

SHIPLEY TIMES AND ADVERTISER 1910 to 1945

1 10 January 1913

FOUND DROWNED IN THE CANAL At the Manor House on Tuesday, the District Coroner, Mr E H Hill, held an inquest in reference to the death of John Bancroft (24), a woolcomber of 10 Croft Street, Keighley, whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near to the Victoria Bridge, Shipley, on Sunday afternoon.

Evidence of identification was given by Thomas Bancroft, an iron moulder of 12 Chatsworth Street, Keighley. He said the deceased was last at home on December 13th, when he left to go to his work at Shipley. He lived with his sister, and was quite well and hearty.

Mrs Annie Thomas, wife of Joshua Thomas, woolcomber of 14 Raglan Street, Bradford Arms, said the deceased worked at the same mill as her husband. On December 14th, as her husband did not return home, she went in search of him and found him in the company of John Bancroft. Both her husband and the deceased came to her house together.

In reply to the Coroner, who asked as to their condition, witness said they had had something to drink, but they knew what they were doing. She provided them with food, and after he had had a sleep, deceased left the house to go home. It was raining hard at the time, and witness asked deceased if he would be all right, to which he replied in the affirmative.

The Coroner : You had some doubt as to whether he could manage by himself? - Yes.

Evidence as to the discovery of the body was given by **Charles Simmons**, a boatman of 33 Browgate, Baildon, and Police-constable Wynn, who stated that the body appeared to have been in the water about three weeks.

Deceased drew his wages the night before he went home with Thomas. There was no money found in the pockets when his body was recovered. It was also stated that when the deceased left Thomas's house he was wearing a mackintosh, but this was missing when the body was found.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned", and expressed the opinion that there was not sufficient evidence to show how the deceased got into the water.

2 7 March 1913

HOAX OR TRAGEDY? A boatman named **Tom Clarke** found on the canal bank at Apperley Bridge about noon on Tuesday a cap, attached to which was part of an envelope bearing the words, "You will find my body in the canal – Jack Sharpe". Information was given to the police, who commenced dragging operations, and continued them for nearly four hours, but without result.

3 6 June 1913

GIRL THROWS HERSELF IN CANAL

THOUGHT SHE WAS NOT WANTED An unusual case of suicide occupied the attention of the Manchester Coroner (Mr E A Gibson) on Wednesday, when an inquest was held on Sarah Ann **Anderton** (14), who was found drowned in the Rochdale Canal on Sunday night.

The girl was a machinist, and lived with her parents in Whitworth Street West. Her father, a lock-keeper, stated that of late she had been in good health, and had nothing on her mind that he knew of. On Sunday night, he and his wife and a man who lodged with them went out for a walk about eight o'clock, returning shortly before nine. His daughter was left alone in the house, and when they came back the house was in darkness, and there was no sign of her. He found a note on the table written by his daughter. It was in these terms.

*Dear Parents – I am sorry to have caused you so much trouble, but I hope you won't trouble yourselves about me. You will find me in the canal in front of our window, so God be with you till we meet again. Your not-wanted daughter, SARAH
The last kiss for my dear brother Joe.*

A RELIGIOUS GIRL When he saw the note he thought it was a joke. The back door of the house

led to the canal bank. They found the body in the water near the house soon after. He had no idea what was meant by "Your not-wanted daughter". She had had no quarrel and had no trouble of any kind. She was a religious girl, and went to church every Sunday evening.

Mrs Anderton said her daughter had been complaining a little of headaches, but was otherwise all right. Last Wednesday she saw a body pulled out of the water, and then said she was sure "they could not be alive in the water". In addition to the note that had been left on the table, there was also a ring which witness had given her on her fourteenth birthday.

The Coroner : Can you throw any light on what she means by "your not-wanted daughter"? - No. She had a good home. She had nothing to say that for.

GOOD HOME **Edwin Lord**, a boatman who lodged with the Andertons, said that the girl was sensible and cheerful and had a first class home.

The forewoman at the department of the works where the girl was employed said she had had no trouble with her. On one occasion the girl was in hysterics.

The Coroner, addressing the jury, said that, in view of the fact that the girl was only fourteen and had a good home, it had seemed to him almost incredible that she should take her life without a cause. It was perfectly clear from the note that she had some twist in her mind about not being wanted at home, and the getting into the canal was a deliberate act in view of that. The *post mortem* examination showed that the girl was perfectly healthy, and there was nothing at all to suggest why she should take her life.

One of the jurymen suggested that the fact of the girl living on the canal bank had, in a fit of temporary insanity, prompted her to do what she did.

A verdict of "Suicide whilst insane" was returned.

4 12 September 1913

A "WANDERING BOY" An unusual story was told at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, on Monday morning, in connection with a charge brought against a boy aged 15 named William Barlow, of wandering abroad. Superintendent Keel stated that the boy was found wandering abroad at Shipley after midnight, and was taken to the police station. The story he told was that he had been living with his parents for some time at Castleford, but his father deserted his wife and family, and his mother gave him away to a boatman. He travelled around with that boatman up till six weeks ago, when he was cast adrift, and since then he had been wandering about. He appeared, said Superintendent Keel, to be a bright intelligent lad, and he suggested that he should be sent to a detention home until inquiries could be made concerning him, and to see what could best be done in the boy's interests. This course was adopted, and the boy was remanded to the Detention Home at Shipley for a week.

5 19 September 1913

HOME FOR WANDERING BOY At the Bradford West Riding Children's Court on Monday, William Barlow (15), of no fixed abode, was charged on remand with wandering abroad.

Superintendent Keel stated that the lad was found at midnight on September 5th wandering about the streets of Shipley. He was taken care of, and he had told them that the last home he remembered was at Castleford. His mother having no use for him, he said, she had given him over to a canal boatman, but he had since been from one place to another until he subsequently drifted to Shipley. Since he was last at Court, Superintendent Keel stated the police had found a good situation for the lad who, were he willing to go to it, would be able to learn a trade, a gentleman in the boot and shoe trade being prepared to take him and practically make him one of the family.

The boy signified his willingness to go to this gentleman, and he was therefore discharged.

6 17 October 1913

ALLEGED WIFE NEGLECT At the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, yesterday (Thursday), a Shipley boatman named **Levi Moorby** was charged at the instance of the North Bierley Guardians with neglecting his wife and family. The Clerk of the Guardians, Mr William G Cooper, said he

was unable to proceed with the case that day, as the relieving officer concerned was away on holiday, and it had not been possible to get into communication with him. Since prisoner had left his wife, she had been admitted to the Workhouse.

The Prisoner : I have a home ready for her when she comes out.

Mr Cooper asked that the case should be adjourned until November 6th. The Bench agreed to this course, prisoner being remanded on bail.

7 7 November 1913

BOATMAN'S TALE ABOUT RECEIPTS **Kershaw Bates**, a boatman of Shipley, was summoned at the Skipton Petty Sessions by his mother, Maria Bates. Complainant said that she obtained an order in 1905 against the defendant by which he had to pay 3s per week for the maintenance of his child. There was now £3 18s due to her. The defendant alleged that he had paid the money, but had never received receipts for it. The Bench made an order for payment.

8 5 December 1913

A FATHER'S HEARTLESS CONDUCT A Shipley boatman's heartless conduct to his wife and five young children had its sequel at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday last. **Joshua Patchett** was charged at the instance of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children with neglecting his family. A further charge of neglect was preferred by the North Bierley Board of Guardians.

Mr Alex Neill, who appeared on behalf of the NSPCC, said the prisoner lived at 3 Wood Street, Shipley, and he had a wife and five young children. He was a boatman, and was able to earn 25s to 35s a week. He had given his wife 2s 6d, 5s and 10s a week, and had spent the rest of his wages on drink. His wife was a decent and respectable woman, and had been helped by neighbours. The family had suffered in health in consequence of the neglect. When an inspector of the society called, the prisoner promised to do better and leave drink alone. His wife later said that he was doing better, but it was afterwards ascertained that she was screening him because she was in terror of him. On October 4th he left his family, and had not contributed anything, so that they were in a state of starvation. He was arrested on Saturday. The family had received outdoor relief from the Poor Law authorities.

Inspector Walker said he had visited the prisoner and warned him.

Mrs Patchett said her husband had been constantly in drink. She had been married six years and had five children. He had frequently assaulted her, and he used very filthy language. She had told the inspector that her husband was behaving better because she was in terror of him.

Sir James Roberts (chairman) said that the Bench considered the case a very bad one, and the prisoner's heartlessness towards his wife and family deserved the severest punishment that the Court could inflict.

Prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for six months.

9 5 December 1913

**TRAGEDY OF WORRY
FOUND IN THE CANAL**

ECCLESHILL MAN'S SUICIDE An inquest was held this morning on the body of Mr Abraham Hey, 53 years of age, a hardware dealer of 5 Institute Road, Eccleshill, whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Apperley Bridge. The deceased had been missing from home since November 21st.

Mr James Hey of Wellington School House, Undercliffe, said the deceased, his brother, had been worried because his business was not a success. There was nothing else, as far as he knew, to trouble him.

Hannah Hey, the wife of the deceased, also stated that her husband had been worried about his business. It appeared that the hat and coat of the deceased had been discovered the day after his disappearance on the canal bank not far from Harper's Mill, near which the body was discovered

yesterday by a Leeds boatman named **Fred Rudd**.

J Hardcastle, the mortuary attendant, stated that there was a twisted cut on the forehead of the deceased, but the body was badly decomposed, and the injuries might have been caused by a boat hook or a passing boat.

A verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind" was returned.

10 3 April 1914

BOATMAN DROWNED An inquest was held on Tuesday at the Mission Room, Beal, near Whitley Bridge, on the body of **John William Smith** (31), a boatman, who formerly lived at No 9 Brighton Street, Shipley. On March 7th, Smith was engaged on a boat on the river Aire at Beal, when he was knocked into the water by the tiller of the boat. It was dark at the time, and an attempt was made to rescue him, but without success. He was washed down the river by a strong tide, his body not being recovered until Sunday last, when it was found about a mile down the river. A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned.

11 8 May 1914

WARRANT ISSUED A Shipley boatman named **Stephen Noble** was charged at the West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday) with having been drunk and disorderly, and with doing wilful damage to a window at the Shipley Police Station. Prisoner did not appear, his wife stating that he was poorly in bed.

Superintendent Keel said the prisoner had made an allegation as to having been ill-treated by the police, and it was advisable that he should attend court.

Police-constable Mangan deposed that in Otley Road on Monday night he saw the prisoner, who was drunk and wanting to fight another man. As he refused to go away, witness proceeded to take him into custody. Prisoner adopted a fighting attitude, and in the struggle which ensued they both fell to the ground. Noble was eventually got to the police station, where he refused to be searched. Later, he broke a glass panel in a door.

The Bench issued a warrant for Noble's arrest.

12 15 May 1914



AFRICAN CHIEFS AT SALTARE

The African Chiefs who have been in Bradford this week paid a visit on Wednesday morning to Saltaire Mills, where they were cordially received by the head of the firm, Sir James Roberts, Bart. Our illustration shows (from left to right) : Mr Hermann Gerhartz, Prince Joseph (cousin of the King of Uganda), Sir James Roberts, Dr Hanlon (the Roman Catholic Bishop of Uganda), Mr F Gerhartz (Belgian Consul), the Regent and Chief Justice of Uganda, Mr Henry Gerhartz and the Head Chieftain of Uganda. Prince Joseph and Dr Hanlon had a conversation with Sir James Roberts on the question of wool raising in Uganda. Whilst on tour in England, Prince Joseph had shown a keen and intelligent interest in industrial enterprises, and expressed unqualified admiration of the immense works at Saltaire.

13 15 May 1914

SHIPLEY CANAL TRAGEDY

HYSTERICAL WOMAN'S CRIES - "DON'T PUSH ME IN"

A PECULIAR DELUSION Shortly before eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, an employee at Crag Mills, Valley Road, Shipley, heard a scream from the direction of the Bradford Canal, which runs alongside the mill.

An alarm was raised, and it was found that there was a young woman in the canal. She was got out of the water and artificial respiration resorted to, but life was extinct. Police-sergeant Cockshott and Police-constable Southwell had the body removed to the Shipley Mortuary, where it was identified as that of a spinster named Eliza Crossley (25), daughter of Isaac Crossley, dyer's labourer, 18 Dudley Street, Valley Road, Shipley. Deceased, who had suffered from bronchitis and asthma, left home five years ago, and had latterly been lodging with Mrs Wilton, 74 Briggate, Windhill.

THE INQUEST An inquest on the body of the deceased was held in the Council Chamber at the Manor House on Wednesday afternoon, before the District Coroner, Mr E H Hill. Police Inspector Beaton attended the inquiry, and Mr Isaac Ross was foreman of the jury.

FATHER'S EVIDENCE The father said deceased was a worsted spinner, and was twenty five years of age. She left home five years ago last October. He did not know where she had been working.

The Coroner : Was she of an excitable disposition? - Yes.

Did she ever get depressed? - Yes, many a time.

For any particular reason? - We could not tell. She used to get depressed over nothing.

Did she ever say anything as to doing away with herself? - No. Witness added that he last saw his daughter about six weeks ago, when she called to see him.

The Coroner : How was she then? - She seemed as usual. For years she has suffered from asthma and bronchitis.

In reply to further questions, witness said his daughter left home several times prior to going away five years ago.

Has she behaved violently? - No.

Not smashed things up or anything of that sort? - She once threw a knife at my wife.

SEEN ON CANAL BANK **Thomas Tillotson**, 210 Briggate, Windhill, lock-keeper, said he knew the deceased by sight. He saw her about twenty minutes to eight on Tuesday morning. She passed his home in Briggate, and was going in the direction of Bradford.

The Coroner : Do you know if she worked in Bradford? - I have heard so since.

Was she by herself? - Yes.

A Juryman : Did she speak to you? - No.

The Foreman : Did she seem to be depressed? - I did not notice.

The Coroner : How long after that were you told that she had been seen in the canal? - About ten minutes.

If anyone had been with her, could they have got away without your seeing them? - They might have gone another way.

CRIES HEARD IN CRAG MILL Alice Slingsby, 6 Tarn, Baildon, an employee at Crag Mill, said that about ten minutes to eight on Tuesday morning, she heard a voice call out, "Don't, don't push me in", which was followed by a scream and a splash, and then another scream.

The Coroner : Did you hear any other voice? - No.

Or any footsteps? - No. Witness added that she told some of the other employees what she had heard. She herself did not look out of the window facing the canal.

Maggie Robinson, 9 Holdsworth Street, Crag Road, Windhill, a burler and mender at Crag Mill, deposed that, about ten minutes to eight on Tuesday morning, she heard a scream which seemed to come from the direction of the canal. Witness went to the window, but could not see anyone at first. A little later she noticed a woman in the water. She informed Mr Fearnley, who immediately proceeded to the canal bank.

The Coroner : Was the deceased opposite the window? - No, a bit off, but we could see her very plainly.

Supposing anyone had run away on the canal bank, you would have been able to see them? - Yes.

You heard no one else call out except the deceased? - No.

Frederick James Pocock, 9 Briar Field Road, Frizinghall, a piece carrier at Crag Mills, said that when he saw the deceased in the water, she was about a yard from the bank side. Witness saw the boatman about 25 yards away, going in the direction of Shipley.

The Coroner : If anyone had been on the bank, could they have got away without passing the boatman or the lock-keeper Tillotson? - No. Witness added that he assisted to get the deceased out of the water.

The Coroner : Did you ask the boatman any questions? - No.

Police-constable Southwell : The boatman said he had seen no one about.

DECEASED'S BAG FOUND The Coroner (to Pocock) : Was there anything to show which side of the canal the deceased had been on? - There was her bag containing food, reared against the mill wall.

Did it appear to have been put there carefully or to have been thrown down in a hurry? - It was reared against the wall as if it had been placed there carefully.

Inspector Beaton : Were there any signs of a struggle having taken place on the bank? - No.

Police-constable Southwell said he removed the body to the mortuary. No letter was found.

THE WAYS OF HYSTERICAL PEOPLE In summing up, the Coroner said it was quite likely, seeing that the deceased was a little hysterical, that she might have shouted out something which had no relation to the truth. She would probably have a delusion that there was something telling her to jump into the water. When persons were hysterical, they believed they were being forced to do something against their will. The fact that the deceased's bag, containing her food, was reared against the wall, and had evidently not been hastily thrown down, was a strong point for assuming that there had not been any struggle.

JURY'S VERDICT The jury found that deceased had committed suicide whilst of unsound mind.

14 19 June 1914

NEGLECTED CHILDREN : MOTHER SENT TO GAOL The magistrates at the West Riding Police Court, Bradford, on Monday morning, included Dr W H Ellis (in the chair), Mr J A Burton and Councillor Thomas Hill.

A married woman named **Martha Foster** of Shipley was charged with neglecting her children.

On behalf of the NSPCC, it was stated that the woman was addicted to drink, and instead of looking after her children, left them to play about in the streets and to be fed by neighbours. Her husband was a boatman, and a very hard-working man. He handed his wages over to the prisoner, who had spent the money in drink. She had several times been warned by the officer of the Society.

Inspector Walker spoke to visiting the prisoner on several occasions, and described the condition in which he found the children. The children had been adopted by the Guardians.

Dr Bonner gave evidence as to having examined the children, and he attributed their condition to neglect. The house was very dirty and there was little food.

Edith Hogg said that when she visited the prisoner's house on one occasion, prisoner was drinking whisky out of a basin.

Elizabeth Ann Foster said the prisoner had made several promises to reform, but had failed to do so. Witness knew that the children had not been properly fed.

Fred Booth, school attendance officer, said he had often complained to the prisoner about the condition of the children.

Prisoner told the Bench that if she had another chance, she would do better.

Sentence of one month's imprisonment with hard labour was passed.

15 7 August 1914

BARMAN FOUND DROWNED At the Manor House on Monday, the District Coroner, Mr E H Hill, held an inquest respecting the death of William Mills (42), a barman whose body was taken from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near to the Seven Arches on Saturday morning.

Charles Brunt, grocer, 8 Rebecca Street, said deceased was his brother-in-law, and had lived with him about three months. He had not enjoyed robust health. Deceased retired to bed on Friday about nine o'clock, when he appeared as usual. The next morning it was found that he was missing, but no importance was attached to this, as he was in the habit of going for a walk before breakfast. Deceased had not threatened to do anything to himself, and he was all right from a financial standpoint.

A juryman : He had no grievance with any of you? - No, he was on the best of terms with all of us.

John Mortimer Jowett of Hirst Farm spoke to seeing the deceased in Hirst Lane on Saturday morning between a quarter and half past eight. He was by himself, and was going in the direction of Bingley.

James Hartley, a boatman, 10 School Street, Windhill, gave evidence as to getting the body out of the water.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned", there not being sufficient evidence to show how the deceased got into the water.

16 16 October 1914

COAL STEALING MANIA A Shipley boatman named **Walter R Nuttall** was charged at the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday (Thursday) with stealing 101 lbs of coal, the property of Messrs C F Taylor and Co, and also a coal sack, the property of Mr Joseph Miller.

Superintendent Keel said that shortly after six o'clock on Wednesday night Police-constable Booth saw the prisoner coming from the canal bank. Prisoner was carrying a sack, and the constable stopped him and asked what he had got in it. Nuttall replied that it was coal, and said he had got it from a boat on which he had acted as mate. He also informed the officer that the captain had given him permission to take it. On inquiry, his statements were found to be false, and he was taken into custody. Later, it was found that the coal had been taken from the wharf of Messrs Taylor and Co, and that the bag had been stolen from an adjoining wharf. Prisoner had quite a mania for coal stealing. There were a number of convictions against him for similar offences.

Prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

17 7 May 1915

YOUNG WOMAN FOUND DROWNED The tragic circumstances surrounding the death of a young woman, whose identity is unknown, formed the subject of a coroner's inquiry yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at the District Council Offices, Calverley. The Court was presided over by Mr E W Norris, Deputy Coroner for the district.

Jonas Walmsley Spencer, a canal boatman of 17 Bridge Street, Shipley, stated that he was proceeding in a canal boat from Shipley to Leeds on Wednesday morning. As he was passing Shaw House Farm, he saw a splash in the water about 400 yards ahead, and concluded that somebody was bathing. As he approached the place, he noticed a felt hat floating on the water and an umbrella in an adjoining field. Dragging operations were commenced, and eventually witness and a friend

succeeded in getting the body out of the water. Witness then gave information to the police. Dr Norman Hughes of Calverley said there were no marks of violence on the body. The deceased was very respectably dressed. The Coroner remarked that Spencer had given his evidence in a capable manner. At this stage, the inquiry was adjourned until today (Friday) with the object, if possible, of getting the body identified.

18 22 October 1915

MR JOHN KENDALL'S PUBLIC SERVICES
GIFT FROM THE SALT PENSIONERS
NONAGENARIAN'S VIEWS OF MODERN LIFE



MR. J. KENDALL.



MRS. PRATT.

7

Mr John Kendall of Ashville, Church Lane, Shipley, was honoured on Friday by the pensioners of the Sir Titus Salt Charity, in whom he has taken a great interest for a considerable period. Mr Kendall, who was formerly a member of the Board of Governors and for some time chairman, was presented with a silver mounted walking stick which had been subscribed for by the pensioners, of whom there are thirty six.

The presentation was made by Mrs Ann Pratt (oldest pensioner) who is ninety one years of age. The venerable lady remarked the gift was only a slight expression of the deep gratitude they felt for the many favours they had received at his hands.

In a neat little speech, Miss Jowett (another pensioner) made reference to the excellent public work accomplished by Mr Kendall, and more especially to his efforts as a Governor of the Salt's Hospital. Mrs Humphrey also paid tribute to Mr Kendall for the services he has rendered to his day and generation.

In responding, Mr Kendall remarked that the presentation had taken him very much by surprise. It was the first time in his life he had ever been the recipient of such a token of goodwill, and he accepted it with a very great pleasure. He was deeply impressed by the spirit in which the gift had been made, and the latter would always be to him a priceless possession.

SALTAIRE LADY INTERVIEWED Mrs Ann Pratt, who made the presentation to Mr John Kendall on behalf of the pensioners, is ninety one years of age, and is the oldest resident in Saltaire, holds strong views on certain phases of modern life, and these she enunciated to a "Times and Express" representative who called upon her a few days ago. The old lady resides alone in one of the Saltaire alms houses, and she follows her simple domestic duties as actively as many not half

her years. Save for her sight, which recently has given her a little trouble, she possesses in a marked degree the use of the whole of her faculties. What strikes one most is her common-sense outlook on life. Coming of a family noted for longevity, she was born in August 1824 in the little farming village of Saxton, some 13 miles from Leeds. She was the eldest of a family of nine, two of whom passed away quite recently at the respective ages of 89 and 87. Three of her sisters are still living, the youngest being 77. Her parents also died at the ripe old age of 89. She has been married twice. Her first husband (whose name was James Newton) died at the age of 49. Her second husband, whom she married 28 years ago, was Ben Pratt, a warpdresser at Saltaire Mills, who died in 1899 at the age of 72. She has had one son, who died when sixteen years of age. Asked to what she attributed her good health and long life, she smiled and said, "God Almighty has preserved me. I don't know why, for I could have served Him better". "My father was a very good man indeed", she said, "although he had a somewhat large family, and many times got no more than 12s a week, he managed to keep them all in reasonable comfort". They thought nothing of taking walks in those days, and tramping to York and back (a distance of 25 miles) was no uncommon occurrence. "But nowadays", she added, "people are tired if they walk a quarter of a mile". A Bible which she proudly produced bore the inscription, "Ann Lofthouse (Mrs Pratt's maiden name), a reward for good attendance as a member of the Saxton Sunday School, 1837". Speaking of the treatment of children, Mrs Pratt said she thought that today parents do not look after their children as they used to do, but allow them to stay out until very late hours. They used to have to go to the church and Sunday school, and then go straight home. There was no running about the streets and lanes on a Sunday like there is now. Many things have altered since Mrs Pratt was young, but in her opinion the change has not been for the better. "If girls nowadays would only stay at home more and read good books and learn household duties", she declared, "they would keep out of a lot of harm and do themselves much good. I blame the parents in a large measure for not teaching them better". A reference to the war reminded her of her childhood's days when her father and two uncles were pressed into service. She said she hoped to live to see the war over, for she was certain that the world would have improved in so many ways.

MR KENDALL'S CAREER Mr John Kendall has had a remarkably successful career. He is the eldest son of the late Mr Abraham, and contributed largely in the formation of the business of Messrs Kendall and Sons. His parents, although shrewd and practical people, had not had the advantage of an education, and at the age of 12, young John was busy teaching his father how to write and spell. The subject of our sketch was educated at the Bradley School, which he attended at a very early age. At the time, the School was held in the clubhouse in Market Place, Shipley, which is now one of the oldest buildings in the town. The schoolmaster was the late Mr Robert Bradley, who afterwards started the Airedale Academy, Baildon Bridge. Mr Kendall's father was a boatman, and his mother kept a shop in Piccadilly and later in Briggate. His mother was one of the most energetic of housewives, and the future success of her eldest son was in great measure due to her good influence. A little later the shop was dropped, and John and his father were associated in the carrying trade from 1869 to 1872. Subsequently they began as coal merchants, and in 1874, while still continuing in business with his father, John took up an appointment in the warehouse of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company as first commission agent, and retained this post until 1878. So assiduously did Mr Kendall apply himself to his work, and so rapidly did the business grow under his management, that the company began to see the advisability of appointing a permanent official. This led to Mr Kendall severing his connection with the company. In politics he is a Liberal and, at the present time, is the president of the Shipley Liberal Club. He has been associated with the party for more than thirty years. For a considerable period he was chairman of the Liberal Club Ltd, and only retired from the position when compelled by indifferent health to do so. For over 20 years, he held the appointment of Treasurer for the Shipley Division Liberal Association. He entered into the public life of the town in 1889, when he was elected as member of the Shipley School Board, and continued to be an active member until the board was dissolved. He was chairman for a period of three years – from 1893 until 1896 – and during that time, many important developments took place in the town, notably the erection of the Wood End Infants

School, which Mr Kendall opened. In April 1890, he was elected a member of the Governors of the Saltaire Hospital and of the Salt Charity, and was a member of that body at the time the Salt Schools were municipalised in 1902, continuing to act on the Salt Charity until about a year ago when, owing to ill health, he resigned. He was chairman of the Board at the time the enlargement was made, and did much towards obtaining the funds together for that purpose.

The Nonconformist denomination have had in him a generous and devoted supporter. He is especially interested in the welfare of the Bradford Road Congregational Church, Shipley, in connection with which he has held every office open to a layman, including that of choirmaster and organist.

19 14 January 1916

BOATMAN FINED FOR THEFT **John Miller**, boatman, Shipley, was fined £2 at Pontefract Police Court last Thursday for having stolen 25 yards of cotton rope, value 15s, the property of Messrs Hunt Brothers, chemical manufacturers, Castleford. The rope was taken from the prosecutor's boat, *Alice*, and recovered from the cabin of the prisoner's boat *Lizzie*.

Another Shipley boatman named **James Hudson** was charged with having stolen a bridle, the property of William Henry Nicholson of Wakefield. To frustrate the prisoner in a possible attempt to walk off in the early morning without paying for the stabling of his horse, the landlord secreted his horse's bridle, whereupon the prisoner walked off with one belonging to the prosecutor. When arrested, he replied that somebody had taken his bridle first.

A fine of £2 was imposed.

20 2 June 1916

SHIPLEY BOY DROWNED

A DANGEROUS PRACTICE

INSPECTOR BEATON AND A RUMOUR Mr E W Norris (deputy district coroner) and a jury held an inquiry at the Shipley Fire Station on Monday, with respect to the death of the nine year old son of Mr and Mrs J W Varley of 7 Atkinson Street, Shipley.

The mother of the deceased said the boy left home at half past eight on Thursday evening of last week to go and play on some waste land in Wharfe Street, immediately behind the Theatre de Luxe. The land was very near to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. As her son did not return home, witness got anxious, and at about half past ten a search was made, but no signs of the boy could be found. The police were informed the same night. The deceased had not learned the art of swimming.

A juror asked if it was a fact, as had been rumoured, that the teachers in the Council Schools asked the scholars to bring frogs and fishes to the schools, thus encouraging children to play about the canal banks.

The witness said she had no knowledge of anything of the sort.

Inspector Beaton remarked that there was no evidence in the present case of what the juror said being correct, but if he (Inspector Beaton) was apprised from whom such information had been obtained, he would make investigations. It was wrong of teachers to encourage the children to play about the canal banks, for that was a dangerous practice. It would be remembered that this was the second schoolboy to be drowned quite recently.

John T Holmes, a boatman of Wharfe Street, Shipley, said he last saw deceased alive at 5 o'clock on the night he was missing. On Friday morning, the witness found a teapot with a piece of string attached to it lying near the canal bank. This, together with the fact that his boat, which had been tied fast on the previous evening, was adrift, aroused his suspicions. Getting a boat hook, he dragged the canal a few minutes and found the body.

In answer to Inspector Beaton, the witness said it would be quite easy for the boy to loosen the boat and push it off. In his opinion, the deceased had been attempting to do so, when he lost his balance and fell into the water.

A juryman observed that he was surprised there were not more drowning cases at Shipley. It was no unusual thing on a Saturday afternoon to see about twenty children playing on the canal side.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

21 23 June 1916

GREENGATES

WANTED COT OF HER OWN Sarah Elizabeth Wilcox, a housekeeper of Airedale View, Apperley Bridge, was charged at the Bradford City Police Court on Friday with having stolen £19, the property of **John William Clayton**, of the same address. Prisoner pleaded "Not guilty". It was stated that the prisoner had been cohabiting with the prosecutor, a boatman who, on going to bed on Sunday evening, June 4th, left £25 in his waistcoat pocket. Subsequently he found that the woman and £19 were missing. The prosecutor stated that he had known the woman for 11 or 12 years. She had resided with him until about twelve months ago, when she left him. Recently she went back to him, and left again on the night she took the money. A witness said that he saw the woman in Bradford with the money, and she told him she had over £30 in gold. Asked where she had got it, prisoner replied that she had seen him (meaning Clayton) retire, and had then made off with his purse. Prisoner said she did not steal the money. It was given to her as wages. She had worked anent him on the boat, and their earnings had been put together. Moreover, she had taken in washing for various people in the locality, and the money thus earned had been added to their savings. "And if, after all this, I am to be brought in as a thief", she remarked, "it is a bit of a do. I am bad enough without being branded a thief". He had carried on with her shockingly, and had told her to "tak her hook". Her reply was, "I might go too soon!" (Laughter). She had not intended staying away long, for she had left some of her clothes behind. Detective Sergeant Pratt said that the parties were single. The woman was one who practised free love. She lived with first one man and then another. While enquiries were being made into the present theft, she had been living with another man, now in court, and had robbed him of 30s. The Stipendiary said there was no doubt she had committed the theft, and she would be sent to prison for 14 days. Prisoner : Thank you!

22 15 September 1916

SHIPLEY MILITARY TRIBUNAL

AN IMPORTANT MAN **Mr Kendall** also applied for a boatman. The latter was 37 years of age and assisted his father in working two or three boats.

Mr Burton : Is this man really a boatman? Would it stop any boat from travelling if he left to undertake military duties? He may be a handy man to give help in a boat, but the point is, does he manage a boat? - He is a real boatman.

Does he spend most of his time on the boat? - He spends his time on nothing else.

In that case, he is an important man.

Mr Kendall explained that the man and his father were doing the work of six men.

Postponement was granted until December 1st. Mr Kendall said he would try and arrange for this man also to join the Volunteers. He desired to do the best he could for the country during the present crisis.

23 22 September 1916

BOATMAN AND HIS CHILDREN **Isaac Foster**, described as a boatman and residing at Windhill, was summoned at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday for arrears in respect of the maintenance of children in the workhouse at Clayton. The summons was served on the 11th inst.

The summons was taken out by Mr Charles William Clapham of Thackley, on behalf of the North Bierley Guardians, who stated that the application was for arrears in respect to three children in the Workhouse. The defendant was employed by his brother as a boatman, and as no books were kept, it was difficult to estimate the man's wage. It appeared, however, that he averaged 30s a week, the year round. The Guardians were only asking him to pay 7s 6d a week, or 2s 6d each for the three children.

Mr J A Burton (presiding magistrate) : How many children are there altogether?

Mr Clapham : There are four in the Workhouse.

Mr Burton : Has he no wife? - Yes.

Mr Burton : You are asking for maintenance for three children?

Mr Clapham : Yes.

Mr Burton : It would have been better if we had had something more definite with respect to the wages of this man.

Mr Clapham : His brother, who is his employer, told me that he did not keep any books.

Mr Burton : Where does he live? - He lives practically on the boat.

Mr Burton : Has he no domicile at all? - Except at the home of his brother-in-law in Cowling Road.

Mr Burton : He must be made to maintain these children, and the necessary order will be made.

24 29 September 1916

SHIPLEY MILITARY TRIBUNAL

GOOD TIME KEEPER **Mr Robert Foster** applied for exemption for a boat captain named **John Gordon**. The applicant said that the man kept good time, and he had no trouble with him whatever. In addition to the man for whom he was applying, he had a youth in his employ aged 16 years.

Mr Burton : The youth must join up now. He will not have to go away of course, until he is 19. You will have to assure the Tribunal the other man attends regularly to his work and does not get drunk.

Exemption was granted until January 31st.

MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE'S WARNING **Mr John Wade** applied for a boat captain named **J Cowman**. Since making a former application, one of his men had tried to enlist, but had been refused.

Mr Burton : Does this man follow his employment regularly? - He is a boatman, and in that case he is bound to do so.

Mr Burton : Yes, but if these boatmen drink and waste their time, we must have them for soldiers. - If you take these men, you must bring us some more in their places. Of course we are holding this Tribunal over the heads of the men.

Mr Burton : If this man does not keep good time, you must let him know that he will have to be a soldier. - You leave that to me. (Laughter).

Postponement was granted to January 31st.

The applicant : Shall I have to come again. I have already been three or four times.

Mr Burton : When the war is ended you will have done with the tribunals.

25 13 October 1916

A PROMISING YOUTH **Mr John Wade** appealed on behalf of a boatman named **John Dean**.

Mr Burton : Is he captain, mate or skipper? (Laughter).

The applicant : Mate.

He is a promising youth for a mate at the age of 19? - He is. (Laughter).

I think he would be better in His Majesty's Service. - It is for you to say.

Would the boat be wrecked if he were taken out of it? (Laughter). Would it run aground? (Laughter). Would it stick in the canal? (Laughter). - I cannot say that it would.

Will a fortnight do for you to get someone to take the tiller? - We shall have to if you only give us a fortnight. The difficulty is this, that all the old experienced men are captains. There are the older men, who are beyond military age. The younger fellows mostly have gone.

These are not normal times you know, and I have seen women steering. - Yes, but only when they have been brought up to it.

The Chairman said that the appeal would be refused, but arrangements would be made so that the man would not be called up before November 1st.

26 24 November 1916

ACCIDENTAL DEATH Mr E W Norris (Deputy District Coroner) and a jury of which ex PC Shaw was the foreman held two enquiries at the Fire Station on Tuesday afternoon.

The first enquiry was in respect of Alice Ann Perkin (39), whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Shipley on the previous day.

Emma Townsley of 7 Raglan Street, Bradford Arms, Shipley, said that the deceased was her husband's sister, and for some time had lived on a boat with a boatman called **William Stead**. She saw her for the last time alive at the Fox and Hounds Hotel at about 8.30 on Sunday night. She left the hotel at 9 o'clock, and added that the boat was moored at the "cut end". She was the worse for drink, and it was an exceptionally dark night. She did not know on what sort of terms the woman lived with Stead.

William Stead, employed by a Shipley firm on a boat called the *Clara* said he had known the deceased for 10 years. The woman's son aged about 18 was on board the boat. The witness left the woman on the boat at about 6 o'clock on Sunday night, and she was then preparing to go to Shipley. He later saw her outside the Fox and Hounds. She seemed to be intoxicated, and he left her there. She had previously fallen into the canal when drunk. The deceased's son had refused to live with his mother again because of her drinking habits.

Evidence as to the finding of the body was given by William Dawson of 1 Canal Road, Rodley.

PC Proctor of Shipley said he had known the woman for four or five years, and she was addicted to drink.

Evidence was also given by Eliza Ann Walton of 10 Church Street, Windhill.

A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was returned by the jury.

The second enquiry was into the death of a 3 years and 9 months old boy called John Bailey, who died from scalds.

27 15 December 1916

SHIPLEY MILITARY TRIBUNAL

A Kendall and Sons applied for a boatman called **Hugh Kershaw**, and a coal porter named Henry Slingsby. The former was 30 years of age and had charge of a boat, while the latter supervised the coal yard. Postponement was granted in both cases to March 31st.

28 12 January 1917

BANKRUPT BOATMAN At the Bradford Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday, before Mr E Lee, Registrar, **George Henry Hawkesworth**, canal boatman, Shipley, came up for public examination.

In reply to Mr Durrance, the Official Receiver, the debtor said his gross liabilities were £131 15s 1d, liabilities expected to rank for dividend £87 15s 1d, estimated assets £39 4s, deficiency £48 11s 1d. For the past twenty years as master and man, he had been engaged as a canal boatman by the Aire and Calder Navigation Co. His average wages were from 25s to 30s a week. His first boat was the *Monarch*, which was hired at the rate of £10 a quarter. The last instalment was paid in January 1908. Subsequently he had a new boat, the *Gladys*. There was a lieu on the *Monarch*, and being unable to pay he agreed to sell out, having about £50 when he had straightened up. He kept no books or accounts. Before the war, debtor did pretty well, but now at times he was unable to get men to get the cargoes out of the boats. "It's the war that's done me in", said the debtor. In 1913 he was insolvent, and had been insolvent since.

The examination closed.

29 12 January 1917

SAD END OF A LOCAL LADY An enquiry was held at Shipley on Wednesday morning with respect to the death of Martha Bray (55), a widow who had been residing at 46 Kensington Road, Blackpool, and formerly of Shipley, whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Shipley on Monday night. The deceased was the daughter of the late Mr Miles Rhodes of Shipley, and belonged to a family that is highly respected in the district.

Ellen Anderson of 16 Dockfields, Shipley, said that she last saw the deceased about six o'clock on Monday night, when she left the witness's house with the intention of going to the home of her sister, Mrs Tiplady. She was quite cheerful, and was visiting Shipley on a holiday. Her house was quite close to the canal side, and at that point it was very bleak.

Mrs Tiplady of 19 Otley Road, Shipley, sister of Mrs Bray, said she last saw her about half past two on Monday afternoon. She had come to stay in Shipley until the middle of February. Witness waited up for her until two in the morning.

Edward Ashcroft, a boatman, said he found the body in the canal near Ramsay's dock yard, Shipley, at about 10.30 on Monday night. On seeing the body, the witness remarked to a companion, "There's something here worth picking up".

PC Brown of Shipley said deceased was fully dressed and still wore her hat and gloves. There were no marks on the body. There were two rings on her fingers, and she wore a gold wristlet watch. The latter had stopped at 6.30. She also wore earrings. An American cloth handbag and an umbrella she usually carried were missing.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned.

