



Items of Interest during the Year 1956-57

(taken from Barber's Almanack 1958).

Gathered from the Local Newspapers, etc. during the past year.
Every care is taken to make the following list correct
but no item or date is guaranteed by the publisher.

December, 1956.

1--A car driven by David Goodge, of Ely Road, Littleport, crashed into a tree in Cambridge Road, Ely. He was taken to hospital with injuries which included a fractured jaw.

Boys' Brigade Christmas sale. The proceeds amounted to £40.

St. Matthew's Church sale realised over £90.

4--Roger Law and Elwyn Turner, pupils of Littleport Secondary School, were awarded art scholarships tenable for one year at the Cambridge Technical College and School of Art.

7--Dart players of the Black Horse Inn, Black Horse Drove, raised £8 for the Isle of Ely Society for the Blind.

8--Parish Church Christmas Fair in aid of Church Restoration and Parish Hall funds. Proceeds were £107.

9--Toy service held at St. John's Methodist Church. The speaker was the Rev. Fred Peacock from the Dalston Mission, London, where the gifts would be distributed.

11--Annual meeting of Littleport Women's Institute. The President (Mrs. W. J. Gill) read a letter of good wishes from the Institute's "link" in Australia and spoke of the recent passing of Mrs. Elizabeth Luff, one of their members, and formerly of Littleport, Mrs. Luff had been responsible for the bond which now existed between the two branches.

12--Death of the Rev. Walter Waddelow Martin, fifth son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Martin. of Highfield, Littleport. He was 87.

!!! Littleport Parish Council decided to press their request to the Ministry of Transport that traffic lights should be installed at Crown Corner.

Members of the Littleport Women's Fellowship made presentations to Mrs. M. Roaks and Mrs. J. W. Harwood, both of whom were resigning from the Fellowship.

13--Scholars of the County Primary School presented their annual play. It was entitled "Children of the Bible."

Local first prize winners at pig and cattle shows and sales held at Ely were Messrs. A. Stebbings, B. W. Bishop and F. G. Starling (3 firsts and championship steer).

18--The Isle of Ely Education Committee issued a licence permitting Carolyn Sloan, of Littleport Secondary School, to appear in the pantomime "Dick Whittington" at the Theatre Royal, King's Lynn. Carolyn was aged 12.

21--Engagement announced between Mr. Alan Cross, of Ely, and Miss Miriam Scarff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Scarff, of Little Ouse.

24--Midnight Mass celebrated at the Parish Church. 90 made their communion.

28--Death, at Clacton, of Mr. William Fordham, a former Littleport resident, aged 79. He was for many years in business, as a baker and confectioner at Victoria Street.

31--Mr. J. Sparrow, of Littleport, succeeded in winning the President's salver for billiards at the Ely Police and Fire Services Social and Sports Club's competition finals.

January, 1957.

2--Thomas Joseph Daley, an Irishman who had lived in Littleport under the assumed name of Jim Best, pleaded guilty at the Isle of Ely Quarter Sessions to breaking and entering the shop of Mr. Keith Fletcher, fish and chip merchant, Main Street Littleport, and stealing £6/10/0 in money and a wristwatch valued at £5. The offence took place in the early hours of December 7th, 1956.

76 "Over Seventies" were entertained to a grand party at the Grange. The hostesses were members of the Women's Section of the British Legion.

4--Engagement announced between Mr. Jack Veal of Plymouth, and Grace, only child of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Strafford, of 17, High Street, Littleport.

Fifth annual dinner of the Black Horse Drove branch of the National Union of

Agricultural Workers.

6--Motor cycling--les Ayres Trophy Trial--John Sparrow won the Lancaster Cup for the best performance by a Littleport club member.

7--First meeting in connection with the National Week of Prayer held at St. John's Methodist Church. The speaker was S/Captain Balcombe of the Salvation Army.

11--The Littleport Company of the Boys' Brigade gave a display of physical training and drill at Outwell.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Taylor of Saffron Close, announced the engagement of their only daughter, Ann, to Mr. Geoffrey Cuthbert, of Southery.

Music Successes--At recent examinations at Cambridge in connection with the Royal Schools of Music the following candidates were successful in pianoforte: Ann Clift grade III (transitional) passed with merit and also passed grade III (theory) : Jacqueline Chapman, passed, grade II. At the examinations held at Peterborough in connection with Trinity College of Music Gillian Langley passed with merit in the initial grade. All were pupils of Mrs. Charles Haines.

12--Death at Haddiscoe, Norfolk, of Mr. Charles Brooks, a member of an old Isle of Ely farming family and a native of Littleport. He was 82.

Mr. C. W. Smith, of City Road, was taken to Ely R.A.F. Hospital after his car was involved in a head-on collision with another car on Ely Road, Prickwillow.

19--Littleport Wheelers Cycling Club annual sausage supper. A presentation was made to Mr. L. Hicks, the retiring racing-secretary.

Mr. D. Speed was installed as the new president of the Isle of Ely Association of the National Union of Teachers. He is a member of the staff at Littleport Secondary Modern School.

