

newton news

Twice Monthly Journal featuring News of Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Industrial Estate Free Distribution of 7,500

Utopia or apathy

The "News" congratulates the Aycliffe Development Corporation, the Town Councillors, the Rural District Councillors, the Durham County Councillors, the Member of Parliament and the Government for this perfect new town.

Yes, we are being a little sarcastic, but it seems to us that no one cares enough about situations that need putting right to really do something about them.

From time to time we have published items of news in the hope of stirring public opinion to the state of getting something done-but although ver-

bally we get support, and agreement with what we say nothing is implemented.

You may remember one of our leader articles was "Let's clean up this 'ere town," with reference to stray dogs and dog owners who allow dogs to fowl the greens and footpath. We thought this deserved some action, but no councillor came

forward to give support or echo our grievance. Is it too trivial or perhaps no councillor wants the tag of being "the person who cleared the town of dog muck."

In future we intend to ask what is going to be done about things we highlight and in getting answers in print we may find where the fault lies.

LEADERS PLAN A BUSY APRIL AT YOUTH CENTRE



Mr. Yarrow and Mr. Coulthard

Mr. Daniel Yarrow, youth leader, and his assistant Mr. Coulthard are planning many interesting events at the Youth Centre for April.

Very popular are the dances held on Saturday nights featuring top groups.

No stranger to new town life having lived near to Livingstone new town in Scotland, Mr. Yarrow finds very few differences here in Newton Aycliffe. The most marked difference he finds, is the dialect—"not easy to understand". (I am reminded of old Ferryhill miner Bill Petch who went to live near to his daughter in the Isle of Wight; he thought that south country people spoke very bad English).

Mr. Arthur Coulthard, the Assistant Youth Leader, Aged

29, married, two children. Qualified in youth training at the Youth Leader Training Centre, Leicester.

Forthcoming events: Easter Monday, the Centre is open. Also, in the adjacent football ground, the Centre Leaders and the Management Committee will play the Centre Football Team Kick off at 10 a.m.

4th April A feature film show.

6th April Girls Keep Fit Class supervised by Mrs. Owen.

10th April Dance from 7.30 to midnight. Star Group Mighty Joe Young of Liverpool.

12th April Chess and Table Tennis Championships; Durham Association of Boys Clubs.

KIBBLESWORTH W.I. TO GIVE CONCERT

Under the auspices of the Newtonian Senior Citizens a concert will be given in St. Clares Church Hall on Thursday April 2nd at 7.30 p.m. by Kibblesworth Womens Institute Party. The concert is open to all residents. There will be no charge for admission but a free will offering will be received.

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APRIL

Oh, to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in

England
Sees, some morning unaware,
That the lowest boughs and
the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm tree bole are
in tiny leaf
While the chaffinch sings on
the orchard bough
In England—now!

Robert Browning

Ex-World Champion, Tony Neal tries out a new "mount" while laying the new terracing at Aycliffe Stock Car Stadium in readiness for Bank Holiday Racing.

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Printed and Published by
Newton Press, Greenwell
Road, Newton Aycliffe.
Telephone Aycliffe 2893

Church of England move in to Williamfield

T.V. star Derek Nimmo isn't a patch on Brother Francis—the first Brother Francis, that is. That's why we've chosen him for our patron saint. (Incidentally, was also a great friend of Saint Clare).

The school which is named after him is the first stage of a building programme, and we hope to have news of its completion date for next time. That is what is going up across the road from the Southern Club, easily recognisable by its pyramid roof-lights.

Meanwhile we are beginning to build up a number of house churches in the new part of the town. Two have started, two more are already in the pipe-line. (For any who wish to come—and you would be very welcome—there is a Bible-study and celebration of Holy Communion on Monday nights at 7.30 at Ted and Jean Spiller's house, 79 Kirkstone Place, and a newer group on Wednesdays at 2.30 at 57 Whinlatter, the home of Gordon and Margaret

Watson and their gorgeous twins).