The foreman of the jury (Mr I Ross) expressed the sympathy of the court with Mr Frank Rhodes and the relatives of the deceased.

30 23 March 1917

THACKLEY GENTLEMAN'S DEATH

MR THOMAS KENDALL The death took place on Thursday last of Mr **Thomas Kendall** of Thackley. The deceased gentleman, who was 75 years of age, had been in failing health for some time. A native of Brackendale, he spent his early life as a boatman, and afterwards went into business as a grocer. Both his father and grandfather were boat owners, and at the age of fourteen he became a full mate. Whilst in business at Thackley, he attended Otley market without missing once for forty years. He was a Wesleyan Methodist but had a leaning towards the Church of England, probably because his wife was for many years a member of the Idle church choir, and an excellent worker for the Sunday School. His wife passed away in 1902. He leaves one son and three daughters, The funeral took place on Monday at the Idle Parish Church burial ground.

31 30 March 1917

SHIPLEY MILITARY TRIBUNAL **Bruce Craven**, boatman, **J T Holmes**, appeal out of order ; **Harry Sawley**, boat lad, J T Holmes, adjourned, April 30th.

32 12 October 1917

SHIPLEY MILITARY TRIBUNAL

The following were granted exemption until January 31st, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee :-

H Kershaw, 39, boatman, **A Kendall** and Sons.

33 19 October 1917

A PATRIOTIC FAMILY

PTE W H PATCHETT MISSING

FATHER, SONS AND WIFE'S RELATIVES' LOYALTY Patriotism has been proved to be a predominant characteristic of a Shipley family named Patchett, many members of the family and also their best friends, being in the service of the country. Unfortunately, the satisfaction of patriotic service which comes to the relatives has this week been dimmed by the news that one of the number, Private **William Henry Patchett** of 8 Smith Street, Shipley, has been reported wounded and missing. The official news was received on Sunday morning, and read :-

I am directed to inform you that enquiries have been made, and it is now reported from the base that Private W H Patchett was wounded and has been missing since August 16th. It is regretted that

the fact that he was missing was not reported earlier, but in the circumstances of fighting in the field, it is not possible for the commanding officers always to know whether a man known to be wounded has been picked up by his own stretcher bearers. I am to express the sympathy of the Army Council with you in your anxiety, and to enclose for your information a leaflet showing the steps taken by the base hospital with a view to obtaining reliable information regarding missing soldiers. Any further information that may be received will be communicated to the next of kin by the officer in charge, No 1 Infantry Record Office, Lichfield.

The official notification states that "Patchett has been reported wounded and missing since August 16th 1917".

MEN WHO HAVE ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL.



1, Pte. Wm. Henry Patchett, 8, Smith St., Shipley (wounded and missing); 2, Pte. Willie Gibson, Albion St., Shipley; 3, Pte. Frank Foster, Valley Rd., Shipley; 4, Pte. Isaac Patchett, 8, Smith St., Shipley; 5, Pte. Arthur Wright, 17, Raglan St., Shipley; 6, Pte. Alfred Wright, Mountain St., Windhill; 7, Gunner John Wm. Wright, Piccadilly, Shipley; 8, Pte. Thos. Hy. Wright, 19, Piccadilly, Shipley; 9, Pte. Albert Goldsborough.

Patchett was 19 years old, and before the war worked for **Mr Robert Foster**, boat owner, Valley Road, Shipley. Mr Foster has lost his own son in the war.

Patchett was called up last January. He was married last Christmas, and went to France in May. As a boy, he attended the Young Men's Institute, Windhill. He was a finely built young man, and was held in high respect.

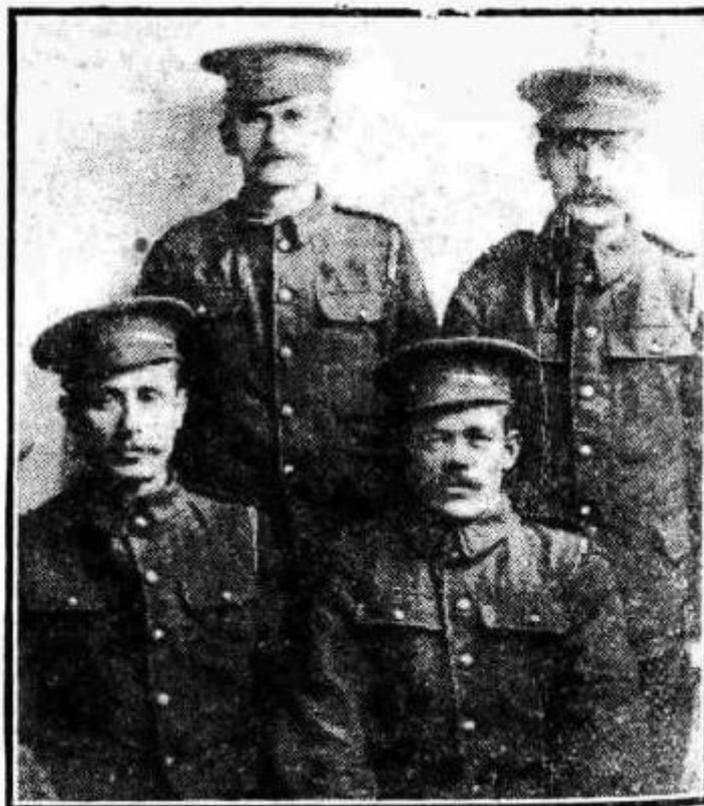
An eloquent letter of sympathy has been received from Staff Captain Mary Booth of the Salvation Army, who wrote :-

Dear Mrs Patchett – We have been making enquiries about Private Patchett, and very much regret to say that he has been reported wounded and missing since August 16th. Enquiries shall be instituted, but seeing these may take some time to conclude, I am writing to assure you that your case is receiving attention. May I say how deeply we sympathise with you in the weary suspense of waiting for news. We do not want to raise your hopes too high, for out of the numbers who are missing, alas, so many are never traced. Should this be your case, we do pray that you may be amongst the number who sorrow not without hope, but who have the assurance that there is coming a great day of reunion, when you will meet your loved one again.

We shall be pleased if any of our correspondents at the Front can assist in relieving the anxiety from which the family are suffering, and we will gladly forward any communications to Mrs Patchett.

Pioneer **Edward Patchett** is the father of Private W H Patchett, and a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. He went out to France two years ago from September last, and was invalided home in March last, suffering from rheumatic fever, and has been discharged on pension. He is 45 years of age, and is back again at work. His home is at Smith Street, Shipley.

SHIPLEY CHUMS IN KHAKI.



Back row: Pte. Richard Cowman, 29, Piccadilly, Shipley; Ex-Pioneer Edward Patchett, 8, Smith St., Shipley.

Front row: Pte. Alfred Cockshott, Leeds Rd., Windhill (killed); Pte. Geo. Cowman, 9, Piccadilly, Shipley.

Mrs Patchett, the mother of Private W H Patchett, has four brothers, all of whom are serving with the colours.

Private Alfred Wright (39), married, lives at Mountain Street, Windhill. He is a plasterer, and before the war was employed by Mr W Green. He enlisted twelve months ago last Christmas, and is now in Egypt.

Gunner **John William Wright** (36), whose home is in Piccadilly, Shipley, is Mrs Patchett's brother. He enlisted three years ago, and before the war was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. He is now in France. A married man, he has a family of two children.

Private Arthur Wright (29) of 17 Raglan Street, Shipley, is another of Mrs Patchett's brothers who is serving. Before the war, he was employed by Mr Tom Hodgson, metal broker, Shipley. He enlisted twelve months ago last Christmas, and is one of the soldiers who have been loaned by the Government to the farmers in Norfolk.

Private Thomas Henry Wright (33), another of the Wright brothers, is a shoeing smith in the army, and is stationed at Grantham. He is married with four children, and resides at 19 Piccadilly, Shipley. Since he enlisted 18 months ago, his home has been shadowed by bereavement, two of his children being buried within five weeks.

Mr Patchett's brother, Private **Isaac Patchett**, whose home is at 6 Smith Street, is also serving in France. He too was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and enlisted nearly three years ago. He is married with three young children. Death has also struck his family severely, for since he joined the colours three of his children (two two year old twins and another child four years old) died within four months of each other.

In addition to members of the family, their best friends are also with the colours. Private Richard Cowman, 27 Piccadilly, Shipley, has been invalided home from service in France suffering with rheumatism.

Private Alfred Cockshott, Leeds Road, Windhill, joined the army at the same time as Mr Patchett's son, and was killed in December last. He was a widower, and left four sons, two of whom are

serving in France, the other two being under military age.

Private George Cowman, 9 Piccadilly, is a married man with one child, and enlisted at the same time as Mr Patchett. He is the fourth of the quartet of chums.

Private Frank Foster (21), son of Mr Robert Foster, lives in Valley Road, Shipley, and before the war was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. He and Private W H Patchett worked together on the same boat.

Private **Willie Gibson**, whose home is at 5 Albion Street, Shipley, was a chum of Private W H Patchett. He is 21 years of age, and enlisted early in the war. He is now serving in France. He also was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and is married.

Albert Goldsborough (40), single, is a cousin of the Wrights, and has been in the army nearly 21 years. He was gymnastic trainer to the Devons in India. He is a Shipley man, is now with the Green Howards in India, and is well known in Shipley.

34 8 March 1918

THREW FLOUR AT HIS WIFE **Edward Patchett** of 8 Smith Street, Shipley, a boatman, who was yesterday (Thursday) fined 10s at the Bradford West Riding Police Court for having wilfully wasted 14 lbs of flour, gave as an excuse that he threw the week's flour over his wife because she was drunk. PC Ellis gave evidence.

35 31 May 1918

THREE MONTHS IN THE WATER The body was recovered on Saturday from the water at Barlby, near Selby, of **Joseph Mann**, aged 61, a canal boatman of Shipley, who, in the evening of February 15th fell overboard near the railway bridge at Barlby and was drowned. At the inquest on Monday, the evidence showed that the deceased appeared to have been struck by the tiller, and his employer, **John Thomas Holmes**, boat owner and general carrier of Wharfe Street, Shipley, stated in reply to questions that the deceased was quite sober at the time, that there was no carelessness, and that the affair was a pure accident. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned". The remains of the deceased were brought to his sister's (Mrs Kennedy's) house at Brunswick Place, Greengates, on Monday, and the funeral took place on Tuesday.

36 9 August 1918

INQUEST An inquest was held last Friday before Mr E W Norris (district coroner) at the Shipley Fire Station, concerning the drowning of Lydia Dewhirst, aged 33, a shop assistant of Bradford, whose body had been taken out of the Bradford Canal at Windhill on August 1st. Her sister, Amy Brown, also a shop assistant, said the deceased resided with them at Barkerend Road, Bradford, owing to being separated from her husband, whom they had not heard of for nearly six years. She had suffered from a nervous breakdown, and had been attended by Dr Aitken of Otley Road, Bradford, up to about a month ago, when she appeared to be getting much better. Shortly after 2 pm on July 20th, she left the house with a parcel for an office in Bradford, and she said she would afterwards go to the park for a walk. As she did not return home by six in the evening, the matter was reported to the City Police. **John Barber** of 53 Earl Street, Shipley, a boatman, said he saw the body, which was afterwards identified as that of the deceased, floating in the canal at 7.40 pm on August 1st. The jury returned a verdict of "Drowned herself when suffering from a nervous breakdown".

37 28 November 1919

GUARDSMAN'S GALLANTRY

WINDHILL RESCUE RECOGNISED Mr **Tom Frank Foster**, son of Mr **Robert Foster**, boat owner of Valley Road, Shipley, has been awarded the certificate of the Royal Humane Society for his gallantry in rescuing a little boy from the canal at Windhill on September 10th.

That morning Mr Foster, who is a boatman, learnt that a boy had fallen into the water. Some men attempted to rescue the child with a boat hook, but failed, and Mr Foster then plunged in and swam with the boy to the canal bank.



Mr Foster, who is 22 years of age, served in the Coldstream Guards for two years during the war, and for over twelve months was in France. He was demobilised last February.

38 **2 January 1920**

BOATMAN IN CUSTODY

SERIOUS CHARGE IN SHOCKING SHIPLEY CASE

WIFE IN HOSPITAL A sensation has been caused by the police court proceedings in connection with a serious charge against a Shipley boatman, **Tom Stead** (33) of 14 Lupton Street, who is in custody accused of having caused grievous bodily harm to his wife on December 20th.

The case was opened at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday, when Superintendent Oliver said that the prisoner and his wife went out in the evening, but separated after a time. Prisoner went home first, and on the arrival of his wife later, he set upon her in a most brutal manner, kicked her and otherwise abused her, with the result that one lung was penetrated. The woman was in Saltaire Hospital and unable to attend court, though he was glad to say she was progressing favourably.

A remand was granted for a week, the prisoner to remain in custody, and arrangements were made for his four children being cared for.

39 **9 January 1920**

BAIL REJECTED

SHIPLEY BOATMAN PREFERS TO REMAIN IN CUSTODY At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday, **Tom Stead** (33), a boatman of 14 Lupton Street, Shipley, was charged on remand with having inflicted grievous bodily harm upon his wife on December 20th.

Superintendent Oliver said that the accused's wife was unfortunately not yet well enough to appear at court, but he understood that she would be able to do so in about a week. Therefore, he asked for the further remand of the accused until next Monday. He had no objection to the accused being released on bail, but accused did not wish to avail himself of the offer.

It is alleged by the police that the accused and his wife went out in the evening, but separated after a time. He went home first, and on arrival of his wife later, he kicked and otherwise abused her, with the result that one lung was penetrated and she had had to be treated in hospital. They have four children who, it is understood, are being cared for during the present proceedings.

40 16 January 1920

WIFE'S ROUGH QUARTER OF AN HOUR

SIX MONTHS FOR A SHIPLEY BOATMAN

MAGISTRATES ISSUE A SEPARATION At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday, Mr J G Mowatt in the chair, **Thomas Stead**, a boatman of 14 Lupton Street, Shipley, was brought up on remand charged with assaulting his wife on Saturday December 20th. He pleaded guilty. He had been before the magistrates on two previous occasions, but owing to the condition of his wife, who was then in hospital, he was remanded each time. The wife now appeared in court.

The Clerk said that the prisoner was first charged with maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm upon his wife, but this charge had been reduced to one of assault.

Alice Stead, wife of the prisoner, said that on Saturday December 20th, he left home and said he was going to a barber's shop. She later went to the shop, but it was shut. She then went to the Airedale Inn. He was there, and asked her to have a small bottle of stout. She said she would not have one then, but later went back and had a drink with him. She left the inn before him, and told him she was going home for the purpose of getting supper ready. On the way home she called at a neighbour's, and when she subsequently got home her husband was in the house. He was seated in the armchair and never said a word to her. When she entered the room, he went over to the door and locked it. She went over to the sofa, and he knocked her down and jumped on her for a quarter of an hour; he had his clogs on. A neighbour came, and he let her in. A policeman came soon after, and Dr Eames was also called. The following day, witness was taken to Saltaire Hospital, where she remained a fortnight.

Eliza Bennett, the neighbour who came to the assistance of the last witness, was called, but did not answer.

Dr C W Eames said that on the night in question he was called to Mrs Stead. He found her suffering from shock and bruises on the head, chest, arms and legs. She was further suffering from a fractured rib. He saw her the following morning and found that the rib had penetrated the lungs. He had her removed to the hospital. At times her condition was critical.

PC Kenney said that on December 20th he was called to prisoner's house and saw Mrs Stead there. He took the prisoner to the Police Station, but in consequence of what the doctor said he was allowed to go. On the 27th, he charged the prisoner with inflicting grievous bodily harm upon his wife. He made no reply.

The Chairman said it was cowardly and mean to strike a woman at any time, but for the prisoner to strike at his wife in the way he had done was simply unspeakable. He must go to prison for six months.

He then asked Stead if he had anything to say as to why his wife should not be granted a separation order.

Prisoner said he did not understand.

The wife said she had four children. Her husband was a canal boatman, and had allowed her £3 and sometimes £4 a week.

Stead informed the Bench that he earned between £3 and £4 a week.

A separation order with maintenance of £2 a week was granted to Mrs Stead, and she was given the custody of the children.

41 20 February 1920

BRADFORD WEST RIDING POLICE COURT

FEMALE WRANGLES AT WINDHILL **George Harry Jackson**, boatman of Briggate, Windhill, was summoned by Susan Hird, married woman of Briggate, Windhill, for assault on the 16th

February ; and **Alice Jackson**, his wife, was summoned by Susan Hird for using abusive language to her on the same date. The male defendant pleaded guilty, and the female defendant not guilty. The plaintiff said that she was outside her house about 8 o'clock in the morning when Alice Jackson, who lived near, came out of her house and used abusive language, and George Henry Jackson kicked witness on the leg.

Mrs P Ogden, a neighbour, swore that she heard Alice Jackson use abusive language to Susan Hird. Alice Jackson denied using abusive language to the plaintiff.

Each defendant was fined 10s.

42 23 April 1920

EX SERVICEMAN "HARD UP"

ECCLESHILL YOUTH BOUND OVER FOR THEFT At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday, Arthur C Leeming (20), a demobilised soldier of 9 Stone Hall Place, Eccleshill, Bradford, was brought up in custody charged with stealing from a canal boat at Shipley on Saturday April 10th, a suit of clothes, one pair of boots, a metal watch and a blanket, the property of **Edward Foster** of 41 Bradford Road, Shipley, and valued at £9 15s.

Superintendent Oliver, outlining the case, stated that Foster, a boatman, temporarily left his boat on Saturday April 10th, and on returning found these articles missing. He informed the police, and a police officer questioned Leeming, of whom he was suspicious, but Leeming denied any knowledge of the affair. The officer, however, noticed that Leeming was wearing a pair of boots answering to the description of those stolen, and he apprehended the accused, who then confessed that he had stolen the articles.

The prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge.

Edward Foster, boatman of 41 Bradford Road, Shipley, stated that on April 10th his boat was moored on the Bradford Canal at Shipley. He temporarily left the boat, and upon his return found the articles mentioned in the charge were missing from the cabin. He had seen the prisoner, whom he knew, wandering about near the boat during the day.

Police-constable Townrow said that on Saturday April 17th, he saw the prisoner and questioned him regarding the theft, all knowledge of which Leeming denied, and stated that if anybody had got the stuff it was another man whom he (Leeming) had seen on the canal bank. Witness noticed that the prisoner was wearing a pair of boots similar to those stolen. He apprehended Leeming on suspicion. Accused then admitted the theft. Witness later recovered the watch and the suit from a pawnbroker in Shipley.

Ernest Costigan, pawnbroker's assistant in the employ of E Fawcett and Co, pawnbrokers of Bradford, stated that the prisoner came to the shop where he worked and pawned a watch and a suit of clothes, on which witness advanced 10s.

The defendant, who stated that he joined the RASC in 1918, also said that he had been on service in both France and Germany. He was sorry that he had stolen the goods, and did so because he was "hard up".

The Chairman of the Bench (Mr J A Burton) said they had decided to take a lenient view of the case. Leeming would be bound over for twelve months and put under the charge of a Probation Officer.

