

THE SIGNAL

A Community Newsletter for
KINNERSLEY-SARNESFIELD-LETON-NORTON CANON-BROBURY
STAUNTON-ON-WYE-MONNINGTON-ON-WYE-MOORHAMPTON

NO. 38

JULY 1985

PRICE 12p

Surrogate Motherhood

THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST

SURROGACY has been headline news in the press for many months now and few people seem to be in favour of it. Most feel that it is immoral. And the reason why they feel that it is immoral seems usually to fasten on the idea of a woman deliberately becoming pregnant, knowing that she is going to give up the child, and being paid for it. There is a general feeling that there is a very special bond between the mother and the child which she has carried for nine months which cannot be broken and must not be allowed to be broken by impersonal and contractual arrangements. This seems to be to be the nub of the moral objection to surrogacy.

Those people who face the desperation of a childless marriage inevitably look at this issue from a different standpoint to those who have children. What we are talking about is a means to overcome infertility, and I think that the fundamental question to ask first is-do couples have an inalienable right to have a child whatever the method or cost to society and themselves? Or, to turn the question round, if we have the technology to provide couples who desperately want a child with a baby which is partly or completely biologically theirs, have we the right to deny them that by making surrogacy a criminal offence?

Leaving aside the moral issues for one moment, the other problems which arise seem to me to do so because our society is not equipped to cope with surrogacy. The legal situation is unclear - at present there is little protection for any of the parties

PLEASE NOTE THAT COPY FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE OF 'SIGNAL'
SHOULD REACH TRISANNA, STAUNTON-ON-WYE (PHONE MOCCAS 517)
NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, 12th JULY, 1985.

involved, but the lack of legal protection for the child must surely be of first concern here.

And because our society finds the whole concept of surrogacy alien, the emotional problems of the surrogate mother, the commissioning couple and the child must be greatly increased. Were surrogacy an acceptable method of treating infertility, the legal and emotional difficulties involved would be minimised.

With all the advancing knowledge in this field, it is inevitable that moral, emotional and legal problems are raised. But once the knowledge is there, is cannot be got rid of, it does not go away; and I feel that it is very necessary that ways are found to incorporate this particular way to overcome infertility into an acceptable framework, rather than turning it into a criminal offence, and thereby pushing it outside the law and leaving any resulting child even more vulnerable and unprotected.

DILWYN MEDIAEVAL DAY

SATURDAY, 20th JULY.

Stalls, crafts and sideshows opening at 12 noon.

Carnival - 2 p.m.

Parachute Drop - 3.30 p.m.

Refreshments all day.

Dog Show, Tug-of-War, Three-Legged Football, Skittles, Kite Flying and other thibgs.

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Please ring Hereford 274555 evenings only.

Elizabeth Hewitt

CONSERVATION- A LAST WORD?

Forgive me - conservation again - but not a complaint.

For some years we have seen our roadside verges treated like lawns with a cut-and-come-again approach. Then the smaller early flowering hedgerow flowers have looked as tho' they'd disappeared. But with delayed cutting I see that some are back this year.

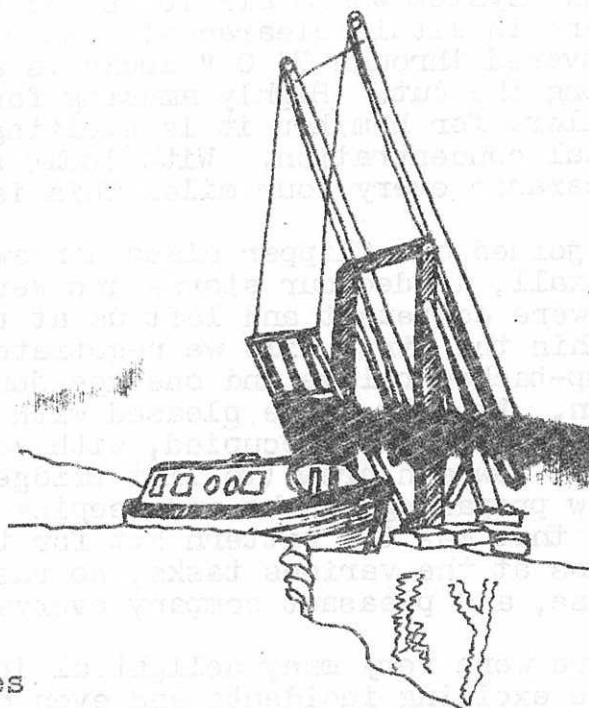
So why don't we conservationists do something positive? Why don't we take over a stretch of roadside for our own bit of conservation? After all, this is our own land. We could trim the hedges by hand, leaving it loose enough for the birds to penetrate and build as they did before the tight cropping mechanical cutter came along.