!!! Valerie Rutterford, 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Rutterford, of Friars Way, was a successful competitor in the Radio Luxemburg programme "Jamboree." She correctly identified the singer of a certain popular song and was awarded a three-speed record player.

20--A memorial service to the late Mrs. A. M. Daniels and Mr. Alfred Mackender was held in St. John's Methodist Church.

25--It was revealed that the Parish Council's appeal in aid of the Lord Mayor of

London's Hungarian Relief Fund reached the total of £196/8/3.

Choir boys of the Parish Church were entertained by the Vicar and Mrs. Payne. Tea at the Vicarage was followed by a visit to the cinema.

26--Cambridgeshire County standard bearer, Mr. G. W. Pettitt, of Littleport, was placed eighth in the Eastern Area of the British Legion standard bearers' competition held at Cambridge.

A film, "The Ascent of Everest," was shown to members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship by the Rev. C. G. Wade.

30--Mrs. Ron Bidwell left Littleport for Gibraltar to join her husband serving there with H.M. Forces. Mrs. Bidwell is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Youngs, of 99, Wisbech Road.

At a supper party organised by the Mothers' Union, a presentation was made to Mrs. Payne as a mark of appreciation of her work on behalf of the members.

31--Death, at King's Lynn, of Mrs. Florence Purchase, a former resident of Station Road, Littleport.

February. 1957

1--Annual meeting of the British Legion Club. It was announced that not one single subscriber had given to the War Memorial appeal launched last year.

Meeting of the Over Sixties Club. A performance by the club band, led by Mrs. Grindling, was greatly enjoyed.

3--Brigadier Horsley, of Soham, conducted Salvation Army meetings at Littleport,

5--In the Isle of Ely Education Committee's safety first essay competition the following pupils of Littleport Secondary School gained prizes in their respective age groups:-Angela Pettitt (first), Carolyn Sloan (second), Daphne Taylor(third). Rosemary Todd's essay was highly commended.

7--Members of the Trefoil Guild made a presentation to Mrs. R. Gipp, a member who was shortly leaving for Australia.

9--Littleport Women's Institute party for members' children. Mrs. W. Gill and Mrs. T. Misson gave a performance of "Rock 'n' Roll" (their own version).

12--Monthly meeting of the Women's Institute. Four new members, Mrs. Thrower.

Mrs. Watson, Mrs. S. Simpson and Mrs. Horsley were welcomed.

13--A precept of £2,750 for the new financial year as against £3,050 in the year just ending, was agreed to at a meeting of the Parish Council.

15--Annual meeting of the Parent Teacher Association Referring to the new house sports trophy, Miss Davy said this had been purchased with money given by Mrs. King in thanks for the tuition her child had received while at the school.

Littleport Motor Cycle and Light Car Club's annual dinner. Awards were presented as follows:--Les Ayres Trophy, D. W. Webb; Lancaster Cup, John Sparrow; Points Scheme Cup and cash award, W. E. Power.

Death, in London, of Father A. E. T. Raven. He became well known locally during the war, when children from his parish- St. Matthias, Bethnal Green, were evacuated to Littleport

16-Mr. E. W. J. Howe, of New River Bank, was severely injured when his car overturned on the icy Gilgal corner.

In a painting competition organised by Mr. H. Stimpson in connection with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the following were awarded prizes in the class for children of the local Hereward Lodge: Richard Fletcher, Valerie Levett, Stewart Rogers, David Bailey, Christine Lemmon, Jill Fletcher, Eric Pearson, Robert Wicks. In addition Richard Fletcher, Valerie Levett and Stewart Rogers, together with Anne Franke and John Geraty, gained prizes in the open classes.

17--Dedication of the infant son of Salvationists Mr. and Mrs. R. Stoten at the Salvation Army Hall.

Mr. J. Badcock, for many years superintendent of St. John's Methodist Sunday school, was presented with a parting gift from the school in appreciation of his good work. His daughter, Miss Margaret Badcock, Miss Patricia Vinall and Miss Jean Gotobed, teachers at the school, also leaving, were recipients of similar tokens.

20--Mr. Christopher John Gilbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilbert, of "Broadlands," Wisbech Road, Littleport, celebrated his coming-of-age.

27--Table tennis By defeating Ely 9--1, Littleport retained the championship of the Ely and District League

March .1957

1--Littleport Girl Guides "open night." Four Brownies, Rosalyn Everett, Ruth

Wilkinson, Shirley and Pauline Fletcher, having won their wings, an outstanding achievement in Brownie life, were promoted to the Guides.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Gipp, 2nd Willow Row Farm, Littleport announced the engagement of their only daughter, Gail Yvonne to Mr. Anthony Collen of Ely.

2--Marriage, at St. Leonard's Church, Little Downham, between Miss Heather Winters, of Little Downham, and Mr. Charles Fletcher, youngest son of Mrs. D. Fletcher and the late Mr. Fletcher, of Hempfield Place, Littleport.

Littleport British Legion Band individual darts tournament. A.V. Smith (Littleport) won the tournament for the second time in succession.

5--10th annual meeting of the Littleport Branch of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The secretary, Mr. L. A. Hughes, reported a very favourable membership.

