

# Taxmen baffled

## DID HE TAKE IT WITH HIM?

THE BUSINESS partnership that led Liverpool's taxmen a merry dance for 20 years as it bought and sold most of the city has been ended by the death of Harry Isaacson.

Isaacson — who died last month aged 68 — shared a club and property empire with the elusive Harry Waterman, Liverpool's millionaire tax exile now living in Dublin.

Together the Two Harries, backed up by their Garston bottling firm, H. King & Co., built up a chain of clubs that dominated the city's nightlife, and involved themselves in property deals throughout Merseyside.

When he died, Isaacson was a director of a score of Liverpool clubs and other companies including the Wooky Hollow, Coconut Grove, Annabelle Suite, Wispa, Allinsons, and the now-liquidated H. King & Co.

Isaacson's real success, in which he was not alone, came in the sixties when he conducted most of his property dealings in the New Court Bar, Victoria Street — a popular meeting place for Liverpool city councillors before and after committee meetings.

Ike's key to making money was

to buy parcels of land cheap, obtain planning permissions, as only he knew how, for anything from flats to petrol stations and then develop or sell. The Inland Revenue knew little about the transactions.

Last month the surviving Harry affectionately coined a brief epitaph for his late partner: "Ike was a greedy little bastard" — a judgment Waterman is well-qualified to make.

Waterman was actually referring to Isaacson's decision to stay on the board of H. King & Co., after it had been sold for £660,000 to international property swindler Judah Binstock.

### SQUEEZED

Isaacson and Waterman had built up King's since 1953 and used it to force their way into the ownership of a chain of Liverpool clubs. When owners went into debt the Two Harries squeezed them into submission with writs and court action.

After the sale to Binstock, Waterman shifted his half of the proceeds to his Dublin tax-hideout, but Isaacson stayed on as a director.

His attachment to Kings was, of course, unconnected with the appointment by Binstock of one

Marcus Nagley as chairman of the Garston bottling company.

It was a small world indeed. Office staff at Kings report that Nagley referred to Isaacson as Uncle Harry. Nagley, it turned out, was an audit clerk with King, Nagley and Bakerman, the firm of chartered accountants who for years had prepared King's accounts.

Nagley's reign at King's from 1972 was a glorious affair. Foolishly the National Westminster Bank in Water Street had allowed Binstock a £1 million overdraft. Glee-fu-ly Nagley threw the cash to the winds. Under his command King pumped money into a variety of oddball enterprises — a Mediterranean yacht that, laden with debts, was lost forever in a Greek sunset, costing Kings £44,000; an intriguing car alarm system that invested £5,000 of King's money in Italian Riviera business trips; an oil purification system that looked after £20,000 of King's money; an ill-fated gambling venture in St Helens that did away with £75,000; and of

course the £121,000 that Kings paid for two derelict houses in Sandringham Drive, Aigburth (see Free Press No. 27).

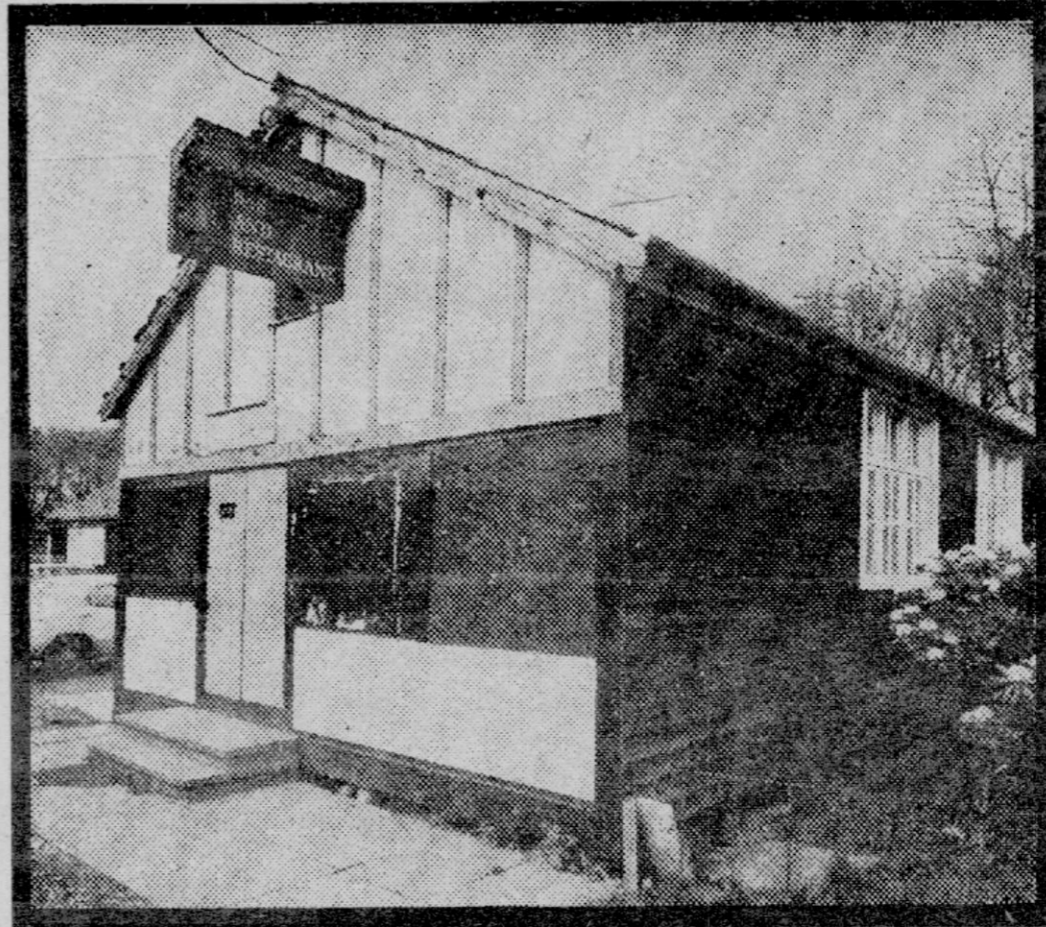
But although he was a director of Kings, Uncle Harry was not in the least perturbed by his cash-happy relative.

