

Sacked girl

(Continued from Page One)

"She said: 'You're a cashier, not a tea-girl.' But as I was always running around doing odd jobs there, I said I didn't mind doing it."

"Then Mrs Coates said: 'I know it's none of my business, and it's your own private business, but are you still going out with that coloured boy?' I said 'Yes'."

"Then she said: 'What do your parents think?' I said: 'It's nobody's business. They can't say anything about it.' She then said: 'Well I can. Get out!' And she told me to leave immediately."

The Army and Navy Stores employ a number of black boys and girls, but they are rarely allowed to serve customers, and are paid low wages.

ANGELA CHAPMAN

(Continued from Page One)

clerical departments. About 15 young messenger girls started a clerical branch of NATSOPA and the tele-ad girls, who work in compartments like battery chickens, started a union.

Now however, the Echo are gradually weakening these unions by using temporary staff from their own agency.

Nine of the messenger girls are from the agency, and in tele-ads about eight of the 30 girls working there at any one time are from the agency.

By setting up this casual labour agency, the company have demonstrated their anti-union policy for all to see. Even the News Editor's attractive secretary is an Angela Chapman girl.

I-SPY

THE GOVERNOR of Walton Gaol, Mr D. Cross, has taken up detective work in his spare time. The Guv and his assistant were spotted in action at the top of Bold Street one night.

The pair were jotting down registration numbers of cars parked near the RAFA Club, where Dick Pooley of PROP (the prisoners' rights organisation) was speaking at a public meeting. They also kept a close watch on people going in to the meeting but did not go in themselves.

Much to their embarrassment, several people recognised them and said "Hello". Try wearing disguises next time, chaps!

Free Press has moved to 83 Seel St.

(Tel: 051-709 9460)