6--Members of the Little Ouse Women's Institute were the guests at a meeting of the Littleport Women's Fellowship.

7--Death, at the Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, of David Edward, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Lofts, of Woodfen Road, Littleport.

Guest speaker at a meeting of the British Legion Women's Section was Mrs. J. Gilbert, whose subject, "Progress in embroidery and do's and don'ts in competition work," was of special interest.

9--Marriage, at Ely Register Office, between Miss Betty Woodruffe, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Woodruffe, of Friars Way, Littleport, and Mr. Frederick Curtis, of Little Downham.

Marriage, at Ely Register Office, of Miss Pamela Ashman, of Chettisham, and Mr. Norman Mott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mott, of Wisbech Road, Littleport.

10--Littleport Angling Club staged its last match of the season. Mr. A. Coleby was the winner.

11--The following pupils of local schools were successful in passing the entrance examination to Ely High School for Girls and Soham Grammar School:--Olive Pettitt, Joan Cross, Margaret Gilbert, Renee Norman, Susan Furbank, Andrew Wright, George Willett, Roger Crabb, Maurice Thrower, Richard Flack, Richard Creak.

12--Presentation made to Mrs. J. Badcock at a meeting of St. John's Methodist Women's Fellowship. The farewell gift, a table lamp, was handed to Mrs. Badcock

on behalf of the members by Mrs. C. G. Wade.

Monthly meeting of Littleport Women's Institute. At the commencement members stood in silent tribute to the memory of Mrs. W. Mott, a former member who recently passed away.

14--17--Presentations made to Mr. and Mrs. J. Badcock at St John's Methodist Church on behalf of the church and choir. Mr & Mrs. Badcock were shortly leaving Littleport for St Ives where Mr. Badcock was taking up a new post at Barclays Bank

15---Engagement announced between Mr, Dennis Fletcher, of Soham Fen, and Miss Marlene Handley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs H. S. Handley, of Littleport.

First meeting for three years of Littleport Women's Conservative Association. It was arranged by Mrs. W. J. Gilli secretary-treasurer.

16--Marriage. at St. Mary's Church, Ely, of Miss Daphne Bates, of Ely and Mr. Arthur Murfitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Murfitt. of Parsons Lane, Littleport.

Youth Festival of Dancing held at Chatteris. Littleport Secondary School received one first, three second and one third class award

18--After 14 years' service, Mr. F. R. Hannent, a trustee of the Town Lands Charity, tendered his resignation.

19--Funeral at Soham of Mr. Herbert Coxall, of Upton Place, and formerly of Soham. He was 79.

20--Annual meeting of Littleport Town Cricket Club. The secretary, Mr. F. Watson, spoke of the previous season's successes when three trophies were won. The batting and bowling averages were headed by R. Tassell and C. Fincham respectively

22--Lecture--Miss Oates, recently of Norwich Training Coltege, spoke to members of the Parent Teacher Association. Her subject was "Some aspects of growth in children between 4 1/2 and 11 years."

A B.B.C. programme, "The Battle of the Banks," was broadcast on the Home Service. It marked the 10th anniversary of the fen floods of 1947.

27--Littleport British Legion Band's sausage supper. The occasion marked the Band's silver jubilee.

28--Death, at the Tower Hospital, Ely, of Mr. E. Carpenter, formerly of Station Road, Littleport. Mr. Carpenter was a veteran of the Boer War and also served in the

first World War. He was 76.

Long service badges in connection with the National Savings movement were presented to Mrs. James, Black Horse Drove (25 years) and Mrs. H. A. Rowell, Littleport (25 years).

!!! Annual meeting of Littleport St. John Ambulance Brigade. It was reported that the ambulance had made 340 journeys and carried 397 patients, covering a distance of 11,413 miles.

29--Nursing success--Mr. E. R. Lewis, of City Road, was successful in passing his S.R.N. final examination.

Nursing success--Miss Sylvia June Neve, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Neve, of Hitches Street, passed her State preliminary examination as S.R.C.N.

31--Death, at Ely R.A.F. Hospital, following a car accident on the Gilgal corner, of Mr. Eric Howe. Aged 22, he was the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Howe, of New River Bank.

April, 1957

1--Vicars, parish and assistant priests of the Deaneries of Ely and March had their first meeting with their new Bishop (Dr. Hudson) at Littleport. A book token was presented to Canon and Mrs. Payne to mark the occasion of Canon Payne's resignation as Rural Dean after 12 years in office.

2--Wedding, at the Wesley Methodist Church, Ely, between Miss Jean Bullingham, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bullingham, of Prickwillow, and Mr. Peter Cross, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cross of Bracken Cottage, Littleport.

4--Meeting of Black Horse Drove Women's Institute. A monologue entitled "The Cow" was given by Mrs. Lucas.

5--Nursing success--Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Starling, of Friars Place, received news that their twin daughters, Jean and Janet, had been successful in passing their Preliminary State Nursing examinations, parts one and two.

Littleport again secured the championship of the Ely and District Table Tennis League. Every game was won.

First anniversary of the Over Sixties' Club. Gifts were presented to Mrs. C. England and Mr. E. Peacock, oldest members at the party.

