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TELLING A BELL-RINGER

By JUDITH ROBINSON
(From 'The Telegram,' Alaska)

LONDON.—Only a short experience as audience and it is easy to understand how bell-ringing gets hold of a person. Among the ringers in St. Michael's, Cornhill, Sunday morning two were girls who had come up from Kent to hear the ringing at St. Paul's. They were members of a band in a Kentish village which had not even a full ring of bells. But the fact that they were ringers was enough. Ten minutes after St. Paul's peal ended they were standing breathless and pink with excitement in the tower of St. Michael's, Cornhill, each with a bell-rope in hand.

Two of the band of London ringers had given up their places to the visitors. So they went home to Kent happy, having had twenty minutes of ringing Caters on London's oldest ring of bells.

At the George in Southwark, when morning service at St. Michael's was over, the lieutenant instructor who had travelled by early train from Portsmouth to ring his bell with St. Michael's band, explained how it was with ringers. The newcomers from Kent had made the ringing a little ragged, he said, because they were nervous, but they were visiting ringers so they had to be asked to ring. That was an obligation among ringers.

Two other ringers who had joined the party agreed. They said a man could go all around England and never fail for friends or a chance to pull a bell if he was a ringer. All he needed to do if he found himself alone in a strange place was find a church with a ring of bells and go lean against the tower until another ringer came along and there he would be with all the friends he wanted.

He would not have to lean against the tower long, either; real ringers couldn't keep away from their bells. Moreover, a real ringer could tell in ten words whether another man was a ringer or not. If he was that would be all he would want to know.

A senior ringer by forty years said he didn't even have to talk to a man, he only had to see how he took hold of a bell-rope. The most senior ringer of the three said his wife claimed she could recognise a ringer any place by the

way he stood and walked. She claimed, he said, that all ringers shambled along as though they needed a bell-rope to hold up by. Thereafter all three tried to explain what it was about ringing. The senior said it was all mathematics, but the other two could not agree.

It is true that the sequence of bells and all the changes in every peal are worked out like a mathematical formula to ensure the proper harmonies. Since each bell sounds five tones, its true note and the under and over-tones, each formula must be exact to ensure against jangling out of tune. But there is more to it than mathematics. There is rhythm and timing and hands.

The lieutenant instructor from Portsmouth thought that hands were what made the ringer. The leader of a band had to have a perfect sense of timing, but he had to have hands, too. Every ringer in a band had to have the hands for it if bells were to be well rung. Sailing and riding were the only other sports, he maintained, which required hands in the same sense. A ringer had to humour his bell as you would a horse or a boat; to feel the moment to check its swing before the moment came. Good ringing was far more in the check than in the pull, and checking was what could not be taught. It had to be felt. The senior ringer said yes, but . . .

The argument went on from there, as arguments of the sort have gone on at the George in Southwark just about ever since the English discovered they could pull together and still argue.

FORTY YEARS AGO

From 'The Ringing World' of December 11th, 1914

A NEW ZEALAND QUARTER PEAL

Ringing at St. Matthew's Church, Auckland, New Zealand, is handicapped by the fact that the bells are going none too well, but we have just received the report of a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples rung upon them on Sunday, September 20th, the eve of St. Matthew's Day. by: P. Guppy 1, J. Heather 2, S. C. Hamblin 3, C. J. Hamblin 4, J. Davis 5, E. J. Hamblin 6, A. J. White 7, P. W. Barringer 8.

[The ringer of the 7th, now an octogenarian, still rings when opportunity offers, although not at Auckland, where the bells are no longer in use.]

TWELVE BELL PEAL

ASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5007 STEDMAN CINQUES

Tenor 24½ cwt.

HARRY MILES (St. Catherine's)	..	..	..	..	..	Treble
WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's)	..	..	..	..	..	2
*RUTH M. K. HOW (St. Hugh's)	..	..	..	..	..	3
SHIRLEY V. RYMER (St. Hugh's)	..	..	..	..	..	4
PETER BORDER (Hertford)	..	..	..	..	..	5
†W. GWYN THOMAS (Jesus)	..	..	..	..	..	6
RODNEY B. MEADOWS (Exeter)	..	..	..	..	..	7
*†ROBIN G. TURNER (Jesus)	..	..	..	..	..	8
DEREK P. JONES (St. Edmund Hall)	..	..	..	..	..	9
REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG (Keble)	..	..	..	..	..	10
JOHN E. SPICE (New College)	..	..	..	..	..	11
†§EWART H. EDGE (St. Edmund Hall)	..	..	..	..	..	Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Cinques. † First peal on twelve bells. ‡ First peal on twelve tower bells. § 50th peal. The first peal of Stedman Cinques and the first peal on twelve tower bells for the Society.

A birthday compliment to Sarah Wigg, daughter of the ringer of the 10th.

TEN BELL PEALS

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

A PEAL OF 5057 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 29 cwt.

