford for videos, tape recorders, TVs, etc. He kindly repaired the History Society's tape recorder recently, which is a much needed item to record meetings, etc. The other advertiser is Suzanne Ellisson, who is advertising her agency, Au-Pairs Europe; Suzanne is based in Send Marsh.

SURREY HISTORY TRUST

At the last Committee Meeting, it was resolved to join the above Trust, which was formed, following an Inaugural Meeting, when HRH the Prince of Wales formally opened the Surrey History Centre in March 1999. The task of the Trust is to aid the rescue and preservation of written and visual materials relating to the history of Surrey, and to promote wider appreciation of the county's past. The role of the Trust, it is envisaged, is to

- Raise funds to secure the purchase and conservation of collections
- Sponsor exhibitions and events
- Promote links with schools and universities
- Work with Surrey businesses to ensure the preservation of important business archives
- Provide volunteers for research and indexing projects

The Trust's membership subscription is £10 per annum, and for such a nominal fee it seems a very worthwhile cause to support.

Anyone requiring further information can contact our Chairman, Les Bowerman, or telephone the Secretary, Surrey History Trust, on 01483 594608.

SEND BARNS FARM, SEND, AND GROVE HEATH FARM, RIPLEY

There was an unthinkable mishap to a Rolls Royce travelling between Cobham and Esher when a tyre burst at high speed, causing the car to leave the road and crash, killing Lieutenant-Colonel Brown. This happened in the 1930s. Being a teenager at the time, it is hard now to recall the exact details. These could be verified through the *Surrey Advertiser*, which recorded the incident. Had Colonel Brown survived, there would no doubt have been more development in Send and Ripley.

Lt-Col Brown was a property developer, who had bought Send Barns Farm and Grove Heath Farm with the intent of building houses for sale on this land. Col Brown, I was told, had



been connected with housing developments along the Kingston By-Pass after it was opened. In Kelly's Directory, he is given as living at Send Barns from 1930-34. Had he built on what was left of Send Barns Farm, the houses would have linked Send Barns Lane along Woodhill Road to Vicarage Lane, with new roads where necessary. Send First School, and perhaps St Bede's School and the sandpit on the farm (excavated by Smith Brothers, and filled in by Guildford Rural District Council Refuse Department), would not have existed, because all this land was sold by his executors after his death. He also bought the Home Farm buildings belonging to Woodhill House, now demolished. These buildings are now Mr Marshall's builders' yard, including the bungalow once occupied by the Titcombes. He also purchased land stretching from Sendhurst Grange to Send Barns House, bordered by Send Barns Lane; so there is no doubt a large number of houses would have been built.

The Hosking family farmed at Send Barns Farm when my grandparents were at Woodhill in the 1880s, and were there until about 1909. Later the Humphrey family were the farmers there. The brothers Tom, Fred and Charlie Humphrey, who were good friends of mine, moved from Send Barns to Grove Heath Farm about 1934. Colonel Brown had intended to develop Send first, hence this move to Grove Heath.

I was told during many conversations with the brothers that when they bought the freehold from Brown's executors, this did not include the field immediately behind the Jovial Sailor, as this was owned by the brewery. Another field just beyond the farmhouse, on the left hand side, was owned by a property company, but they were able to rent both of these fields. Whether Brown owned these fields and they were later sold by his executors I cannot say.

Ken French

RIPLEY LIBRARY

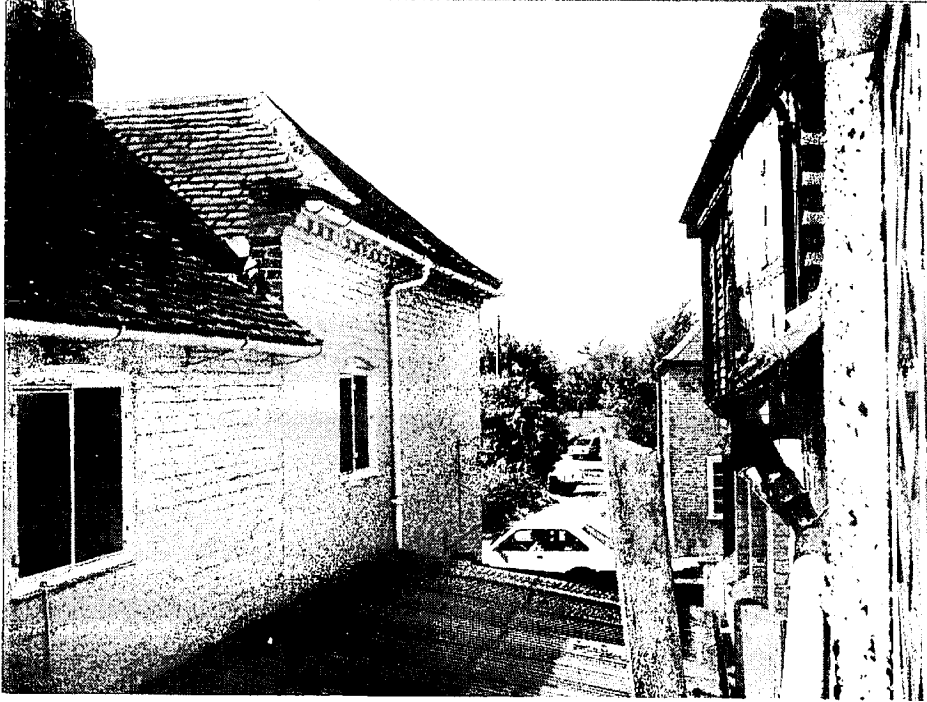
Until the latter part of the 19th century, it was only the well-to-do who possessed books. Though the Public Libraries Act of 1850 empowered Borough Councils with a population of 10,000 to spend ½d rate on the provision of a library, there were no provisions for books. There was a gradual growth of Mechanics Institutes in the 1850s and '60s, many of which had Reading Rooms, but these were more educational than for entertainment value. Commercial subscription libraries, such as Smiths, Boots and Mudies, known as Circulating Libraries, became common, but the annual subscription was again for the reasonably well-to-do. In a smaller way, many shops had a Lending Shelf. The Post Office Directory for Ripley of 1867 lists Thos Garlike, Pharmaceutical Chemist and Depot of the Library Company - probably many other shops did the same. By 1892, any local authority, even a parish, was empowered to be a Library Authority with the approval of the majority of the council. Often these local lending libraries were started by a philanthropist, or supported by the church, particularly where there was a strong temperance movement, as there was in Ripley. They were often held in disused houses, rented rooms or in a cupboard at the back of a hall, with a poor selection of books, open for a few hours each week and run by volunteers.