We could leave a sappling tree to grow from place to place. We could do our bit to help discourage the fast growing tall plants which threaten to crowd out the less aggressive varieties before they've set seed. Then come late summer we could tidy up the lot for winter and fresh growth the following spring. This way we'd be doing more than just agitate to preserve our heritage.

An aged country cousin

Narrow Boat Holiday

by
HOWARD
and
MAIRION JONES



with illustrations by Howard Jones

One of many lift bridges along
the canal.

LAST year my wife, together with three other teachers at her school, arranged to take a group of boys and girls on a canal narrow boat holiday. As they were short of one man I found myself shanghai'd into the role of first mate on a 57-foot boat travelling down the Oxford canal. It was a really wonderful holiday, so good in fact that we decided to repeat the experience this year. Together with six friends we hired a 65-foot narrow boat for a week on the Llangollen/Shropshire Union canals.

To enjoy a canal holiday one must be prepared to slow down to walking pace - literally. Maximum speed 4 mph, average day's travel, allowing for locks, 15-20 miles. By a strange coincidence this also appears to be the distance between a chain of excellent canalside pubs, all built when the canal system was thriving, to cater for the needs of horse and man after a very hard days' walk.

Together with the scenery and activity along the cut, these canal pubs make the holiday. The meals are always of a very high standard and the company excellent. Where else could you spend an evening teaching two Texans (straight out of Dallas) to drink Welsh beer, play their first-ever game of darts, and in return to allow oneself to be 'persuaded' to try American whiskey. These two had flown over specially to spend a few weeks in a narrow boat exploring the canal system and they were 'having a ball.' But their's is another story.

Narrow boats come in all sizes and in every degree of luxury and comfort. Ours was 65-foot long, approximately 20 tons of sheer luxury. Central heating, showers, fridge - you name it, we had it. It was fantastic. Although the boats vary in length they are all built to a standard 6' 8" wide. This is the narrow

canal system where all locks and bridges were built to 7' 0". There is little clearance! Watching 60-foot boats being manoeuvred through 7' 0" locks is a favourite spectator sport along the cut. Highly amusing for all except the one on the tiller, for him/her it is exciting to say the least and requires total concentration. With locks and bridges all with minimal clearance every four miles this is an active holiday, believe me.

We joined our Clipper class narrow boat at Prees Marina, near Whixall, loaded our stores and were away. The boatman decided we were competent and left us at the entrance to the boatyard. Within the first mile we negotiated two lift bridges, one stone hump-backed bridge and one tee junction where we took the left turn. We felt quite pleased with ourselves, everyone working like a team, all occupied, with various tasks, bow crew, stern crew, towpath crew (to lift bridges and operate locks) galley crew preparing snacks and keeping up a steady flow of drinks. And that was the pattern set for the week. We all took our turns at the various tasks, no rush, no haste, no cars, no noise, and pleasant company everywhere we stopped.

There were very many delightful interludes along the way, also some exciting incidents and even occasionally the feel of danger. To write in detail of the weeks' holiday would be tedious for the reader, in the same way as sitting down looking at someone's holiday slides becomes boring after a while. But bear with me for a few minutes.

I've already mentioned the Texans. Then there was the family crew who took their narrow boat through Chirk tunnel in front of us. Each member produced a brass band instrument and gave a performance as they passed through the 500 yards of darkness. The sound was marvellous. Not to be beaten, we sang our way through, - the acoustics were incredible, imagine a 500 yard bathroom!

Then Pontcysllte viaduct, one of the great engineering achieve-

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR CAR?

- Bad starting?
- High petrol consumption?
- Poor performance?
- Not charging?

You require a

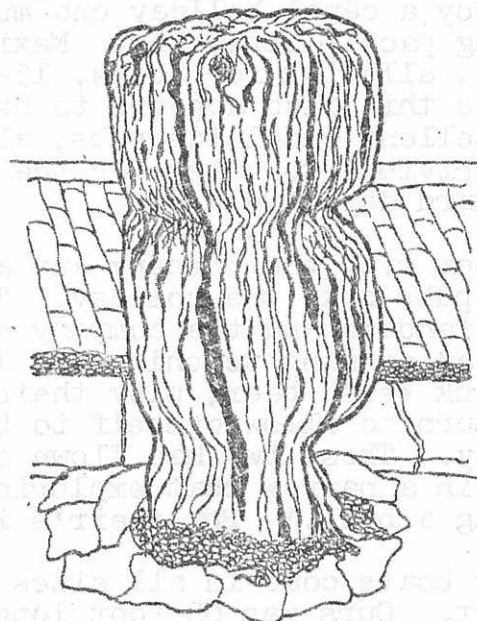
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MOCCAS 415

I COME TO YOU!