GEORGE F. SPERRING ..Treble	GEORGE A. PACKER ..	6
JOHN W. GRIFFITHS .. 2	RICHARD D. LANGFORD ..	7
FREDERICK R. EVANS .. 3	CHRISTOPHER GUDGEON ..	8
*ROBERT W. HINDE .. 4	DENNIS H. B. MILLWARD ..	9
†IVOR R. NICHOLS .. 5	H. STEWART BAILEY ..	Tenor

Composed by E. C. SHEPHERD.

Conducted by JOHN W. GRIFFITHS.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters. † First peal on ten bells. 100th peal as conductor.

WELLS, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 35 Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5021 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 56 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb. in B flat.

ALBERT M. TYLER ..Treble	RICHARD J. BOWDEN ..	6
GEORGE W. MASSEY .. 2	GEORGE PRESCOTT ..	7
DAVID HOARE .. 3	PHILIP W. WEEKS ..	8
HAROLD L. PARFREY .. 4	ROGER O. FRY ..	9
RONALD D. SHORT .. 5	LEONARD DERRICK ..	} Tenor
	HERBERT HARDWIDGE ..	

Composed by ALBERT M. TYLER.

Conducted by ROGER O. FRY.

WILLENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF 5040 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 16 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb.

FRANK E. HAYNES ..Treble	ARTHUR V. PEARSON ..	6
BRYAN D. A. WOOLLEY .. 2	JOHN WORTH ..	7
CLIFFORD A. BARRON .. 3	EDWARD JENKINS ..	8
FRANK W. PERRENS .. 4	GEORGE E. FEARN ..	9
JOHN PINFOLD .. 5	RALPH G. EDWARDS ..	Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE) CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF 5152 CLAYBROOKE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN WORTH ..Treble	C. KENNETH LEWIS ..	5
JAMES FERNLEY .. 2	EDWARD JENKINS ..	6
FRED DUNKERLEY .. 3	PETER LAFLIN ..	7
BASIL JONES .. 4	ALAN A. POTTS ..	Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

First peal in the method by all except ringer of the 3rd. The conductor's 500th peal for the Chester Diocesan Guild.

STOKE PRIOR, WORCESTERSHIRE.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF 5056 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb. in A.

PETER J. MORTON ..Treble	J. EDWARD CAWSE ..	5
GEORGE E. FEARN .. 2	BRYAN D. A. WOOLLEY ..	6
MURIEL REAY .. 3	HENRY H. FEARN ..	7
ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 4	PETER BORDER ..	Tenor

Composed by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Nov. 18, 1954, in 1 Hour and 57 Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 6½ cwt.

TERENCE A. THORNER ..Treble	JOHN A. ACRES ..	5
ERNEST W. RAWSON .. 2	SAMUEL J. HAINES ..	6
MRS. H. J. POOLE .. 3	S. ANTHONY JESSON ..	7
J. FREDERICK MILNER .. 4	HAROLD J. POOLE ..	Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by S. ANTHONY JESSON.

Witness: Mrs. D. M. Doy.

The quickest peal of Major yet rung.

ABERAVON, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

A Variation of Thurstans'. Tenor 16½ cwt.

ALFRED HANNINGTON ..Treble	JOHN DAVIES ..	5
GWYN I. LEWIS .. 2	TREVOR M. RODERICK ..	6
EDMUND J. MORRIS .. 3	ALBERT J. PITMAN ..	7
JOSEPH LOVETT .. 4	WILLIAM T. PETTY ..	Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT J. PITMAN.

ALMONDSBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Heywood's Transposition. Tenor 25 cwt.

GEORGE KILMISTER ..Treble	THOMAS BOREHAM ..	5
A. LESLIE-BARRY .. 2	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ..	6
*REGINALD T. JONES .. 3	VICTOR E. WILLS ..	7
*JOHN J. WEBB .. 4	JOSEPH UNDERHILL ..	Tenor

Conducted by W. BERTRAM KYNASTON.

* 25th peal together.

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CLENT, WORCESTERSHIRE.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD.

A PEAL OF 5056 GAINSBOROUGH SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 5	Treble	ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 5
JOHN PINFOLD .. 6	2	MURIEL REAY .. 2
GEORGE E. FEARN .. 7	3	FREDERICK E. WILSHAW .. 3
CLIFFORD A. BARRON .. Tenor	4	MICHAEL G. MORTON .. 4

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by ARTHUR V. PEARSON.
First peal in the method for the Guild, and by all.

COMBE MARTIN, DEVON.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER-AD-VINCULA,

A PEAL OF 5008 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 10½ cwt.

DAVID BEACHAM .. 5	Treble	*DAVID YEO .. 5
DEREK JEWEL .. 6	2	†BEATRICE BOYLE .. 2
FREDERICK WRE福德 .. 7	3	NORMAN MALLETT .. 3
FRED YEO .. Tenor	4	E. MAURICE ATKINS .. 4

Conducted by E. MAURICE ATKINS.

* First peal at first attempt. † First peal of Major.

Rung on the 15th birthday of the treble ringer and for the marriage of John Rodwell and Margaret Rook, which took place at this church in the morning.