6--Littleport Ladies' Choir, competing in the London Musical Competition Festival, gained first place in the Ladies' Choirs Class. Mrs. C. R. Browning conducted.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Goff, of High Street, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

8-Football-Littleport Primary schoolboys gained their first Junior Schools League victory, defeating Haddenham 3--0. It was their last match of the season.

9--Meeting of Women's Institute. The Easter bonnet competition was won by Mrs. H. Lofts.

11--Monthly meeting of the British Legion Women's Section. A certificate of merit at area level was presented to Mrs. H. Saul for needlework.

12--Tenth annual meeting of Black Horse Drove Community Association. Tribute was paid to the late Mr. Percy Laws, a tireless member of the committee.

Music success---At a recent examination in connection with the Royal Schools of Music, the following candidates, all pupils of Mrs. Charles Haines, were successful in theory and music: Jacqueline Chapman (grade I), Mary Covell (grade I) and Iris Youngs (grade II).

Engagement announced between Mr. Hadyn Saul, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Saul, of City Road, Littleport, and Miss Elizabeth Addy, of Barnsley.

13--Littleport British Legion Band took part in the annual brass band contest organised by the Daily Herald, at Westminster. They were fourth,

13--Spring sale, organised by members of Victoria Street Methodist Church, realised £75. It was opened by Mr. G.P.T>Peacock.

17--Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Wiliiamson, with their three small daughters left Littleport to return to Canada after a five-month visit Mrs. Williamson is the youngest daughter of the late Mr.& Mrs. Robert Law.

Football--Littleport Wheelers Ladies v. Town Football Supporters Ladies. Result Wheelers 3, Supporters 0.

!!! 18--Annual meeting of Littleport and Prickwillow Nursing Association. It was reported that polio vaccine had become available for local children.

19--Good Friday--United service held at the Salvation Army Hall, It was led by the

Methodist Minister, Rev. C. G. Wade.

!!! 27--Littleport's new bandstand, a memorial to the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, was officially handed over to the Parish Council by Mrs. W. J. Gill, the chairman of the Coronation Committee.

29--Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Council meeting. Mr. F. R. Hannent resigned from the Council after 20 years of service.

May. 1957

1-- Littleport Women's Institute Choir repeated last year's success by winning their section in the Isle Federation of W.I.s. singing competition held at the Constitutional Hall.

3--Mr. and Mrs. F. Halls, of Plains Lane, Littleport, announced the engagement of their grandson, Raymond Marshall, only son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Marshall, to Miss Betty Clark, of Isleham.

4 Littleport Ladies Choir gained yet another success. Competing in the Cambridge Festival of Music, they were awarded top marks.

A cheque for £75. Littleport F.C. Supporters' Club's first gift to the parent club, was presented by Mrs. T. Simper, chairman of the Supporters' Club.

Members of the Women's Fellowship collected £35/10/7 for the Isle of Ely Society for the Blind.

Marriage, at Soham Methodist Church, of Miss Sheila Girdler, of Soham, and Mr. William James Spalding, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Spalding, of Queen's Road, Littleport.

5 -- Members of the Black Horse Drove Methodist Church welcomed their former minister, the Rev. Morley Waite.

!!! 7-The Isle of Ely Education Committee refused to adopt a recommendation from the governors of Littleport Secondary School that the new school be named "The Vermuyden School." A proposal that the name should be "The Martin School" was approved.

9--Boys Brigade annual inspection, display and prize giving. The inspecting officer, Brigadier J. V. McCormack, highly praised the company on their smartness and turn out.

11--Littleport Ladies and Mixed Choirs were awarded trophies in connection with the Isle of Ely Music Festival. Another Littleport winner was Marjorie Porter who gained her success in the junior folk song section.

Collections organised by Mrs. W. J. Gill in connection with the British Empire Cancer Campaign yielded £41/18/3. The collectors were members of the Women's Institute;

!!! 12--Bishop Walsh preached at St. John's Church, Little Ouse. Severe thunderstorms cut off part of Littleport's electric supply for most of the night. About 40 telephones were put out of order

13--Further awards in connection with the Isle of Ely Music Festival were presented to Marjorie Porter, Mr. Reginald Taylor and the Littleport Male and Mixed Choirs.

!!! 16--At the Royal Albert Hall, London, Littleport British Legion Women's Section were awarded the "Princess Royal" trophy in recognition of all-round efficiency and progress in 1957 It was presented by H.R.H. the Princess Royal herself.

17--Diana James and Lynda Skipper both of Black Horse Drove, won prizes in a national handwriting competition organised by a well known tea firm.

18--St. John's Methodist Church anniversary. The Rev. W. T. Harrison of Ely, conducted a special service and act of re-dedication

A spring fair and concert, organised at Black Horse Drove by the Methodist Church and Women's Institute, yielded £60.

19--Cycling-Fenland R.R.A. time trials--Littleport's Carol Clarke and, Poppy Chilvers gained second and third place respectively in the ladies' 10-mile trial.

S/Captain M. Balcombe conducted her last service at the Salvation Army Hall. She was leaving the local corps to take up an appointment at Norwich.

