

Notes from the Hub 21.1.09

Mrs. Lovell nee Carpenter

Pre 1953 can remember lying in the long grass at the end of her road beside the railway line listening to a skylark and seeing blue butterflies. Regrets that children are not given the freedom she had at 7

Mrs Lovell lived in the old Riverview Road. (They have since named another road Riverview) At the end of her road was the railway line. Water used to lap up against the railway line from the Marshes/Creeks and they used to play at its edges. The swimming hole was frequented until the polio outbreak about 1953 when parents used to stop children using it-although they did. (The surrounding clay of this area around the swimming hole was used to build up the sea defences after the floods of 1953.)

Mrs Lovell's grandmother lived in Pitsea and used to belong to the Salvation Army. They would sing and play beside the War Memorial at the end of Station Lane every Saturday which was Market Day. Mrs. Lovell was not allowed to acknowledge her grandmother when she saw her in uniform collecting for the Salvation Army. Mrs. Lovell attended Pitsea School.(Probably at the outbreak of WW2) in 1953 left Vange but married in St Nicholas Church as did her daughter. Mrs.. Lovell's father is buried in St. Nicholas' churchyard

Along the High Road Mrs Lovell remembers:

A Chemist shop opposite the Barge

Bedwells, gentlemen's outfitters

Stewards news agents

Co-Op

Cooks , drapers sold clothes, linens, cottons

Mabbs, also a drapers

Lloyds Bank

Shoe repairs

Notes from the Hub 21-1-90

Mr.+Mrs. Pym - nee Smith, Lampitts Hill, Corringham

Mr. Pym attended infant school in St Cedd's Church Hall, Clayhill Road in 1935 and then went on to Craylands when he became old enough. Mr. Pym attended Crayland reunion a couple of years ago, and met people he had not seen since his school days. Cambells buses ran from N. Benfleet to Craylands. Cambell's buses were based by Pitsea Station. Mr. Pym remembers leaving the house in the early morning and returning when it got dark. Nobody worried about this, everybody looked out for children. He would be a long way from home and people would tell him his mother had been calling for him to come in. Mr. Pym regrets that we can no longer give children this freedom. He says they were not hungry because they scrumped apples and other fruit.

In 1957 when they became engaged to be married it was impossible to get on the council housing list, even though the families land had been compulsory purchased by the Corporation. They very much resented those people who came from London and moved into new houses in Basildon. Grandfathers cottage was compulsory purchased at agricultural rates for the land he could barely scrape together enough for a down payment on another home. In the advent the Pym's bought a bungalow in Corringham and still live there. They sent their children to Giffards Infants School. (probably mid 60's. Brian and Maureen) Mr. Pym worked for Esso in Corringham. They are now concerned about the proposed plans to build up Corringham as part of the Thames Gateway.

Mr.&Mrs. Pym remembered:

Both sides of The Broadway in Pitsea

The Corn Chandlers

Cooks

The Pub

The Bank

Post Office

Hickleys

Edwards the Butchers

Funeral Parlour

Stewards near the Barge, a newsagents cum ironmongers where Mr. Pym had to take the accumulator to be recharged every Saturday

Trews

Busy Bee Café ,where Towers now is

The corner of Chestnut Avenue used to be a public Baths then changed into a Labour exchange

Howards Dairy used to be in Rectory Road

Trews, Shoe repairs

Mrs Pym remembers going with her mother to a house in to pay her Tithes!!! Mrs Pym nee Smith lived in Oak Villa, Elm Road, North Benfleet. where every house in the road had its own well. They kept chickens, rabbits, and at one time pigs.

Question

Who was it who told us about the trench across the A13 during the war?

It was not Mr. and Mrs Pym because they said they never had any trouble going to Southend. It must have been Mrs Lovell but was it?