DERBY.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALKMUND.

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Harold Taylor .. 5	Treble	Heywood's Transposition of Thurstans' Four-part. Tenor 16 cwt.
DENIS R. CARLISLE .. 6	2	DENNIS BERESFORD .. 5
GEORGE E. OLIVER .. 7	3	PETER BERESFORD .. 2
HARRY K. WATERFIELD .. Tenor	4	*GORDON A. HALLS .. 3
		ALBERT E. THOMPSON .. 4

Conducted by GEORGE E. OLIVER.

* First peal of Stedman Triples.

HORNBY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ALAN CAPSTICK .. 5	Treble	*JAMES W. METCALFE .. 5
†FRANK POSTLETHWAITE .. 6	2	*A. REX AGG .. 2
ROLAND ECCLES .. 7	3	†GEORGE BRAITHWAITE .. 3
JAMES E. BURLES .. Tenor	4	JOHN BAGNALL .. 4

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by JAMES E. BURLES.

* First peal in the method. † 25th peal together.

A farewell peal to Mr. A. Rex Agg, who is leaving this district soon for the South of England.

LEICESTER.

THE NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL FOUNDATION CHURCH OF ST. MARY-DE-CASTRO,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Ex-Sgt. E. Chas. Turner .. 5	Treble	Dexter's No. II. Variation. Tenor 16 cwt.
Ex-P.C. Fredk. E. Wilson .. 6	2	INSF. HAROLD J. POOLE .. 2
P.C. E. ALLAN JACQUES .. 7	3	Ex-Sgt. W. C. DOWDING .. 3
P.C. CECIL H. F. KNIGHT .. Tenor	4	Ex-P.C. LEONARD TUFFREY .. 4

Conducted by INSP. HAROLD J. POOLE.

Rung for the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the wedding of H.M. the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, and to mark the retirement of Inspector Harold J. Poole, President of the Guild of Police Ringers, after 29 years' service with the Leicester City Police.

MAYFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Nov. 23, 1954, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Frederick J. Lambert .. 5	Treble	Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 21½ cwt.
CHARLES A. BASSETT .. 6	2	BERNARD V. COLLISON .. 2
KEVIN S. HOHL .. 7	3	*†ERNEST J. LADD .. 3
*Wm. A. KITCHENSIDE .. Tenor	4	STANLEY G. PONTING .. 4
		GEORGE FRY .. 4

Conducted by ERNEST J. LADD.

* 75th peal together. † 25th peal. § 250th peal.

A birthday compliment to Charles A. Bassett, who has now 'circled the tower.'

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Nov. 25, 1954, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AMBROSE,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

IVOR H. TRUEMAN .. 5	Treble	Groves' Variation of Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 11½ cwt. in F sharp.
ALBERT M. TYLER .. 6	2	ROGER O. FRY .. 2
ENID L. ROBERTS .. 7	3	TUDOR P. EDWARDS .. 3
REGINALD G. HOOPER .. Tenor	4	*BRIAN GRINTER .. 4
		DAVID J. MARSHALL .. 4

Conducted by ENID L. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Triples.

Rung to celebrate the birth of a son (Michael Adrian) to Mr. and Mrs. Eric Sutton.

BICKER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Nov. 26, 1954, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SWITHIN,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in A.

WILLIAM E. CLARK .. 5	Treble	JOHN E. ALLEN .. 5
ALBERT H. BENNETT .. 6	2	GEORGE DAWSON .. 2
MAURICE BENNETT .. 7	3	PHILIP REYNOLDS .. 3
STANLEY E. BENNETT .. Tenor	4	JOHN MORRIS .. 4

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by STANLEY E. BENNETT.

Rung as a silver wedding anniversary compliment to Mr. R. Howard, a Sunday service ringer at the above church, and Mrs. Howard.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW-THE-GREAT.

A PEAL OF 5024 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

B. J. STAFFORD (Queens') .. 5	Treble	W. J. RIDGMAN (Queens') .. 5
W. T. COOK (Jesus) .. 6	2	MISS G. A. SMITH (Newn.) .. 2
J. H. FIELDEN (St. Cath's.) .. 7	3	J. D. PAINTER (Caius) .. 3
C. M. P. JOHNSON (Selwyn) Tenor	4	R. J. W. HOUSDEN (Selwyn) .. 4

Conducted by W. J. RIDGMAN.

The first peal in the method by all the band, and by the Guild.

ELTHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Lewisham District.)

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

JIM HURRELL .. 5	Treble	Holt's Original. Tenor 10½ cwt.
ERNEST B. CROWDER .. 6	2	WILLIAM D. PROCKSON .. 2
GEORGE H. DAYNES .. 7	3	MABEL A. PROCKSON .. 3
GEORGE J. HURRELL .. Tenor	4	BERTIE W. ALDRIDGE .. 4
		FREDERICK J. HURRELL .. 4

Conducted by ERNEST B. CROWDER.

F. J. Hurrell has now 'circled the tower.'

Rung for the Eve of Advent. Also a birthday compliment to the conductor.