I enclosep for six/twelve issues of Liverpool Free Press

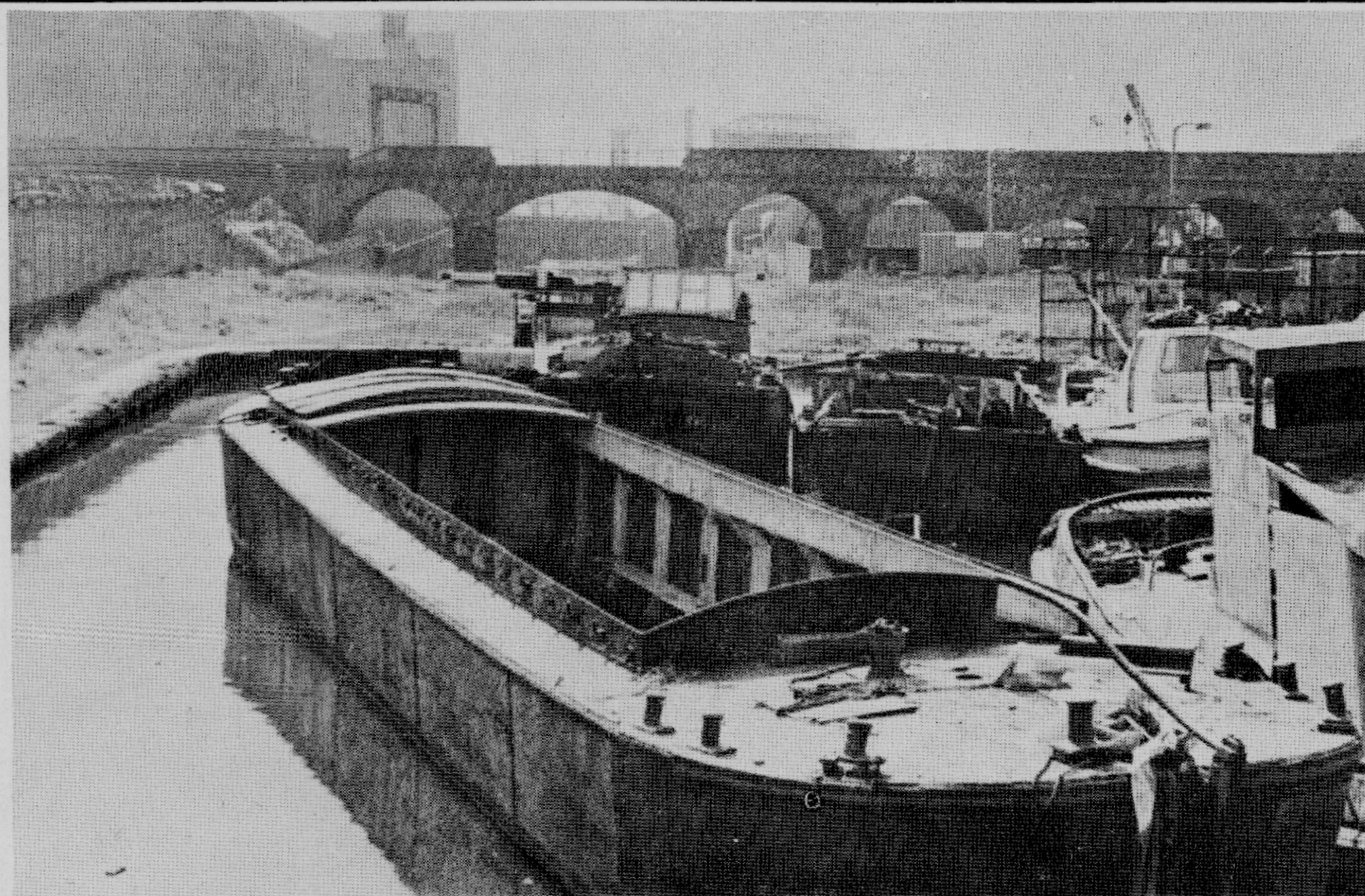


SUBSCRIBE

40p for six
80p for twelve including postage

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

Post this coupon to Liverpool Free Press, 83 Seel Street, Liverpool 1.



Part of the Leeds-Liverpool-Canal in the 'Over the Bridge' area off Scotland Road. Residents are keen to see the canal developed if - and when - the £250,000 grant from the Corporation arrives.

COUNCIL BID TO CONTROL VAUXHALL PROJECT

A ROW has developed over councillors' attempts to control Liverpool's experiment in 'people's democracy' - the Vauxhall Project.

It was set up in 1970, financed by the Home Office. One of its aims was to increase residents' control over decisions affecting their lives.

In theory the council have always had the last word, but in practice they have just rubber-stamped decisions... until recently.

The project is run by two committees. The steering group has representatives from the corporation and official bodies, as well as tenants' associations and other local groups. Meetings are open to all Vauxhall residents, but only members are allowed to vote.

The steering group is not truly representative of the residents but it comes a lot closer than the project committee, which consists of six councillors and two residents.

The crunch came over a request for £600 for decorating and furnishing a pensioners' centre.

The steering group approved it, but 19 votes to 11, with the council members voting against.

The councillors then threw it out at a meeting of the project committee where they have a majority.

Residents reacted angrily.

REASONS NOT EXPLAINED

Councillor Myra Fitzsimmons said there were 'reasons' for refusing the money - but didn't explain them.

She is, incidentally, a sworn enemy of the Free School, and the pensioners' centre shares a building with the school. But the two are run independently.

One argument used was that the project is not a 'bottomless pit'. But much larger sums are often approved.

Also, the project committee had never turned down a steering group request before.

Various tenants have walked out of the steering group because they see no point in it if it can be over-ruled by the project committee. Heriot residents have threatened to leave the project altogether.

BIG MONEY FLOWING OVER THE BRIDGE?

Residents of Vauxhall's 'Over the Bridge' area are busy working out what they would do with £250,000 if they had it.

The corporation has told them the money will be available for improving the area - and has asked for their ideas.

Among projects being discussed are the Sandhills Canal Improvement Association, and an idea for developing empty shops for use by residents.

The area is one of the most depressed in Liverpool, and the people are likely to remain a bit sceptical until they actually see the money.