21--Marriage, at Epworth (Doncaster) of Miss Betty Trimmingham, of Heckington, Lincs., and Radio Officer R. Pilkington, only son of Mr. R. Pilkington and the late Mrs. Pilkington, of Ely Road Littleport.

23--New commanding officers, Lieutenants D. Ketley and A. Sheard, were welcomed to the Salvation Army Corps.

24--Mr. and Mrs. H. Hodson, of Burnt Chimney Road, announced the engagement of their youngest daughter Wendy, to Peter, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. L. Strawson, of White House Road, Little Ouse.

Six-year-old Peter Carter, of Ely Road, was taken to the R.A.F. Hospital following an accident in High Street. Peter overbalanced on the pavement and fell into the road between a tractor and a heavy roller which the tractor was towing. The roller passed over him.

25--R. Murfitt, of Littleport Wheelers, won the open one mile handicap at Soham sports.

Mr. F. G. Starling and Mr. G. P. T. Peacock both took prizes with their British Percheron horses at the County Show held at Dullingham.

!!! 26--Official opening and dedication of the Coronation Bandstand.

30--Ninth anniversary party of Black Horse Drove Women's Institute. Members who were awarded stars at the W.I. Handicraft Exhibition were congratulated. They were Mrs. W. Cornwell (1), Mrs. Lucas (2) and Mrs. T. B. James (8).

31-260 members of the Mothers' Union, representing eleven parishes, were present at the Deanery Festival held for the first time at Littleport Parish Church.

June. 1957

1--Miss Anne Cullen ("Carol Grey" of the B.B.C. feature "The Archers"), opened the Boys' Brigade fete held in the garden of "Sunnyside," the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Price.

2--250 children attended a special Ascension Day service at the Parish Church.

3--Mr. S. H. Charters, O.B.E., inspected personnel and appliances at Littleport fire station. Mr. Charters is one of H.M. Inspectors of Fire Services.

4--Isle of Ely Education Committee awarded an Exhibition Scholarship to Mr. Bernard Nicholas, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Nicholas, of Friars Way.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Creak, of New Road, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary.

7--Mr. and Mrs. C. Palmer, of Silt Road, Littleport, announced the engagement of their son Derek to Shirley, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Key, of 48, Parsons Lane, Littleport.

Engagement announced between Mr. Eric Underdown, eldest son of Mrs. H. Underdown, of Black Horse Drove, and Miss Wendy Scarff, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Scarff, of Little Ouse.

8--Nearly 3,000 attended the Littleport Wheelers' and British Legion Band Sports held at Highfield. In the 5 miles N.C.U. National Championship race, H. Hopkins of the Wheelers took the runner's-up Medal.

9--Death, at his home, Downham Road, Ely, of Mr. T. W. O. Mott at the age of 80. We began his farming career with his uncle, Mr. T. J. Mott, at Dairy Houses.

Death at Highfield, of Mrs. Susan Mary Martin, widow of the late Mr. Heber G. Martin. She was 91.

11--Ely Rural District Council accepted a £22,037 tender from Messrs. J. H. Cross & Son for the erection of 14 bungalows on the Woodfen estate.

12--40 candidates were confirmed at Littleport Parish Church by the Lord Bishop of Ely,

!!! 13--Meeting of the Ouse River Board in connection with the Flood Protection Scheme. A tender of £1,304,459 submitted by Messrs. Derek Crouch Contractors Ltd. for widening the river and raising the banks between Ely and Denver was accepted.

15--Mr. G. P. 7. Peacock's Percheron filly (Willow Row Falcon) gained a first prize at Hunts. County Show. A similar award went to Messrs. J. H. Martin Sr Son's British Friesian heifer (Littleport Katie 21st).

Col. W. P. Cutlack performed the opening ceremony at the Parish Church fete. The proceeds were £109.

Sudden death of John Willett, 16-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Willett, of 33, Main Street,

18--Mr. D. Jefferson, of Messrs. Clarke's of Granby Street, presented a fashion show at a meeting of the Women's Institute.

20--Methodist Circuit Rally held at Ely. Mrs. E. R. Cross of Millfield, and Mrs. J. Myhill of Hempfield Road, were presented with long service certificates for their work as local preachers.

21--A recent Red Cross collection in Littleport yielded the sum of £50 1s. 9d.

22--Because of heavy rain the Women's institute summer fete was held in the Constitutional Hall. The proceeds amounted to £60.

Whittlesey Show--Mr. F. G. Starling's horse, Simon, gained the award for the best Percheron in the show.

25--Miss Sheila Harrington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Harrington, of Station Road, celebrated her 21st birthday.

28--A donation of £1 17s. 6d. was forwarded to the British Diabetic Association from the pupils of the Secondary Modern School in memory of the late John Willett, a former fellow pupil.

!!! 29--Lightning struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stapley, of Victoria Street, totally destroying a chimney.

Mrs. Hunter Rowe, of Upwell, opened St. John's Methodist Church garden fete.

A garden fete at Little Ouse realised £80 for St. John's Church.

Cycling--Littleport Wheelers defeated Norwich Amateur Bicycle Club in the first heat of the Eastern Counties Team Pursuit Championship.