GRAVESEND, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 14 Minutes,

AT THE UNITY CHAPEL OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb. in E.

PETER BERESFORD .. 5	Treble	JOHN L. MORRIS .. 5
DENNIS BERESFORD .. 6	2	*IAN H. ORAM .. 2
PETER N. BOND .. 7	3	MARY FULLER .. 3
A. PATRICK CANNON .. Tenor	4	†MICHAEL FULLER .. 4

Composed by A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

* First peal of Double Norwich. † First peal of Double Norwich 'inside.'

GREAT GRIMSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5024 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in E.

SYDNEY A. CHAMBERS .. 5	Treble	C. AUBREY HARRISON .. 5
GEORGE E. FEARN .. 6	2	GEOFFREY R. PARKER .. 2
JACK BRAY .. 7	3	GWEN I. RUSBY .. 3
*JACK L. MILLHOUSE .. Tenor	4	JOHN FREEMAN .. 4

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* 50th peal of London Surprise. 150th peal as conductor. The first peal of London Surprise on the bells.

LOWER BEEDING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF 5024 RUTLAND SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10½ cwt.

WILLIAM SLAUGHTER Treble	WILLIAM ROGERS 5
EDGAR R. RAPLEY 2	FRANK H. HICKS 6
*BASIL W. WHITE 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
LEONARD STILWELL 4	*RAYMOND OVERY Tenor

Composed by GEORGE FREEBRY.

Conducted by RAYMOND OVERY.

* First peal in the method.

MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5024 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 3 lb.

HAROLD F. WHITE Treble	THOMAS PRICE 5
FREDERICK E. WILSHAW 2	FREDERICK PRICE 6
F. HECTOR BENNETT 3	WILLIAM A. FARMER 7
BERNARD MADELEY 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD Tenor

Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY.

Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

NEWPORT PAGNELL, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

At the Church of SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 21 cwt. 2 qr. 16 lb. in D.

WILLIAM A. YATES Treble	FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS 5
REGINALD H. HOWSON 2	GEORGE F. BURTON 6
HERBERT H. ALEXANDER 3	GEORGE W. HOLLAND 7
*FREDERICK VICKERS 4	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal in the method.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas.

A PEAL OF 5184 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in E.

JEFFREY B. WEBB Treble	LEONARD TREVOR 5
*JOAN BERESFORD 2	*DAVID A. CARPENTER 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE 3	HUBERT E. ASHLEY 7
ALFRED BALLARD 4	*GEORGE E. OLIVER Tenor

Composed by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.

Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method.

PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 8 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary, Portsea,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt. 7 lb. in F.

JOSIAH D. HARRIS Treble	NORMAN J. SMITH 5
*JOY GUMBRELL 2	TOWER R. TAYLOR 6
CHARLES H. KIPPIN 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 7
WINIFRED E. KEYS 4	ALFRED T. GREENWOOD Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

* First touch of Surprise.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

F. H. Dexter's Variation of Thurstans' Four-Part.

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb. in F.

*GEOFFREY W. SEAMAN Treble	BRIAN S. CHAPMAN 5
*D. KAY ADKINS 2	JOHN M. JELLEY 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	BRIAN G. WARWICK 7
ERNEST J. JELLEY 4	*PETER R. JOHNSON Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

* First peal of Stedman Triples. 100th peal on the bells. Quickest peal on the bells.

Rung to mark the end of the Church's Year and to welcome the Ven. R. W. Woods, Archdeacon of Singapore, and a former parish priest.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

At CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5024 ICKLETON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt.

LESTER L. GRAY Treble	PETER COXALL 5
*MARGARET E. RIDYARD 2	ALEXANDER J. MARTIN 6
DOREEN DUTTON 3	†JACK ASHCROFT 7
RONALD KENRICK 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

* 25th peal. † 100th peal. First peal in the method by the band, and the Association, and on the bells.

Birthday compliments to Barbara H. Martin, daughter of the 6th ring, Miss E. M. Suart, Dalton-in-Furness, and Thomas W. Hammond, Liverpool.

SUNDERLAND, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 4 Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt.

*MICHAEL S. BRIDGES Treble	ENID SOFTLEY 5
MARGARET A. SOFTLEY 2	FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD 6
KATHLEEN SOFTLEY 3	ROBIN G. LEALE 7
J. BRENDA SOFTLEY 4	ALAN N. BROWN Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by ROBIN G. LEALE.

* First peal. First peal of Major as conductor.

WALTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Preston Branch.)

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 13 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Leonard,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Davies' Transposition.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

G. ALEC DIMMOCK Treble	*FRANK STEAD 5
*STANLEY WALMSLEY 2	JOHN CHARNOCK 6
THOMAS BARKER 3	E. ROGER MARTIN 7
ARTHUR HATCH 4	CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE Tenor

Conducted by E. ROGER MARTIN.

* First peal of Stedman. First peal of Stedman on the bells.

COLEMAN'S HATCH, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Nov. 28, 1954, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 2 lb. in G.

