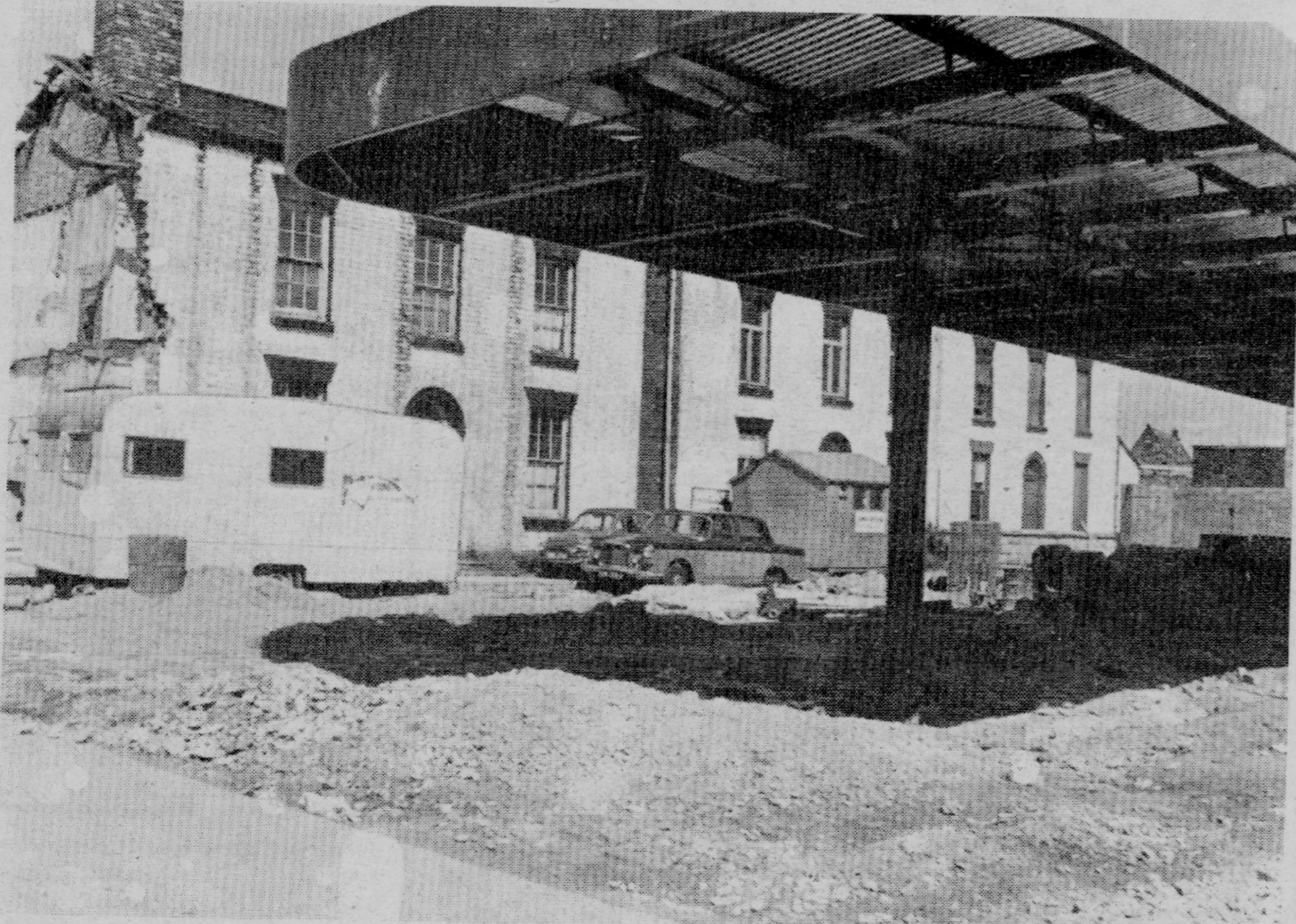




THE OIL SHEIKHS OF LIVERPOOL



WAVERTREE High Street might well be called the Bahrein of Liverpool. In the half mile between the clock tower and the railway bridge there are five petrol stations.

Our picture shows one of these undergoing 'improvements', Conoco's delightful steel structure now almost conceals the eyesore behind it — a row of houses listed as of architectural or historic interest.

The petrol station in front is of some historic, if not architectural interest.

It started back in the early 1960s when our old friend Harry Water-

man, the club owner, bought up the jam factory next door. He wasn't interested in making jam but he'd spotted that the firm had a petrol pump to fill their own vans.

So when Uncle Harry's firm, Clock Motors, applied for permission to build a filling station, they were able to claim that it was really only an extension to an established filling station.

The City Planning Officer was sceptical, but it went through.