They are very informal groups, with everyone shutting up the clergy and having their own say. In some ways the C of E has moved a long way from what we see in the New Testament, and we are very conscious of this, we hope to recover the friendliness and the bounce and godly exuberance of the early Christians.

When in the summer we move into St. Francis' school for Sunday services we still intend that such groups will be the lifeblood of the new congregation, with the accent always on friendliness and an informal search for God.

If St. Francis could do it with the birds and the bees, surely we can do it with you?

DECIMILISATION CHANGES "BOB-A-JOB"

Dear Sir,
SCOUT JOB WEEK
March 28th to April 4th 1970
This year our familiar Bob a Job fund raising scheme is to be changed to SCOUT JOB WEEK. This has been re-named as such, because of decimalisation and to the fact that the value of the "Bob" is very much less than when we began this scheme many years ago. The dates are as above and all members of our Movement will be taking part.

As you will be aware, through the year we encourage our Cub Scouts and Scouts

the amount paid. Those who have no further jobs are entitled to ask for a "Job Done" window sticker and this should prevent further callers.

Members of the Scout Movement are still encouraged to earn much of the money needed to implement their training programme. Indeed today, the livelier more adventurous programme offered to all members inevitably requires more finance than in the past. This praiseworthy independence is an integral feature of the SCOUT JOB WEEK and for more than twenty years the Scout move-



always to be on the look-out for a chance to do a Good Turn without thought of reward, but during SCOUT JOB WEEK we ask the public to support us by paying for a job. The lads will wear uniform where possible, and equally important, every Cub Scout, Scout and Venture Scout taking part carries an official Job Card in which householders should note the work completed and

ment has approved the method adopted.

It is no exaggeration to say that most people in Newton Aycliffe recognise Scouting as a positive means of helping boys and young men to become valued members of the community. In Scout Job Week we all have an opportunity to help these youngsters help themselves.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.....
D.S.C.L.

CARNIVAL

DATE CHANGE

Mrs. Anne Shotton, secretary of Newton Aycliffe Carnival Committee informs the "news" that the date for the Carnival is to be changed to June 6th—13th.

The committee asks for interested persons to come forward to help make this year's carnival successful.

There are many jobs, particularly on Carnival Day itself, which need lots of hands.

So if any readers feel they can help out please contact Mrs. Anne Shotton, 7 Hunter Road, Newton Aycliffe, Telephone 2822.

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Danger!

Have you walked out of the town at a peak traffic hour to catch a 46 bus to Darlington? We reckon it's more dangerous than climbing Mount Everest and any impatient motorist driving out with side windows fogged up is really half way to suicide. In France, in a similar situation, you would see a bold notice away up the main road saying "Give Priority to all traffic leaving leaving New Town ahead "Slow Down." Perhaps our County Councillors are waiting for you to play hell about it before they make a move. Well, you have your opportunity. The County Council Election is on 7th April.

There is one duty you must not neglect... the election of Councillors is just as important as the election of Members of Parliament. So, spare a few minutes on Election Days to register your vote.

READERS PLEASE NOTE

The Newton Press, printers and publishers of the "Newton News" wish to make it clear it no longer prints the "Newtonian."

Any correspondence or enquiries regarding the Newtonian should be made at the C.S.S. Offices, 9 Isherwood Close.