*PATRICIA M. HOWARD Treble	IVAN A. C. BUTCHER 5
A. PATRICK CANNON 2	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT 6
†JOHN A. HOWARD 3	LEONARD STILWELL 7
†KENNETH C. KNIGHT 4	FRANK H. HICKS Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by FRANK H. HICKS.

* First peal of Major. † First peal other than Doubles.

Rung on the wedding anniversary of the parents of the conductor.

HADLOW, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Nov. 28, 1954, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt.

JACK MEDHURST Treble	REGINALD L. SILLS 5
*GEORGE FRY 2	JOHN R. COOPER 6
GEORGE F. CANTRILL 3	LEWIS NEWMAN 7
LUTHER J. HONESS 4	PETER C. WRIGHT Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by LEWIS NEWMAN.

* First peal of Major.

To commemorate a peal of Bob Major rung on November 28th, 1854, on the same bells in which W. B. Newman, uncle of L. Newman, took part.

BIRSTALL, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Nov. 30, 1954, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

At the Church of St. James-the-Great,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's No. 2 Variation.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr.

HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	*ARTHUR BRADSHAW 5
MRS. A. M. MACHUGH 2	†JULIAN M. MORLEY 6
PETER J. STANFORTH 3	JOHN A. ACRES 7
MRS. H. J. POOLE 4	SAMUEL A. MARTIN Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal.

Rung to commemorate the induction of the Vicar, Rev. A. A. Lander, A.K.C., also as a birthday compliment to Sir Winston Churchill. This is the first peal on the present ring of eight.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

PURLEIGH, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob. and St. Clement's and two extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

*MICHAEL EDWARDS (12) .. Treble	IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS .. 4
*THOMAS R. ROAST (14) .. 2	PETER J. CAME .. 5
MARY DOWSETT .. 3	JOE E. G. ROAST .. Tenor

Conducted by JOE E. G. ROAST.

* First peal.

PUTTENHAM, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 27 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven 720's in nine methods: (1) Double Court; (2) Double Bob and Oxford Bob; (3) St. Clement's and Double Oxford; (4) Cambridge; (5) Oxford Treble Bob; (6) Kent Treble Bob; (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt. 25 lb. in A.

LEONARD STILWELL .. Treble	ROLAND W. MORANT .. 4
*EILEEN M. TURNER .. 2	A. PATRICK CANNON .. 5
ANN M. COX .. 3	*E. JOHN WELLS .. Tenor

Conducted by E. JOHN WELLS.

* First peal in nine methods, and on the bells. First peal of Minor on the bells since 1931, which have just been rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

REDBOURN, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

In seven methods, being one extent each of: Double Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob. Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb.

EDWIN J. UPTON .. Treble	JOE HOBBS .. 4
WILLIAM J. PUDDIFOOT .. 2	WILLIAM C. HUGHES .. 5
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD .. 3	WALTER AYRE .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

A birthday compliment to Miss C. R. Ayre.

STRETHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being an extent each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob, and five varied extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

*D. KNIGHTS .. Treble	G. WALKER .. 4
W. YOUNG .. 2	T. BEVIS .. 5
S. SHIPP .. 3	A. YARROW .. Tenor

Conducted by T. BEVIS.

* First peal.

Rung on the seventh anniversary of the wedding of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

TRULL, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 14 cwt.

*L. MICHAEL NOAD .. Treble	*RAYMOND E. J. BAKER .. 4
*L. BERYL CHURCHILL .. 2	REGINALD G. PERRY .. 5
*BRYAN G. VINE .. 3	HARRY CHURCHILL .. Tenor

Conducted by BRYAN G. VINE.

* First peal. Reginald G. Perry has now 'circled the tower.'

Rung as a compliment to L. Michael Noad, who is leaving the district.

NORTHBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Nov. 22, 1954, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being one extent each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and five different extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

THOMAS A. WICKENS .. Treble	PETER J. RYE .. 4
JOHN F. PENFOLD .. 2	FRANK B. LUFKIN .. 5
MRS. F. W. LAWRENCE .. 3	FREDERICK W. LAWRENCE Tenor

Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

First peal in three methods by all except the conductor.



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CROYDON



HOLYWELL, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
 (Hunts District.)

On Wed., Nov. 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being three extents of Norwich (39 bobs), two extents of Ipswich (18 bobs), and two extents of Cambridge (21 bobs).

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.	
OLIVER NORMAN Treble	*JOHN R. G. SPICER .. 4
FRANK WARRINGTON 2	*MICHAEL J. DYER .. 5
E. JACK PARISH 3	HAROLD S. PEACOCK .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

* First peal in three Surprise methods. † 50th peal.

A wedding anniversary compliment to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. G. Spicer.

QUADRING, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Nov. 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Primrose Surprise, Ipswich Surprise, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise.

Tenor 10 cwt.	
HORACE BENNETT Treble	STANLEY E. BENNETT .. 4
*MAURICE BENNETT 2	RONALD C. NOON .. 5
JOHN G. AMES 3	*FRANK TAYLOR .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TAYLOR.