43 23 April 1920

BOATMAN DROWNED An inquest was held at Leeds on Monday concerning the death of **James Hudson** (25) of 2 Taylor Street, Shipley, who was drowned in the River Aire near Knostrop Locks, Thwaite Gates, Hunslet, on Friday last. It was stated that Hudson was employed by Mr **John Wade**, boat-owner, Shipley, and that about five o'clock on Friday last he was steering the boat *Leek* along the River Aire in the direction of the city. Knostrop Locks were safely negotiated, and afterwards the boat collided with an island owing to the wind. The rebound caused Hudson to lose his balance, and he was thrown overboard. Several boatmen made strenuous efforts to save Hudson, but they were not successful. Dragging operations were commenced, and eventually the

body was recovered, but life was extinct. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

44 28 May 1920

A DISORDERLY BOATMAN At the Bradford West Riding Police Court yesterday, before Mr J A Burton in the chair, **John Parker**, boatman, Shipley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Shipley on Whit Monday, and also with doing wilful damage to a cell at the Police Station. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he had made up his mind that if the Bench gave him a chance he would never touch drink again. When a lad between 15 and 16 years of age, he saved the lives of two boys. He never got anything for that, but they were always ready to put a black mark upon a working man's name. The Chairman asked to whom he was referring, to which prisoner replied that he referred to the police. The Chairman remarked that the police had to protect the public, and that prisoner could not have these breaks with impunity. Superintendent Oliver said the damage to the cell amounted to £1 8s 6d. In addition, the doctor had to be sent for to give prisoner an injection of morphia to keep him quiet. He asked that prisoner be asked to pay the cost of that also. Prisoner was fined 18s on the first charge, and with regard to the second was ordered to pay the cost of damage to the cell and also of the doctor's services.

45 17 September 1920

BOATMAN'S NIGHT OUT **James Hudson**, boatman, Shipley, was summoned at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday for being drunk and disorderly at Shipley at 10.5 pm on August 27th. PC Woodhall proved the offence, and stated that defendant, who was accompanied by his wife, was making use of obscene language at the time.

46 9 December 1921

SHIPLEY BOATMAN DROWNED **Horace Varley** (22) of 7 Atkinson Street, Shipley, lost his life by drowning in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Leeds on Monday morning.

The deceased was a boatman employed by Mr **Harry Sawley**, and was carrying out his duties on a boat near to the premises of a Leeds firm. Mr Sawley, who was on the boat, heard a shout, but on looking around could see nothing of Varley, whose body was later recovered from the canal.

Exactly how the accident happened is not known, but it is possible that the unfortunate man slipped off the boat, the surface of which would be in a slippery condition, or he may have slipped into the water while assisting to push the boat from the edge of the bank.

A brother of the deceased was drowned in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Shipley about five years ago.

At the inquest in Leeds on Tuesday, it was stated by the owner and captain of the barge that neither he nor Varley could swim.

The Coroner, returning a verdict of "Accidental death", remarked how extraordinarily foolish it seemed that the two boatmen should never have been taught to swim.

47 21 April 1922

SUNDAY FOOTBALL

SHIPLEY YOUTHS FINED AT OTLEY Nine youths, five from Shipley and four from Saltaire, were summoned at Otley Police Court last Thursday for playing football in Green Lane, Baildon, on Sunday April 2. The Shipley defendants were **Albert Sawley**, boatman ; Fred Foster, labourer ; Norman Brotherton, driller ; Jack Edmonson, belt maker and Herbert Shackleton, woolcomber. Those from Saltaire were Lawrence Gott, woolcomber ; **Fred Murgatroyd**, boatman ; Arthur Jackson, finisher and John Bell, finisher. All the defendants appeared except Brotherton and Edmonson. A letter was received from the latter.

Superintendent Oldroyd pointed out that the defendants were by no means children. A good deal of annoyance, he said, had been caused, owing to football being played on the highway in Shipley and district on Sundays. Warnings had been given.

A police-constable stated that he watched defendants kicking a rubber ball about in Green Lane for

about 300 yards. People had to leave the footpath to avoid being kicked and hit. One of the defendants said, "He can't do anything. He has not cautioned us".

The defendants who appeared were each fined 5s ; Brotherton and Edmonson were each fined 10s. The Chairman (Mr T A Duncan) hoped it would be a warning to them.

48 19 May 1922

A SHIPLEY FATALITY

MAN FOUND DROWNED IN CANAL An inquest was held by the District Coroner (Mr E W Norris) at the Shipley Fire Station on Wednesday morning, concerning the death of John Robinson aged 53, a commercial traveller, whose body had been found in Hirst Lock at Shipley early on Monday morning.

Alice Everett Robinson of 18 Miles Road, Epsom, Surrey, said she was the wife of the deceased. Her husband was a commercial traveller in blouses, underclothing, etc. She last saw him on the previous Monday, May 8th, when he left home. He was going on to Leamington, and going round the Midland towns from there. She last heard from him at Nottingham. He generally wrote to her about once a week. She did not always know exactly where he was going. He went all over the country, and had been in Bradford several times. She expected him back by Whitsuntide. She did not know of any trouble or worry he had, and they were not in any financial trouble whatever. Deceased was perfectly normal as a rule, and she had never heard of anything abnormal in any of his family. He was a jolly, happy go lucky man. He was in the habit of sending her money every week. It was wired to her when he was away.

Fred De Rome of 42 Grenfell Terrace, Bradford Moor, said he was a hall porter at the Talbot Hotel, Bradford. He had known deceased for the last five years. Deceased was accustomed to stay at the Talbot when in Bradford. He went there on Wednesday May 10th at about 6 o'clock in the evening. He seemed as usual, but complained of being rather tired as a result of travelling. Witness did not know where he had come from that day. Witness last saw deceased about 1.45 pm last Sunday. Deceased did not go out till nearly half past eight that night, but had said he was going for a bit of a walk. He seemed very jovial, as usual, and appeared quite himself. He mentioned (in his chats to witness) that he was very happy in his domestic life. He expected having to go on to Newcastle on Saturday morning, and was waiting for a remittance from his firm. Witness knew he was a bit short of money, for he had had to pay one or two things off for him. The letter did not come, so deceased sent a wire to the firm on the Friday. There was no reply until 11.20 am on the Saturday, when a telegram arrived which read "Remitting money by post". Deceased therefore had to stay until Monday, and witness offered his help in monetary matters. At 9 o'clock on Monday morning, he (witness) was told that No 23 (deceased) had not been in all night. Everyone in the hotel commented on the strangeness of his absence. About 4.30, he (witness) heard from the Shipley police. Witness could not think for a moment that deceased had committed suicide, for he was very normal in everything he did. The letter from the firm had not come yet. Witness had lent deceased a few shillings. It was a matter of £2 4s 10d altogether. It was customary for him to pay little debts for the travellers like that, and they afterwards paid him back.

Mrs Robinson said she did not know any reason why the money had not been received by her husband from the firm.

The Coroner remarked that the point that struck him as peculiar was that the firm had not remitted the deceased the money he required as soon as possible.

Mrs Robinson said deceased had only been with his last firm for a fortnight. He had previously been with another firm for some time.

Stephen Webb of 11 Bridge Street, Shipley, a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, said that on Monday at about 6 o'clock in the morning, he was passing his boat through Hirst Lock. The horse seemed frightened, and the lock gate would not open, and he, expecting that it would be jammed by some wood, looked down behind the gate and saw the body in the water. The man had no hat on, and they pulled him to the boat head. Witness did not think he was quite dead, as his eyes were open, but on finding that he was quite dead, they sent for the police. Deceased was fully

dressed except for his hat, and the body was in a standing position in the water. Witness afterwards found deceased's soft felt hat on the other side of the lock. It was in the water. No one could get out of that lock once they got in, unless the low gates were open. A good swimmer could not get out. There was twenty feet to fall when the lock was level. There was a footpath over the lock. If the horse had not shown alarm, they would never have known there was a man behind the gate, and the body would have been crushed. The deceased's head was showing out of the water, which was only about five feet deep.

The deceased was a man of about 5 ft 7 in in height.

PC Dickinson said he recovered the body at about 6.30 am on Monday. It was fully dressed but was without hat. The body was conveyed to the mortuary. There was 6d in cash in the pockets, a metal watch, leather guard, knife, pipe lighter, tiepin, nail file, pipe, cigarette holder, pair of spectacles, key, a pocket wallet containing a number of letters, and one gold cuff link in his sleeve. There was a slight abrasion on the right side of the head, probably caused by the lock gate. There were no signs of a struggle.

Inspector Foulkes said it was a fairly popular walk, many people going that way into the woods. Continuing, the Inspector stated that the deceased's firm had been communicated with, and the contents of his bags had been checked and found correct.

The Coroner thought the whole of the case pointed to his having been accidentally drowned, the way the body had been found, etc, being all in favour of that theory. It was probable that deceased had been taking a walk and had fallen into the lock. The verdict was, "He was drowned having accidentally fallen into the water".

49 16 June 1922

SHIPLEY ASSAULT CASE

DARING ATTACK ON YOUNG WOMAN At the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday morning of last week, **Sydney Ackroyd**, boatman of Colne, was charged with committing an indecent assault on a single woman named Florence Irene Wigglesworth, aged 18, of 5 May Park Terrace, Shipley.

Superintendent Oliver stated that after going through the evidence of the case, it was questionable whether the facts were strong enough to convict the accused on a charge of indecent assault, and he therefore suggested that, if the Bench thought fit, the charge could be amended to one of common assault. Continuing, the superintendent said that the facts of the case were that about 10.20 pm on May 31, Miss Wigglesworth was proceeding along Victoria Street in the direction of her home. A man, whom she afterwards identified as the prisoner, came up to her and attempted to assault her. Complainant screamed, and the accused ran away, but was chased and caught by a witness. When charged with the offence, prisoner had denied being in Victoria Street.

Miss Wigglesworth gave evidence of the assault, and said that the prisoner ran away when he heard someone approaching.

Accused : Who was with you at the time? - I was by myself.

Stanley Smith aged 17, an apprentice moulder of Victoria Street, said that on the date and time in question he was going home. When he turned a corner of the road, he saw Miss Wigglesworth and a man struggling. The man made off at his approach.

Florence Carrington aged 19, of 27 Piccadilly, Shipley, said she was in Wharfe Street at that time, when she heard a scream from the direction of Victoria Street, and soon afterwards a man raced past her.

Commissioner Herbert Greaves of 9 May Park Terrace, Shipley, stated that after receiving a complaint from Miss Wigglesworth, he chased the prisoner, caught him up and held him until the police arrived.

The prisoner denied having been in Victoria Street at the time mentioned.

Superintendent Oliver stated that there were two previous convictions against Ackroyd, including one for larceny.

In sending Ackroyd to prison for two calendar months, the Bench commended Commissioner

Greaves for his smart action.

50 16 June 1922

CHILD DROWNED An inquest was held at Bingley on Friday concerning the death of Arras Varley, the 3 year old son of John Varley, of 3 Eldon (...), who fell into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Dubb Bridge, Bingley on Thursday night, and was drowned. The boy's mother said that her son had been playing on some old carriage wheels about 5.45 pm, and at ten minutes past six a boy told her the lad had fallen into the water and had not come up again. Evidence was also given by **Fred Patchett**, boatman, who recovered the body with a boat hook from underneath the bridge near the side of the canal. In returning a verdict of "Accidental death", the Coroner said there had been several cases in Bingley of children going (...) unattended and playing near the water and falling in. This boy had been from home for 25 minutes, and his parents had not bothered about him until they were told he was in the water. He had thought that playing on the streets with carriage wheels was practically as dangerous as playing near the water.

51 11 August 1922

ALLEGED ASSAULT AT SHIPLEY

CHARGES AGAINST TWO BOATMEN DISMISSED A case in which two Shipley boatmen were alleged to have brutally assaulted another man was dealt with at the Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday morning of last week. The two defendants were **John William Wright** and **George Cowman**, and in addition to the assault, they were summoned for doing wilful damage. Both men pleaded not guilty to both summonses.

The complainant, Stephen Noble, stated that at three o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday July 23, the two defendants came to his house in Bridge Street, Shipley, and threatened to "Finian" him, as was being done in Ireland. They got him down and kicked him all over the body. Both defendants were wearing clogs. In the struggle, the sofa in the house was badly damaged, and damage was also done to various articles of clothing and ornaments, the total damage being estimated at about 50s.

Bridget Noble, complainant's wife, said that between eight and nine o'clock on the Sunday morning, Wright came to her door and asked to see her husband, saying that he was going to put his clogs into him when he did see him. Wright eventually went away, but came back with Cowman about three o'clock in the afternoon. They broke in, though she tried to stop them, and they told her not to scream. They got her husband down on the floor and kicked him "something cruel" with their clogs, and said they were "going to do the "Finian" on him". A lot of things were upset, and then Cowman took hold of her (witness) and put her out of her own house.

Lillian Noble, the 12 year old daughter of the complainant, said the two defendants got her father on the floor and started kicking him, while they threatened to do the same with her mother if she screamed.

A police-constable stated that he was called to Noble's house, and he saw Noble on the floor. He picked him up and put him into a chair. A sofa was damaged, and several things were lying on the floor.

The Chairman (Mr J A Burton) : Did Noble appear to be hurt very much? - I did not inspect him.

Wright stated that Noble had been knocking his (Wright's) old father about, and so on the Sunday morning he went down to see Noble, but he was out. He (Wright) went back with Cowman in the afternoon, and they had hardly got to the door before Noble rushed out with a poker and struck Cowman on the head. Then there was a struggle, for they had to stop Noble, or he would have killed one of them.

Cowman stated that he and Wright went to see Noble on the Sunday afternoon, to ask him what he had been doing with Wright's father. Noble came to the door with a poker, and they had to defend themselves. The damage was cause in the struggle to take the poker from Noble.

Edward Padgett, a boatman of the Bradford Arms, Shipley, said he saw Wright and Cowman go up to the door of Noble's house. Cowman knocked at the door and asked Noble what he had been doing to Wright's father. Noble got hold of a poker and struck at Cowman with it, and they got hold

of him and tried to prevent him using the weapon.

Similar evidence was given by Wright's sister, a married woman who lives in Bridge Street.

The case was dismissed.

52 31 August 1923

SHIPLEY DROWNING TRAGEDY The body of Richard Todd (49) of 32 Church Street, Windhill, Shipley, was seen floating face downwards in the Canal at Shipley on Wednesday afternoon by a Saltaire boatman named **Bracewell Crewen**.

The body was taken out of the canal and information given to the police when, under the superintendence of PS Turner and PC Handley, the deceased was taken to the mortuary at Shipley Fire Station.

It appears that Todd had been missing since last Saturday night, but his sister, with whom he had lived, thought he had gone to stay with relatives.

53 13 June 1924

STOLE TO PAY BACK Robert Hall, boatman of Shipley, was charged at Bradford West Riding Police Court on Thursday of last week with stealing two sacks containing horse corn, the property of the Canal Carrier Co.

Jonathan Rennard, secretary of the company, stated that on Monday June 3 he saw some sacks of horse corn at a certain place, two of which he identified as belonging to the company. Prisoner was employed as a horse driver by the company, but had no right to be in possession of the sacks in question.

Prisoner, who pleaded guilty, said when on a long journey boatmen often ran short of corn and borrowed some from friends. He had taken this corn to pay back for what he had borrowed.

Superintendent Oliver said prisoner had quite a good character and was a good workman, although of late he had not appeared to be doing fair to his horse.

Recalled, Rennard stated that the prisoner was 20 years of age and had been with the company about two years. He had been a satisfactory workman, and they were willing to take him back.

Work was slack just at present, however, and prisoner would have to take the last chance.

Prisoner was bound over in the sum of £10 to be of good behaviour.

54 17 July 1925

GAMING WITH CARDS For some time past, residents in Baildon and Esholt have been complaining of young men forming gambling schools on Sunday afternoons. As a result of two raids by the police, 13 men and youths appeared to answer charges of gaming with cards in public places.

Four of the defendants were from Esholt. They were : John Bousfield, driller ; William Tracher, William Athaway and Frederick Whittam, labourers. They were caught playing "nap" in the Esholt Recreation Ground on Sunday afternoon, June 28.

Police-constable Dykes said that at about 3.30, in company with other officers, he watched the defendants playing cards. The officers then closed in on the youths, and took possession of 7s 2 1/2d in money and a pack of cards.

The other 11 defendants were from Shipley. They were ; **John Burgess**, boatman ; John Pearson, woolcomber ; Joseph Nolan, labourer ; William Hollis, millhand ; and Kershaw Bates, Walter Townsley, Alfred Thomas, John Townsley and John Thomas, all labourers.

They were caught playing "banker" on the riverside at Baildon on Sunday afternoon, June 21. They all made off when Police-constable Fearnside made his appearance. The officer gave chase and caught some of them. The others were known.

Each of the defendants was fined 5s, and they were told that future offenders would be dealt with more severely.

55 6 August 1926

BOY DROWNED AT PLAY The story of how Gordon Booth of 12 Bridge Street, Shipley, the five year old son of Alice Booth, was drowned in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Shipley Gas Works on Monday evening, while playing with a new toy bucket which his mother had bought him in the afternoon, was told at an inquest held at Shipley Fire Station by the District Coroner (Mr E W Norris) on Wednesday.

The mother stated that her boy had gone to play in a field where there was some sand, and she was later told by his playmate, Herbert Gowers, that Gordon was in the water.

Herbert Gowers said that while Gordon was trying to fill his bucket with water, the bucket fell into the water and Gordon fell in afterwards.

David Wright, boatman of 6 Viewcroft Road, Shipley, gave evidence that he recovered the body with a boat hook, and tried artificial respiration both on the canal side and, along with several others, at the boy's house.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of "Accidentally drowned while at play", and complimented Wright on his conduct.

56 10 September 1926

MINOR MOTOR CASES For driving a motorcycle with an inefficient silencer at Baildon on Sunday August 15, **Kershaw Bates**, boatman, Shipley, was fined 10s.

57 29 October 1926

BARGE CAPTAIN'S THEFT

COAL THAT WAS TO BE GIVEN AWAY

STORY OF SHIPLEY POLICEMAN'S ALL NIGHT VIGIL A Shipley barge captain's alleged theft of coal from the barge of which he was in charge was the subject of police proceedings at Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday.

There were three prisoners jointly charged with stealing the coal – **George Robert Cowman**, captain of the barge *Emma* ; **John Walmsley**, boatman of Shipley ; and Albert Lee, a Shipley carrier and old metal dealer. They were charged with stealing 28 cwt of coal, valued at £4 10s, the property of John Dewhirst and Sons, Skipton. Walmsley was an unemployed boatman, and it was stated that he lodged with the prisoner Cowman.

Superintendent Woodcock said that the barge was owned by a Mr Thornton of Shipley, and was taking a load of about 48 tons of coal from Aston colliery to Messrs Dewhirst's, Skipton. The barge was being towed by a tug. Cowman lived at Shipley, near the canal side, and when he reached that place he moored the barge near his house.

Inspector Blacket, with a sergeant and constable, were on duty on the canal bank on Monday October 18, and about 11.20 pm, they saw Cowman and Walmsley filling sacks from the *Emma*, and placing the full sacks by the side of Cowman's house. Twenty bags were dealt with in this manner, and then they were all covered over with a tarpaulin. The police kept a watch all night, and on the following morning about 6.15, they saw Lee come along with a horse and cart, which he loaded with ten of the bags, Walmsley assisting him. The cart was driven into Ashley Lane and there stopped by the police.

"I AM CAUGHT" Asked what he was doing, Lee said, "I am caught. John Walmsley came to my house last night and said, "George Cowman wants to see you. We have some coal for you down at our house". I got some sacks and went down to his house. I had arranged to fetch 20 bags of coal early this morning. I paid him 34s on account, and still owe him 6s".

When arrested, Lee said, "I have told you the truth ; I can tell you no more". Walmsley said, "I only went for the sacks last night, and helped with the coal this morning". Cowman replied to the charge with, "Make it as light as you can".