'Secrets' man freed after month's remand

EDDIE COLLINS, an Irish Republican living in Liverpool was arrested at his home in a dawn raid led by Special Branch men looking for arms and explosives.

When they searched his house, police found nothing more explosive than a wallet which did not belong to him, and an incomplete sketch map of Catterick Barracks in an address book.

It was on this evidence that Eddie Collins had to face four court hearings and spend a month in solitary confinement at Risley Remand Centre.

Mr Collins might still be in custody today, but for a coincidence. For there was something else in his address book... on the reverse side of the map.

That something - according to Mr Collins - was information on the activities of army personnel sent to Catterick for instruction in interrogation and torture techniques, methods contrary to international law.

It followed that the map could not be used in evidence against Collins without revealing the information written on its reverse side.

Mr Collins is the North-West Organiser of Clann na hEireann, the Official Republican movement in

Britain - which is opposed to indiscriminate bombings and committed to a united socialist Ireland. They had already issued a statement dissociating the Liverpool branch from the London bombings.

They said the bombings could only reinforce the division between British and Irish workers.

Mr Collins was one of twelve people arrested on April 13 in simultaneous raids on 111 homes throughout the country - a huge operation involving over 500 police, some of them armed.

AN EXTRA CHARGE

He was charged at Hardman Street police headquarters later that day with the theft of a wallet and was about to be released on bail when the Special Branch added a charge under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act... "having a sketch or plan of a Ministry of Defence establishment at Catterick, Yorks, in a manner prejudicial to the safety or interests of the state."

The following day at Liverpool Magistrates' Court, bail of £10,000 was refused, and Mr Collins was remanded at Risley.

There then followed two more

appearances in court, each one adjourned at the request of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

On the journeys to and from court, Mr Collins was handcuffed to a Special Branch man and to the car, escorted by four motorcycles and driven at high speed with sirens blasting.

At the fourth appearance in court on May 9, the Secrets Act charge was dropped on the instructions of the Attorney General.

Mr Collins pleaded not guilty to the additional charge of theft of a wallet, and the magistrate ruled that this charge should also be dropped, on the grounds that a month in Risley was enough punishment.

The six people, one of them a Roman Catholic priest, who were arrested in Coventry on the same day as Eddie Collins, are still being held in custody.

Every week they are driven from the prison at high speed through cordoned-off streets to face a charge of "conspiracy to cause explosions."

Three weeks after their arrest, the charge of possessing explosive materials was added. However the police are reported to be having some difficulty producing anything more dangerous than some balloons, clothes pegs and a piece of wire.

Pickets on conspiracy charge need support

AN APPEAL for help from all trade unionists has been made by the Shrewsbury 24.

The Shrewsbury 24 are the North Wales building workers who have been charged with a number of serious offences including conspiracy, assault, demanding money with menaces, and damaging property, under the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875.

The charges arise out of the determined fight by more than 200 pickets against the widespread but hated lump labour system during the 12-week building strike last year.

Seven of the 24 are to face some of the charges at Mold Crown Court on Tuesday, June 26. A mass demonstration has been called to take place in front of the court at 9.30 in the morning.

But there's little doubt that the main charges against the 24 won't

be heard until October - although they were all committed for trial way back in March.

The reason for the long delay is that the police are having difficulty finding any witnesses to the events they claim took place. This is despite the fact that a large inquiry team of detectives from the North Wales and West Mercia police forces have interviewed 800 people.

Rank-and-file building workers are hoping that a one-day stoppage will be held throughout the industry when the 24 come up for trial in October.

And so they are asking all trade union branches and political groups to send resolutions to the TUC demanding support.

More help is desperately needed. Send donations to: Mr R Williams, Shrewsbury 24 Defence Committee Treasurer, Ffordd Pentre, Ocean View, Carmel, Holywell, Flintshire.

Published by Liverpool Free Press Group, 83 Seel Street, Liverpool 1. Printed by Open Print (TU), 24 Wapping, Liverpool 1.

OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER IS 051-709 9460

Sergeant Paltrey



"Mr Ronald Biggs and Mrs Biggs..."