* 25th peal together.

SEND, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Nov. 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one 720 of Cambridge Surprise, one 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, two 720's of Kent Treble Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 5 lb. in A flat.	
ROLAND W. MORANT .. Treble	A. PATRICK CANNON .. 4
ALFRED H. WINCH 2	*JAMES F. DODSON .. 5
E. JOHN WELLS 3	*ROY COLLINS .. Tenor

Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

* First peal in four methods. The conductor's 50th peal during 1954.

MELDRETH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Nov. 26, 1954, in 2 Hours and 33 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being three extents of York and two each of London and Cambridge.

Tenor 12 cwt.	
CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON .. Treble	RICHARD J. W. HOUSDEN .. 4
CYRIL A. HURST 2	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. 5
JOHN G. GIPSON 3	WILLIAM T. COOK .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

SHENLEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being one extent each of London, Wells, York, Beverley, Surfleet, Norwich and Cambridge.

Tenor 17 cwt. 3 qr. 2 lb. in E flat.	
*MALCOLM G. HOOTON .. Treble	*ROBERT L. PIRON .. 4
JOHN W. V. SINFIELD .. 2	DENNIS KNOX .. 5
RONALD J. SHARP 3	ANDREW C. SINFIELD .. Tenor

Conducted by DENNIS KNOX.

* First peal of seven Surprise methods.

SPALDWICK, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
 (Hunts District.)

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr.	
FRANK WARRINGTON .. Treble	CYRIL CLARKE .. 4
FRANK W. LACK 2	RALPH CHAPMAN .. 5
*LUCY ALLEN 3	R. FRANK BAKER .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

* First peal.

A birthday compliment to Gwen.

WARKTON, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 12 six-scores of Plain Bob and 30 six-scores of Grandsire.

Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.	
*GORDON L. GEARY .. Treble	†PAMELA J. E. LUMBERS .. 3
†MARY ARKINSTALL .. 2	LEONARD G. TOSELAND .. 4

BURLEY P. MORRIS .. Tenor

Conducted by BURLEY P. MORRIS.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

Rung within the octave of the Patronal Festival.

WATTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents, each called differently.

Tenor 8 cwt.	
*SAMUEL H. WATERFIELD .. Treble	THOMAS A. A. POTTER .. 4
WILLIAM M. MANN .. 2	FRANK C. J. ARNOLD .. 5
CHARLES E. G. BANHAM .. 3	C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO .. Tenor

Conducted by C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO.

* First peal.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Double Oxford Bob, St. Clement's and Plain Bob, and one extent of Double Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt.	
*DAVID STAPLES .. Treble	RAYMOND J. CARLTON .. 4
LESLIE C. SMITH 2	ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD .. 5
EDWARD S. RUCK 3	MARK W. MARSHALL .. Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD.

* First peal.

SUNNINGWELL, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Nov. 29, 1954, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Seven different extents.

Tenor 8½ cwt.	
*DAVID LAWSON .. Treble	ALAN R. PINK .. 4
†MABEL P. SPARKS .. 2	HARRY P. FLOYD .. 5
DOUGLAS O. WILKS .. 3	MALCOLM S. CLOKE .. Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal.

Rung as a farewell to the incumbent, Canon C. C. H. James, who is retiring on account of ill-health.

HANDBELL PEALS

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Nov. 21, 1954, in 2 Hours and 15 Minutes,
 AT 26, WELLINGTON ROAD,
A PEAL OF 5184 SPLICED MAJOR

In six methods, comprising: 1,728 Gainsborough Little Bob, 1,536 Plain Bob, 576 each of Little Bob and Wellington Little Bob, and 384 each of Double and St. Clement's; with 407 changes of method.

Tenor size 15 in C.	
*DAVID HOARE .. 1-2	DANIEL T. MATKIN .. 5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY 3-4	KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER .. 7-8

Composed by NOLAN GOLDEN. Conducted by DANIEL T. MATKIN.

* First peal of Spliced, and specially arranged for him.

RADSTOCK, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Nov. 24, 1954, in 2 Hours and 5 Minutes,
 IN THE VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being two six-scores of Stedman Slow Course, and ten each of Old Doubles, April Day, Grandsire and Plain Bob; 23 callings.

Tenor size 18 in G.	
*EDWIN BROWN .. 1-2	DAVID HOARE .. 3-4
*RODNEY THATCHER .. 5-6	

Conducted by DAVID HOARE.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

Rung by members of the local band.

A Somerset Wedding

A popular member of the band of St. John-the-Baptist's, Wellington, Somerset, Mr. Gordon Walford, was married in his own church on November 20th to Miss Sylvia Burton, of Runnington, near Wellington. Mr. David North, the tower captain, was his best man.

The bride, who was given away by her eldest brother, wore a turquoise dress with black accessories and carried a spray of orchids. A quarter peal of Stedman Triples was rung after the service on the parish church bells.