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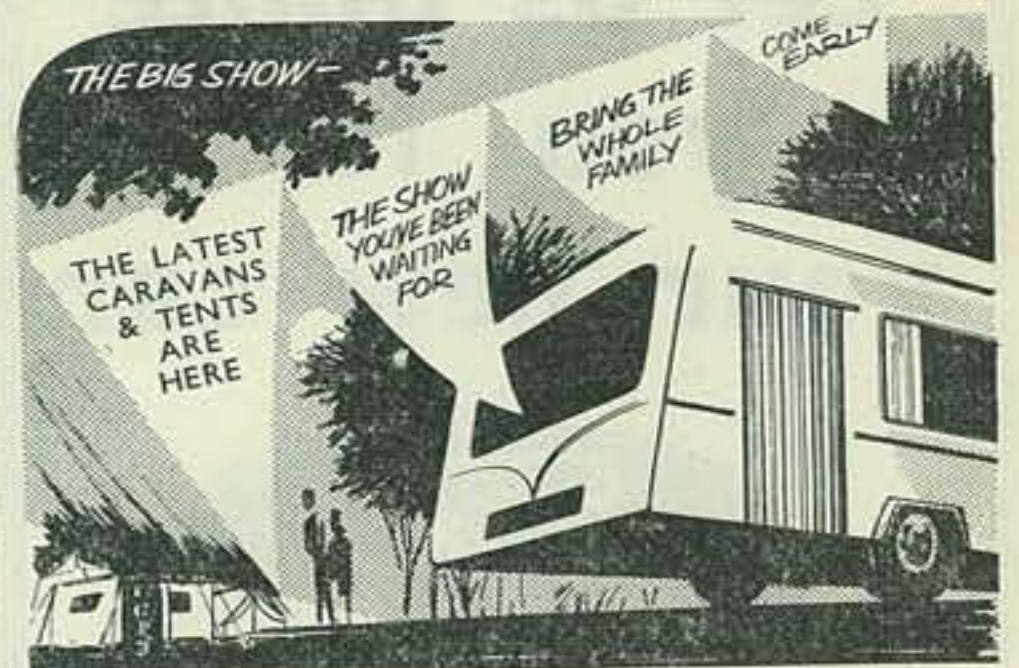
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**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
ELECTION
DARLINGTON RURAL No. 2
TUESDAY 7th APRIL 1970**



**VOTE AGAIN FOR
ALEX CESSFORD**

**THE LABOUR CANDIDATE
WHO HAS SERVED YOU WELL
FOR 12 YEARS**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having been your representative on the County Council for the past twelve years I can claim that during those years of growth and expansion I have ensured that the services of the County Council have kept pace with this growth. Every section of the Community has benefited. Schools, Youth Centre, Health Centre (to be extended) and Library, Fire Station, Ambulance Depot, and Residential Accommodation for the Elderly have been provided. For some years I have been pressing for the provision of a Day Nursery and have been assured that this will commence in the next two years.

I am particularly proud that the completion of Woodham Secondary and the readaption of the Marlowe and Milton Hal Schools means that Comprehensive Education will be available for all children from September next.

I can also claim credit (despite strong opposition) for the rebuilding of the Diamond Jubilee School in Aycliffe Village.

During the last three years the Labour County Council have been able to maintain a steady Rate Levy to the Householder: a remarkable achievement by a party branded by the Anti-Socialists as being extravagant spenders of Public Money. In contrast the Anti-Socialists who control our Parish Council have in one short year of control increased their Rate Levy by 4d and their expenditure by 40% — a record never before achieved, and I hope never repeated.

I confidently ask for your Vote on Election Day.
Alex Cessford,
59, Ashfield.

Readers,

We want your interesting news items.
call at the "News Office"

Greenwell Road,
or telephone 2893
after hours 3276

**NEW MEMBERS
JOIN TOWN
BAND**

The Town Band were extremely pleased recently to welcome back Mr. W. Eyre, a founder member and the first Bandmaster of the Band. 'Bill' is a very talented and experienced Cornet and Trumpet player and his presence on the front Cornet bench will greatly strengthen that section.

Another very welcome addition is that of Mr. Neil Jackson, formerly with Crookhall Patchogue Plymouth, who has joined our Bass section.

**VANE ROAD
SCHOOL
INTO FINAL**

Exciting Junior Football on Saturday 14th March between Vane Road Juniors and Stephenson Way Juniors kept a good crowd of spectators on their toes from beginning to end when the match finished with Vane Road triumphant to go into the final against Woodhouse Close.

Vane Road won 3-1 with centre forward Neil Stafford of Brough Close scoring two goals. The third and winning goal was scored by David Simpson of Allan Walk. This was his first goal of the season.

The final should be a game to be remembered.

