

**ATTRACTIVE** tall young lady, 22 years, interests back-minton and lively living, parties etc., wishes to meet young man 25-30 years similar interests. Replies Box MM 4009.

**INTELLIGENT** young lady 24, interests, theatre, music, 35, similar interests (car-owner preferred) view friendship. Replies Box MM 4010.

## WRITE YOUR OWN ADVERTS...

THOSE PEOPLE shy enough, and lonely enough, to answer advertisements in the 'Mersey Magnet' personal column naturally think their replies are confidential.

They supply their name and address, with often very intimate personal details to the equally lonely person who paid for the advertisement.

There are people cruel enough and callous enough to 'advertise' for a joke - somehow finding the replies amusing. But the two advertisements reprinted above (from the Mersey Magnet of January 19) are more than a sick joke.

Both were included at the instigation of Magnet boss Jim Chapman who had problems of his own - too few adverts to fill a gap in his page.

Family-man Chapman soon found the answer. He asked some of the tele-ad girls to make up adverts of their own. The details were accurate enough - only the girls aren't really lonely.

One girl did go out with one of the men who replied. But others who wrote in were not so lucky. Their letters provided entertainment for Magnet staff before being thrown in the waste-paper bin.

As the Magnet itself says: "Our box reply service is strictly confidential."

● The Mersey Magnet, a give-away advertising paper, is published by Mercury Promotions Ltd (part of the Daily Post and Echo combine) - and cashes in on loneliness at a rate of 5p a word, plus 25p for box numbers.

"WHY doesn't the Free Press come out more often?" people sometimes ask. And the answer is that we would if we had more helpers.

Politically, the Free Press stands on the left, but does not represent the views of any particular party or organisation.

Anyone who agrees with our general aims is welcome to join us. Here are some things readers can do:

- Give us ideas for stories, or help write them.
- Take some papers to sell to workmates or neighbours (25% discount, no charge for unsold copies).
- Find more newsagents to sell the Free Press.
- Help deliver papers (we'll pay your petrol if necessary).

If you want to do any of these jobs, ring 709 0264.

I enclose .....p for six/twelve issues of Liverpool Free Press



# SUBSCRIBE

40p for six  
80p for twelve including postage

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....  
.....

Post this coupon to Liverpool Free Press, 24 Wapping, Liverpool 1.

# No return to casual labour, say dockers

THE MERSEY Docks and Harbour Company's answer to the shortage of dockers which is crippling the port is a traditional one.

They want a return to the pre-1967 days of casual labour. If the dock company was allowed its way a temporary register of dockers would be set up to cover the labour shortage - and the moment that shortage disappeared the men on the temporary register would be scrapped.

The port's acute labour shortage has been caused by the massive exodus of dockers picking up their 'golden handshakes'. Last year's sale of jobs by the Transport and General Workers' Union put a price of up to £4,000 on every job sold down the river.

## SEVEN DAYS' NOTICE

Liverpool's dockers have told the company they will not tolerate a temporary register. Men on a temporary register would be liable to lose their jobs at seven days' notice, without any right of appeal against dismissal. They would also be without the same rights to sick pay, pensions or holidays.

That sort of insecurity went out when decasualisation came in. London docks have also stood out against temporary work. But at Southampton there has always existed the

so-called seasonal register. Dockers there are resisting additions for the time being, but only on condition that their October wage claim is implemented in defiance of the freeze.

Bristol have also allowed more than 80 temporary dock workers to be taken on. And this recruitment of casual labour has been condoned by the transport union. Pressure has been put on Liverpool dockers through the union to accept a temporary register.

But the Liverpool dockers want up to 1,000 more permanent dockers taking on, starting with the 300-odd applications still in the pipeline following the dock company's abortive recruitment drive two years ago. Then the company was desperate for 700 men, but only took on half that number.

Liverpool now has barely 7,000 dockers, and every docker less is a victory for containerisation. The promise of Devlin in 1967 (that there would be no redundancies as a result of containers) is recalled bitterly by the Liverpool men.

Before the union leadership agreed to sell nearly 10,000 jobs in Britain's docks, Liverpool dockers would only allow sick and disabled men to give up their jobs for severance money.

The dock company's manoeuvres over the labour shortage have been full of the usual contradictions.