Years of hard use have worn this canalside tree stump into an interesting shape.

ments of the age. 120 feet above the River Dee valley, over 1000 yards long. A towpath along one side but on the other just two feet of steel plate invisible from the boat. No sound except the wind. I imagine that this was the nearest I'll ever get to gliding, with birds even flying UNDER the boat.

Anyone looking for a totally relaxed, yet active and exciting holiday should seriously consider hiring a narrow boat. Moving slowly through the countryside, seeing towns and villages from a totally different perspective, meeting friendly convivial company every day, this is a holiday not to be missed. And if your interests, like mine, lie in industrial archeology in general then that is an added bonus. The scale is so immense that it is sometimes very hard to believe that the canals were made by men using shovels and wheelbarrows. I expect that in their time the canal routes appeared as raw and ugly as today's motorways, but centuries have mellowed the cut and today the canal remains as one of the few peaceful and often beautiful areas of the countryside open to the public.

If you want to savour the atmosphere take a short journey to Llanfoist and explore part of the Brecon and Monmouth, then if you want to know more, get in touch.

DON'T FORGET!

BREDWARDINE CHURCH FETE

in the orchard opposite the Red Lion Hotel on Saturday, 3rd August from 2.30 p.m.

Produce, White Elephant, Sports, Home-made Teas etc.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, NORTON CANON

A Wine and Cheese Evening was held at Bulmers Lake on the 18th May, at which £143 was raised for Norton Canon Church Funds.

LETON CHURCH RESTORATION

BARBECUE

At Old Letton Court, Letton
on Saturday, 6th July

at 7 p.m.

Licensed Bar, Bowling for a Pig, Side Shows.

Admission £2 including food.

LONDON TRIP

ON TUESDAY 23rd JULY

A VISIT TO MADAME TUSSAUDS and TOUR OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
(60p)

PRICE inclusive of entry to wax works

ADULTS	£7.05p
O.A.P.	£6.10p
CHILDREN.	£5.70p

For further information and booking ring Joan Mason.
Moccas 386.

FULL PAYMENT REQUIRED WITH BOOKING BY 6th JULY PLEASE.

NORTON CANON LADIES' CLUB

ALTHOUGH several members were away on holiday or busy in their gardens, the June meeting was well attended. Mr. Walmesley of Golden Pioneer Travel talked to us about his company and the various types of holidays they could offer. Apart from the usual 'five day' or longer breaks in foreign countries there are coach trips of such places as Loch Lomond or the South Coast, each for a few days and costing under £60 for half board. Then there are special interest short trips such as a recent one to see the latest Torville and Dean performance which included excellent seats for the show. The Company also, of course, are agents for very many other travel companies and can arrange tours, if requested by quite small groups, to almost anywhere for almost any price at a very reasonable cost.

After the talk, and even after Mr. Walmesley's departure, there was a lot of discussion about possible holidays, greatly assisted by the many brochures, maps etc. which he left with us.

There will be no meeting in July but a supper outing has been arranged to the Kinnersley Arms on Monday, 8th July. Even if you were not present at the June meeting you will be most welcome that evening. Try to be at the Kinnersley Arms by 8 p.m.

Cats

WE have four cats. We didn't set out to have four, but somehow over the years we just acquired them. They are all quite different in character. Jeremiah, the black one, is very shy; friends need to be very frequent visitors to our house before they even set eyes on him, but with the family he is very loving and has never been known to scratch.

The ginger one, Amos, is quite different: no one takes advantage of him! He has a very proud stare and the slightest suggestion that liberties are being taken is rewarded with a quick flash of the claws. But he has the loudest purr and will lie on the bed for hours, purring his contentment with life.

Fred is grey and white, and is Lucy's favourite. He's very big and greedy, and is the most placid creature - nothing upsets him and he passes his days receiving any amount of love with sleepy serenity.

Alice is black and white. She is the most talkative and always wants to please. Because she is quite un-aggressive none of the other cats feel threatened by her.