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VANE ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL TEAM

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● O.A.P. LOSES PURSE— RETURNED BY "WORKMAN"

An elderly lady at Simpstone Court was unfortunate last week in losing her purse near the shops at Simpstone. The purse contained cash which measured against her need, was substantial. It was a most heartening and wonderful surprise to her two days later to find the purse through her letter box together with a note which read "The purse was found on my way to work, sorry I was not able to return it sooner."

Signed A. Workman.
The lady concerned is deeply moved and would like this "Workman" to know of her gratitude. A happy ending of this kind must read well, and make Newtonians proud of such a citizen in their midst.

**St. Clares Womens
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10 o'clock
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BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

1964 Morris Minor 1000 Estate, one owner, nominal mileage	£275
1965 Hillman Minx de luxe, in blue, splendid condition	£285
1963 Rover 110, in green locally owned, nominal mileage	£325

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● EASTER SERVICES AT ST. CLARES

Good Friday Matins, Litany and Anti-Communion 9.0 a.m. The Good Friday Silent Procession of Witness moves off from the Town Centre at 10.40 a.m. One Hour Watch by the Cross from 2.0 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Easter Even (Holy Saturday) Matins, Litany and Anti-Communion 9.0 a.m. At night the Easter Ceremonies with the Lighting of the Paschal Candle and First Communion of Easter at 11.0 p.m.

Easter Day Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m. Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m. Family Service 11.0 a.m. Evensong and Easter Music 6.0 p.m.

After Easter Day the 11.0 a.m. Children's Eucharist cease and in its place a new Guild will be started which will be called The Companions of St. Clare.

Membership will be open to the young people of the parish from the age of 10 to 14 years and the Vicar will be Warden of the Guild, assisted by Mrs. Ledger.

The aim of the 'Companions' is to form a body of well instructed Christians who will help other young people who worship at St. Clare's to learn about their Faith, and to share fully in the work and fellowship of the Church. To do this it is essential that the 'Companions' themselves should be conversant with their Faith and what we do in church, therefore SOME part of each meeting will be devoted to this instruction.

A "Service of Admission" will be held in church during Evensong on the Sunday evenings when new 'Companions' are to be admitted. They will then be permitted to wear the "Companions Badge."

When they meet together they will have their own form of Service. The Meetings will be each Sunday at 11.0 a.m.

Any young people in the parish who are interested in this form of fellowship are asked to contact the Vicar as soon as possible so that they can be considered for Membership.

The Vicar says "I am sure that this Guild will make Church membership more exciting, interesting and helpful, while at the same time the members themselves will take a more prominent and useful place in the Church family."

● AYCLIFFE GIRLS SUCCEED AT FESTIVAL

At the recent Darlington Music Festival two girls from Aycliffe gained awards in the Drama Section.

Janet Lowe, aged 6, won the Berenice L.W. Davies Trophy for being placed first in the Solo Recitation for competitors aged 6 and under 8. Janet lives at 14 Thurlow Grove.

Gillian Davison was placed 3rd in the Reading at Sight Class for competitors not over their 16th birthday. Gillian is aged 13 and lives at 9 High Street, Aycliffe.

Both girls are pupils of Pauline Davison of 6 Church Street, Shildon who has only just got her elocution class going in Newton Aycliffe. She is much encouraged by this early success and looks forward to more in the future.

Photographs
in the
News
by
Bill Roberts
Prints available
from the
News Office
Greenwell Road.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Mr. Alan Temple

Q. What attracted you to Newton Aycliffe and where did you come from?

A. At the time it was the only means of getting a house quickly as my wife worked on the trading Estate, this was in 1959. Since then we have really settled here and we both like it very much. I originally came from Darlington.

Q. Do you have a special interest or hobby?

A. I go to keep fit classes and I am a member of the British Legion.

Q. Do you have a personal ambition?

A. To do well in business.

Q. What are your favourite sports and who is your sports personality?

A. I enjoy football and swimming and Allan Clark of Leeds United is my sports personality.

Q. If you won £100,000 what would you buy first and how would you use the remainder?

A. I can only say that I would try and make it into £150,000.

Q. You have probably studied changes in fashion, how would you sum up the present trends?

A. I think the present trends are very smart e.g. shaped jacket long centre vents or side vents and flared trousers, I also feel that crimplene will play a major roll in future mens fashions.

