

# I'll make them happy

— LANDLORD

JAMES STANDFIELD WADE, one of Liverpool's biggest slum landlords, must have had his head in the clouds when he told a public inquiry that his company could make the Harrowby Street area of Toxteth 'very happy'.

Hibernian properties, run by Wade, are trying to stop the corporation buying the houses by compulsory purchase and demolishing them.

Wade's claim is remarkable because the decay of the area is so far advanced that only 15 occupiers out of 145 said they wanted to stay, according to a residents' survey made just before the inquiry. The rest wanted to move out.

Wade also promised the inquiry that his company would make every effort to improve the area.

But Wade's tenants know just how difficult it is to get repairs done, let alone improvements.

Mrs Sheila Hepplestell, of 67 Northbrook Street, has so much dry rot that doors keep coming off their hinges.

"And we waited three years for our toilet to be repaired. When they came, my husband had already fixed it," she said.

Mrs Anne Olsson, of 66 Harrowby Street, said she complained for two years about her front bedroom ceiling. Then it fell down.

Mrs Mary Sexton lives at 43 Northbrook Street, a house with damp walls and a leaking roof.



Mrs Sexton (left) and Mrs Hepplestell in Northbrook Street.

Her mother, who lives with her, has caught pneumonia twice. The house is owned by another landlord, but like Wade's tenants, Mrs Sexton wants to move.

Residents of Dingle's Holyland district still talk of Mr Wade's efforts to make their area "very happy".

He said improvements there would take only three weeks per house and promised to pay tenants £1 a day per house if the work took any longer.

Unhappily for Mr Wade, work which should have been finished in December last year dragged on until March this year.

Stung for several hundred pounds, Wade wrote to tenants whose houses were still to be improved — and withdrew his offers of compensation.

Wade's empire spreads — Page Five.

## Protest at Special School closure

LIVERPOOL'S education department have upset parents, teachers and governors by their ham-fisted attempts to close a girls' special school in Anfield.

The closure of Richmond Girls' School will mean some pupils will have to spend an hour travelling to their new schools. Teachers are concerned that this will encourage truancy.

The governors have protested about the lack of consultation and lack of consideration to the special problems of the girls.

### OUT OF DATE

They admit the buildings are old and out-of-date, but they say the school, during its 40 year existence has become an accepted part of the community.

And the governors are worried that the school and its children have been uprooted by a badly-planned, piecemeal operation.

For although the department say the school is unsuitable, it is to become the temporary home of Kilrea School (a school for maladjusted boys).

The critics say the school, if it had to be shut, should have been closed in phases, and not rushed.

The eight teachers at the school were told by the Director of Special Schools at the start of this term that the school would be closed and the girls sent to Clubmoor, Springfield and Meadow Bank schools.

The teachers were promised their jobs would be safeguarded, and that they would have a large say in the new arrangements for the pupils.

Instead, the department merely

sent a provisional list of the schools to which the girls were to be sent. And they were scarcely allowed to alter it.

'The list contained a load of mistakes and just treated the girls as names and I.Q.s We are aware of the difficulties of each child, but we weren't consulted,' said one teacher.

The teachers have been found alternative jobs, but only on a supply basis, which is quite a setback for them. One teacher has only one year to go before retiring, but despite her experience is now starting from scratch again.

Since the governors complained, officials have visited all the parents but a number of them are still angry at the department's autocratic behaviour.

## Chairman's thoughts

WORKERS occupying the CAV factory at Fazakerley have become avid readers of the Chairman's thoughts — but it isn't Mao's little red book they've been reading.

The book that has caused amusement throughout the CAV works is a little black one produced by Sir A. Bertram Waring, former chairman of the Joseph Lucas combine, and now president.

Copies of "The Jottings of A.B.W." have been found in the offices of all the CAV executives.

Sir Bertram's jottings were intended to inspire the management.

In an entry dated 1946, Sir Bertram complains: "Trade unions throughout the world are suffering from a bad attack of self-importance." Sir Bertram's own attack of self-importance came in 1968 when he published his "Jottings".

"We cannot support a population of 50,000,000 at a high standard of living without the incentives of inequality", points out the president.

"And never tell a lie when the truth will suffice."

One odd quote creeps in towards the end of Sir Bertram's little collection: "Workers of England, be wise, and then you must be free for you will be fit to be free."

"Right!" commented one of the CAV workers as he sat back in the managing director's office.

## EVERYMAN THEATRE

HOPE STREET

709 4776

November 29th — December 16th

ALPHA-BETA

E. A. WHITEHEAD

Recent London success

"Fiercely scaring study of unsuccessful marriage."  
— D A Young, Financial Times

"Whitehead's play... leaves Strindberg limping."  
— Observer

"Such is the wit and honest bite of its writing that this play cannot fail to be a big popular success."  
— Daily Express

E. A. Whitehead was the author of last season's controversial success—

THE FOURSOME



Mr Nicky Roberts of Evesham has failed in an attempt to walk 12 miles with four lives ferrets in his trousers. He retired after only two miles... "bitten to death."

"At least my wife is pleased that I've only been bitten on the legs," he said afterwards.

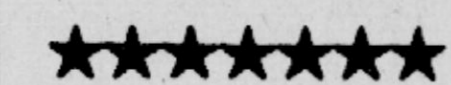
● The record is 12 miles with two ferrets.