It amuses me to imagine what kind of humans these cats would make - which would be the most attractive personality, the most comfortable to be with?

For myself, I think I'm a mixture of all of them - not so shy as Jeremiah, more relaxing company like Alice, and hopefully more like placid Fred than prickly Amos! Which mix suits your character?

Elizabeth Hewitt

Church Notices

JULY

The Weobley Group of Parishes

<u>Sarnesfield</u>	14th Holy Communion
10.00 am	28th Morning Prayer
<u>Norton Canon</u>	7th Holy Communion
9.00 am	14th Morning Prayer
	21st Holy Communion
	28th Family Service
<u>Staunton</u>	7th Holy Communion
11.00 am	14th Morning Prayer
	21st Holy Communion
<u>Byford</u>	9.30 7th Holy Communion
6.30	21st Evening Prayer
<u>Monnington</u>	9.30 14th Holy Communion
11.00	14th Family Communion
6.00	28th Evening Prayer

Other dates for your diary

2nd 7.30 pm Deanery Synod with
Canon John Tiller
Visitors specially
welcome.

From 15th to 18th the Rural Dean
will be visiting all Parishes in
the Group.

18th 9.30 am Staff Meeting
28th 6.30 pm British Legion County
Rally at Weobley.

KINNERSLEY CHURCH SERVICES

JULY

7th 10 am Holy Communion
14th 10 am Mattins
21st 10 am Holy Communion
28th 10 am Family Service

AUGUST

4th 10 am Holy Communion

The world is moving so fast
these days that the man who
says it can't be done is
generally interrupted by
someone doing it.

Elbert Hubbard
American Writer

BIRTHDAYS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Kinnersley

Lynne Sutton	10th July
Sarah Hemming	16th "
Michael Hemming	20th "
Joe Richard Phillips	20th "
Sophie Jacobson	20th "
Andrew Parish	30th "

Sarnesfield

Colin Phillips	2nd July
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Norton Canon

Gail Griffiths	2nd July
Lucy Hewitt	6th "
Hannah Wrixon	16th "
Sharon Sweet	23rd "

Moorhampton

Sarah James (Yarsop)	8th July
Richard Price (Upperton)	18th "
Terena Evans	24th "

Monnington-on-Wye

Alison Morgan	18th July
Angela Pugh	28th "

Staunton-on-Wye

Andrea Spragg	14th July
Johanne Bool	19th "
Diana Davies	21st "
Stephanie Arthur	26th "
Helen Stokes	27th "

THE ANNUAL RED CROSS COLLECTION

While the total figure for all
N.W. Herefordshire came this
year to £2000 the local contri-
butions were as follows:

Norton Canon/	}	£42.53
Bishopstone		
Mansell Lacy/	}	£21.49
Brinsop		

STAUNTON-ON-WYE NOTES

STAUNTON-ON-WYE FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

The Forget-me-Not Club's Spring outing was on 14th May.

We left at 10.30 in reasonable weather and had quite a nice trip to Ledbury, where we had morning coffee, then journeyed on to Evesham for lunch. As we left at 2.30 it started to rain and we all thought we had gone back to November. The fog was thick as we neared Chipping Norton and at Bourton-on-the-Water, where we had hoped to enjoy one of their splendid teas, it poured, so we drove on to Cheltenham where some of the braver members ventured in to Woolworths and got a cup of tea. On the way back we stopped at the Foley Arms at Tarrington and had a pleasant hour with a drink and a chat. In spite of the weather the general attitude was one of cheerfulness and we were glad to be all together again.

Our next trip will be the sea-side one and we do hope that it will be better weather.

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We are pleased to learn that Mrs. Jones, Budwell, is back home after her long absence, both in hospital and with her daughter and we hope she will continue to make good progress.

Mr. Jim Price is getting along well, even supervising the garden. Carry on the good work, Jim!

Mr. Bert Brown is back in hospital but we hope not for too long.

Mr. Harry Morgan has had another visit to hospital but is now back home.

Our good wishes to them all.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Glyn Lewis of Walbut Tree Cottage, Little London, Staunton-on-Wye, celebrated their Golden Wedding on 28th May.

Their family, including two great-grandchildren, send their congratulations.

BEE IN MY BONNET

Two little words much used in our everyday language are 'et cetera.'

A large percentage of people, including those we hear on B.B.C. pronounce them eck-cetera - not sounding the first 't'.

I maintain it should be et cetera as written and find it irritating when other people don't do the same.