In 1851, the rambling building which was once the White Horse was sold to Charles Marshall of Ripley Court. He was probably the benefactor who allowed part of the building to be used for both a library and an institute. The Census returns of 1861 list it as a lodging house; in 1871 we have a Reading Room yard, and the 1881 Census gives us "John Knight Reading Room".

The Parish Magazine of 1884 reports that "The Ripley Reading and Recreation Institute has an encouraging beginning. Fifty members are enrolled, donations received- subscription 5s a year. Treasurer Dr. J. H. Sutcliffe. Hon. Sec. J. Pledger. Coffee, cocoa and light refreshments." I wonder if this meant that the church ran the Institute, but the Parish Magazine



*Joseph Hartley's Second Antiques Showroom in the 1960s
Once Held the Library, Now occupied by Sage Antiques*



*Little Barn, Ripley High Street
View down One-Time "Cat's Alley"
between Sage Antiques and Little Barn*



*Ellards' "Old English Furniture" Shop
Adjoining the White Hart, Late 1940s
Ripley Drinking Water Fountain (See N/L 107/12 & 110/8)*

reported various parish matters, such as the train timetable from Clandon Station, or the results of the Rifle Club.

In the Post Office Directory for the years 1887-9, the Reading and Recreational Institute is listed, with an occasional change of secretary - John Pledger, blacksmith, was replaced by E John Crozier Young, and there was also a caretaker, Sergeant J H Brockett, in 1889. At the Court Baron Meeting of the Manorial Court in May 1890, a licence was granted to "Thos Marriot Berridge (of Ryde House) to lease the messuage or tenement on the South Side of Ripley High Street, now used as a Working Man's Institute, copyhold of the said manor 10/6 for the licence." A list of the Committee is given in the Woking Year Book of 1900.

"Ripley Institute for reading, games etc. Chairman of Committee Rev. F. H. Tuke. Hon Treasurer Mr. T. S. Geale, Joint Hon. Secs. Dr. F. E. Pearse and F. J. C. Young. Caretaker Mr. J. W. Woods. There is an excellent library of which Mr. Young is Librarian. Hours 8-9 p.m. Ladies' Librarian Miss Berridge. Hours 3-5 p.m."

The Parish Magazine of 1890 tells us that "The Coffee Rooms are much improved. Working men can spend a pleasant evening. Games provided. Also good accommodation for travellers." The Reading Institute reopened. A new feature is "It is favoured with the presence of ladies. Now the Institute, although under the same roof as the Coffee Rooms, is entirely separate from them. Bagatelle and Smoking Room. Smaller room with periodicals. Subscriptions reduced to 2d a week or 4s a year. Manager and wife Mr and Mrs Swabey."

After the death of Rev Marshall, and later his wife, Sarah, the property, once the White Horse, was sold to Abraham Stansfield, and then in 1906 to Alfred Allenby, the chemist. What happened then was that the library and the Men's Institute separated. In the 1904 Court Baron, a licence was granted to Thos Marriot Berridge to "demise the messuage on the South Side of Ripley, lately used as a Working Man's Institute." Kelly's Directories for the years 1913-27 list both a Men's Club and a Lending Library with different secretaries. It must have been at this period that the library moved to the front of the three cottages which are now all part of Sage Antiques. In 1913, we are told that "The Men's Institute meets in the Ripley Church Room on some evenings from 7-10. There are two billiard tables, games and literature. The subscription is 6d. The Secretary Mr. Ernest Cox (the carrier)." Also, in the Parish Magazine, we read:

"I have been asked to insert a notice about the library. The library is open on Tuesdays from 8-9 p.m., and on Fridays from 3-4.30 on which days books can be taken out at a very cheap rate. There is a good selection of books to choose from."

We still have not been told who provided the money for the books, but in 1918 there was a rummage sale in the school to raise money for various causes and £1 was given to the Village Library.

After 1930, there was no further mention of a Men's Club; instead Kelly's Directory says of Ripley: "There is a branch of the British Legion and a Lending Library." The library still continued, with Dr Pearse resigning the Hon Secretaryship, but continuing as Treasurer. There was a supply of new books in 1926 and a sale of surplus books at prices from 2d each. The subscription to the library was still 5s a year.

Tommy Mandeville, of West Byfleet, told me that when his father came out of the Army at the end of the First World War, and was looking for farming work, he was told there was a library job in Cat's Alley, and a house went with the job - this was the front left hand cottage of what is now Sage Antiques. The downstairs room, he said, was full of books, with his mother in charge, while Dad tried to find farming work. He never knew who owned the cottage, as he was only aged two at the time. They stayed there for four years until his father got a job at Ladyplace Farm, Pyrford, with a cottage attached.

The late Mrs Alice Charman, whose first married home was in a flat above the Half Moon, used to watch people going into the front room of the cottages, "for a talk and a read".

Mrs Tummans ran the library, while Arthur Tummans worked as a baker, first at Collins, then in a bakehouse at the back of Cat's Alley, until he set up his own bakery opposite Barretts on the Portsmouth Road c1934. Tom Butler told me he used to call in the library at Cat's Alley after work, "where they made you a good cup of tea", but then Tom worked at Collins as a baker, so it may have been merely a social occasion.