### BENEVOLENT

Isaacson was a director of the Hickory Lodge "club" in Fazakerley. It was a deserted garden shed in the middle of a wood, but the eternally benevolent H. King & Co managed to "lend" it £28,000 — a fraction of which has been repaid.

Another Isaacson club was the Coconut Grove/Annabelle Suite in Tuebrook. When Kings crashed, £13,000 was owed by Tuebrook clubs which had surprisingly slipped into deep financial trouble and were having difficulty repaying.

The list of owings by Isaacson clubs appeared never-ending: the Pez Espada owed £3,800; the Wooky Hollow £800; Wispa Entertainments £1,300, and on and on.



Hickory Lodge - loaned £28,000

# A strike call for textile workers

DELEGATES from Courtaulds factories throughout the country are calling for strike action if the company close either the Furzebrook plant at Aintree or the Castle works at Flint.

Resolutions from the Transport Workers' national lay delegate conference are being considered by TGWU Courtaulds branches.

Workers at the unaffected Courtaulds plants at Aintree have already promised to consider striking if the closures go ahead.

Courtaulds are trying to squeeze even more concessions out of the Furzebrook workers. "They want everything for nothing," senior steward Dick McGibbon told a recent meeting. "We want a job but we don't want to be lackeys."

The workers have rejected management's 54 proposals to increase productivity. These included reduced manning levels in some areas, speed-ups, increased flexibility, and ending restrictions on overtime. However, the workers' counter proposals, unacceptable to management, have gone a long way towards meeting them.

But the unions have refused to end their ban on non-union labour coming on to the site. And the engineers are not allowing some of their work with a "low skill content" to be transferred to production workers (who did not ask for it).

The unions have also turned down Courtaulds' attempt to get an agreement on an "on-going" basis. This would have allowed management to introduce new demands whenever it suited them.

At the moment no plans have been laid for an occupation should Furzebrook close on January 20. A work-in appears out of the question because the huge Courtaulds empire controls supplies of raw materials and many of the retail outlets.

The feeling seems to be that Furzebrook will be saved — at a price. The company want to increase exploitation then get the unions' signatures to an application for Temporary Employment Subsidy from the government. This would give them £20 a week of public money for each of the 550 workers at Furzebrook.

# Sacking incentive

A GOVERNMENT scheme to create more jobs has backfired at a Huyton factory.

It happened at the Toughened Glass works in Ellis Ashton Street, when one of the two apprentices was suddenly sacked (the other was already leaving).

The management claimed the lad wasn't suitable. But workers at the factory believed the firm had another reason for sacking him... an employment incentive scheme had just started.

By taking on new apprentices from the dole the firm could get extra cash from the government. But they'd get nothing for keeping the apprentices they'd already got.

47 men — all members of the Furniture Trades and Allied Timber union — went on strike, leaving about a dozen others still at work. The dispute was made official the same day.

The strike ended after seven weeks with a promise by the firm to keep the apprentice on full pay while a conciliation panel tries to resolve the dispute.

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# ARREST DEATH-NEW MOVES

THE CASE of Kenny Williams — who died in 1974 after being arrested — is almost certain to be reopened.

Solicitors acting for the dead man's wife are currently examining the inquest evidence before deciding what action to take.

Williams, a 27-year-old father of four from Kirkby, died in August 1974, four weeks after being arrested in Liverpool city centre for stealing a car and injuring a police officer.

Before he died he told three people — his wife, his brother and a solicitor's clerk — that he was severely beaten in the back of a police Land Rover.

Doctors who examined him found two cuts on his head needing eight stitches, two black eyes, a suspected broken nose, and a large bruise on his stomach. He died from pancreatitis, which can be caused by a blow to the stomach.

An inquest reached a verdict of 'Misadventure'. Early in 1975,



Kenny Williams

Merseyside's Chief Constable assured the Home Office that the inquest evidence did not justify either criminal charges or disciplinary action against the officers involved.

(On the contrary, the evidence established beyond doubt that Constables Peter Finegan, David Beaumont, Thomas Chanley, and Eric Kimm, attacked Kenny Williams in a police Land Rover and then committed perjury to cover it up.)

The Free Press later discovered that Constable Peter Finegan had previously been accused of a very similar attack on an arrested man.

Mysteriously, it has taken Mrs Josephine Williams two years to obtain the records of the inquest. She received them only last month after the intervention of her MP, Robert Kilroy-Silk.

Mr Kilroy-Silk has also passed on a 1,000-signature petition calling for the Home Secretary to reopen the case. He told the Free Press: "I wouldn't be taking as much interest if I didn't feel there was a great cause for concern here."

● An inquiry is being held in the North East into the death of Mr Liddle Towers following his violent arrest. Cause of death: pancreatitis.