Inspector Blacker said he interviewed Mr Thornton, the owner of the boat, in the presence of the defendants. Thornton said, "I am a coal merchant and can sell coal to whom I like. I gave Cowman authority to sell a ton of coal to a man named Richard Longbottom".

Mr Newbould, who appeared for the prisoners, said that Thornton had given Cowman permission to put off a ton of coal at Shipley for Longbottom, who was a milk dealer, to distribute amongst the poor people of the New York district. On arriving at Shipley, Cowman found that Longbottom was ill, and arranged with Lee to give the coal away. Lee collected the bags early in the morning so as not to interfere with his ordinary work.

Lee, in the box, said he had only arranged to buy ten bags. He did not say to the police, "I am caught". He paid 34s for the coal and owed 6s.

TO BE SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY?

The Chairman (Mr J G Mowat) : You were going to distribute it amongst the poor people? - Yes, to those who required it.

Is not £2 rather a lot to pay for ten bags? - Well, coal is 4s 6d a bag.

That would be 4s a bag? - Yes.

What were you going to sell it for? - Four and sixpence.

The Chairman : You just said you were going to give it away!

Witness then said he intended to keep a couple of bags, and give his wife's mother and other people he knew the remainder.

Walmsley said he had only fetched Mr Lee and brought the sacks down for him on the 18th, and on the following morning Lee had asked him to help load the cart. He had nothing to do with the filling of the sacks.

Cowman said the coal had been taken from the tug and belonged to Thornton. It had not been taken off the *Emma*. Thornton had given him permission to sell a ton off the tug.

John R Thornton said he told Cowman to deliver a ton of coal at Shipley. He made the weight up when the boat got to Skipton. He agreed that he was only carrying the coal on the *Emma* for Dewhirst's. It had not been bought from him, but he was responsible for it while it was in his boat.

Lee and Walmsley were each fined £5 and Cowman £20 or two months' imprisonment.

58 **20 August 1927**

DANGEROUS DRIVING CHARGE

MOTORIST WHO FAILED TO STOP AT SHIPLEY At Bradford West Riding Court on Thursday, Harry Fitton, a wholesale fruiterer of Huddersfield, was summoned for driving a motor car to the danger of the public and for failing to stop when signalled to do so by a police officer.

PC Stewart said that on Sunday July 24 he was on duty in Bradford Road, Shipley, near the "bottle neck", when he saw the defendant draw out from a line of cars proceeding in the direction of Shipley, and proceed to pass them on the wrong side of the road. While defendant was still on the wrong side of the road and about 40 yards away, witness stepped into the road and raised his hand for the car to stop. The car did not, however, slow down, and witness had to jump out of its way to avoid being knocked down, and even then it just grazed his knee. Witness got the number of the car after it had passed.

In reply to Mr J Conchar (who represented the defendant), witness estimated the speed of the car as it approached him at 25 miles an hour. It accelerated after it had passed. He denied that there were only two cars in front of the defendant, and he did not see one of the drivers signal defendant to pass.

George William Bentham, a boatman, corroborated. He said he did not see how many cars there were in front of the defendant's, but there were at least five or six.

Defendant said he was on his way to Grassington accompanied by his wife and three children. As he came along the "bottle neck" there were two cars in front. There was nothing coming from the other direction, and as the driver of the car in front gave him the signal to pass, witness blew his horn and proceeded to do so. He saw the policeman step out, but instead of giving the signal to stop, the officer gave what he understood as the "slow down" signal. Witness therefore slowed down, and proceeded on his way.

After a retirement, the Chairman (Mr E Illingworth) said the Bench had decided to dismiss the charge of dangerous driving, but defendant would be fined £2 and £3 10s costs for failing to stop.

59 12 November 1927

VERDICT OF "FELO DE SE" The District Coroner (Mr W E Norris) and a jury held an inquest at Shipley Fire Station on Monday afternoon, on the body of Joseph Maude (43), coal merchant's manager, 36 Otley Road, Shipley, whose body was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Saltaire on Saturday morning. Maude had been in the employment of Messrs Fyfe, Kemp and Co, coal merchants, Otley Road, Shipley.

Mrs Maude (widow), 1 Ann Street, Carr Lane, Windhill, said she last saw her husband the previous Monday dinnertime, when he greeted her with "Hello". She noticed nothing unusual about him. She had left him since last August on account of his bad habits.

The Coroner produced a note which had been found at the house where Maude lived, which witness identified as that of her husband's handwriting.

Fred Pitts, 11 Nelson Street, Green Lane, Baildon Green, said he knew the deceased, and he last saw him alive on Friday about 9.25 pm near Gallows Bridge, Shipley. Witness said "Good night" to him, and he replied "Good night".

Replying to the Coroner, witness said Maude, who was on the canal bank, was on his way home ; witness did not notice anything unusual about him.

Harry Sawley, canal boatman, 40 Otley Road, Shipley, spoke to finding the body on Saturday morning about 10.15 while on a barge on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal between Saltaire Mills and Hirst Lock, Saltaire. Witness said he noticed a body in the water, and by means of a boat hook he pulled it to the side of the canal. The body was fully clothed, except for a hat. Witness thought his barge brought the body to the surface.

The letter produced to the jury was not read, and in reply to the Coroner, the widow said that Mr R Waine, to whom the letter was addressed, was the under-manager where her husband was employed.

"I think this letter clearly indicates that this man intended to do away with himself", commented the Coroner. He added that he had read from the letter that there were small sums due from Maude to the firm in the ordinary way, but he did not take them to be serious defalcations. He did not think that it necessarily meant he had been defrauding them.

A verdict of "Felo de se" was returned by the jury.

60 4 February 1928

RATE COLLECTOR'S DEATH

MISSING FOR THREE WEEKS

EVIDENCE AT CALVERLEY INQUEST An inquest was held at Calverley on Wednesday by the District Coroner (Mr E W Norris), sitting with a jury, on the body of Harold Trevor Pountain of 164 Intake Road, Fagley, Bradford, employed by the Bradford Corporation as a rate collector, who disappeared on January 11, and whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on Monday.

Walter Pountain of Selby identified the body as that of his brother, aged 28.

Lily Hodgson of 164 Intake Road stated that the deceased had lodged with her for nearly four years. He had never spoken of any trouble at his work. He left home on January 11 as usual, and went to his work. He did not, however, return to dinner, which was unusual, nor did he come home later in the day. The next day she learned that Pountain had not been at work since the previous morning.

James Dean, canal boatman of Leeds, stated that between 1.30 and 2 pm on Monday, by the bottom of Shaw Pastures, Calverley, he saw a body floating in the water. The body was pulled to the side of the canal by means of a boat hook. The police were afterwards informed. The body appears to have been in the water some time.

CORONER AND A WARRANT James Pearson, 1 West Lea, Bingley, supervisor in the rate collection department, Bradford, said that the deceased had been employed in the department since May 1923, but recently his work had not been satisfactory.

The Coroner : Had a warrant been issued against him? - No, sir.

I understood that a warrant had been taken out? - It had not actually been taken out.

Had he been warned that a warrant was to be taken out? - He might have imagined that a warrant would be taken out.

He had not lost his work? - No.

Witness continued that he interviewed the deceased on the morning of January 11, and gave him certain instructions to get on with some arrears of work.

The Coroner : Was anything said at that time about him not having accounted for all the money which he should have done? - Not by me.

Had he reason to suspect that a warrant would be issued against him? - I suppose so. His work was about to be inspected, and the inspection started that afternoon.

Was it then discovered that he had not accounted for all the money which had come into his hands? - I would rather not answer that if you do not insist.

Did the inspection show that he was likely to come in for considerable trouble? - I have already indicated that his work had not been satisfactory.

Did certain facts come to light at the inspection? - Yes. The inspection is not yet completed.

I take it he knew that certain things would be disclosed by an inspection, and that an inspection was starting that day? - Yes, sir.

In answer to a relative, witness stated that the deceased's wages with bonus would be nearly £4.

FOUND DROWNED PC Whittingham stated that he recovered the body from the water near Shaw Pastures, Calverley. He found one shilling and two sixpences in the pockets, also some rate receipts and letters. The deceased's left arm was broken, and there were severe injuries to the skull, which might have been caused by the propeller of a canal tug. The body appeared to have been in the water for about three weeks.

In reply to a member of the jury, witness said that the injuries appeared to have been caused after death, but he could not be certain.

A verdict of "Found drowned" without sufficient evidence to show how he came into the water was returned.

61 2 March 1929

A WOMAN'S WAY In a separation case in Bradford on Thursday, a Shipley woman said, "My husband comes home drunk every weekend and breaks up my home. I've six children too young to work, and eight children in all, the eldest only 16. I've less than £2 coming into the house each week".

Asked if her husband gave any money toward the support of the family, she said, "I've had 10s from him in the last month, and I took it from his pocket when he was drunk".

Her husband, she said, was a canal boatman, but was not often at work.

A separation and an order for 20s maintenance a week were granted.

62 11 May 1929

GIRL RESCUED FROM CANAL A party of Shipley children were attempting to clean their shoes in the canal near Otley Road, Shipley on Sunday, when one of them, Matilda Dinsdale, aged 4, of 58 Dale Street, Shipley, overbalanced and fell into the water.

John William Wright, a canal boatman of 3 Piccadilly, Shipley, was standing on the bridge which crosses the canal at this point, when he heard a man cry out that a child was in the water. He rushed to the bank, and was able to get the little girl out of the water with the aid of a boat hook.

He and another man applied artificial respiration until the girl recovered, and she was able to go home little the worse for her experience, although had it not been for the promptitude of the boatman, she might probably have been drowned.

63 27 July 1929

SHIPLEY BOATMAN FINED Summoned for assault by Sarah Walmsley, **George R Cowman**, boatman, Shipley, pleaded guilty at the Bradford West Riding Court on Thursday, and a fine of £2 was imposed.

64 27 July 1929

BODY IN CANAL The body of Harry Howcroft (49), a boiler firer of 51 Mount Street, Eccleshill, was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Hirst Locks, Shipley, early yesterday morning.

Howcroft has been missing from home since Saturday, when he left presumably to attend a cricket match, and nothing further was heard of him until **Joe Craven**, a boatman of 46 Ferrand Street, Bingley, noticed his body in the canal.

He leaves a widow, one son and two daughters.

65 3 August 1929

CANAL MYSTERY

BODY FOUND BY BOATMAN At an inquest held at Shipley on Saturday by the West Riding Coroner (Mr E W Norris) on Harry Howcroft, aged 49, boiler firer of Eccleshill, Bradford, whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal about 100 yards away from Hirst Locks, Shipley, the preceding day, a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

Mrs Howcroft, wife of the deceased, said her husband had had good health, had not appeared to be depressed or worried, and was in regular work. He left home on Saturday July 20th, and told his family that he was going to the cricket match at Park Avenue. He did not return however, and she made enquiries. She went to the works where he should have gone at 10 pm on Sunday, and when he did not come there she informed the police. No one who knew him appeared to have seen him since he left home. "He seemed to go out of the gate and be swallowed up", said the witness. She could not give any reason why her husband should be in Shipley that day. He had no friends there, and generally visited the cricket matches by himself.

Joseph Craven, a boatman of 46 Ferrand Street, Bingley, was navigating a motor boat on the canal near Hirst Lock at 5 am on Friday morning, when the motion of the propeller brought the body to the surface.

PC Dracup said there were no marks of violence on the body when he examined it. Howcroft was fully clothed except for his hat, and had in his possession a shilling in cash, a leather wallet, a leather purse, a tobacco pouch, a pipe, two silver watches and chain, a bunch of keys, a pair of spectacles in a case, and a medical card. He had no correspondence and no note to show why he was in Shipley.

The Coroner questioned deceased's wife about how much money her husband had when he left home. She did not know, but she knew he would have drawn his wage. The Coroner said that a shilling appeared a very small amount to go to a cricket match with, if deceased had not already been and spent up.

66 29 March 1930

A CALVERLEY SUICIDE At an inquest on Monday, Mrs Annie Towers said that she thought her mother, Mrs Julia Dawson, aged 60, of 132 Aberdeen Place, Lidget Green, never returned home after visiting the grave of her husband on the anniversary of his birthday. She was afterwards found in the canal at Calverley Bridge.

Mrs Towers also stated that her mother had been depressed since the death of her husband in 1928, though she had not threatened to end her life. On March 8 her mother had gone to the cemetery to put some flowers on her husband's grave, and she apparently never returned home afterwards.

George Pickles, a Bingley boatman, said he saw the body floating near "Calverley crane", and he got the woman ashore with hooks.

"Suicide while of unsound mind" was the verdict.

67 28 June 1930

WEIGHTS IN POCKETS

BRADFORD LICENSEE DEPRESSED

FOUND IN CANAL AT CALVERLEY The District Coroner (Mr E W Norris) and a jury over

which Mr G W Bennett was foreman, held an inquest at the Calverley Urban Council Offices on Tuesday concerning the death of Thomas William Gardner (57), licensee of the Thornbury Hotel, Bradford, whose body was found in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Calverley, on Monday.

Mr Gardner had been licensee of the hotel for 26 years. He was well known in RAOB circles, and was a trustee of the Bradford Province Lodge.

Margaret Gardner (daughter) said she last saw her father alive about 7 pm on the previous Thursday. He was looking over some papers. She noticed nothing unusual about him. Her father left the house about 9.30 pm, and witness thought he was going to the post. As he did not return at closing time, they became worried. The premises were searched and they stayed up late. After 24 hours had elapsed, information was given to the Bradford City Police.

In reply to the Coroner, witness said her father had complained of not feeling well for a long time.

The Coroner : Had he any particular worries?

Witness : None excepting trade depression, and he had been low spirited. She added that her father had been depressed for the last six months. He had been very strange, absent minded and childish. It transpired that two new 14 lb weights had been found in Mr Gardner's overcoat, but witness said there were no such weights about the premises.

Witness added that a man named Wilcock had seen her father on Thursday evening, and he had stated that his pockets were bulged out as if he was carrying some bottles.

The Coroner : Was there anything unusual by which you could identify him quite definitely?

Witness : Yes, his left little toe crossed over the other toe.

Ann Eliza Gardner (widow) said that after her husband had cleared up the cellar, he came out and went upstairs, saying he was going to bed. He afterwards came downstairs and went out. Her husband had not slept well for the last three months.

George Theseus Sugden, boatman of Armley, said that when he found the body it was floating with the head and shoulders above water.

PC Davies said two new 14 lb weights were found in deceased's overcoat, and a set of upper false teeth were in his trousers pocket.

The Coroner said it seemed to him rather extraordinary that the body should have floated with the weights in the pockets so soon after entering the water.

The jury returned a verdict of "Drowned himself whilst of unsound mind".

68 19 July 1930

DROWNING MYSTERY

FOOTPATH ON EDGE OF DEEP WATER

AGED MAN MEETS HIS DEATH The dangerous state of a footpath running alongside one of the deepest parts of the River Aire at Baildon was mentioned at an inquest held on Wednesday at Baildon on Cowgill Tempest, a 79 year old retired greengrocer of 1 Arcadia Street, Manningham, Bradford, whose body was discovered in the river on Monday evening.

John William Wright, a boatman of 4 Piccadilly, Shipley, who dragged the body out of the river with a boat hook, said Tempest was in about 10 feet of water in a crouching attitude. His stick was stuck out in his hand as if he had been struggling to get out. He had not been dead long.

Questioned by the Coroner, Mr Edgar Wood, the witness stated that the footpath which ran alongside the river was very narrow in places and quite unprotected from the water, which was at that part very deep indeed. If a man fell on the footpath he could not help rolling into the water.

Mrs Racher, the daughter of the deceased, said she last saw him alive about 11.30 on Monday morning, when she asked him to call in and see her husband at the stable and send him home. Her father, she knew, had had several bad falls and had been brought home once by a policeman after having fallen in the street. But he always denied that he suffered from any dizziness.

The Coroner : Did he ever say that he would do anything of this nature to himself?

Witness : No, but he said he was tired and fed up, and did not know why he should live so long.

He did not, however, threaten to take his life and she did not think he ever would.

Dr E C Firth of Baildon said there were bruises on the man's face consistent with the theory that he

might have fallen in. From external appearances he would say that death was due to drowning. G R Taylor, labourer of Lupton Street, stated that he saw the body in the river at 8.30 on Monday evening, and called the assistance of Wright.

The Coroner, recording a verdict of “Found drowned”, said there was no evidence to show how the man got into the water, and it was quite possible, after what they had heard of the footpath, that he had fallen, as they had evidence that he had done on some occasions, and consequently was drowned.

69 16 August 1930

SERIOUS CRIME At the Bradford West Riding Court on Thursday, two Shipley men were committed to the next Leeds Assizes, charged with a serious crime.

It was alleged that the two men, Ben Allerton, 43, a woolcomber, and **Tom Hardy**, 27, boatman, were discovered committing an act of gross indecency in a yard in Ashley Lane, Shipley, by PC Wilby and PC Draper.

70 20 December 1930

SHIPLEY MEN AT ASSIZES Ben Allerton (43), comber, and **Tom Hardy** (27), boatman, both of Shipley, pleaded guilty at Leeds Assizes on Tuesday to an act of gross indecency committed in a yard in Shipley.

Medical evidence was given that Allerton was feeble minded and Hardy, though not feeble minded, was “not strong” mentally. Allerton was ordered to be detained in an institution as a mental defective, and Hardy was sentenced to five months' imprisonment. Mr Justice Roche said that during his incarceration, Hardy would receive instruction, which would no doubt be useful to him.

71 25 July 1931

SHIPLEY YOUTH CHARGED

ALLEGED THEFT OF WAGES **George William Bentley**, aged 17, a boatman of 6 Wainman Street, Shipley, was remanded in custody for a week at Skipton on Wednesday on a charge of having stolen £5 10s 7 1/2d, the property of his father and four other boatmen, on 8 July.

Superintendent Harrison explained that accused was given a note authorising him to draw the wages of his father and four other boatmen employed by Walter Holden, Skipton, in addition to his own wages. He received the money and, it was alleged, cleared off to London, where he spent it. He was taken ill, and he had to receive treatment in hospital, being arrested when he was discharged.

Asked why a remand was necessary, the Superintendent explained that the witnesses were boatmen, and might be many miles away. He had consequently been unable to get in touch with them since the accused was brought from London on Tuesday night.

The presiding magistrate (Lieutenant-Colonel Tottie) remarked that it was a “very sad case”.

72 17 October 1931

SENT TO BORSTAL At the West Riding Quarter Sessions at Wakefield on Monday, **George William Bentham** (17), a boatman of Shipley, was sent to a Borstal institution for three years when he was found guilty of stealing £5 10s 7d at Skipton.

[Note : [Previous article gives the name as Bentley](#)]

73 16 April 1932

A BAD CORNER

NARROW ESCAPE OF GUISELEY AMBULANCE **Harold Oldfield**, canal boatman of Keighley, was summoned for riding a motor cycle in a dangerous manner at Guiseley on March 12. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Superintendent Hodgson stated that the alleged offence took place in Park Road at a place known as Park Gate Corner. The defendant was riding his motor cycle towards Guiseley, and took the corner at such a speed that he was obliged to go over on to his wrong side of the road. The driver of the

Guiseley ambulance, which was proceeding in the opposite direction, seeing that an accident was likely to happen, at once pulled up, and the defendant rode in between the ambulance and the footpath. Fortunately no serious damage was done.

Stephen Whitaker, garage proprietor of Croft Head, Towngate, Guiseley, the driver of the ambulance, said the defendant was so far on his wrong side that when he saw the ambulance approaching he tried to get through between it and the wall. The motor cycle just caught the ambulance near side mudguard, and no serious damage was done.