At last I found a reader. Mrs Nell Lewis (née Colborne) remembers the Parish Library with a signpost pointing to it in the 1920s. The library was first behind the window nearest to the White Hart; then it moved to the left corner cottage, next to the alley between Sage Antiques and Little Barn. She changed her books there every week, and always found something to please her. She thought she paid a few pence each week.

I have found no further mention of a Parish Library after the Tummans. The Ellards started an antiques shop in the 1940s, and buying the smaller cottages at the back, Bill and Renie Ellard incorporated them into the one shop, "Old English Furniture". It is still an antiques shop, Sage Antiques.

There was obviously not the same need for a Parish Library, as there was by now a County Library Service and a regular bus service to Guildford. I still do not know, however, who financed our Parish Library. Can anyone help?

Jane Bartlett

MEMORIES OF LADY OLAVE BADEN-POWELL

My first memory of the World Chief Guide was at the Surrey West County Day at Highlands School, Westfield, Surrey, in November 1969, where, as a very new Guider, I was to be so impressed with this wonderful lady, whose warmth and affection were an inspiration to me. Shaking hands with every Guider in turn as we filed past her, with a cheery word for all, I said to myself, "What a wonderful leader!"

I was next to have the pleasure of meeting her as she travelled through Ripley, when I joined her and a friend to show them the way to St Peters Church, Bellfields, on Sunday, October 18 1970. This was for a surprise visit to the Jubilee Service, held by the Worplesdon District Guides (which includes Ripley). It was a surprise for the Guides to learn that the World Chief Guide would be present at our service, as she herself had expressed a wish to be there, when told of it by her grandson's wife, Lady Patience Baden-Powell, the District Commissioner at that time. I was rather apprehensive, but I should not have worried, as the great lady had a wonderful ability to put one at ease. We were soon chatting as old friends.

In the spring of 1976, Lady Patience Baden-Powell asked me to take two of our Brownies, Kathryn Spiral from the 2nd Ripley Pack, and a Brownie from the 1st Ripley Pack, to the nursing home, Birtley House, in Bramley, where the Chief Guide had made her home. Two very nervous little Brownies approached the magnificent oak staircase in anticipation, not really taking any notice of my reassurance. As soon as the door was opened into her room, the Chief Guide greeted them so warmly that they were immediately at ease. The occasion for this special visit was for them to be photographed with the great lady signing the millionth copy of the Brownie Handbook. What beautiful photographs they turned out to be (one is shown on next page). The Brownies had an hour or so with the Chief Guide, who still talked to them with interest and understanding.

As the Brownies had been so good, she looked for a gift for them. Having only diabetic chocolates, she gave them a box each. They were thrilled with the gift and two little girls and one Guide Leader had a day to remember for ever.

In 1976, when a bright young Brownie from Lambeth wrote to "Jim Will Fix It", asking to meet the World Chief Guide, the recording was made at Chapel Farm, Ripley.



Lady Olave Baden-Powell, Kathryn Spiral on Right

Lady Patience Baden-Powell asked me to help with the refreshments for the TV personnel. We were all amazed at the energy of the Chief Guide and the recording was made in record time.

In June 1977, the Chief Guide, aged 88, died peacefully in her sleep. I was so privileged to have met her. Even after her death, her last recorded message inspired me to carry on with Guiding.

Jackie Strange

If any members have other interesting memories of Guiding or Scouting, perhaps they might like to write them up for the Journal, or for the exhibition in the Museum, and hand their article to Claire McCann (01483 728546). - Editor

MEMORIES OF RIPLEY AREA

The following is a letter received from Patricia Marx, in response to the article by Les Bowerman concerning the Police Sergeant, Hubert H Rendell, which appeared in Journal 151, March/April 2000.

My cousin, Mr Jack Holmes, is a member of your Society, and he passes the Journal on to me, as we both cherish fond memories of the area. We were particularly interested in your March issue this year, which included extracts from the diaries of Hubert Rendell, Police Constable, who moved to Ockham in 1907.

It was about this time that our grandfather, William Holmes, was employed as Carpenter/Clerk of Works on the estate of Countess Lovelace. He was married to Caroline and they had five children - John (called Jack!), born 1900 (my father), Cecil, born 1901, Robert, born 1902 (cousin Jack's father), Albert, born 1904, and Kathleen, born 1907.

Their first home was at Church End, Ockham, and then they moved to Albion Cottage West. My father told me how, when sent to collect the milk in a can, he mastered the art of swinging the can full circuit over his head without the milk spilling out! They must surely have known Constable Rendell - I wonder if he ever caught up with them in the graveyard after church. They were all in the choir and used to rush out after the service to leapfrog the gravestones!

Round about 1915, William Holmes changed his job and became Resident Engineer/Caretaker on the RHS Gardens, where the family occupied the flat in the end of the laboratory building, overlooking what in those days was the stable, and also the generating plant, as the RHS Gardens had their own electricity supply.

Three of the boys started their working lives in training on the gardens. John and Albert spent most of their lives in horticulture, but Robert changed to a career in aircraft engineering with Fairey Aviation, and Cecil spent much of his life with Vickers Aircraft.

Kathleen married Pat Atkinson, who was a student at Wisley. The wedding photograph shows most of the family taken in front of the laboratory entrance, where their wedding reception was held in the hall. I still have a postcard, sent from my grandfather to my father at the time of my birth in 1925, which bears a picture of the old Hut Hotel. Many happy holidays were spent in Wisley Gardens and Sunday afternoons were spent on sedate walks in "Sunday best" up to the "Hut" to admire the lake and look at the traffic! I used to spend hours sitting on the corner by the Wisley turning, collecting car registration numbers in my notebook! During the week, there would be walks with my grandmother into Ripley, where we would shop at the International Stores. There was a nice little spot on the River Wey where the family used to enjoy a dip on summer evenings, and also where my father tried to teach me how to fish!