Whilst waiting for the train to arrive to take the happy couple to their honeymoon at Gulval, Cornwall, the bridegroom took part in a touch of Grandsire Triples on the station platform. They had a rousing send-off, the party being enlarged by the bridegroom's fellow-employees of the railway staff.

Ely Diocesan Association

Some twenty-one members and friends attended a practice meeting of the Hunts District at Buckden on November 20th. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. H. Bradbury, who also gave a short address.

Prior to the commencement of the business meeting Mr. F. Warrington, District Ringing Master, requested the members to stand in silence in memory of Mr. S. J. Peck (Eynesbury), Mr. W. Cornell (Buckden) and the Rev. C. M. Cadman. Several belfry elections were ratified, and the next meeting will be at St. Ives on December 11th. The visitors were welcomed by Mr. Papworth and Mr. Mann, and thanks were expressed to the Vicar by Mr. F. W. Lack, seconded by Mr. R. F. Baker.

Peal Ringing in North Devon

Peal ringing in North Devon usually presents transport difficulties, as trains are rare, buses slow and the hilly roads steep and narrow. There are, however, some ringers there whose enthusiasm exceeds their skill, and the expert help of a conductor and one or two friends must needs be imported from elsewhere.

On November 20th the youngest member of the local band had his 15th birthday, and to celebrate the occasion all these difficulties were overcome to enable him and three other local ringers to ring their first peal of Major. The conductor and a friend were brought from Exeter to Barnstaple by British Railways on time despite fog, and a valiant Morris Minor transported a load of five, including a listener, over the hills to Combe Martin. A member of the R.A.F., relying on buses, was nearly late, but the peal was rung and the ringer of the 7th just had time to quench his thirst before being rushed off to catch the train again, supplied with a thermos and his supper in a paper bag.

During the peal the listeners had anxieties of their own as the street lighting failed, but luckily the belfry light shone steadfastly and all was well.

We are most grateful to all who made this peal possible, especially the conductor and the steeplekeeper and his son who took so much trouble to have all in good order for us and so willingly stood down from this peal. We hope they will be in the next when we plan to attempt one of the pealless North Devon towers.

D. M. B.

5,067 STEDMAN CATERS

(See Page 752)

The first course end should read 234156978 and not 231456978.

Essex Association

Despite the foggy day on November 20th, 40 members attended the Northern District meeting at Sible Hedingham. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. G. M. Lister), who gave an encouraging address; Mr. A. Bragg was at the organ and the choir led the singing.

About 60 sat down to tea at the Rectory, provided by the Rev. and Mrs. Lister. A business meeting followed, Mr. R. C. Heazel, the Association's Master, presiding. A tribute was paid to the memory of Mr. Arthur Saunders, of Greenstead Green, who had been District Master for 10 years.

The next meeting will be held at Halstead in January. One honorary member from Kelvedon was elected. 'Should peals of Bob Triples be rung?' was a subject fully discussed. It was announced that the Essex Education Committee were going to hold another week-end course on campanology at Clarence House, Thaxted, in June next year.

Thanks were expressed by Miss H. Snowdon to the Rector and Mrs. Lister for their kind hospitality, and the Rector also thanked the ringers' wives for their help with the tea arrangements. After the meeting the handbells were rung and recordings taken.

Visit to Buckfast Abbey

Despite atrocious weather, the meeting of the Mid-Devon Branch at Buckfast Abbey on Nov. 27th was well supported. Ringing in the afternoon mainly consisted of rounds on the twelve and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters and an excellent course of Plain Bob Royal. Ringing in the evening was at Buckfastleigh Parish Church. A vote of thanks was passed to the Lord Abbot after the tea.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central
Council of Church Bell Ringers

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HAROLD J. POOLE.
R. S. ANDERSON.

EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

LATE NEWS

The Exercise will extend its warmest con-
gratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Taylor
on the birth of a son and heir last Sunday
morning. The happy occasion coincided with
the record peal attempt, and a peal was rung
on the foundry bells later in the day.

Speed merchants will note
that a peal of Major has been
rung in 1 hour and 57
minutes—the quickest on record. Fortunately
it was out of earshot of the general public—
at Loughborough Foundry Campanile. It was
at the rate of 43 blows a minute, and was well-
struck throughout, reports the conductor, Mr.
S. Anthony Jesson.

Mr. John Worth has rung 500 peals for the
Chester Diocesan Guild.

Mr. Randal Clouston, of Westerfield, near
Ipswich, has been appointed a Bishop's repre-
sentative on the Diocesan Advisory Committee
for St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

We think Mr. E. S. Ruck, of Willesborough,
might claim to be the 'father' of peal ringers
on tower bells. He celebrated his 87th birth-
day last June and has this week rung another
peal at Willesborough.

The peal to mark the retirement of Insp. H.
J. Poole from the Leicester City Police Force
was rung by four serving and four retired mem-
bers of the National Guild of Police Ringers.
Mr. Poole is the Guild's president.