Despite this smart move, the venture was far from a success. Staff changes led to "a complete breakdown" in the accounting system. Then a fire destroyed documents and the accounts for 1972 had to be "reconstructed". When they were

published nearly two years later they showed a loss.

In another mishap, the firm announced that a Mr J T Mulcahy had been appointed a director. Later they said he wasn't, and it was all a ghastly mistake.

They went into voluntary liquidation last year.

The station is now run by Conoco (who sell Jet petrol).

An earlier attempt to build a canopy there, in 1973, failed. The council refused permission because "its height, massing and position would be obtrusive, un-neighbourly and would overshadow and unduly dominate the adjoining dwelling houses."

Apparently the same could not be said about this latest erection.

Ex-Mayor finds good number in safety

ARE YOU SECURE in your job? Do you worry about the future? Do you want to get ahead?

You do. Then get the strength and protection of the chain of office around your neck. Yes, become Lord Mayor of Liverpool and your life will change.

Take, for example, a Mr Doyle. Once he was a 57-year-old crane driver at the docks. He was worried, like most workers, about his pay packet, about the future, and the prospect of life as a pensioner without a decent pension.

Then he became Lord Mayor. And hey presto, this 57-year-old crane driver soon became a 58-year-old administrator, with a nice fat salary and a nice safe pension.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company advertised their new post of Safety/Personnel liaison officer, minimum salary £3,700 a year (£75 a week), plus pension and staff benefits.

And did they give the position to a person on their short-list who had experience in the vital aspects of safety?

No, of course not. They gave it to Councillor Owen Doyle, whose only experience of administration was manager of a petrol station for a short time.

So that's why there's such an undignified scramble when the Lord Mayor's chain comes up for grabs each year.

FREE PRESS APPEAL

DONATION FORM

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

I enclose a donation/collection of £..... for the Free Press.

I do/do not* wish my name to be included in a list of thanks (*delete as necessary).

PLEASE SEND TO: 43 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.



THE 'Liverpool Free Press' has appeared since 1971.

The paper is non profit making. It is run democratically, without an Editor, under workers' control. Readers' meetings are held to criticise past issues and discuss future ones.

The Free Press is an alternative to most newspapers which exist not to inform, but to make money.

Most of the information in the Free Press would not appear elsewhere — either because of political or legal

restraints; or because it is journalistically difficult, eg, time-consuming; or because of class, racial, or sexual prejudices.

The paper is not connected with any political party or group. But we do not pretend, like the established Press, to be 'neutral' or 'objective'. The politics of the Free Press are contained, largely, in what we choose to report.

We want it to be useful to people struggling for control over their own lives — as well as providing information about the sort of people who actually do have control over them.

FREE PRESS

Write to us c/o

48 Manchester St L1 6ER or phone 227 2514



Get your copy by post!

I enclose £1.50 subscription to the Free Press.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Post this coupon to Liverpool Free Press, 48 Manchester St., Liverpool 1.

NOTE: The Free Press is published every month.

If postage rates are not increased subscribers will receive ten issues for £1.50. If postage goes up, the number of issues supplied may have to be reduced.

Printed and published by Liverpool Free Press Group, 48 Manchester St., Liverpool 1. Tel: 051-227 2514

Gidman 'framed' case

[From page one]

information to the police. And, as a result, he had spent his time inside in solitary confinement for his own safety.

Early in 1975 he had been seriously injured in an explosion on his houseboat. And he had also been in a car crash after the brakes were tampered with.

All this obviously impressed the judges. They were even more impressed by the policeman who testified that Riley had had a "genuine change of heart" over his criminal activities. That policeman was Detective Constable Daniel Gidman of Merseyside Police.

Brian Riley's next court appearance was as a star witness in the unsuccessful prosecution of Brian Williams.

THE SECOND case involving Det. Con. Gidman began at Liverpool Crown Court on September 6. Four men and a woman face charges arising from a robbery on January 9 this year when four men armed with shotguns and pick-axe handles took £19,000 from Group Four security men outside the corporation rent office in Storrington Ave, Norris Green.

One of the men on the robbery



Where the safe was 'planted'? The Gidman home is on the right (with two burglar alarms).

charge is John Doyle, of Mersey Avenue, Maghull. He was arrested by members of the Serious Crimes Squad, including Det. Con. Gidman, at the end of January.

While he was in custody at Risley Remand Centre his wife, Joan, received a phone call. A man claimed he could get the charges against

John Doyle dropped in exchange for money.

Acting on the advice of Supt Nat Shearon, Mrs Doyle and a woman friend met the caller (and another man) in the Red Lion pub in Litherland.

There she was asked for £1,000 before, and a further £1,000 after

her husband's release. The men said they were working for someone else — though Mrs Doyle has no way of knowing whether this is true or not.

Two men from the Bootle area were later questioned by the police but released when Mrs Doyle failed to pick them out at an identity parade.