Which is right? It would be interesting to hear from those readers who might be interested in these small matters.

On Going to the Pictures



WHAT A nostalgic ring these words have today! When I was a boy in Cardiff I can still recall my parent's disgust at the percentage of my pocket money I happily devoted to this pastime. For my father cinema going was anything but a manly pursuit and he often used to urge me to devote more of my time to useful outdoors activities such as trekking miles across the windswept Brecknock Beacons or sailing coracles on some obscure Welsh waterway. Away with the meretricious delights of the celloid world! But it was not to be and, as a son, I must have been a grievous disappointment.

And yet what magic excitement I got from going to the pictures. If, for instance, there were good films running concurrently at both the Capitol and the Park Hall I often remember calculating that, if I walked both ways from my home in Roath Park to Queen Street, I could save the tram fare and go twice in one week. If in those days there was a Mastermind programme demanding knowledge about the 'work' of such artistes as Clara Bow, Vilma Banky, John Gilbert, Wallace Beery or Dolores del Rio I would have won going away.

But today I note from my diary that last year Shiela and I only went to the pictures once and in 1983 but three times. Of course, living where we now do makes cinema-going anything but easy and, at my age, I now feel that the quiet beauty of the Herefordshire countryside more than compensates for my loss in not being able to go so often 'to the pictures.'

You can imagine therefore how some of the old lure came back when the other day we were asked by our younger son to look after his Teddington house while he and his family went away. This meant that we would be within easy access of London cinemas! Thus, we were able on two consecutive days to see twice as many films as we saw in the whole of 1984.

The films we saw were David Lean's 'Passage to India' and the Mozart story as portrayed in 'Amadeus' and, in their very different ways, how excellent they both were. I shall long remember the majesty of the music in the latter and don't let anyone 'con' you into believing that a film 'on the box' carries anything of the impact of seeing it full screen in a cinema. But perhaps I am biased and have allowed 'Passage to India' and 'Amadeus' to bring back in too nostalgic a form the joyful memories of the days long gone when I was a boy in the '20's and '30's.

Gareth Evans

Men of Herefordshire

THE quiet charm of the unspoiled Herefordshire countryside, which to most people constitutes the county's greatest asset, is matched by the fact that its history, in comparison with that of the rest of Britain, has also been quiet and comparatively uneventful. Only on one occasion - the battle of Mortimer's Cross during the Wars of the Roses, from which the victor went on to become King Edward IV - can the county be said to have entered the mainstream of British history. But this doesn't mean that few people of historical significance have lived in it. On the contrary, some of Britain's greatest figures, particularly in the artistic field, have been Herefordshire men, or have lived in the county at some time in their lives. Here are just a few who come immediately to mind:

Almeley Sir John Oldcastle, the Lollard martyr, lived at Almeley and was almost certainly born in the castle there round about 1360. (See the article about him in the March 1984 issue of 'Signal'.)

Bredwardine Francis Kilvert, the diarist, was rector of Bredwardine from 1877 until his death two years later and is buried in the churchyard.

Brinsop William Wordsworth and his wife stayed several times with her brother at Brinsop Court, and Wordsworth planted a cedar in the grounds.

Credenhill Thomas Traherne, poet and theological writer, was rector here from 1657 to 1667.

Hereford Thomas Traherne was born in the city in 1638. Nell Gwynn, the Drury Lane actress who became one of King Charles II's mistresses, was born in Gwynne Street in 1650. Sir Frederick Gore Guseley, composer and music scholar, born in London in 1825, died in Hereford in 1889. He is buried at the musical college he founded, St. Michael's, Tenbury, Worcestershire.

Samual Sebastain Wesley, composer of many anthems and psalms, was organist at Hereford cathedral from 1832 till 1835.

Sir Edward Elgar, Britain's greatest composer since Purcell, lived at Plas Gwyn, 27 Hampton Park Road, from 1904 until 1911 and wrote several of his greatest works there, including the two symphonies and the violin concerto.

His friend George Robertson Sinclair, who features in the eleventh of the 'Enigma Variations,' was organist at Hereford cathedral and resided at 20 Church Street from 1889 till 1917. His bulldog Dan, also immortalized in the eleventh variation, died there on 1st July, 1903. His grave, marked by a tombstone, lies in the grounds of 102 East Street, which backs on to 20 Church Street.

Hope End near Ledbury. The poetess Elizabeth Barrett lived here from the age of 3 in 1809. The family residence was rebuilt in the Gothic style by her formidable father, but he was forced to sell in 1832. Only the stables, with their

strange minarets, remain today. Elizabeth eloped with Robert Browning in 1846.