Q. What disappoints you most about our town and what change would you make if you had the power?

A. There are not enough facilities to cater for the young people of the town. One change I would make a public swimming baths, that also could be converted for dancing etc.

Q. What do you consider the finest thing and the worst thing the civilised world has produced?

A. In my opinion the finest thing the civilised world has produced is the knowledge of medical science and the worst thing is the Atom Bomb and knowing that our civilisation could be destroyed at the push of a button.

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People in the front line



NEWS MEETS ANOTHER RECEPTIONIST

Mrs. Susan Howard, 21 year old receptionist for S.A.B. and Flymo. Lives at Middridge.

Recently married her hope is to have a happy married life with children later. Would like to visit London and see historic places and also see other countries before settling down. Enjoys cooking, sketching and dancing.

MINISTER HEARS ABOUT FACTORY RENTS

Mr. Derek Waiter, Chairman of Aycliffe Traders' Association and other officials put the case of high cost of factories to Mr. Tom Urwin, Minister for the North on Tuesday March 17th.

Intake doubled at training centre

One hundred per cent expansion in first year trainees and staff since original building opened in September 1967. At that opening date, 55 lads entered to spend their year in engineering industry under training at the Association Centre. In December 1967, Group Captain Douglas Bader officially opened the Centre and what had been merely an idea, sixteen months earlier, in the minds of some local industrialists, was now a reality. The Centre has cost more than £100,000 to build and contains more than £50,000 of equipment including centre lathe, milling machines, Oxy Acetylene and electric arc welding sets, sheet metal and fabrication equipment and full fitting and electrical departments. A range of audio and visible aids is available.

There are 36 Member Companies of the Association from an area which includes Crook, Bishop Auckland, Barnard Castle, Darlington, Durham and Uxley Nook. All Member Companies send their first year trainees to the Centre.

When the lads leave at the end of their first year and return to their Companies, they are regularly visited by Association staff to assist in planning continued training.

There is an average of at least one course every two weeks for managers and super-

visors, on Instructional Techniques, Safety Sales and Marketing, Personnel Function, Basic Supervision, Metrication and other subjects. Although less than three years old, the Association is already established as part of the local industrial scene.

Individuals, organisations or companies who are interested are invited to contact the Association Manager Mr. G. T. Hurry. Telephone: Aycliffe 2670.

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Saturday morning interviews 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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Television programme London Line showed a film in which an eminent cellist played an 18th century concert cello and then the Balio Victoria Porta Cello and a blindfolded music critic chose the Balio Victoria Porta Cello as producing the better sound. The film has been shown over U.S.A. and Canada.

"The only thing which limits the expansion of Balio at the moment is the inability to expand the present floor space in the factory.

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The mini market in Silverdale Place has achieved the purpose for which it was intended, to be an efficient "corner shop." In addition to a very wide range of foods, you can get books to read and the Sunday newspapers. Postage stamps, stockings, greengrocery, cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, sweets, firewood and frozen food. What have we missed out? Tell Mrs. McColgan who plans to miss nothing out. Or one of her pretty smiling assistants—the sign of a good, happy "corner shop" which is helping to put Williamfield 'on the map.'

Residents in Williamfield who do not get the Newton News from a newsagent can pick up a copy from the Mini Market.

'If shops sold everything we needed
A yard of courage gaily beaded
A pound of lasting common sense
I'd have a job to save my pence
A sense of humour "if you please"
With which the wheels of life to grease
No matter what the price may be
It's worth it's weight in gold to me
Humour takes the sting from pain
And makes a bruise quite well again.
If shops sold humour, they'd do well
They'd never have enough to sell.

Wilhemina Stutch.

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Jazz Bands tune up for new season

The "Monarch" Committee asks the "News" to publish on their behalf a note of thanks to just a few more good people who have joined in to help the Band.