Sadly, Cecil, Robert and Albert are no longer with us, nor my father, John. He passed away two years ago, having almost reached his 99th birthday. Kathleen is 93 now and lives in Somerset.

Mr Findlay occupied the "Garden House" in those days and I recall his daughter, Margaret, and son, David. The McGuigans were in the house not far from where the restaurant is now. I used to be great friends with their daughter, Sheila. She rescued me from the pond when my leg slipped through the thin ice near the edge! I'm afraid we blotted our copybooks by ringing the "Bothie" bell - which assembled students from all over the gardens to see where the fire was! My grandmother knew a Mrs Hubbard, who lived on the edge of Ripley. There was also a cottage down a lane opposite the Wisley turning which used to sell sweets. It was usually very steamy from boiling washing, and had the latest in pest deterrents - very long, fully occupied flypapers!

Patricia Marx (née Holmes)

**SOCIETY VISIT TO WELLS CATHEDRAL, SOMERSET
SATURDAY, 8 JULY 2000**

On a bright sunny morning, some 14 members and friends met at Ripley and made their way to the first comfort stop at Stonehenge, en route to Wells in Somerset. This was one of the longest excursions made by the Society recently, so the journey was arranged in easy stages. After Stonehenge, Doulting, the village just outside Wells, was the next stop, where other members joined the party, some of whom lived in Somerset. The reason for stopping just outside Wells was the connection with this village, or more particularly, the quarry, which had for the last 850 years provided building stone for the Cathedral. As it turned out, there were also other reasons for visiting this village, as our guide, John Seal, a local historian, who lived in the village, was to so ably inform us.

The party gathered outside the late 13th century abbey tithe barn. This building, constructed from the attractive honey-coloured stone (inferior Oolite), built by the wealthy abbey at Glastonbury, is one of the few known cruck base barns having two gabled porches on each side. The quarry on the other side of the village provided the stone for the barn, as indeed it did for practically every building in Doulting.

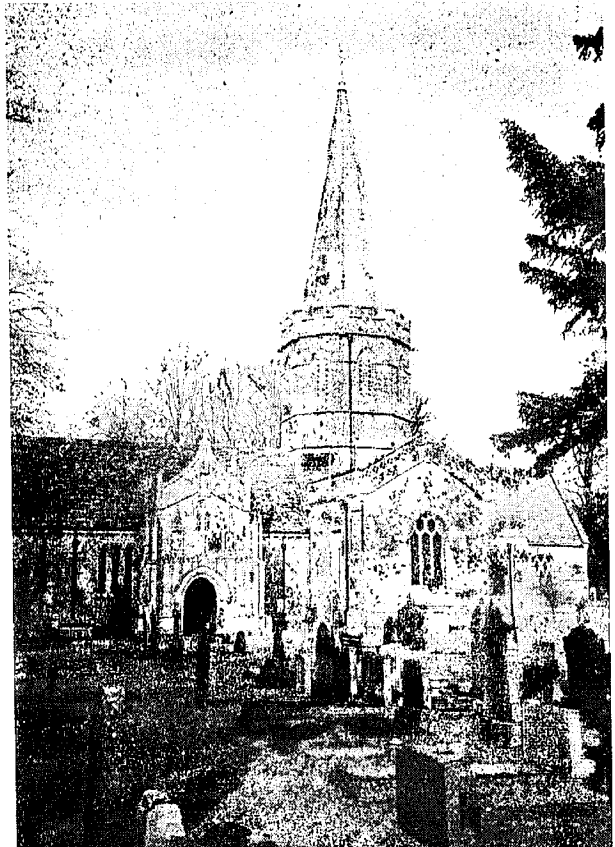


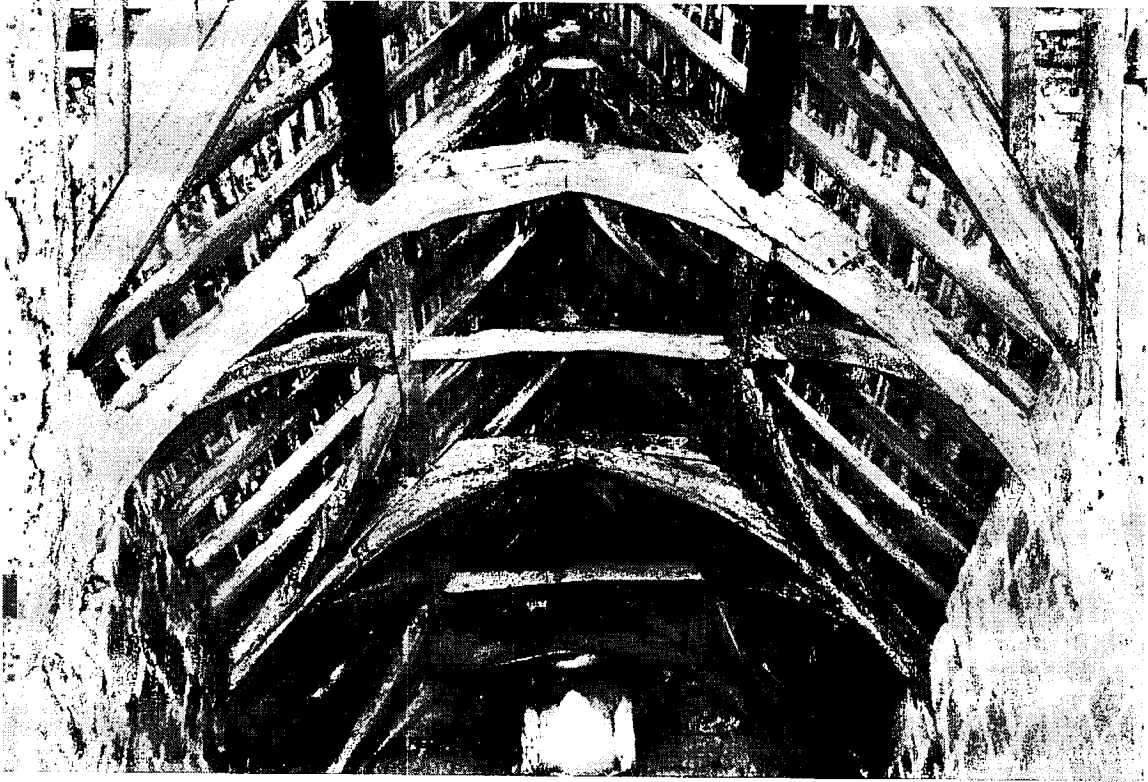
The barn, which is 100 feet long x 32 feet wide, has a roof constructed from oak, with arched, braced roof trusses, which sit on wall posts, of varying lengths, built into the walls. In the main building, the posts almost reach the ground, whereas in the porches, they are built into the upper part of the side walls. The roof may originally have been thatched, but is now heeled in stone tiles.