30--Littleport Boys' Brigade attended a jubilee celebration service at Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge.

July. 1957

2--Mr. F. G. Starling's Percheron horse, Simon, won the class for geldings at the Royal Show, held at Norwich.

5--Engagement announced between John, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ward, Letter 'F' Farm, and Barbara, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Constable, Letter 'F' Farm, Mildenhall Road, Littleport.

6--Mrs. T. B. James, of Black Horse Drove, opened the Salvation Army garden party.

8--Littleport Girl Guides held their annual fete in the Primary School playground. Proceeds were £70.

9--Sgt. S. Ellis, a policewoman of the Isle of Ely Constabulary, spoke of police work in the Women's Force at the monthly meeting of the Women's Institute.

10--Miss Vivienne Convine was awarded the title of "Miss Littleport" at a contest organised by the British Legion Women's Section. Mrs. F. King was second, Miss S. Pettit third, and Miss A. Turner fourth.

11--About 40 members of the Over Sixties' Club visited Isleham. They were the guests of the local Evergreen Club.

Cycling--Littleport Wheelers' pursuit team reached the final of the Eastern Counties Team Pursuit Championship by beating Norwich Premier C.C. team in the semi-final at Attleborough.

13--Presentation made to Mr. Albert Cox at West London Police Court to mark his retirement from the position of senior probation officer in West London after 38 years of service. He is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Cox, of Station Road, Littleport. His wife was formerly Miss Jessie Chevill, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Chevill, of City Road.

14--Angling-A trophy match for members of Littleport Angling Club was fished at Bradfords Bridge, Peterborough. The winner was M. Handley.

15--Death, at Ipswich, of Fanny Emily, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cheeseright, formerly of Littleport. She was 81.

17--County Primary School junior sports. Championship winners were John Howe and Rosalyn Everett (over 9); Richard Bowles and Hazel Malkin (under 9).

18--Diana Stanley, Christine Howe, Shirley Atkinson, Patsy Garner and Maxine Youngs were enrolled as members of the local Red Cross.

20--Black Horse Drove garden fete for Community Centre funds yielded £55.

Cricket--Littleport defeated King's Lynn, Scores--King's Lynn 39. Littleport 42 for 3 wickets.

20--First day of provincial busmen's official strike.

21-Cycling-Littleport Wheelers were defeated in the final of the Eastern Counties Team Pursuit Championship by Suffolk Roads C.C.

Collections in connection with the annual Church Parade totalled £77. The cup for the best decorated vehicle was awarded to the Boys' Brigade entry.

23--Littleport Swimming Club's annual gala held at Sandhill Bridge. Winners of the Club trophies were: Geoffrey Willett (Aggas Cup), R. Misson (Crown Cup) and T. McClusky (Black Horse Cup).

24-Cricket-Littleport easily defeated Ely Excelsior in the final of the Soham Cup. Scores--Ely 41, Littleport 42 for 4 wickets.

Cricket--Black Horse Drove Invitation Cup, Final--Little Ouse defeated Ouse Bridge by 3 wickets.

26--Ann Fendick, a member of the 1st Littleport company, the Girl Guides, was selected to represent the Isle of Ely and Cambs. at the world camp at Windsor. Ann is the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fendick, of Victoria Street.

27--Marriage, at St. Andrew's Church, Witchford, between Miss Sheila Cooper, of Witchford, and Mr. Anthony Collins, first son of Mr. and Mrs. Collins, of Friars Place, Littleport.

!!! In spite of lack of travelling facilities due to the bus strike, over 3,500 people attended Littleport's annual show and sports N, Tong (London Polytechnic) won the Wheelers' 100-guinea challenge cup.

Marriage, at St. Mary's Church, Ely, of Miss Pamela Merry, of Ely, and Mr. Austin Wilding, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Wilding, of Black Horse Drove.

Several first prizes, a challenge cup and many other awards were won by Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Oakman, of The Crescent, Littleport, at Newmarket and District Cage Bird Show.

29--Group Scoutmaster Mr. C. R. Browning, together with Troop Leader R. Ambrose and Patrol Leaders R. Gooby and G. Tuck, left Littleport to attend the Boy Scouts Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield.

August. 1957

2--Cricket-In the Kirkland Cup final, played at Ely, Littleport defeated Ely Excelsior by 56 runs.

At recent examinations of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, the following pupils of Mrs. Charles Haines were successful in pianoforte: grade 1 (primary), Mary Covell, Rosemary Germeney and Gillian Langley: grade 3 (transitional), Iris Youngs.

12--Miss F. E. Lee, a native of Littleport and former headmistress of the local infants' school, left Littleport to live at Hunstanton. Miss Lee, who was associated with many local activities, was particularly well known for her splendid work in connection with the physiotherapy clinic in Victoria Street. Her sister, Miss E. Lee, also a native, accompanied her.

!!! 14--Littleport's "over-seventies" were entertained by the Women's Institute to a tea and party. Among the dancers of the polka were a couple whose ages were 88 and 92.

15--Angling-The local club defeated Chatteris in a challenge match fished at Littleport.