A donation of £6 3 and six Buzz Horns from Tony Peart, Sandra Fawcett, Angela Topping, Ann Hedley, Grace Hedley, Sylvia Holt, Irene Holt and their parents. These young people and their parents live in the Lightfoot Road area are not connected with the Monarchs. They just wished to support a worthy cause. The Monarchs and their Committee say "thanks again for this magnificent gesture".

The band, formed in September last, has made tremendous strides, all due to the selfless efforts of people with a clear vision of what this town requires—active movement, music, colour and enthusiasm. The uniforms have been made, the band instruments purchased (some donated). Now, they are all set and the first public engagement, is on Saturday (Easter) 28th March—the Elmore Sunbeams Carnival. On April 4th the "Monarchs" will march on Newton Aycliffe (weather permitting) so it is up to the town to turn out and support them. Other engagements will be announced in the next issue of the News.

● ROUND TABLE — DECORATORS

Members of Newton Aycliffe Round Table converged on a senior citizens bungalow this month and decorated the living room and bedroom.

It was a community service project arranged by Mr. Nais Gray the convenor.

The men split up into various shifts over 2 weekends, and earned the gratitude of two senior citizens who find it difficult to decorate their home.

● L DRIVERS COMPETE FOR CAR

More than 2,000 drivers throughout Britain are expected to take part in the 1970 RAC "L-Driver-of-the-Year" competition—the country's most popular contest for novice drivers.

Organised by the Institute of RAC Registered Instructors and promoted by National Benzole, it is open to any driver taught by an RAC registered instructor, who has passed the Ministry of Transport driving test during the twelve months prior to March 1970.

There will be more than £2,000 worth of prizes for the 100 or so successful entrants who reach the National Final at London's Crystal Palace on 7th June. Top prize is a new car, up to £800 in value, to be presented at the 1970 Motor Show, together with 1,000 miles of Super National petrol.

The finalists will be selected from a series of heats taking place throughout the country. Entrants are examined over a road section, on simple manoeuvring tests and on their knowledge of the Highway Code and traffic law.

Entry forms are available from the RAC Headquarters, 83 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. or any RAC County Office.

Pretty Newtonian



PAMELA WILLEY

17 years of age lives at 2 Trevor Green North. An art student at Durham Tech, she also enjoys fencing and is a member of the Youth Centre. Recently started to help with Brownies at St. Clare's where she also is a choir member.

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Photographed dead son

continuing FIFTY YEARS OF MUSIC AND ADVENTURE
by MRS. F. M. FORD of Newton Aycliffe

The declaration of war did not bring about any immediate change in my life in Egypt. This was the 'cold war' period when we were all being conditioned to hate our enemies, many of whom had recently been our friends.

Thousands of young men were assembling tuning up to kill so gay, so clean. War is wicked—but at that time, still rather remote.

Alexandria and Cairo were huge rest camps for those who managed to get a few days away from the parched existence of camp life in the nearby desert. The gathering storm was yet to come and now was the time for laughter, dancing and music.

"To every thing there is a season and to every time a purpose,
A time to be born and a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to pluck that which is planted,
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance,
A time to keep silence and a time to speak,
A time to love and a time to hate,
A time of war—and a time of peace.

The armed forces moving in were accompanied by myriads of civilians who were engaged in various occupations connected with the fighting services people with the money, not for them the pittance of servicemen's pay. The nations gratitude to the fighting services was limited when it came to paying them, and when later on, the South Africans, New Zealand-

ers, Australians and especially the Americans came along our own fighting men were poor indeed by comparison, but, only in money—not in ability of bearing. They were magnificent.

We had moved from Mrs. Angels' on the outskirts of Alexandria into a furnished flat in Rue Fuad in the centre of the city. The block of flats was managed by a French woman and the languages commonly used were either French or Arabic and so my knowledge of Arabic was rapidly acquired—at least sufficient to understand the simple 'kitchen' talk. French was beyond me.

I became acquainted with an Englishman from Gateshead who had married a French woman and he was a teacher of French language at the Lycee Francais college. When he spoke French, I was certain I could detect a strong Tyneside accent.