The village church, dedicated to St Adhelm, was visited next and a description was given by John Seal, who has written an excellent guide, both to this church and to the village as a whole. The church, originally Saxon, of which little survives, other than a cross in the churchyard, was rebuilt in the Norman period and then again, in the Perpendicular style, in the 15th century. Once more, in 1869-71, the whole church was rebuilt again, retaining some of the original features, particularly in the porch, which has part of the Norman arch. This, unfortunately, has been inserted back to front (perhaps this can also be considered fortunate), so that the original Norman external carved faces now face the church interior.

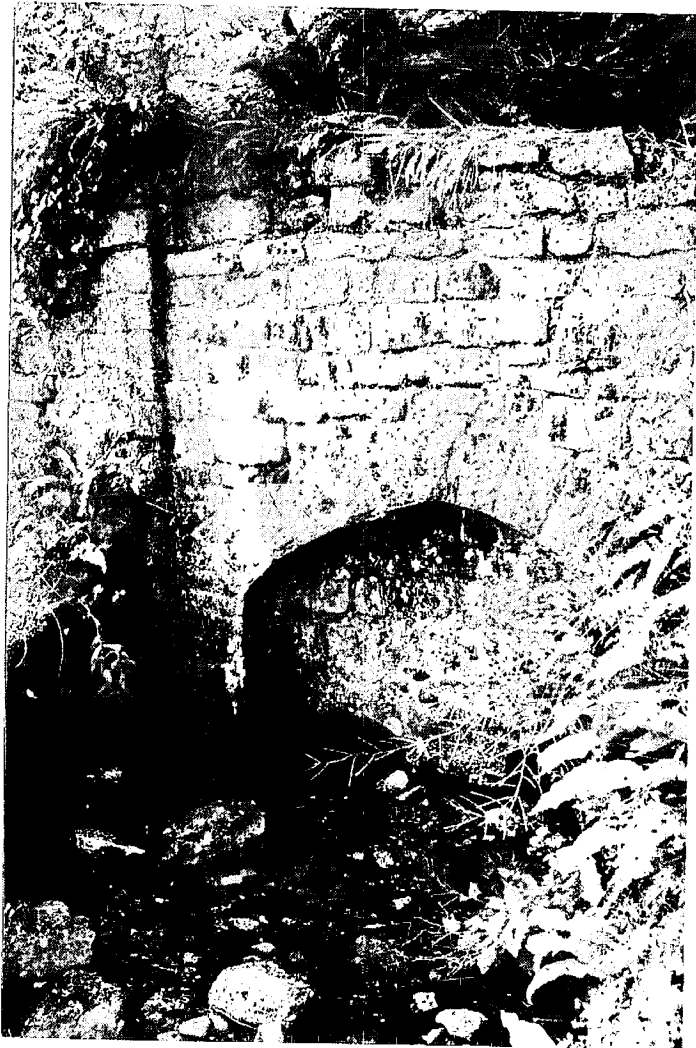
The Victorian stained glass is of good quality, particularly that in a south transept window, the Pre-Raphaelite figure of which commemorates a local lady who died in 1904. Unfortunately, the artist is not known.

The tower, which is a very distinctive





Roof Timbers above a Gabled Porch



St Adhelm's Well

feature, was increased in height by eight feet when rebuilt in the 19th century. There are six bells, the oldest being c1490 and the rest being 17th/18th century.

There was just time to walk down a shady lane leading from the church to a wall from which water from a natural spring emerged in a steady stream, which it had done since time immemorial. The stream, known as St Adhelm's Well, is, in the springtime, dressed with flowers, an ancient custom in Somerset which is said to pay homage to the spirit of the well. No doubt this water, thoroughly filtered and clean, having travelled many miles through the limestone rock, was in past times the safest source of drinking water, and easily associated with curative properties compared with other less hygienic sources.

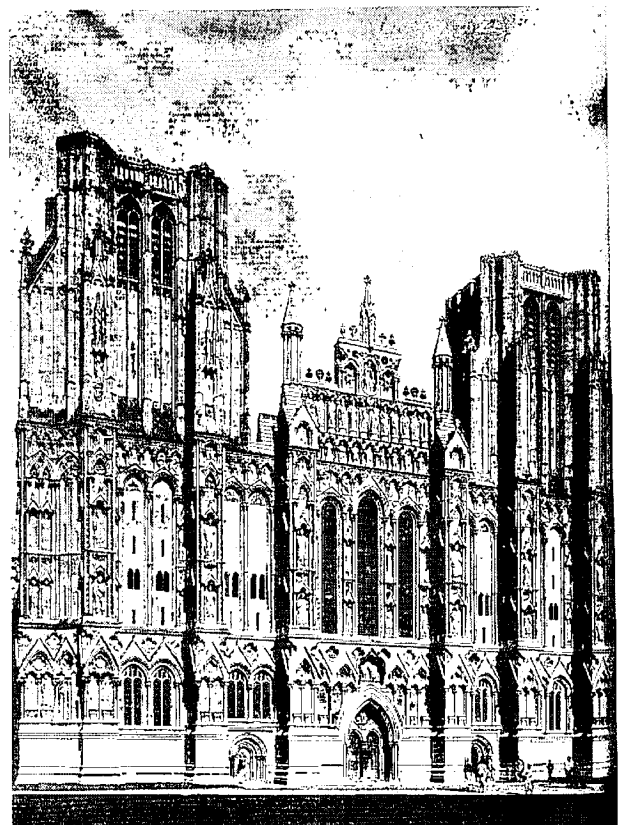
St Adhelm was born in Wessex c639 and became Abbot of Malmesbury in 675, and is said to have bathed in a spring in Doulling, probably near this spot. He established small monasteries at Doulling, Frome, Bradford-on-Avon and possibly Wells. King Ine of Wessex formed a new see at Sherborne out of the enormous diocese of Winchester, appointing Adhelm its first Bishop in 705. Adhelm died at Doulling on 25 May 709 and was buried at Malmesbury.