24--The Lord Lieutenant of the County (Capt. R. G. Briscoe, M.C) opened the British Legion Band fete held in the garden of Hampden House, the home of Mrs. T. Peake. The net profit was £60.

25--Major and Mrs. Leonard, visitors from Liverpool, spoke at the local Salvation Army meetings.

30--The newly formed junior Football Club benefited by £5 10s. 0d. as the result of a dance held at the Constitutional Hall.

September. 1957

1--Angling-R. Angel won the Wood-Barrett trophy for the second year in succession.

3--Members of the Littleport Women's Fellowship were the guests at the monthly meeting of Little Ouse and Brandon Bank Women's Institute.

Silver wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. Murfitt, of Parsons Lane.

6--News received of the appointment of Mr. K. E. Darby as manager of the Littleport branch of Barclays Bank in succession to Mr. E. H. Goodwin who was to take over the management of the Bank's branch at Downham Market. Mr. Darby's previous post was at Ramsey, where he was chief clerk.

6--The engagement announced between Miss Patricia Anne Flack, of The Estate, Black Horse Drove, and Mr. Anthony John Butcher, of Hempfield Place, Littleport.

Local Red Cross cadets provided the entertainment at a meeting of the Over Sixties Club.

10--Monthly meeting of Littleport Women's Institute. A demonstration on hairdressing and styling was sponsored by Miss Kathleen Lester.

15--To mark the end of the second year of the ministry of the evangelist in charge (Capt. G. H. Robbins) a special family service was held in St. John's Church, Little Ouse.

At services held in the Parish Church the Vicar (Rev. Canon J. K. C. Paynel) spoke of the passing of Alderman Armiger and of the great work that he had done for the Church.

Funeral at Littleport of Mrs. Emma Atkin, wife of Mr. Albert Atkin, of Witcham Cravel. Mrs. Atkin was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Howlett, of Sandhill, Littleport. She was 77.

!!! 20--A Light Sussex year-old pullet belonging to Mr. Horace Murfitt, of Black Horse Drove, laid an egg weighing 7 ounces, 3 1/2 times the weight of an ordinary egg.

22--Littleport and District Motor Cycle and Light Car Club Scramble--Andy Lee, of Cambridge, retained the Littleport Challenge Trophy after a neck and neck battle with Keith Potter, of Takeley, Essex.

23--Captain J. C. Payne, home from South Africa, presented a film show at a meeting of the Mothers' Union. He is the son of the Rev. Canon and Mrs. Payne.

24--Farewell presentation made to Mr. E. H. Goodwin at the British Legion Club in recognition of his services as treasurer to the Branch, Club, Ladies' Section and Band.

25--Death of Mr. W. H. Dade at the age of 74. A Londoner Mr. Dade was one of the "Old Contemptibles," serving with the Royal Norfolks in the first World War.

Dr. Rainer Goldsmith, explorer and member of the Transantarctic expedition, lectured to schoolchildren at the Regal Cinema and to adults at the Grange Convalescent Home.

27--Engagement announced between Mr. Brian Alsop, of Ely; and Miss Averil Turner, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Turner, of Hempfield Place, Littleport.

October. 1957

1--Scholarship awards announced by the Isle of Ely Education Committee. Local recipients were:--Richard John Tassell (County Major), Alastair Lennie Burnet (County Exhibition).

2--First meeting of the newly-formed Methodist Good Neighbours Club. Rev. C. G. Wade was in charge of the programme.

Three Cambridge youths who, in June, broke into Mr. T. H. Law's shop in Main Street and stole cigarettes and cash, were placed on probation at the Isle of Ely Quarter Sessions,

4--Engagement announced between Donald Ronald Buckingham, of 119, Wisbech Road, Littleport, and Judith Ann Parsons, of 165, High Barns, Ely.

At Ely Valuation Court Messrs. J. H. Martin & Sons (Littleport) Ltd. successfully appealed for exemption from rating of their agricultural repairs premises in Globe Lane.

5--Women's Fellowship sale of work realised £45 for local charities and club funds.

Marriage. at St, Peter's Church, Prickwillow, of Miss Jean Turner, of Spooners Farm, Lark Bank, and Mr. Roy Howe, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Howe, of The Crescent, Littleport.

6--Death at Sand Dunes Nursing Home, Hunstanton, of Miss Hannah Eliza Page who, prior to her illness, was for many years district nurse at Littleport. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Page.

7--Annual stacking and thatching competitions held by the N.F.U (Ely Branch). Local prizewinners were J. Oakey (2nd), Mr. J. E. Kerridge's Mare Fen Farm; A. W. Bonnett (3rd), Messrs. Padgett Bros. Farm; D. Halls (3rd), Mr. R. Stubbings' Farm, Horsley Hale.

!!! 10--Annual meeting of the Littleport British Legion Women's Section. In her address the president (Mrs. G. Peacock) spoke of the branch's outstanding successes but it had been "a disgraceful year with regard to the behaviour of some members whose tittle-tatling and bickering had been simply terrible." She emphasised the need for unity and friendship among the members and concluded, "Say what you have to say at the meetings and finish with it."

Annual meeting of the British Legion Band. The balance showed a profit on the year of £234 1s. 2d.