He was proud of being a 'Geordie' and in company would purposely put on the dialect "A've been away from Gateshead for twenty six yors hinney and niver lost a bit of it." It was in his huge house that I first tasted the hind legs of frogs. His wife was a good, but rather exotic cook and there was plenty of laughter at my insistence on identifying each item of food before eating it.

The existing bars and restaurants in the city were doing a roaring trade but they did not quite meet what was required and so the Forces set up their own Clubs. The most prominent of these were the Fleet Club, the Chief and Petty Officers Club and the Royal Navy Officers Club.

The last two aimed at a high standard for eating, drinking and entertainment which went on until the early hours of the morning. No staff problems here; the higher wages and tipping attracted plenty of Sudanese and Egyptians who by their natural quietness of movement made excellent waiters.

With a few other English women, recently arrived in Egypt, we discussed the matter of war duties with the officer dealing with civilians. As there was no immediate urgency, he advised me to continue in the field of musical entertainment for the troops and so I became an unpaid but very busy stage pianist for the sing songs and concerts at the Chief and Petty Officers Club in Rue Fuad.

The concerts were organised for almost every evening and the pool of talent was inexhaustible as many of the men were stage professionals in civvy life. In addition to playing with orchestras, I must have accompanied every kind of song in the book.

When the evenings 'warmed up' after a good deal of drinking, the words of the community songs were certainly not those as written by the composer and I had to lift my hands to my ears at certain passages! "There was Fish, Fish—Tons and Tons of Fish—In the Quartermasters Store" (with variations!) The thunderous roar of these songs could be heard from Rue Fuad to Mohammed Aly Square, but sometimes the mood was quieter and they wanted Chopin, Beethoven and 'Grand Hotel' music. Live today! Tomorrow,

the desert is hot.

Only once did I see fighting in that club and that was when the Carlton Tiller Girls danced on to the big stage—they seemed to be all legs—long legs in silk stockings. This was too much for the Australian contingent and they rushed the stage, but fortunately for the Carlton Tiller Girls, the Aussies were repulsed by a strong arm Navy committee.

I went with my husband as a guest at the house of a wealthy Egyptian who had made his money from contracts with the Navy over many years. He was pro British and the front of his house was painted one huge Union Jack. He had three wives whom he had named "Port", "Starboard" and "Smiggett" (which means 'good looking'; she was the youngest). I was intrigued at a length, floor to ceiling, photograph of a young man in Egyptian attire. He had a haggard look and seemed to be leaning against a wall. Our host explained that it was his youngest son who had died when they realised that there was no family picture of him. So they dressed him and had his photo taken.

The Greeks in Egypt were the elite of the restaurant keepers and they were also keen on good music. I visited the home of Mr. and Madame Grivas. They had two beautiful daughters and the family plan was that they must marry Englishmen and this they did, whilst I was still in Egypt.

I understood that the girls went into marriage with very lavish dowries amounting to many thousands of pounds.

I was being shown around the house and noticed at the foot of the stairs, a weird ob-

ject immersed in some fluid in a glass tank. Madame Grivas explained that this was one of her children who had died before birth. They were very sentimental about children.

I was determined to visit the Pyramids and the Sphinx but this meant a journey from Alexandria to Cairo. My sense of distances was never very good and my friend and I jumped on an army lorry in the early morning. Before we got to Cairo after a few stops at Army camps, we were literally cooked in the scorching mid-day sun. I just had sufficient strength to climb on to a camel to have my photograph taken.

We had shown a few small kindnesses towards a middle aged Arab and he had brought a few of his sons to meet us. Arabs don't seem to bother much with daughters and the wife (or wives) kept in the background. Our friend Achmed wanted me to attend the wedding of one of his sons but I was a bit apprehensive about it, having heard that these Arab affairs were very long drawn out pageants and also, although I'll try anything once, I wasn't quite sure about sheeps eyes and that kind of thing.