The group then travelled on to its main objective, Wells, arriving at approximately midday, just in time to break for lunch. This small city, with its bustling market and many shops, restaurants and cafés, provided an interesting diversion and refreshment to the members. There was also time to visit the museum, facing the Cathedral Green, or even see the famous swans in the moat of the Bishop's Palace, which, whenever they felt in need of refreshment, were able to ring a bell with their beaks, for which they were appropriately rewarded.

Meeting promptly at the door of this imposing Cathedral's west front, the group, now 20 strong, was given a tour of this great 12th/13th century Gothic building, by a guide from the Cathedral staff.

The Cathedral was founded by King Ine, during his lifetime, 688-726 AD, constructed from stone quarried at Doulling. "Inferior", used geologically, means at a lower level, and is harder and coarser than Bath stone (Greater Oolite). Most of the interior dressings to Guildford Cathedral are, in fact, Doulling stone.

The West Front of Wells Cathedral dates from about 1230, built with the western part of the nave, under Adam Lock, the Master Mason, who died in 1229. The decorative work is attributed to his assistant, John Norreys. The shafts which adorn the niches are of Blue Lias from Street. Benjamin Ferrey, in the restoration of the west front in 1870-4, used Kilkenny marble, which has weathered, and is indistinguishable from the original stone from Street, which is now almost worked out. The figures carved between 1230 and 1250 are placed around the immense buttresses and on three sides of the North Tower. The figures depict kings, queens, bishops and knights, although not all are identified. There is a group of four Marys, a Gospel Procession and a recent statue of Christ, carved by David Wynne in 1985, which is placed right at the top of the central west facade. A recent study was made, and produced in a publication for the Millennium,



that has resulted in an excellent book which gives a detailed description of the majority of the figures.

High up in the centre of the west front are small unglazed openings, the significance of which are explained later. There is also a ring of ten bells hanging in the south-west tower, which is reputed to be the heaviest in the world.

Inside the building, the first feature that is inescapable is the massive scissor arch, which appears modern, but in fact was built in 1338/48, to provide extra support to the central tower, which was begun c1200, and over the years had started to subside.

The main features of this exceptional building were pointed out by our guide, including the masons' carvings of faces at the top of the capitals, one of which depicted a man with toothache, and there are supposed to be at least eleven of these throughout the Cathedral, no doubt a common enough affliction. Also depicted was a thief being chastised by his master and another of Adam Lock, the Master Mason. Some carvings, "restored" by Benjamin Ferrey in the late 19th century, below the windows high up in the south transept, are simple floriate designs, similar to those he caused to be carved upon the west end of Ripley Church.

In the south aisle, not far from the site of the Saxon cathedral, is a Saxon font, the only visible relic from the earlier building. It is a round stone font mounted upon a plinth and carved with piers and round arches, later modified to appear pointed to match the fashion of the 12th century Early English style.

High above the altar, the fine mid 14th century stained glass in the Jesse Window is some of the earliest in the Cathedral, although there are fragments of glass dating from 1306 in the Chapterhouse and Lady Chapel. There is also excellent stained glass of the New Renaissance period in the north transept, and 19th century glass in the choir and nave, the latter by Charles E Kempe.

For most of the party, the two highlights of the interior tour would be the clock in the west wall of the north transept and the Chapterhouse steps.

The clock is said to be the oldest working clock in the world, made c1390, although the



original works are now in the Science Museum. A great attraction to visitors is the 14th century dial showing the hours, position of the sun, minutes, date of the lunar month and the phase of the moon. Four knights rotate at the quarter hour and the hour. Another figure strikes a bell with his hand and his foot.