11--Nurse King left Littleport to take up residence at Crowland.

12--Mr. W. P. Register, of School House, Little Ouse, fishing in the river there, landed a fine 27 lb. 4 oz. pike. It was 43 1/2 inches long and 21 inches round its girth.

13--Cycling-Annual "Old Crocks" race. Mr. R. Barber was the winner for the second successive year.

16--R. Angel, W. Gilbert and M. Handley, local fishermen, were chosen as members of the team to represent the Isle of Ely in the inter-county angling match to be fished at Dimmocks Close.

17--Meeting of Friendly Societies Charities Committee to allocate money collected on Parade Sunday as follows:--£10 each to Littleport and Prickwillow Nursing Associations, Littleport Child Welfare, Littleport Red Cross, S.J.A.B. Central Fund, Lord Kitchener Memorial Home, Littleport British Legion Band, Littleport Boys' Brigade and £5 to the Over Sixties' Club.

25--Engagement announced between Mr. Ronald Steadman, of Soham, and Miss Yvonne Amanda Francis, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Francis, of Friars Way Littleport.

26--A jumble sale at the County Primary School realised £65 for school funds.

27--Death of Mr. Ernest William Smith, of Millpit Furlong, Littleport, Chief Executive Officer of Ely Industrial Co-operative Society. Mr. Smith, a victim of the influenza epidemic, entered the Society's Littleport branch at the age of 22 and worked his way through the various grades until his appointment as chief in 1940. He was 68.

30--Autumn group meeting of the Littleport and District Women's Institutes was held at Sedge Fen. The Littleport branch performed a sketch entitled "An affection of the heart."

November. 1957

2--Football-In their first game in the Cambs Youth League, Littleport Juniors defeated Soham Youths by 17 goals to one.

The East Anglian Brass Band Association held its annual quartet and solo contest at the Constitutional Hall. In the junior quartet section Littleport British Legion Band gained a third place.

3--All services at St. John's Methodist Church were conducted by the Rev. Raymond Trudgian, a student from Wesley House, Cambridge.

!!! A tremendous gale which raged at night caused widespread damage in the district. In Littleport over 200 houses were damaged and many television aerials were blown down.

!!! 8--A house on the Ten Mile Bank Road in process of demolition under the river scheme, and formerly occupied by Mr. Cecil Ambrose, yielded over a bath-ful of honey which was found beneath the bedroom floorboards and ceilings of the ground floor rooms.

Death in London of Mrs. Jessie Rowell, wife of Mr. Thomas Rowell, of Edmonton, a former Littleport grocer. Mrs. Rowell before her marriage was Miss Lofts and was the sister of Mr. Herbert Lofts of Ponds Hill. She was 65.

!!! 9--Mr. G. Pettit, Littleport British Legion standard bearer, took part in the muster of standard bearers at the great Festival of Remembrance, held at the Albert Hall, London.

9--A Christmas sale, organised by members of Victoria Street Methodist Church and held in the Alexandra Hall, realised £58 for the Church renovation fund.

A welcome visitor to the Littleport Salvation Army Corps was Major Oliver Baker, Divisional Young People's Secretary from Norwich.

10--Remembrance Day observed at Littleport. The special preacher at the Parish Church was the Rev. R. Gutteridge, Chaplain to the R.A.F. Waterbeach. Poppy Day collections totalled £191 3s. 0d.

12--Monthly meeting of Littleport Women's Institute. The art of skin, hair and facial make-up was demonstrated by Mrs. R. P. Jones.

!!! 13--After considering the effect of the recent gale on chimneys carrying television aerials, Ely Rural Council decided that in future no tenants will be allowed to have their aerials fixed to single chimney-stacks; if the house has not a main stack the aerial must go on a mast in the garden.

14--Mrs. J. Gilbert, of Littleport, spoke on the duties of Women's institutes at a meeting of March St. Mary's W.I.

Funeral at Littleport of Mrs. H. J. Halliwell, wife of the late Rev. F. Halliwell, a former vicar of Little Ouse.

16--Mrs. T. B. Gordon opened St. John's Methodist Church Christmas fair. Proceeds were £60.

Annual conference of the Cambs. and Isle of Ely County Women's Section of the British Legion held at Cambridge. Mrs. D. Henshaw, secretary of the Littleport branch, was elected county treasurer.

18--Death, in London, of Mr. Frank Starling, a former resident of Littleport. He was 58.

22--Engagement announced between Mr. John King, of 26, Hempfield Place, Littleport, and Miss Shirley Herdsman, of Cottingham, near Hull, Yorks.

23--Hereward Lodge of Odd Fellows held their annual juvenile tea and party.

29--Engagement announced between Mr. Martin Sallis, second son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Sallis, of Ely Road, Littleport, and Miss Janet Ward, of Witchford.

Miss Velda Taylor, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Taylor of Victoria Street, successfully passed her final examination to become a state registered nurse.

30--A Church sale at Littleport St. Matthew's realised over £100. It was opened by Mrs. W. Milne Wilson.

Littleport Salvation Army Christmas fair opened by Mrs. J. H. Martin. The proceeds amounted to £42/2/10.