LESSER OF TWO EVILS J R Lowe, solicitor's clerk, of Town Street, Guiseley, who was assisting the last witness to remove a patient to Bradford Infirmary, said when the defendant saw the ambulance coming round the corner, he took the lesser of two evils and passed it on the wrong side. The defendant was taking the corner at an unreasonable speed.

PC Geary said, when asked to give an explanation of what had occurred, the defendant replied, "I didn't know it was such a bad corner or else I should have gone slower". He added, "I saw the ambulance and could see it coming head on into me, so I swerved to my right. I can see now I made a mistake".

The marks on the road showed that the ambulance was on its proper side, and that the motorcycle went on the footpath on the wrong side about six yards, and grazed along the wall.

Defendant said the road was not familiar to him, and there was no notice to warn strangers that it was a dangerous corner. He saw the ambulance, and thinking of "safety first", he applied his brake, but the back wheel skidded. The skid forced him over on to the wrong side of the road, and he had no alternative but to try to pass between the ambulance and the wall.

In reply to the Chairman, the defendant stated that he was a married man with two children, and used the motorcycle for the purpose of going backwards and forwards to his boat.

A fine of 40s and 15s 6d costs was imposed, the Chairman intimating that the defendant's licence would not be suspended.

74 4 June 1932

RAID ON SHIPLEY "SILK STOCKING" CLUB

105 SUMMONSES BEFORE MAGISTRATES

NINE POLICE OFFICERS GIVE EVIDENCE

23 DEFENDANTS ALL FINED AND CLUB STRUCK OFF REGISTER The Bradford West Riding Court presented an unusual appearance on Thursday morning, when 105 summonses were heard by the magistrates as a sequel to a raid made on the Wharfe Street Social Club, Bingley – popularly known as the "Silk Stocking Club" - on April 29th.

The solicitors' table was crowded with glass tankards containing wine and stout, a wine glass in which there was a quantity of port wine, and several bottles. Behind the solicitors' bench the majority of the 23 defendants were placed, but five or six of them had to be accommodated on a bench at the side of the court.

The raid was carried out by Police-inspector Kay, chief of the Shipley police, Police-sergeant Williams and seven police-constables, and all the officers gave evidence at the hearing, which lasted nearly four hours.

The summonses were in relation to the supplying and consuming of intoxicating liquors on the club premises out of licensed hours.

Against Thomas William Hughes, 40, of 7 Airedale Road, Bradford, the secretary of the club, were 21 summonses for supplying beer, stout and port wine during non-permitted hours, and 21 for aiding and abetting the consumption of the intoxicants.

Against Wilfred Sharp, 40, of 84 Fitzroy Road, Bradford, the treasurer of the club, were the same number of summonses.

Both these men were found guilty, and were fined £1 on each of the summonses for aiding and abetting, the other summonses being withdrawn. They will each have to pay £21.

Twenty one men and women found consuming intoxicants at the time of the raid were each fined £1.

Police evidence described how a watch was kept on the club premises from a concealed place, and entrance made by climbing a twelve foot wall from which three rows of barbed wire had previously been removed. The raid was carried out at 10.35 pm on the night in question.

All defendants pleaded "Not Guilty", stated that no drink had been served after 10 o'clock at night, and said that the police came into the club at 10.10 pm.

Following the case, a successful application was made by the police for the club to be struck off the register and the premises disqualified for twelve months.

The other accused were :-

Sarah Sheldon, married, of 49 Hurstwood Crescent, Shipley.

Thomas Ratcliffe, warpdresser, of 4 Shirley Street, Saltaire.

Thomas Hindle, painter, of 37 Oswald Street, Carr Lane, Windhill.

Charlie Parkinson, woolsorter, of 101 Valley Street, Windhill.

Elizabeth Ann Taylor, spinner, of 6 Lupton Street, Shipley.

Ernest Holmes, boatman, of 41 Dale Street, Shipley.

David Greenbury Harrison, weaver, of 25 South View, Yeadon.

John Scott, labourer, of 2 Thompson Street, Shipley.

Mary Ellen Saville, married, of 6 Jennings Street, Windhill.

Albert Harrison, rivetter, of 31 Hirst Street, Shipley.

Albert Edward Gorman, mechanic, of 45 Rhodes Street, Shipley.

Robert Starkey, labourer, of 26 Pratt Lane, Windhill.

William Gargon, bricklayer, of 3 Jane Street, Shipley.

Albert Schofield, engineer, of 70 George Street, Shipley.

John Albert Mellow, butcher, of 21 Park Road, Windhill.

Ivy Craig, no occupation, of 50 Dale Street, Shipley.

Ada Armstrong, cloth shaker, of 27 Dale Street, Shipley.

Ethel Holmes, married, of 41 Dale Street, Shipley.

Madge Jacklin, twister, of 74 Valley Road, Shipley.

Mary Lupton, married, of 8 Ashley Road, Saltaire.

Florence Wray, charwoman, of 44 York Street, Bingley.

With the exception of Ernest Holmes and John Scott, all the defendants appeared.

Mr A Roberts appeared for the prosecution, and Mr H A Demaine appeared for all the defendants.

POLICE OBSERVATIONS THROUGH DOOR Mr Roberts, opening the case for the prosecution, said that police observations were kept on the club on April 29th from 10 pm to 10.35 pm. It was seen that the club was nearly full of men and women. Sharpe, who was steward and treasurer of the club, was seen behind the bar serving beer. He filled several glasses. Hughes, the Club secretary, was seen to carry the drinks across the room and take payment for them at the tables. The police entered the club and found 21 men and women in the act of drinking or with intoxicating liquor before them. Among these people was David Greenbury Harrison, who told the police to "Keep away from this ---- table". He was drunk, and had to be arrested and locked up. When told they would be reported for the offence stated, Hughes replied, "That will have to be answered", and Sharp said, "I don't admit it. I was washing up".

INSPECTOR'S EVIDENCE Inspector Kay supported the opening statement in his evidence. He further stated that he saw Scott go up to the bar and call out, "Two pints and a bottle". This was about 10.20 pm. Sharp supplied him with the drinks. At 10.30 pm he came out of his hiding place and gave a signal to Sergeant Williams. At about 10.35 pm they entered the Club. He saw Ratcliffe, Sheldon and Hindle with glasses of intoxicants. These were taken possession of by PC Taylor. Whilst speaking to Hughes, witness was called to the man David Greenbury Harrison, who became very awkward. He was under the influence of drink, refused to give his name and address, and was arrested, charged with obstructing the police, and locked up. At the time, there were 46 people in the Club, 24 men and 22 women.

Cross-examined, Inspector Kay stated that Harrison was locked up at 10.40 pm.

Questioned about the "hiding place", witness said it was in the back yard of the Club. On his

responsibility, three rows of barbed wire had been taken off a 12 foot wall in order to climb the yard. He stood in the yard, wearing a cap, and was never questioned by the patrons passing in and out of the Club. He had been unable to find a window to look into the Club, but the door was partly open, giving them a good view, and people were constantly going in and out.

“I AM GOING TO SUP IT” PC Mair described where some of the defendants were sitting. When told she would be reported, Saville said, “Where the devil have you come from?” and Scott said, “It is quite all right”. He also saw Jacklin, Gorman, Starkey and Lupton with glasses.

When told they would be charged, they made the following replies :-

Jacklin : This is a bit rotten.

Gorman : How much will this cost?

Starkey : I have paid for it and I am going to sup it.

Lupton : I got it before 10 o'clock.

Cross-examined, witness maintained that the glasses and their contents were in the same condition as when they came from the Club.

“GOOD HEALTH” PC Haigh said that when he got into the Club he saw Scott, Saville and Harrison drinking beer. Scott said, “Good health”, and was going to consume the drink when witness went up to them, Saville saying, “Where the devil have you come from?”

Mr Demaine : You have no evidence of actual consumption?

Witness : No.

The Clerk : Apart from what they said. They were going to consume.

Mr Demaine : Going to consume is not consuming.

The Clerk : It is the same thing.

Mr Demaine : We say we are going to do a lot of things which we do not always do.

PC John Smith said he saw Gargon and Schofield with glasses when he went into the Club. Schofield was raising his to his mouth when witness took it from him and gave it to PC Whittaker. He later saw Mellow about to place a glass of beer on the bar counter, and he took that from him. When told they would be reported, these defendants made the following replies :-

Gargon : Just my luck. I have been teetotal three months.

Schofield : Where the hell have you come from?

Mellow : My luck! The old man will play hell. He's a “special”.

Sergeant Williams gave evidence regarding defendants Taylor, Craig, Armstrong, Parkinson, Ernest Holmes and his wife, Ethel Holmes. When told they would be reported, their replies were as follows :-

Taylor : Good luck to you.

Craig : You are nearly too late.

Armstrong : Be a sport and have a bit of pity.

Parkinson : Why, I have some left.

Ernest Holmes (whose wife did not reply) : We have just had one drink and are going to be made members tonight.

PC Lord gave evidence corroborating the last witness. When he had told David Greenbury Harrison that he would be reported, he again asked what he would be charged with, and when told he said, “You will get no ---- name out of me”. Witness drew Inspector Kay's attention to him, and Harrison was removed by PC Littlejohn.

PC Taylor said that when told they would be reported,

Sheldon said : Lord, I wish I had never come.

Ratcliffe : Let me drink it off, and

Hindle : I expect I shall get a summons.

Cross-examined, witness said he made notes at the Club, and saw other officers doing the same.

PC Whittaker said he took charge of the glasses taken from Gargon and Schofield by PC Smith.

PC Littlejohn said he was posted at the door of the Club. He was called to David Greenbury Harrison, and took him to the police station, where he charged him with wilfully obstructing the police.

Cross-examined, witness said Harrison was under the influence of drink, but had not to be assisted in walking. It was 10.40 pm when he was charged.

Mr Demaine : So that if he says that he heard your station clock chime 10.30 pm after he was locked up, he is not right?

Amid laughter, witness explained that the clock at the police station did not chime, and Mr Demaine corrected himself by saying "Church clock".

DEFENDANTS' STORIES Following are summarised statements from the defence of various defendants, who were all called by Mr Demaine.

All of them denied that any drinks were served after ten o'clock, and said that it was 10.10 when the police entered. About ten of them admitted that they were not members of the club, had not been introduced by anyone, yet had paid for drinks for themselves.

Sarah Sheldon : She was not a member of the Club nor introduced by anyone. She went in at 9.40 by herself, and not to meet anyone. Questioned by the Chairman, Mr J G Mowat, she said that nothing had been said to her about not being a member when she ordered drinks.

David Greenbury Harrison : It was 10.10 pm when he was taken from the Club, and he heard the clock chime the half hour, and later heard it chime 11 pm. He heard it every quarter of an hour after that.

When cross-examined, Saville said, "I couldn't tell you. I had more on my plate that night".

Albert Harrison said he was told by the Inspector that it would be a locking up case for him if he wasn't careful.

Armstrong said she drank lemonade and had no intoxicants that night.

Lupton said she had gone to look for Mr Lupton. He was not there, and she had no drink at all. She did not say to the constable, "I got it at ten o'clock". What she said was, "I got in at ten o'clock".

Hughes said the Club had 126 members at the time. It was 10.10 pm when the police entered that night. He saw no drink supplied after ten o'clock.

Cross-examined, he said it was his duty to see people drank up before ten o'clock. The glasses were carried out empty by the police. He was only shown two bottles containing beer and a bottle of "KB". He presumed the glasses were the property of the Club, and could not account for the beer found in them.

Answering the Chairman, defendant stated that Mr Jordan was the president of the Club.

Sharp denied serving anything from the bar after 10 o'clock. He looked to see the time. He admitted that he was concerned that the sales of intoxicating liquor at the Club should be as much as possible. He denied that there had been difficulties in getting people to leave the premises after 10 o'clock, or that anything had been reported to the Committee of the Club about it.

CONFLICTING EVIDENCE Mr Demaine, addressing the Bench, asked that the summonses against Hindle, Saville, Armstrong, Wray and Lupton should be certainly dismissed. In these cases there was a great conflict of the evidence, and surely the people themselves were the best people to say what they had had to drink that night. In the confusion it was quite easy for the police to make mistakes, and the Bench should rely upon the evidence given by the defendants.

The magistrates retired a short while, and then the Chairman announced their decision, adding that they had give very serious consideration to the case. The application that the Club should be struck off the register was immediately continued with.

CLUB STRUCK OFF

"MINUTE BOOK A FARCE" Mr Roberts applied for the striking off of the Club, which he said was known as the "Silk Stocking Club", on three grounds :-

- 1 That it was not conducted in good faith as a club.
- 2 That it was habitually used for an unlawful purpose, and
- 3 That there was frequent drunkenness on the premises.

On the second objection, he stated that there were fruit machines constantly in operation, thus making the Club a gaming place.

On the third, he stated that people had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly after leaving the Club.

Referring to the first objection, he said the Club consisted of two floors measuring roughly 20 yards by 6 yards, and all there was apart from the fruit machines were two sets of dominoes and merely the frame of a dart board.

BALANCE SHEET The balance sheet for 1931, he continued, showed that a sum of £1491 had been paid for beer wine and spirits ; only £9 9s for minerals ; £8 12s for crisps and pies ; and £137 for tobacco. The sale of refreshments realised £2534. There was a gross profit of £879 18s, which was reduced, ingeniously, to a net profit of £31 15s. The Bench would notice that £868 had been deducted as wages and general expenses, but in that £868 there was the repayment of a loan of £250. There was £4 17s for the Hospital and £23 19s for furnishings.

All cheques, he pointed out, had to be signed by Sharpe and Hughes only. At the beginning of the year, accounts were submitted to the Committee, but according to the Minute book, this did not appear to have been done in the past. Up to the end of this year, the Club had apparently been run by Sharpe and Hughes, if not for their actual profit, for their own benefit.

OFFICERS IGNORANT OF APPOINTMENT Referring to the Minute Book of the Club, Mr Roberts pointed out that in January of this year, it was stated that Mr Butterfield had been appointed President, but Mr Butterfield had resigned in June of last year and had not been in the Club since. Of the Committee of four, one said he had never attended, and one had resigned membership. If this was true, the Minute book became a farce, because it reported meetings that had not taken place.

Inspector Kay, giving evidence, said that none of those present on April 29th, who admitted being non members, had signed the visitors' book or been introduced.

Sergeant Williams said there was a woman present in the room, which was stuffy, with a child 10 months old.

Samuel Hailstone of 11 Russell Street, Windhill, said he joined the Club in 1931, but was not now a member. He had never been told that he was elected to the Committee, and had never been asked to attend meetings. He was not present at the annual meeting, as he was reported to have been in the Minute book.

Alfred Thomas Powell, 16 Midland Terrace, Bradford, said he was a member but was not a member of the Committee, though he was reported as being present at the meeting and being elected.

Cross-examined by Mr Demaine, he said he looked at the notice board occasionally, but did not know that that was the only method by which members elected to the Committee were informed of the fact.

J T Powell said he had never been asked to become a member of the Committee, and would not have stood.

CLUB'S DEFENCE Mr Demaine referred, in addressing the Bench, to the absence of cards in the Club, which showed that there was no gambling with cards on the premises. With reference to the fruit machines, which had now been removed, he said that these had a notice conveying that they were for the use of members only, and any proceeds were for the benefit of the members, to be expended in the form of a trip, or something of that nature.

He referred to certain structural defects which had been spoken of in Inspector Kay's evidence, and said that the landlord would be prepared to effect such alterations as might be considered necessary to put the property in proper condition.

The Chairman, announcing the decision of the magistrates, said that notwithstanding Mr Demaine's plea, the judgement of the Bench must be that the Club should be struck off the register, and the premises for use as a Club for the next twelve months.

75 **16 July 1932**

BOATMAN'S RESCUE While in his cabin on the boat *Panther* on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Shipley on Wednesday night, **William Webster**, boatman, heard a splash.

On looking round, Webster saw ripples in the water, and diving in, he rescued Colin Bell (aged 4), son of Richard Bell, acetylene welder, who had fallen into the water. Webster applied artificial respiration, and the boy soon recovered.

76 22 October 1932

REWARD FOR BRAVERY At the Bradford West Riding Court on Thursday, the Chairman of the Bench, Sir John G Mowat, presented **William Webster**, 55, a boatman of the Ring of Bells, Lathom, near Ormskirk, Lancashire, with the life saving certificate of the Royal Humane Society, for his gallant rescue from the canal at Shipley of Colin Bell, a four year old boy, of Murgatroyd Street, Shipley.

Mr Webster was on the canal bank when he heard the boy's cries for help. He went to the scene of the accident, but the boy had just gone under, and Mr Webster dived in the canal fully clothed and brought the boy to the surface. He applied artificial respiration successfully.

Sir John, in making the presentation, said that Mr Webster's greatest gratification would be that he had saved the boy's life. He hoped that if ever again the man was faced with such a crisis, he would be able to exercise the gifts he had shown in so pronounced a manner on this occasion.

77 19 November 1932

FOURTH OFFENCE Stated to have four children, three of whom were not working, **Joshua Patchett**, aged 46, a boatman of 1 Stubbing Road, Windhill, appeared before the Bradford West Riding magistrates on Monday for being drunk and disorderly in Shipley on November 11.

Superintendent Bell said that on this day Patchett drew 29s unemployment pay. When arrested by PC Whittaker, he was found to have 7d in his possession.

There were three previous convictions, and he was fined 24s.

78 14 October 1933

SHIPLEY INQUEST

MIRFIELD MAN FOUND DROWNED IN CANAL "Found drowned, there being no evidence to show how he came to be in the water" was the verdict recorded by a jury at an inquest in Shipley on Tuesday, on Archibald Michael Richard Holsinger, aged 26, a wool piecener of 71 Crossley Lane, Northorpe, Mirfield.

The dead man's father stated that his son was subject to fits. For the last few months he had been strange in his manner and habits. On Sunday afternoon, October 1st, he went out for a walk as was his custom, but did not return home, and after enquiring of his friends and at his place of employment, witness informed the Mirfield police the following day.

In reply to the District Coroner (Mr E W Norris), Mr Holsinger said so far as he knew, his son was a stranger to the Shipley area, apart from the fact he had visited the district to play cricket.

William Thorpe of Otley Road, Shipley, a canal boatman, described how on Sunday morning he was steering a motor barge along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near the Valley Scouring Company, Shipley, when he noticed an object in the water ahead. On finding that it was a body, he drew it to the side of the canal and then summoned the police.

Police-constable A Palmer of Shipley said that the only mark of violence on the body was a cut on the side of the face, and that, he thought, had been caused by the propeller of a passing boat.

There was neither money nor a ticket of any kind on the body. In reply to the Coroner, he admitted that the body was found at a lonely part of the canal.

Summing up the evidence, the Coroner said it seemed extraordinary that the deceased was found in the Windhill area, as he was unfamiliar with the district. It was possible that he fell into the water during a fit, but it was strange that he should be without money or a return ticket, as it was a long way from Mirfield. Another possible explanation was that he had been wandering about suffering from loss of memory.

The jury expressed sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

79 7 April 1934

A SHIPLEY CELEBRITY

MR ABRAHAM KENDALL

INTERESTING LIFE STORY Mr **Abraham Kendall** of Park House, Moorhead, Shipley,

celebrated his 70th birthday on Tuesday April 4th. In an interview with our representative, Mr Kendall gave the following interesting account of his life.



Mr Kendall, one of Shipley's well known residents, was born in Briggate, Shipley, on April 4th 1864, next door to the saddler's shop lately occupied by Mr Abraham Goodall and near the present Glenroyal Picture House, where his mother had opened a grocer's shop in the house five years previously. This was later made into a shop, and the family lived there for 11 years until 1870.