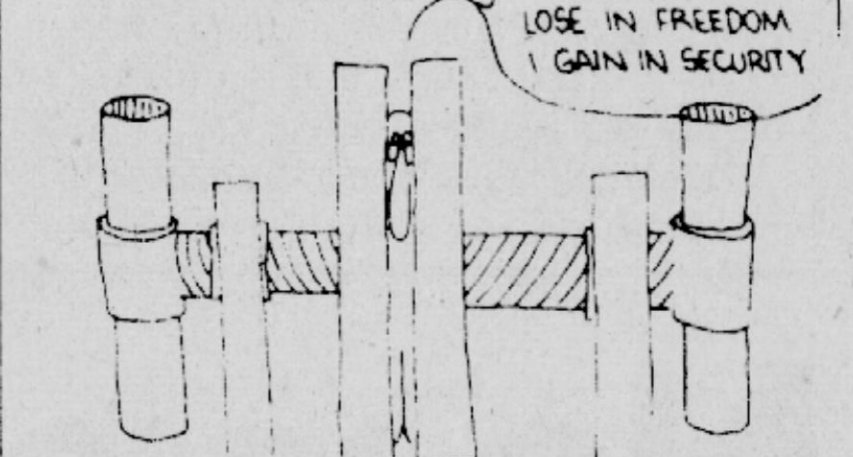
When Mr Ernie Colville retired after 46 years with Thomas W. Ward Ltd., the works manager presented him with a cigarette.



Letter to an insurance company: "I recently dropped something in my toilet pan and broke it. Please send me a claim form. In the meantime, seeing as your Birkenhead office is nearer, would you mind if I did my business there?"



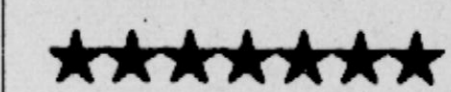
Captain Oswald Bailey, company director and High Sheriff of Wiltshire was found slumped over the steering wheel of his car, which was parked diagonally across the road. A blood test revealed an alcohol level of 134 milligrams — 54 over the limit. A charge of being drunk in charge of the car was dismissed by magistrates at Salisbury, Wiltshire, on the grounds that the car battery was flat.



Pirate radio fiend Bob Melford was making an illegal broadcast from his home when the doorbell rang. His mother answered.

"We're from the GPO," said the man outside. "We would like to see the transmitter operating from these premises."

Bob stood aghast as his mother turned and yelled up the stairs: "Bob! It's for you."



Rev. Joe Orrell, who travels round his Wigan parish on a motor bike, has got a crash helmet with 'Heavens Angels' painted on it.

## Missing soldier is in prison

IN FEBRUARY this year Private Joseph Harkins was peiked up at a relative's home in Rock Ferry after deserting his unit in Flax Street, Belfast, the day after Bloody Sunday.

He was court-martialled and sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Articles in Private Eye and Rose Catha, a republican paper, said his mother, who lives in Liverpool, had not heard of him since. They said Army and Special Branch men had called to question her, but had been unable to tell her anything about her son.

On October 11, Mrs Harkins wrote to her MP, Harold Wilson, asking for his help.

Two Special Branch officers called on October 17 and said she would hear from her son eventually but it might take some time.

### MILITARY OFFENCE

We phoned the Home office on November 25. They said Harkins had committed a military offence and would therefore be held in a military prison.

So we rang the Ministry of Defence, who said he was only held a short time by the military, and had been transferred to a civilian prison but they did not know which one.

Back to the Home Office: 'Oh, he's in a civilian prison, is he? Well, I'll try and check that for you and phone you back.'

They phoned back later to say that Harkins was in Wormwood

Scrubs serving a five-year sentence.

They also said he had written to his mother on October 15 and the question of a transfer to a prison nearer home was being considered.

We have not been able to discover whether Mrs Harkins has received a letter. She has had many visits from the Army, police and press, and is — understandably — reluctant to be interviewed.

## No proof — no job

MR PETER COLLINS, Chairman of Woolton Ward Labour Party couldn't understand why no-one would employ him — until he found out what a previous employer had said about him in a reference.

The words 'Stealing: Not proven' and 'Trustworthiness: Nothing proven' had been written on his references, he discovered.

These possibly libellous statements came to light when he applied for a job at Clarence Dock Power Station.

About five months ago he filled in an application form for a vacancy at the power station. He even took a medical examination — but then heard nothing.

Then a few weeks ago Mr Collins learned there was a maintenance job vacant there. So he contacted his father-in-law who had worked at the station for thirty years.

His father-in-law agreed to put in a good word for him with the shop steward at the power station.

One of the managers told him he understood Mr Collins had had a bad reference from a previous employer but agreed to take him on, provided this poor reference was only the result of bad timekeeping.

So he got out Mr Collins' application — and there were the offending words. So no job for Mr Collins.

When Mr Collins heard about this he was furious, and rang up the power station to check. The management admitted these remarks were on his references.

Mr Collins is now considering legal action against his previous employers. He is sure he knows who wrote these statements — because two of the three companies he put down for reference have now gone out of business.

N.B. Employed includes unemployed and excludes Armed Forces

— footnote to office employment statistics produced by Liverpool Corporation