Ledbury John Masefield, Poet Laureate from 1930 till 1967, was born at The Knapp in 1878. He ran away to sea at an early age.

Weobley Colonel John Birch (1616-1691) who fought for the Parliamentarians in the Civil War, is buried here. He captured Hereford from the Royalists in 1645, but his loyalty to the Commonwealth was dubious and he was briefly imprisoned. He supported Charles II's restoration in 1660 and became an M.P.

Finally, the composer E.J. Moeran (1894-1950) lived in Herefordshire for some years, but I have been unable to ascertain exactly where.

M.B. Collingwood.

Note: For those interested in tracing places associated with famous personalities three recently published books can be recommended: 'The Oxford Literary Guide to the British Isles' (Oxford University Press, 1977.) 'Who's Buried Where in England' by Douglas Greenwood (Constable, 1982,) and 'A Musical Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland' by Gerald Norris (David & Charles, 1981.) Much of the information detailed above was culled from these books.

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A sharp tongue is the only
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with constant use.

Washington Irving

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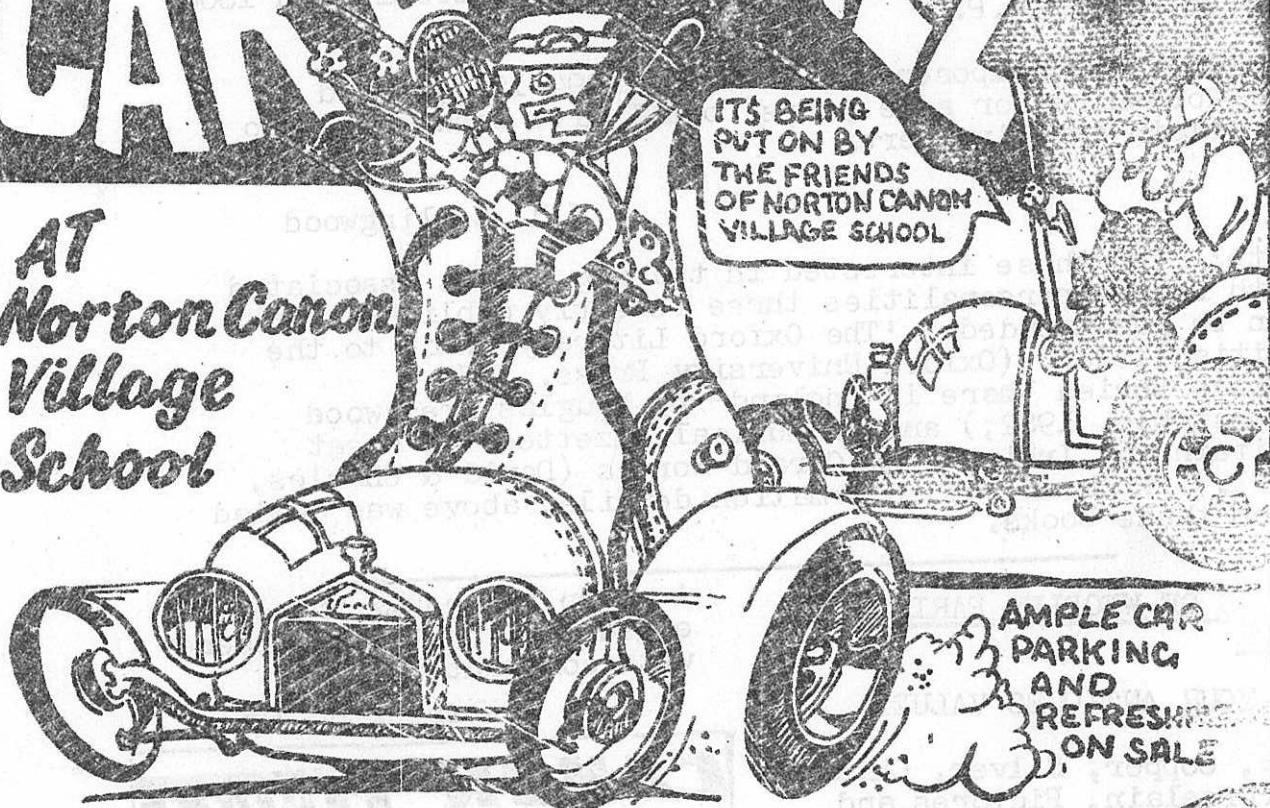
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