During this period his father, who was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (with which the Kendall family have been associated since it was opened in 1776) left the canal and began carrying between Bradford and Shipley. In 1870 they left the shop and took over the coal yard lower down Briggate and next to Samuel Rushworth's plumber's shop, then carried on by John Taylor. They bought their first canal boat in 1872, and the business became very successful. **Sarah Kendall**, his mother, was a very energetic business woman, and took an active part in the business for the whole of her married life, over 40 years. Later they bought a large coal business in Leeds, and eventually had no fewer than 26 boats working and plying between Liverpool, Shipley and Goole, as coal and stone merchants and quarry owners.

HIS MOTHER Mr Kendall's mother had a particularly strong influence on his life. Her great grandmother came from Scotland as a young woman, bringing with her the trade termed the "billy cock trade", being the making of felt hats. She married at Colne and pursued the trade with great success., the couple becoming owners of several farms which, unfortunately, were wasted away in later generations.

Abraham's mother was born at Colne in Lancashire. Her mother died when she was five and her father died when she was 11 years old. After this, she was cared for by an aunt who kept a grocer's shop in the old Broadstones, Forster Square, Bradford, and received a fairly good education. Whilst at Colne, her father used to send her on errands to Foulridge, about two miles away, and she had what she called an "iron taw" about the size of a golf ball. One day while she was playing with it, she lost it in a hole in the wall amongst some stones. Many years afterwards, when she was going the same journey with three of her children, she found her "taw" among the stones.

The long road between Bradford and Colne she knew well enough, for she often walked to see her father. There was no such thing as a railway between the two towns then, and once, she recalled, it rained every foot of the way on the return journey, so that passing through Nab Wood her clogs were full of water. And in those days a hot bath was an undreamed of luxury. As a consequence

she suffered from bronchitis all her life.

She met her husband when he was just a boatman, and they were married on Easter Sunday 1850 at Shipley Parish Church, theirs being the first wedding ever to be celebrated at this church on a Sunday.

She was in the habit of accompanying her husband on the boat, and one Saturday morning, when they had been married about a year, they arrived at Foxholes Colliery and missed loading, as a result of which they had to wait until Monday. After tea, Abraham's father said he would go and attend to the horse. Mrs Kendall went with him, taking the baby, and when he had finished he said to her, "Now then, Sarah. Tha can go down to t' boat and I'll come down directly". "Nay", she replied, "I'll go with you". They went along the road, and coming to the beerhouse he wanted a drink, and said, "Nah then, Sarah, tha can't go in here with me. Go down to t' boat". She said, "No, I'll go in". "Nah, Sarah, tha can't go in here with me". She replied, "Yes, I can ; if it's all right for you, it is for me". However, they did not go in, but walked back to the boat rather quietly, and Mrs Kendall read a short chapter out of the Bible.

His father was illiterate, and his mother taught him to read and write in the canal boat cabin. He remembered him telling them how proud he felt when he got as far as to write his own name, and that he was much better for the little education he had been able to get.

Whilst they were living in the shop and his father got a share in the boat, he had a very serious loss which affected his health but, amidst it all, and with the family, his mother struggled along. This loss was a bad one. For years, instead of drawing his full wages from a firm of boat owners, he had left them in to get a share in a boat. The firm failed, and his father had not only lost all his money, but was called upon to pay several of the firm's debts. It can be realised what a blow it was to the family and what an indomitable character Mrs Kendall had in meeting such a reverse without despair.

After his father had been married about two years, he mentioned one night at home to his uncle, Samuel Mortimer of Hirst Farm, Shipley, that he would like a horse of his own. On his uncle offering him a suitable one for £16, his father said he could not pay, but he would work it off. They had a kitchen dresser with eight feet (which is still in the family), and his mother said, "We can pay for half of it now". They lifted the dresser away from the wall, and took a sovereign from where each foot had rested. Incidentally, there is still treasured in the family a crooked sixpence which his father gave to his mother when, as a young man, he was leaving her after his first visit to her.

Abraham lived at the shop in Briggate until he was about six years old. He was a very mischievous boy, and his mother used to tie him to the oven door as a chastisement. As he grew older he, like many other boys, took an interest in rabbits but, unlike many, made his hobby a paying one. Later, he and a relative – Alfred Mortimer by name – dealt in donkeys and ponies, and he got a name as a trader because he used to take the donkeys back again, but they had to give something to boot when they took another donkey.

"WALLED POST OFFICE DOOR UP" In those days, juveniles could deposit up to £25 in the Post Office Savings Bank, and Abraham recalls with pride that at the age of about 15, he had reached the limit. To use his own words, he had "walled t' Post Office door up with his brass".

He and the same Alfred Mortimer got into numerous scrapes. One of these concerned Mr David Hutton, the painter, who is still living, who had a shop in Briggate and used to advertise with handbills. Abraham and Alfred had been delivering these bills in Windhill, and one night whilst returning home, Abraham had the misfortune to fall into a swill tub, and the boys utilised a few hundred of the bills for cleaning purposes. His sister, Sarah Jane, washed his trousers, but in spite of this none of his school friends would sit near him next day.

Another adventure occurred when he was about seven years old. When they could get off school in the summer, he and Alfred used to go with Mr Joshua Mortimer, salt dealer, to Otley market. One Friday they saw a pony laid in the road near the White Cross Hotel. A policeman came up and saw the pony had a sore on it. The owner was summoned at Otley the week after, and Abraham and Alfred were witnesses.

When giving evidence, the Magistrate asked their names and if they went to Sunday School. "Yes,

sir". "Could they speak the truth?" "Yes, sir". "Where did boys go who did not speak the truth?" "Hell, sir". Imagine the laugh in Court.

SCHOOLDAYS Abraham's schooldays were not without interest. His first experience was at Miss Murgatroyd's school in Wainman Street. During the morning the children were allowed to play about, but on returning one afternoon, he upset a form containing a number of little girls. Miss Murgatroyd sent for his mother, who found her son busily engaged in drawing a horse and cart in chalk on the floor. He greeted her with "Hello mother", but she made him behave himself. Later he went to several schools in Shipley, but found his master when he was placed under the care of Bob Bradley, who had a scholastic establishment over Baildon Bridge. He got many a thrashing whilst at Bradley's, but on one particular day the punishment was more severe than usual, and Abraham could scarcely walk home, much less sit down. Naturally his mother asked what was the matter, and he told her, further intimating that he would also tell his father. She replied, "Tha'd better get thi dinner first". After following this advice, he told his father, who said, "Yes, and if tha aren't off back to school I'll give thee some more".

His schooling was completed at Pannal College near Harrogate, where he had not been long before he received a flogging for bursting the noses of three boys. Time went along, and he formed a very tender regard for Mr Watson, the Principal. This feeling was shared by many scholars, and took the tangible form of a public presentation in later years for which £1,000 was subscribed, when Mr Watson had relinquished his position and was spending his declining years at Harrogate.

Like other boys, he became homesick at first, and wrote asking his mother if he could come home. She came to see him, and although it is 57 years ago, he remembers to this day her leaving him. Since then, when he has gone over to see the School, he has stood on the place in the road where his mother put her arms round him, and impressed upon him how he must go back to the School and work and learn all he could. Just before they parted, she said, "Abraham, remember these words :

Think of the world as a hill

Marked with a million stop.

There's always a crowd at the bottom ;

Push on – there's plenty of room on the top".

He left her determined to do his best. He was in the seventh standard at Shipley, which meant that a boy was a decent scholar, but when he got to Pannal he was placed right at the back of the lowest class. He felt determined to carry out his mother's wishes, and used to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and walk in the fields learning his lessons. He progressed so well that Mr Watson gave him an examination at the end of three months, and moved him into the class above, in which he won the first prize at the term end. How he used to envy the steps which separated him from the higher classes. He said to himself more than once, "I will go up those steps". He went up – at the end of the first six months. The School seemed to give him, young as he was, a clear vision into the responsibilities of life and the future, and those feelings have never left him.

COMMENCES BUSINESS When he came home from college at the age of 15, his father, wishing him to learn his business thoroughly, set him to work as mate on one of their boats for a while. Then he went into the business, which grew rapidly. About 35 years ago, John and Abraham bought the White House Farm Estate at Moorhead, Shipley, and later developed it into a building estate, on which about 150 detached and semi-detached houses have been built, for which Mr Kendall has been his own architect. Mr Kendall was about the first to build houses without cellars or attics, in face of strong opposition from experienced builders, but his ideas proved sound, and today the two storey type of house is by far the most popular.

Mr Kendall spent many a night in the preparing of plans for this big venture, which called for great courage and enterprise on his part, but which was completely rewarded with success.

His business activities, however, did not end here, for he is interested in several other businesses. Many changes have taken place since he first entered business. Production has become speedier, and business methods have altered greatly, but through it all he has helped to place on a sound foundation the business which bears their name. He recollects the time when road transport was practically unknown, and the Canal was a very important means of carrying merchandise. Then his

practical knowledge of boats and horses, and his capacity for weighing up human nature stood him in good stead.

As he grew to manhood, his particular ambition was to have more boats than any other private firm between Goole and Lancashire, which they eventually succeeded in doing. Added to the business was that of hay and straw dealers and building stone, which were in great demand for many years. Many contracts in this kind of business were carried out, amongst which was the widening and clearing away of that portion of Old Briggate between Shipley Railway Bridge and Bethel Chapel. About this time, docks were being built at Goole, and during the period of a few years, they sent down the Canal broken stone for concreting to the extent of over 50,000 tons.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM All his life Mr Kendall has been a Primitive Methodist, as were his parents. As a lad he used to go to the old Primitive Chapel in Briggate, Shipley, later used as a picture house, before the Primitives removed to the present Chapel in Saltaire Road. He used to blow the organ for the old organ blower, who received 30s a year for it. This instrument was but of medium size. In those days, Love Feasts were held a few times a year, each one ending with "Crown Him Lord of All". For some time Abraham had wondered what would happen if the organ failed in its duty in the middle of the hymn, and decided to satisfy his curiosity. The hymn was being rendered and the young blower watched his lead rise slowly to the top until the organ ceased altogether, and oh! what a scream it made. His father and mother, who were at the service, formed a good idea of who was to blame, and the subsequent proceedings, when he arrived home, reminded him of the Prodigal Son, with the difference that in the Bible the father killed the fatted calf, whereas his mother nearly killed him.

He recollects when the Salvation Army came to Shipley about 50 years ago. He used to attend, and they had Experience Meetings monthly, and the Army, being very popular at that time, these Meetings were well attended. Members, when giving their experiences, often became very excited. One night in the Prayer Meeting, the Captain and Lieutenant were both members of the fair sex. The former asked a man if he would like to go to Heaven with her. "Well, thank you, miss, but if you don't mind, I'd rayther go wi t' Lieutenant".

Another body in Shipley was the Good Templars. They gathered in the old Primitive Chapel at Briggate, which had been previously bought by the late Mr Edward Holden. There used to be famous events in those days. The members carried regalias and used to have processions and real good times, and Mr Kendall has his regalia yet.

Mr Kendall has also always been a teetotaller, though not a bigoted one.

In those days, there used to be what was called the mangle house, where people used to take their clean clothes to be mangled. The mangle was a long box that twined with a wheel backward and forward, and Abraham had worked it scores of times for an old woman who had one. Miss Hargreaves of Shipley Hall had one, and when she passed on, Mr Kendall bought it and gave it to the town.

Some 60 years ago, a person named Abe Clegg used to come from Horton with his caravan, and fix a tent up in the Showfield. Planks were used for seats inside, and little boys similar to Abraham were allowed to sit on the front seats for 2d each. Many of them used to creep under the canvas and pay nothing. So many had done this one night that quite a lot were there when old Abe came on to the platform, looked round, and called out, "A crowded house, and nobbut ta'en tenpence. Out ye go, every one of ye". But the little ones at the front were allowed to stay, and most of them were the culprits. The plays in those days were many, but one he remembers very well was "The Death of the Bleeding Bug, or the Broken-hearted Bedstocks". Another : "Maria Martin, or the Mystery of the Red Barn".

Mr Kendall remembers very well the toll bars as they used to be in the days of long ago. There was one down by the Providence Chapel in Otley Road, and another at the Branch Hotel. He also remembers the old Shipley Station as it was in 1846, when the Midland Railway came through Shipley, and the Great Northern Railway being made at Windhill.

He has been a swimmer since boyhood, when he learnt in the canal, but during the last 25 years he has attended Shipley Baths every week for swimming and massage with olive oil. Mr Kendall

attributes much of his health to this olive oil massage which, he says, is most beneficial after a swim and a steam bath. He has had this treatment for 20 years, and strongly recommends it to any sufferers from rheumatism or gout.

Mr Kendall can tell some lively stories about his grandfather. One time he was with his boat at Liverpool, and went to the Grand National. He got a bit “free” in the evening with winning a few shillings, and made the following reference :-

“Now, my young man, do you beware
Of all those painted faces ;
He careful how your pony runs
When you're at Liverpool Races”.

On another occasion when they used to carry as far as Goole and Selby, they were at the latter place with a cargo of stone in their boat, *The Lark*. The tide comes up very quickly at Selby, and they should have been there to look after the boat. Unfortunately they were not, and the quick tide swamped it. When his grandfather saw what had happened, he turned to his mate and said, “Well, Charlie, *The Lark's* gone down for the night, but she'll rise again in the morning”.

OLD FOLKS' TEA One cannot write about Mr Kendall without remembering the Shipley and Saltaire Old Friends' Tea, which is held annually on the first Saturday in March. The idea originated in 1922, with Mr Harry Cottam, piano maker – then resident at Moorhead – and himself. The treat held that year was generously given by Mr Cottam, and since then the event has grown. For several years now, Mr Kendall has been Chairman and Secretary of the committee, and residents of Shipley and Saltaire will know how successful this annual treat is.

Throughout his life, he has always had in mind the fact that he would pass this way but once, and that this must not be without doing some good to somebody. During the last 20 years, opportunities for doing so have come along, and he has rendered real service in many ways which, he regrets to say, has ended unfortunately. He has lost considerably through this, and never received any benefit from any of them. But he does not worry. He has tried to do some little good, and it has been no fault of his that those whom he has benefited have not attained success.

His philosophy in life may be summed up in the following :-

Waste not, want not, is the maxim I would teach.
Let your watchword be “despatch” and practice what you preach.
Don't be like some people and let your chances pass by,
For you'll never miss the water till the well runs dry.

At the conclusion of the interview, Mr Kendall said, “I have endeavoured in giving this short history to recall a few interesting things that have happened as the years have rolled by, and how Shipley, as it was 70 years ago, stands out vividly in my mind, with Briggate, which was most usually called Low Loin, less than half the width it is now, and the village composed of houses just round about with a few mills, Hargreave's, Fred Taylor's and one or two more. The canal was a hive of industry, Like many other villages, everybody knew everybody, but many of the old people have passed on, and there are but a few left. The growth of the town has been very rapid, and I can reasonably remember the whole of the extension which has taken place all round in my lifetime”.

“I feel that I cannot close without making some special reference to my mother, a devoted hard working Christian woman, the mother of ten children. Her love and work for the chapel, with all the struggles during the week of business and looking after the family, stand out in my mind. When the Primitive Methodists decided to leave the old chapel in Briggate and build the new one in Saltaire Road, my mother, along with many other of the women workers, spent hundreds of hours going about begging money to carry on. The chapel cost about £5,000, and I will leave my readers to imagine the long drawn out struggle”.

“Our home life was very musical. We had both a piano and harmonium, and every Sunday morning, before we went to Sunday School, there used to be a short service and the weekly prayer, and amongst others, that grand old hymn with the opening verse :

When I survey the Wondrous Cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

This was always sung to the Rockingham tune, because my mother loved those words so much. Her photograph is on the stand near my piano, and I seldom miss singing that hymn for her every Sunday morning”.

“I have done some little good in helping the Church all my life, and have been inspired to follow on by those years of faithful service from my mother. As a few closing words, I would give the following :

The dawn should be gay with the song of the birds,
And the stir of fluttering wings ;
Surely the joy of Life is hid
In simple and tender things”.

80 2 June 1934

BABY AND PRAM IN CANAL

RAN AWAY NEAR SHIPLEY BRIDGE

BOATMAN'S PROMPT ACTION SAVES LIFE For the second time in a very short period, children have been narrowly saved from drowning in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal by the promptitude of Shipley men.

On Monday afternoon, a two years old boy had a hairbreadth escape when the perambulator in which he was strapped ran away and plunged into the canal.

Fortunately, the child's plight was discovered by **William Patchett**, a canal boatman of 10 Stead Street, Shipley, who acted with such promptness and resource that he succeeded in saving the boy's life.

The child involved in the mishap was Brian Bolton, son of William James Bolton, a labourer of 33 Hird Street, Shipley, and the perambulator had been taken out in charge of a 10 year old girl, and it appears that the perambulator ran down the incline of the canal bank at a point near Mason's Mill, Shipley, and overturned into the water.

A COMMENDABLE ACTION Mr Patchett was on the opposite side of the canal, in a yard occupied by Canal Carriers Ltd, and his attention was attracted by the sound of women's screams.

He ran over Victoria Bridge to the scene of the accident – a distance of 300 yards – and found that the perambulator had disappeared from sight in the muddy water.

The disturbance on the water, however, gave him a clue to the child's position, and at the second attempt he succeeded in pulling the perambulator out of the water with the aid of a boat hook.

The child was unconscious, and Mr Patchett applied artificial respiration until the arrival of William Henry Mowatt, ambulance man at the Shipley Canal Ironworks, and Police-sergeant Blackburn and Police-constable Camm, who continued to apply treatment in relays.

In the meantime, Dr Martin had been summoned, and the child was taken home. On inquiry late that night, it was stated that he was recovering from the effects of his immersion.

81 9 March 1935

WIFE DESERTION At the Bradford West Riding Court on Thursday, **Harry Walker**, boatman, Shipley, was charged by his wife, **Agnes Walker**, with wife desertion and failing to maintain her and her three children.

Defendant admitted the desertion, and said he was on the dole and got 30s per week.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr Arthur Cragg) : Is there no chance of you getting together again?

Complainant : I have tried four times.

Defendant said he was now living with his mother.

The Bench made an order for defendant to contribute 20s per week (3s to each child, and 11s to his wife).

82 18 April 1935

DOG LICENCE CASES At Bradford West Riding Court today, the following defendants, all of Shipley, were charged with not having a dog licence in respect of dogs which were over six months old.

Fines of 10s each were imposed upon Thomas Barker (28), motor driver, and **Albert Mayes** (38), boatman. For a like offence, Willie Myers (31), labourer, was ordered to pay the costs (4s) and like costs for having no name on dog collar.

The various charges were brought by Police-constables Mair, Lord and Draper.

83 3 August 1935

Joshua Patchett (50), boatman, Shipley, was fined 7s 6d for not having a dog licence, and 5s for having a dog with no name etc on collar at Shipley on June 11.

PC Draper stated the facts.

84 2 November 1935

THE LAKE FAMILY OF SHIPLEY

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES

COMPILED BY MR ABRAHAM KENDALL Mr **Abraham Kendall** of Park House, Shipley, who is a friend of Mr **Alfred Lake** of 32 Windsor Road, Shipley, and who has known the Lake family for the whole of his life, has spent some little time with Alfred Lake in compiling the following reminiscences of his family.

Alfred's grandfather, **James Lake**, who was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, walked from Leeds to Shipley 89 years ago with his fourteen children, carrying the youngest (which happened to be Alfred's father, George, then not twelve months old) on his back, and bringing his furniture with him. There was at that time in Shipley a firm of boat owners called Crowther and Dixon, who would sell boats and allow the buyers to work them off. After years of struggle as a boatman, James Lake bought an old boat from the firm and worked it off, and later bought other boats – *George, Sarah, Mary and Jane*.