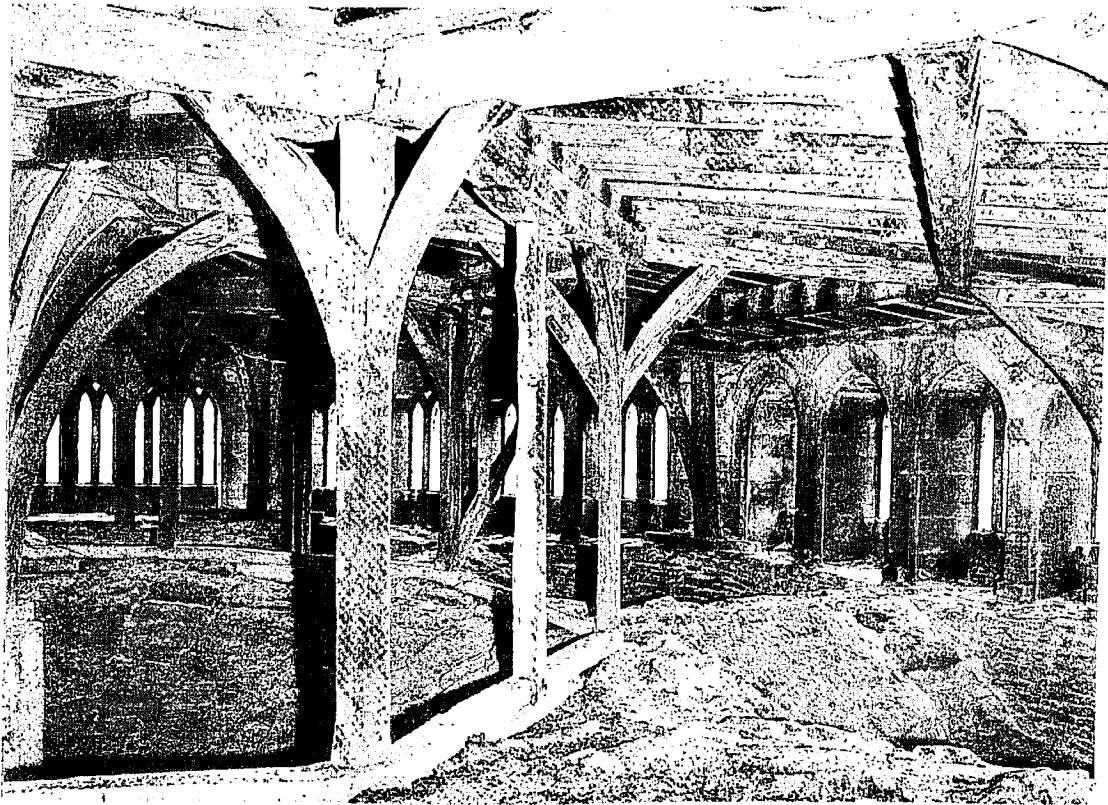
The Chapter stairway is a feature that is easily missed, as it is only seen by opening a small door leading through the north wall of a narrow transept at the west end of the choir aisle. This doorway leads to the Chapterhouse, which is halfway up on the right, via the 13th century impressive stone stairway, which terminates at a small doorway at the top, opening into the chain bridge and Vicars Hall. This stairway has been much photographed, most successfully by Fredrick H Evans in 1903, and in his words "worn into a semblance of broken waves upon a placid shore". The steps are indeed evocative evidence of wear by the passage of clerics over the centuries.



The first part of the tour having ended, the group split into two, ten of whom embarked upon a tour of the Cathedral at high level. The remaining members visited the Millennium Exhibition in the Cathedral Library, which displayed a thousand years of books and documents. From one end of the library could also be viewed the ancient Chained Library. The high level tour, which was specially arranged for the History Society's members, was indeed memorable, with close-up views of the bells, high in the west tower, and the maze of roof structures above the Chapterhouse and the nave. Looking down upon the nave from forty feet or more, and at a similar height from behind the clock in the north transept, was not for the faint-hearted. The climb to the top of the central tower and upon the roof rewarded those with sufficient stamina with a glorious view of the surrounding hilly Somerset countryside and the precincts of the Cathedral.

The high level walk passed along a walkway, just wide enough to traverse singly, behind the central part of the west end facade previously mentioned. Members of the choir stand here and sing through the narrow apertures in the wall on certain occasions. This gives the impression of angels' voices emanating from on high, a good example of a special building, like a cathedral, which was built for creating effects, as well as a sense of awe in the minds of the mediaeval visitor.

At ground level again, the Vicars Close, built c1363, reputed to be the oldest continuously occupied mediaeval street in the country, was built to house the Vicars Choral, who were



Timber Roof Members above Chapterhouse

members of the choir for which Wells is famous. Originally each house was built with two rooms, one downstairs and one up, to provide accommodation for 40 choristers. In 1400, front gardens were added and subsequently some of the units were joined to form larger accommodation. They are still used for some members of the choir who live in, and also as accommodation for other members of the Cathedral. Entrance to the Cathedral at night is across the chain gate bridge to the stairs near the Chapterhouse.



Vicars Close

Finally, the group dispersed, having paid a last visit to the shops or the tea room near the Gatehouse. Some stayed on to listen to an early evening performance of the choir. The day was organised by the undersigned, and thanks are due to Norma Newby, the Cathedral Visits & Guides Co-ordinator, and John Seal of Douling, for their help and assistance.

Ken Bourne

Further reading

Wells Cathedral, by L S Colchester, Unwin Hyman Ltd, 1987, £5.95.

Douling, the History of a Somerset Village, by John Seal, PDQ Group, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, 1993, available from Douling Church, £5.00.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 8 March - 8 pm, Send Church Room

A Talk on Bell-Ringing by Sally Morgan.

Thursday, 26 April - 8 pm, Ripley Annex

A talk by Denis Walker on the History of the Contents of Polesden Lacey.

Monday, 7 May

Send Scout Fête.

It is hoped that the Society will have a stall at this event.

June

Outing to be arranged.

July

Outing to be arranged.

August

No meeting.

Thursday, 6 September - 8 pm, Send Church Room

"Traveller and Traffic during the Coaching Era" - a talk by Judith Hunter.

Saturday, 27 October - all day from 10 am at Chertsey Hall

The Surrey Local History Symposium, which this year is on the theme of "Rural Surrey".
Volunteers are required to set up a stand for the History Society at this symposium.

Thursday, 8 November - 8 pm, Ripley Annex

A talk on Kew Gardens by Dr Peter Brandham.

REPRINT OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM PREVIOUS JOURNAL

On the following pages are reprinted, at the correct size, photographs which were included in the previous Journal. The two photographs relating to Ripley village pond are associated with the article by John Slatford on page 5, and the two photographs depicting flooding in Newark Lane are associated with the article by Ken Bourne on page 2.

Journal contributions

The closing date for contributions for the next edition of the Journal is Friday, 6 April.