Brimyard, the managing director, regularly castigates the dockers for damaging the port's reputation and freely accuses the stewards of not being particularly concerned.

But he's quite content to see ships stand idle and be diverted from the port because of the labour shortage... all hastening the very decline he blames the dock workers for.

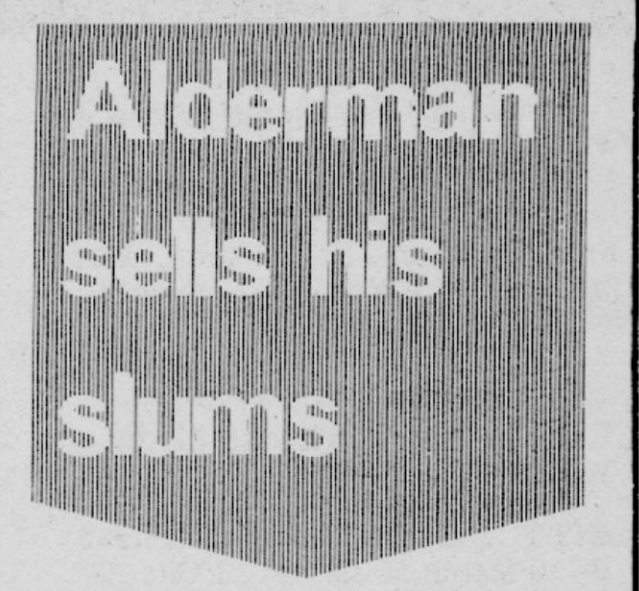
Liverpool Maritime Terminals (LMT) has lost 20% of its labour force. But the West African trade handled by LMT is known to be increasing at a rate of 10% a year.

## NOT ENOUGH MEN

LMT handles five West African and one Caribbean ship each week - a total of 20,000 tons of cargo. But ships from West Africa are being diverted by LMT because the firm's work force of 650 men is not enough to handle them.

Mr Neil Hulse, a director of LMT, is privately admitting that a temporary register is not the answer because the need is for skilled dockers. In their public statements the dock company's holy trio - Brimyard, Page and Fitzpatrick - have all whined about the need to stop loss of trade.

The dockers' answer is simple: More men. And no return to the casual system abolished by Devlin.



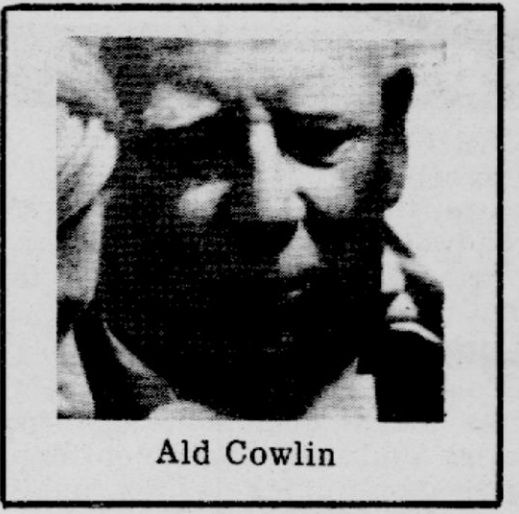
WHILE he was Lord Mayor of Liverpool last year, Alderman Charles Cowlin enjoyed great popularity. He was known as 'the teddy bear Lord Mayor.'

But a group of tenants in the centre of Liverpool must be relieved that Ald Cowlin is no longer their landlord... because now they are to be rehoused by the corporation from their damp houses.

The corporation have just paid Cowlin (now deputy lord mayor) £7,500 for his old building workshop in Bridport Street, and for five slum houses.

The houses, which are in Bridport Street, Ward Street and St Vincent Street, are in deplorable condition, and even before the corporation purchased them, they were considering closing them.

When one welfare officer saw how an elderly person was living in one of



the houses in Bridport Street, he insisted she was moved out immediately. The woman was living in one dingy room, as the rest of the house was uninhabitable.

No 6 St Vincent Street was typical of the houses. Here, Mrs Maria McIlhatton, her husband William, and young baby son have lived for two years, paying £1.17 a week rent.

The house is so small that the kitchen is in the basement. Wallpaper is coming off the walls, as the walls are so damp, the kitchen carpet is wringing wet, as water and damp seeps through the floor.