He built a coal yard at the Otley Road end of Piccadilly near the Canal Bridge, where there are now two shops. James Lake's office was at one corner of the building and the other side was a beerhouse. Eventually, when the canal bridge was widened, the front portion of the Lake property was taken off, and the buildings set back and made into the two shops which are still there.

Prior to this alteration, however – actually about 50 years ago – the Lakes moved from Piccadilly and took over the yard near Mason's Bridge belonging to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co, where the business was carried on for many years by Frederick and George, two of the sons.

HAULED EMPTY BOATS James Lake, Alfred's grandfather, was a remarkable man in many ways. In his struggling days, he has many a time hauled his empty boats from Shipley to Leeds – no mean feat, even allowing for the fact that he stood 6ft 4ins and was proportionately strong. Later he hauled the boats with donkeys. He was an extremely hard working industrious man, and died at the age of 61 after a very strenuous life.

FOUNDED SHIPLEY BAND Alfred's father, George, together with Isaac Haley, then proprietor of the “Queen” in Windhill Lane, started the Shipley Brass Band, and George Lake was an active member of this organisation for about 30 years, during which time the band competed in many places, including London, Manchester and Edinburgh.

One of his uncles, Edmund, had a large hay and straw business in Leeds ; another uncle, William Henry Lake, a cab proprietor in Ives Street, Shipley ; whilst the remaining members of the family entered various trades and got scattered about.

“BEST” OR “COMMON” His uncle Fred followed the family tradition for size. One of his legs was shorter than the other, and he stood 6ft 1in on the long leg, and 5ft 10 1/2in on the short one. He had a habit of whistling in a very sweet loud tone, which could be heard a long way, and also of imbibing a few gills of the “best” from the Royal Oak more or less every day. Alfred, then a boy, used to fetch this liquid refreshment, and one day, answering the well known whistle, was told to

fetch a gill of the best as usual. Being, however, a halfpenny short of something for himself, young Alfred came back with "common", which he duly delivered and then went off, hoping that his uncle would not notice the difference. He had not got far away before the whistle blew, and as he went back to his uncle he thought, "Now for it, Alfred". "Which tap did Mr Wilkinson get this out of?" demanded Uncle Fred. "I didn't notice," replied Alfred. Down went the beer into the sink, and out came another 1 1/2d. "Then fetch another, and see which b---tap it come out of".

Uncle Fred was a well educated man, although he never went to school. As a young man, he studied on the boats between Leeds and Shipley etc, spending every penny he could get hold of on books.

When James Lake came to Shipley about 1845, it was only a village, and most of the Mills – Hargreaves, Fred Taylor's, Saltaire, Mason's and many others – were built in the years after.

A HIVE OF INDUSTRY As was given in Mr Kendall's life, the canal used to be a hive of industry, boats passing up and down every day, and the boatmen were a very jolly lot, some having their own wives and children on board. Boats used to come every day from Lancashire and up from the Goole district, and the men, in the evenings, used to gather together in the town's hostelries, the "Royal Oak", the old "Fox and Hounds" as it used to be, the "Bull" at the bottom of Shipley, and the "Rose and Crown" which was in Briggate. There often used to be heated arguments which would end in a fight in the back yards, with a small crowd round, and later they would go and drink it out.

One time, a well set up navvy said he'd fight anybody in the place. Amongst the company was a little knock-kneed chap from Windhill, known as "Brassy", who talked down his nose. He says, "Ah say, lad ; Ah'll gi thee a bit of a do, because tha hesn't a arms thick as a hen's leg". They got up to go outside. The navvy looked at Brassy, and the usual thing happened. Instead of a fight, he was so amused at him that he paid for drinks all round.

85 1 August 1936

WARRANTS ISSUED As Lily Walker (36), spinner, Bradford, did not appear in answer to a charge of having used obscene language at Shipley on July 13, at the Bradford West Riding Court on Monday, a warrant was issued for her arrest.

The Bench adopted a similar method in respect of **Joshua Patchett** (50), boatman, Shipley, who failed to appear on a charge of having been drunk and disorderly at Shipley on the previous Saturday. Superintendent Spires said that Patchett had been allowed out on bail.

86 24 December 1936

A TIPSY TRIO At Bradford West Riding Court on Monday, Elizabeth Cooper (61), wardrobe dealer, Leeds, was fined 10s for having been drunk in Shipley on December 2.

PC Kelly stated that defendant had fallen down half a dozen steps. She was in a comatose condition and was taken to Salt's Hospital where Dr Viret certified that she was drunk.

For having been drunk and disorderly at Shipley on December 12, John Walker (21), labourer, Shipley, was fined 18s.

PC Marsh brought the charge.

For a like offence at Shipley on December 20, **John T Rimmington** (52), boatman, Leeds, was fined 15s. PC Murray brought the charge.

87 7 May 1838

A TIPSY QUARTET At Bradford West Riding Court on Monday, the following prisoners were fined 18s each for having been drunk and disorderly at Shipley :- Willie Pullen (48), labourer, Shipley, on April 23 (PC Saxby) ; **John Pickles** (61), boatman, no fixed abode, on April 29 (PC Tindall) ; Manston Sharp (37), engineer, Shipley, on April 29 (PC Swallow).

Harry Walker (42), boatman, no fixed abode, charged with a similar offence in Otley Road, Shipley, on April 29, against whom there were three previous offences for having been drunk and disorderly, was committed to prison for one month with hard labour. PC Swallow brought the

charge.

88 28 May 1938

WINDHILL

FELL OFF BARGE "Misadventure" was the verdict returned at an inquest in Castleford on Wednesday, on **Harry Bates**, aged 31, boatman of 38 Briggate, Windhill, Shipley, who was drowned in the River Aire at Fryston on May 17.

Evidence was given that Bates had been sitting on a plank on the bunker of a river barge at Fryston, and when he moved, he fell overboard. He swam towards the river bank, then suddenly turned back towards the boat.

The captain reversed the boat, but before it could reach him, Bates had disappeared. His body was recovered on Tuesday.

89 25 June 1938

OVER THE MARK At Bradford West Riding Court on Monday, **Harry Sawley** (38), boatman, Shipley, was fined 18s for having been drunk and disorderly at Shipley on June 15. PC Tindall brought the charge.

90 16 July 1938

SHIPLEY DROWNING TRAGEDY

BOATMAN FELL INTO CANAL A verdict that he was accidentally drowned was returned by a Shipley jury on Wednesday at the inquest on **John Pickles**, aged 63, a boatman, who was found drowned in the canal at Shipley on Sunday night.

Joe Pickles of 9 Salisbury Street, Shipley, said his father had been recently living on the canal boat *Edith*, stationed at Shipley. On Sunday morning he helped his father to prepare the boat for a journey on Monday. His father was able to swim.

Joseph William Belton, licensee of the Bull Hotel, Shipley, said Pickles called about 9.50 pm on Sunday and asked to be served with a drink. He had refused him because Pickles was walking unsteadily, and he thought he had had sufficient drink. A few minutes later, Pickles left.

Albert Taylor, radio salesman of 3 Otley Road, Shipley, said he was crossing Gallows Bridge, Shipley, about 10.7 pm, when he saw what appeared to be a big Airedale dog swimming in the canal. He watched it for a moment, and then descended to the towpath, from which he could see the object was a man. As he ran along the path, the man stopped struggling.

Assisted by a passer by, he recovered the body from the water, and together they administered artificial respiration until the police arrived.

Police-sergeant A Beanland said he went to the boat to interview Pickles about 9.10 pm, but could not find him. About 10.15 pm he heard that a body had been taken from the canal. He proceeded to the towing path and gave artificial respiration.

He agreed that it was quite likely that Pickles had returned to his boat from the inn, had crossed the boat, and had accidentally fallen into the water.

91 24 September 1938

"WE HAD BETTER BE GOING" George Patchett, aged 20, dyer's labourer, and **John Patchett**, aged 22, boatman, both of Shipley, were each fined 5s and ordered to pay 6s 3d costs at Bradford West Riding Police Court on Monday, for breaking windows at Saltaire Mills about 9pm on June 25th.

George Patchett pleaded "Guilty" to breaking one window, but not three. He added he was sorry it had happened, and promised that it would not occur again.

John Patchett pleaded "Not guilty".

Henry Walker Hemsworth, night watchman at Messrs Salts (Saltaire) said that on the night in question he was in the warehouse overlooking the canal. He saw two men and two women approach on the opposite bank of the canal. They stopped opposite the mill, and while the two

women rested, the men threw stones across the canal. Each time he heard a loud report. The men threw three stones each, and then the party continued towards Shipley. Hemsworth added that after he had rung the police asking them to intercept the men, he had gone to the basement of the mill, and had found that three windows had been recently broken. Other windows were covered by bales. Police-constable Wilson said that when he charged the men, they had at first denied the offence. When he told them they would be reported for wilful damage, George Patchett had replied, "All right, I admit it", and John Patchett said, "I didn't think I had broken any". In evidence, John Patchett said he had first "skated" a piece of slate on the surface of the water, and had then tried to do the same with stones. When his wife told him that George had broken a window, he had said, "Come on, we had better be going".

92 7 January 1939

TWO OF THEM At Bradford West Riding Court on Monday, Jonathan Hilton (68), labourer, Bingley, was charged with drunkenness at Shipley on December 26. Defendant was fined 5s. PC Barham brought the charge. For a like offence at Shipley on December 24, **James Frear** (50), boatman, Shipley, was fined 5s. PC Bennett brought the charge.

93 22 April 1939

BRADFORD WEST RIDING COURT, MONDAY For a like offence (drunk and disorderly) at Shipley on April 10, **Thomas Haunch** (59), boatman, Shipley, was fined 10s. PC Slater brought the charge.

94 6 May 1939

NO DOG LICENCE At Bradford West Riding Court on Monday, **Alan Binns** (39), boatman, Shipley, was fined 10s for not having a dog licence on April 10. PC Jordan proved the case.

95 22 July 1939

OVER THE MARK **George Gordon** (28), boatman, Shipley, was fined 19s for having been drunk and disorderly at Shipley on July 15. PC Sharman proved the case.

96 13 December 1939

NO FIREGUARD "I am strongly of opinion that this would not have happened if there had been a fireguard when these children were left. You had better get a fireguard, as probably you will have proceedings taken against you before the magistrates, because it is a misdemeanour under the Children's Act to allow any children to be left in a room with an open fire and no fireguard". These comments were made at a Shipley inquest by the District Coroner (Mr E W Norris) concerning the death of Doreen Hardy, the six year old child of **Tom Hardy**, canal boatman, 10 Caroline Street, Saltaire, who was fatally burned in the house during her mother's absence. **Gladys May Hardy** (the child's mother) said she left Doreen, a little boy aged 4 and the baby in the house, whilst she went to a nearby shop. On returning, Doreen had been taken to the hospital. The Coroner : Have you never had a fireguard? Mrs Hardy : No. Maria Atkinson of 44 Ada Street, Saltaire, said when she went to Mrs Hardy's house she found that Doreen's clothing was all burnt off except a vest, which was smouldering. She threw an overcoat over the child. The baby was also burned a little around the head. Witness and a woman carried Doreen to Saltaire Hospital. The Coroner : I think you acted very well and very promptly. Dr E S Sharpe of Shipley said that, with the exception of the girl's legs beneath the knees, she was burnt all over. She died from shock following very severe burns.

A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

97 23 October 1940

SHIPLEY MAN GAOLED **Harry Walker**, boatman, 37 Wycliffe Road, Shipley, pleaded "Not Guilty" at Wetherby to stealing a gentleman's suit etc, valued at £5 17s 6d. Defendant, who told the Bench that he had only borrowed the clothing, was sent to gaol for two months.

98 29 July 1942

THOUGHT BLINDS WERE DRAWN **Reginald Foster** (40), a boatman of Saltaire Road, Shipley, was summoned for causing a light to be shown from his house. He did not appear.

PC Jordan said that when on duty in Saltaire Road, he saw a light shining from defendant's house. He spoke to him about the offence, and he said he had gone to work about 3 o'clock that morning, and he thought the blinds were drawn.

He was fined 15s.

99 6 January 1943

MORE DOG LICENCE OFFENCES **Nicholas Sykes** (21), boatman of 27 Valley Road, Shipley, was fined 7s 6d. PC Saxby said Sykes admitted having no licence for the dog, a fox terrier, and added that he had bought it in Barnsley some months ago. He had now got a licence.

100 9 June 1943

BRADFORD WEST RIDING POLICE COURT

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY A man with several convictions for drunkenness, and whose firm would not continue to employ him because of his intemperate habits, was before the court. He was **Harry Walker** (43), described as a boatman, and said to have no fixed abode. He was fined 40s for being drunk and disorderly in Thompson Street, Shipley. He pleaded guilty.

PC Skevington said at 10.50 pm on May 10th, he received a complaint about the defendant, and upon going to Thompson Street, he found him using obscene language. He was in a drunken condition, and when told he would be reported, he made an obscene reply.

Inspector J F Sherwin said Walker had been before the court on seven previous occasions between 1936 and 1939. He had served terms of imprisonment for being drunk and disorderly, and on one occasion was sent to prison for being drunk in charge of a horse and dray.

Asked what he was doing for a living, Walker told the magistrates that at present he was not working. He was waiting for his release to come through from the firm by whom he was employed as a canal boatman.

Inspector Sherwin said the truth of the matter was that the firm had refused to employ Walker because of his intemperate habits. Defendant was a Shipley man, and was separated from his wife.

The Chairman said they had been seriously considering sending defendant to prison again. "But as you have not been before us since 1939, we are giving you a chance. This is positively the last chance you will get. If you come before us again, you will go to prison".

Defendant was given a month to pay the fine.

101 8 March 1944

BRADFORD WEST RIDING POLICE COURT

STOLE BARMAID'S HANDBAG A sentence of one month's imprisonment was passed on **Harry Walker** (44), a boatman of no fixed address, who pleaded guilty to stealing a handbag and money, value £3, the property of Florence Harthen of 19 Union Street, Shipley.

Superintendent H W Atkinson, prosecuting, said the offence was committed at the Fox and Hounds Hotel, Commercial Street, Shipley, between 5.30 and 8 pm on Friday last. Miss Harthen arrived at the hotel at 5.30 pm to begin her duties as a barmaid, and put her handbag on a ledge near the tap room window. The accused was seen to visit the hotel that evening, and Miss Harthen missed the bag about 8 pm. It was known that Walker had been in the tap room, and was seen standing near

where the handbag had been left by the barmaid. Information was given to the police, and PWR Driver made inquiries at a number of licensed houses in the district, but failed to find the accused. Walker, however, had evidently heard the police were making inquiries about him, and at 9.30 pm on Friday he went of his own accord to the police station. He denied all knowledge of the theft, and elected to be searched. The sum of 2s 8 1/2d was found in his possession. He gave a detailed account of his movements, which consisted of visits to several licensed houses, and added that at the beginning of the evening he had only 8s in his possession.

Police officers made further inquiries, continued Superintendent Atkinson, and they learned that Walker changed a 10s note at one public house. In consequence of that, Walker was interviewed again by the police on the Sunday. He still denied any knowledge of the theft, but a little later he said, "I will tell you the truth about it. If you will let me go, I will fetch the bag". He then took the police officers to a tunnel nearby, where the bag and contents, apart from the money it had contained, was recovered. Asked what he had done with the money, Walker replied, "I have spent it in beer". When charged, he said, "I don't know what made me do it".

PWR Driver said that it was because Walker told him he had only 8s, and then witness learned he had changed a 10s note in a public house, that caused the police to resume their inquiries about the accused after his visit to the police station.

Superintendent Atkinson said Walker had ten previous convictions, mostly for being drunk and disorderly. His last conviction was in June last year, when he was fined £2 for being drunk and disorderly. In 1937, he was bound over for stealing. He was a married man with three children, but his wife obtained a separation order against him five years ago.

102 1 November 1944

FOUND DROWNED AT SALTIAIRE

SHIPLEY INQUEST ON A BRADFORD MAN An inquest was held at Shipley Town Hall on Monday before the District Coroner (Mr E W Norris) and a jury, of which Mr G A Richards was foreman, concerning the death of John Harold Hilley, silk warp dresser, 16 Thompson Avenue, Swain House Estate, Bradford, whose body was recovered from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Hirst Wood, Saltaire, on Saturday.

Charles Gordon Hilley of 16 Thompson Avenue, Swain House Estate, Bradford, (his brother) said that deceased lived at the same address and worked up to the Wednesday before he went missing on Sunday October 15th. He had been under Dr Caine for several years for treatment for neurasthenia. Apart from the question of health, witness did not know his brother had any worries. Witness last saw him between 6 pm and 6.30 pm on Sunday October 15th, and his mother told him that his brother left the house about 8 pm. He had changed into his old shoes and had left his wristlet watch at home.

Joseph Crowther, canal boatman, 122 Hill Street, Bingley, said that about 11 am on Saturday he was in a canal barge approaching Hirst Lock, Saltaire, from the Shipley side, when he noticed something floating in the water, and when he got near he found it was a body. Witness got a boat hook and procured the body, and then notified the police.

BODY DISCOLOURED In reply to the foreman of the jury, witness said the body was discoloured, and appeared to have been in the water a few days.

PC Holmes said that at about 11 am on Saturday he saw the body (fully dressed) lying on the left bank of the canal on the Saltaire side. Witness removed the body to the mortuary. There was one diagonal cut across the left hand, which appeared like a scar. A latch key was found in the pocket, but no money.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned, there not being sufficient evidence to show how he got into the water".

103 9 March 1949

PASSING OF A GREAT PERSONALITY

DEATH OF MR ABRAHAM KENDALL By the death on Monday morning of Mr Abraham

Kendall of Park House, Moorhead, Shipley lost perhaps its most colourful personality.

Every district with roots going far back into the past has its generations linked by warm vital characters who, in a very real sense, supply the framework upon which the local character and spirit is based. Such a one was Mr Kendall. Early next month he would have been 85 years of age. A native of Shipley, throughout his life Mr Kendall took a deep interest in every phase of the life of the town, and so retentive was his memory that he enjoyed a seemingly endless fund of detail and anecdote about the district and its characters.

A COURAGEOUS BUSINESSMAN He had a most interesting business career. He enjoyed a family connection with trade on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, dating back to the canal's opening in 1776. His father was a canal boatman. Later, the family took over a large coal business in Leeds, and eventually, as coal and stone merchants and quarry owners, they had 26 boats plying between Liverpool, Shipley and Goole.

Leaving Pannal College at 15 years of age, Mr Kendall was set to work as a mate on a canal boat to learn the business.

With his brother, the late Mr John Kendall, about 40 years ago, he bought the White House Farm estate at Moorhead, and later he developed it as a housing estate.

Mr Kendall was his own architect for about 100 detached and semi-detached houses. In the face of strong criticism from experienced builders, he built houses without attics or cellars. The soundness of his idea was quickly vindicated. The property sold quickly, and today the two storey house is by far the most popular.

Certainly, Mr Kendall never lacked courage and enterprise in his business activities.

Another of his life long interests was the Primitive Methodist, and after union, the Methodist Church. His own church was the one in Saltaire Road, but many other churches in the Shipley Methodist Circuit have cause to be grateful to his generosity and interest.

With one or two friends, he inaugurated the Saltaire and Shipley Old Friends' Tea, and so zealous was he in the interests of the old people that in a very real sense his name became synonymous with this annual treat.

He was also a founder member of Shipley Liberal Club.

HOSPITAL'S SEALED ENVELOPE In 1931, Mr Kendall presented to Salt's Hospital a sealed envelope, on condition it remained unopened for 30 years. When the hospital changed to State control recently, the question of opening the envelope arose, and Mr Kendall asked for its return, but the hospital's governors decided to keep the envelope and comply with the original conditions.