However I did go. The celebrations lasted about a week with the bridegroom sitting quietly in all his glory. The bride doesn't make an appearance at all. There was this huge tent Arab music which is to me a howling cacophony of droning discords. Plenty of goats milk and sweet gluey wine and all kinds of mysterious things mixed in bowls. I just closed my eyes and hoped for the best. The guests were introduced to me; they bowed and I felt like the Queen of Sheba.

The war in the desert and at sea had hotted up into a very serious affair. A lot of non British nationals had been removed from military posts and I moved into Fort Kom el Dik as a telephone operator. Daily, the city became more warlike and I heard news of friends being killed. I heard that lots of people had Nazi flags all ready to replace the British ones.

Next: Flight from Egypt.

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NEW OFFICERS FOR CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

At the Annual General Meeting of the Cage Bird Society, the following Officers were elected:—

President: Coun. C. Hutchinson
Chairman: Mr. W. Chape
Secretary & Treasurer: Mr. M. Scarre, Auditors: Mr. C. Chape and Mr. K. Llewellyn. Committee: Messrs. T. W. Wilkinson, K. Llewellyn, A. Johnston, C. Chape, H. Walton, R. Tuplin, A. Cullen, D. Cook, A. J. Turnbull and W. V. Florentine. Show Manager: Mr. T. W. Wilkinson.

The Annual show this year will be held on Saturday 12th December, in the Beveridge Hall. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday each month.

DYED EGG COMPETITION POPULAR

Newtonian Senior Citizens meetings in St. Clare's Church Hall held a dyed egg competition on Friday March 20th. There was a large entry of high quality dyed eggs. The judges were Mr. and Mrs. S. Hall of St. Clare's Vicarage, and the winning entries were submitted by Mrs. M. Pedelty (1st) and Mrs. S. Belton (2nd). The prizes were two Easter cakes which were baked and given by Mrs. H. Glover.

TRADERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

The Annual General Meeting of the Newton Aycliffe Chamber of Trade was held on Thursday 12th March 1970.

The officers for the forthcoming year are: President & Chairman Mr. J. T. Carey, Vice President/Chairman Mr. H. M. Wood, Secretary Mr. G. Machin, Treasurer Mr. P. Nattrass, Assistant Secretary Mrs. J. Gartland.

Members of the Council Mrs. Laidlaw, Messrs. S. Wood, G. Batchelor, S. Howarth, Hughes, N. Gray, W. Gray.

The Chairman and Secretary reported a satisfactory year, and the Chairman thanked the retiring President/Chairman Mr. C. Buck, for his work for the Chamber.

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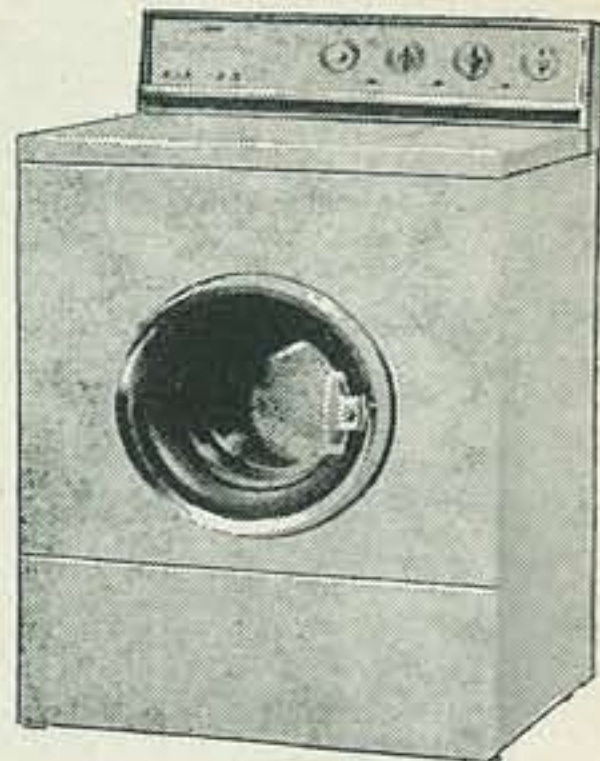
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