There are three toilets in the tiny backyard, which were shared by tenants from three other houses. All the toilets are broken and unusable. And the McIlhattons have to go round to their relation's house in Bridport Street when they want to go to the toilet.

These properties were in the line of the proposed inner motorway, and so the corporation had to buy them eventually.

They weren't really needed by the corporation until 1975 or 1976. However the corporation took them over on January 1, this year.

## Wade has a setback

LIVERPOOL'S most famous slum landlord will not get the chance to keep - or break - his promise to make part of Toxteth 'very happy.'

James Standfield Wade, head of Standfield Properties (alias Realm-deal) told a public inquiry he would improve his slums if they were not pulled down. Mr Wade's efforts to spread 'happiness' - and make a million for himself out of improvement grants - have been reported often in the Free Press.

Now he's had a setback. His properties in Harrowby, Northbrook and Roseberry streets will be demolished and his long-suffering tenants rehoused by September next year.

Which will make the tenants a good deal happier than Mr Wade ever made them.

## No dole by post for 'risky' areas

IF YOU ARE unemployed and live in Southport you can receive your dole by Giro through the post. But if you live in Liverpool 8, or other 'undesirable' areas, the chances are you'll still have to spend hours signing on every week.

This is despite a nationwide dole-by-post scheme started in February, which was intended to take the stigma out of dole queues.

The discrimination has annoyed a man from Kingsley Road, Toxteth. He is an owner-occupier and was recently earning well over £40 a week.

But now he is on the dole and the Department of Employment in Renshaw Street has refused to send his earnings related benefits through the post. They say they're afraid his

Giro cheque might 'go astray' (i.e. might be stolen, or he might pretend to lose it).

If a respectable owner-occupier in Toxteth can't receive his money by post, what chance has a single person living in a flat? The answer seems to be: very little.

"We don't like sending cheques to lodging houses or houses split into flats," said the manager of the Renshaw Street office. "You don't know who is going to be standing behind the door waiting to open them."

This policy seems understandable, but the DEP don't block individual houses, but blocks of flats and even whole streets. And they decide on the undesirable areas by checking with the Post Office and Social Security.

## Conspiracy charges

(Continued from page 1)

in the morning and move from town to town to rally support.

Even the pickets were astounded by the scandalous conditions on lump sites they visited. "Safety regulations were completely ignored, scaffolding often consisted merely of oil drums and planks of wood and there was frequently no canteen accommodation or toilets," said one of the accused.

"It was like going back 50 years. I have since found out that there are only two inspectors in Wales and they are both based in Cardiff."

Several times during the strike members of the action committee were congratulated by the police on the peaceful nature of their picket. At the McAlpine site in Telford, for instance 150 policemen, some with dogs, stood guard but they didn't bother making one arrest.

"Everyone forgets the way the employers behave," said Peter Moroney, who was released after being questioned for four hours.

"Once when we walked on a site one of the blokes in charge yanked

out a loaded shot-gun from his car and waved it in our faces."

Certainly the newspaper who are always ready to scream about 'intimidation' by pickets, ignore the violence of the employers. In the construction industry there are 19.2 accidents for every thousand workers compared with 4.2 for other industries.

A large proportion of these accidents involve lump workers who are encouraged by employers to take risks, as they pay them lump sums for doing a certain amount of work and not by the hour.

Many building workers' trade union branches are calling on the union officials to set up a legal fund to assist all accused building workers.

On Merseyside alone, the union still has £5,800 which was collected during the strike. This money, say the branches, should be spent paying possible fines and costs of arrested pickets. Already 13 men from Wigan have had to pay £900 in fines and costs after being prosecuted for minor offences.

## ANOTHER VICTIM

SEVENTY-year-old Mrs Theresa Curran was knocked down and killed by an armoured car in Belfast on February 1. She was the 55th victim of accidents involving British military vehicles since the trouble began in the six counties.

ALAN COTTOM & PHIL DAVIS present in concert

## PROCOL HARUM

WITH FULL SUPPORTING BILL

Mountford Hall, Liverpool University, March 8. 70p.

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BLACK SABBATH in concert with BADGER

at Liverpool Stadium March 10. Tickets: £1.

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MAN in concert with FAT GRAPPLE

Mountford Hall, Liverpool University March 22. Tickets: 65p

Tickets from Rushworth's, Cosmo, Probe and Art Gallery (65 Renshaw Street).