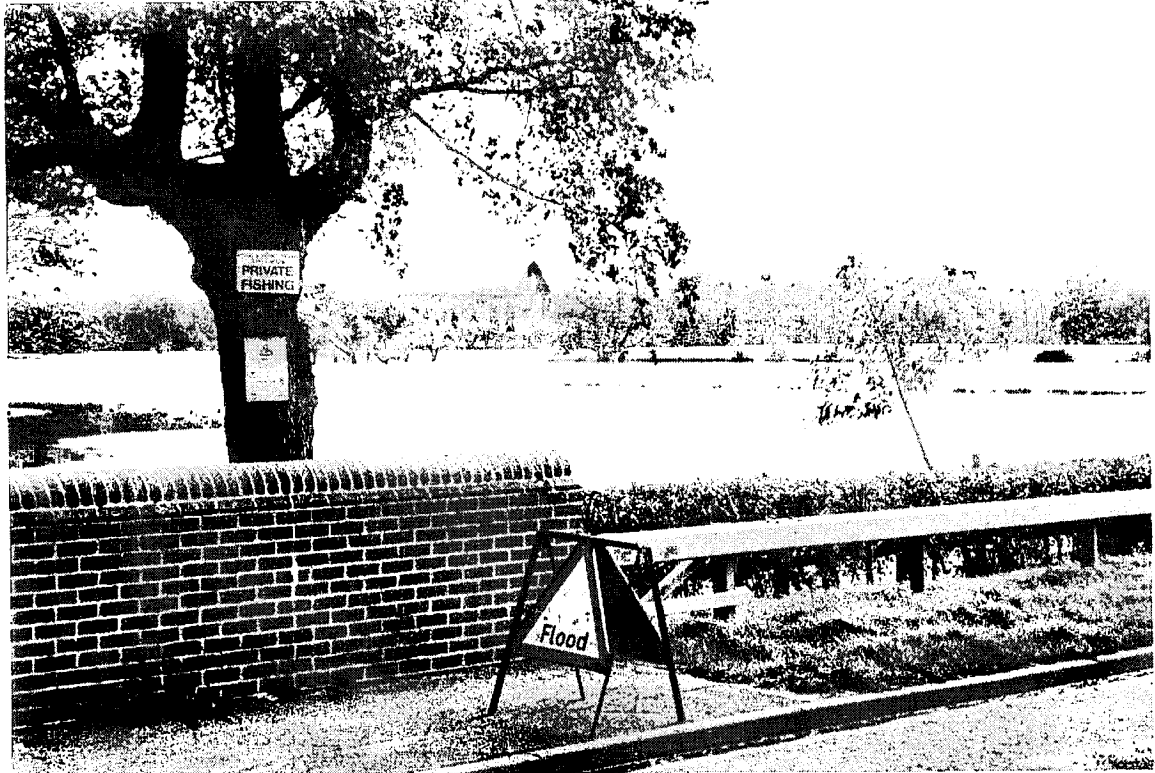
RIPLEY VILLAGE POND. c1910.



RIPLEY VILLAGE POND. November 2000.

The photo, taken just below Pырford Church, looking towards Ripley, may be compared with the flooding shown on the 1925 postcard which appeared on the front page of the last issue of the Journal (No 155). The drainage improvements for the Bourne stream (see N/L 120/6 1995) have, it seems, been effective in preventing flooding of this part of the road, which, for centuries past, had been the ford from which Pырford takes its name.

Not so fortunate were residents in Ripley High Street who, early last month, were flooded. The properties included Perseverance Cottages, the Manor House and the Anchor public house. As mentioned previously, this is a rare occurrence and may have been caused in this case as much by a blocked drain as the excessive rainfall.





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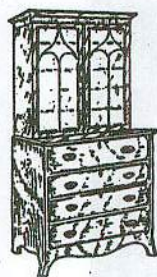
Other times for school groups and small parties
by arrangement.

*Please contact George or Irene Bleach on 01483 222233 if
you require information or wish to help in the museum.*

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

"Ripley & Send Then and Now, the Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life"	£10 Reprint 1998
"Guide to Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Send"	£1.25
"Then and Now, A Victorian Walk around Ripley"	Reference copy only
"The Straight Furrow", by Fred Dixon	£1.50
"Ripley and Send - Looking Back"	£4.95
"A Walk about Ripley Village in Surrey"	£2.00
"Newark Mill, Ripley, Surrey"	£2.95
"The Hamlet of Grove Heath, Ripley, Surrey"	£4.00
"Ripley and Send - an Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures"	£6.00

The reference copy is available at the Museum. All the others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of "Ripley & Send Then and Now" is additionally available at Send Post Office.



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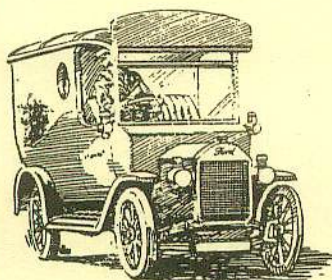
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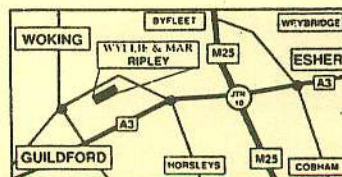
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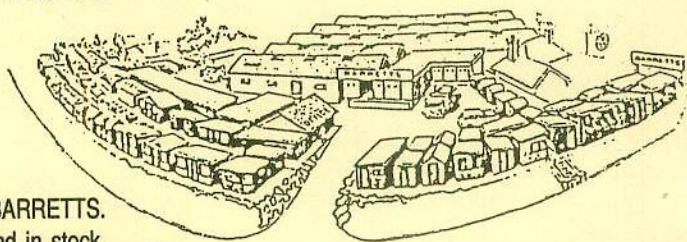
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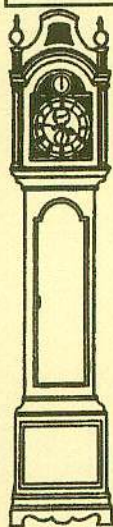


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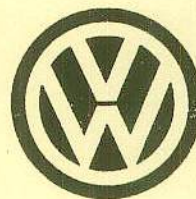
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