Reports to hand indicate that the 80th birth-
day of Sir Winston Churchill was honoured by
many peals and quarters, or even by ringing
the bells, as the young band at Lakenheath,
Suffolk, informs us. We hope that before
long we shall have a quarter from this tower.

The Rev. K. W. H. Felstead writes: 'The
last peal at Highworth, Wilts, was in 1921.
At Quidenham, Norfolk, the last peal was
8,096 Double Norwich C.B. Major in 1930,
and at Middleton Stoney the last peal was
22 years ago. The peal at Buckland, Glos, was
the first peal on the bells. There was a previous
peal of Little Bob Major at St. Marie's,
Sheffield, on March 27th, 1926.'

BELFRY GOSSIP

An interesting peal was
rung at Hadlow, Kent, on
November 28th, which was
the 100th anniversary of a peal of Bob Major
in this church, conducted by Mr. W. B.
Newman. His nephew, Mr. Lewis Newman, of
Mereworth, Kent, a well-known ringer in the
Maidstone District for over 60 years, con-
ducted the anniversary peal. The way he rang
the seventh won the admiration of the band.

A reader enquires for compositions of the
extent of Major in Surprise peals.

Oxford University Society have rung their
first peal of Stedman Cinques—at Aston, Bir-
mingham, on November 20th.

Miss Lucy Allen, a pupil of Mr. R. Frank
Baker, rang faultlessly all through her first
peal, at Spaldwick, Hunts, reports the con-
ductor, Mr. F. Warrington.

The peal at 'Chippenham, Cambs, on Novem-
ber 19th was the first of Surprise on the bells.
Records show that there have been only two
other peals at this tower—on April 13th, 1912,
and December 27th, 1920.

The writer of the special article on the
record peal attempt featured in this issue is
Mr. R. F. Lowings, editor of the 'Lough-
borough Monitor,' who also describes himself
as a ringer in a modest way. It is a graphic
and complete story of a glorious failure and
will be much appreciated by our readers.

Before the start of the monthly meeting of
the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and
Bristol Dio. Association held at St. Saviour's,
Coalpit Heath, on Saturday, November 27th,
Mr. W. J. Coombs, in his 80th year, climbed
two flights of steps to see for the first time the
No. 2 bell which his pupils at the Manor
School bought with their pennies and half-
pennies 34 years ago.

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Etc.

THE EXTENT OF MAJOR IS POSSIBLE

Full Story of Loughborough Record Attempt

By R. F. LOWINGS

SELDOM in the history of bells can a 'ringing occasion' have aroused as much interest, both among ringers themselves and the public generally, as the attempt on the peal record, made at Loughborough last Saturday.

That day, the thoughts of ringers everywhere and (thanks to periodic bulletins broadcast by the B.B.C.) the attention of millions of non-ringers was focused on a band of eight men and on the tiny campanile of the Loughborough Bell Foundry, where an attempt was being made to ring the maximum number of changes (40,320) mathematically possible on eight bells.

This, then, is the story of a gallant endeavour to create change-ringing history, an attempt to accomplish a feat that has stood out as a challenge to ringers since the days of Stedman himself, a feat that has often been dreamt of yet always dismissed as being impossible to achieve.

Alas, it is a story without a happy ending.

'MISTER' BOB

As a sidelight on the Loughborough record peal attempt, credit should be given to Eric Critchley and his colleagues for their efforts to translate in lay terms a description of what they were about to news-hungry Pressmen.

At the close, Eric tried desperately to explain to one young lady reporter how it was that the attempt finally failed.

'You see, I missed a call—missed a bob,' said Eric, hopefully.

The young lady reporter tried her best to connect, but it was clear that the conductor's efforts were in vain.

'Was this Mister Bob the man who invented the peal, then?', she asked.

For, after 9 hours and 48 minutes, when the attempt was but 21,088 changes old, the order was given to 'Stand.' Never can the call have been given with greater reluctance.

Ringing Plain Bob Major, a start had been made at 4.14 on the Saturday morning, and the attempt ended abruptly through a missed call (scarcely through any fault of the conductor, paradoxically as that may seem) at 2.2 p.m.

About an hour earlier, No. 3 of the band, Anthony Jesson, of Leicester, had shown signs of distress, and it was in his concern for Tony that Eric Critchley, conducting, missed a vital bob. It was a dramatic moment as, realising his omission, two other members of the band called the bob for him.

But Mr. Critchley recognised at once the futility of continuing, and called the bells to stand. At that point, Mr. Jesson was rallying well, and there was every hope of his continuing long enough for the record to be broken, if not for the maximum to be pulled off.

So ended, somewhat as an anti-climax, an endeavour that had taken many months of careful planning, especially on the part of Mr. Paul Taylor, who acted as host to the visiting ringers and made a capable master of ceremonies throughout.

Exactly where the idea of organising an attempt on the record occurred to Mr. Critchley he cannot recall ('I think it was in a car on the way to a peal'), but the thought came to him some time last year. Early attempts to arouse interest in the venture failed, but Mr. Critchley refused to be discouraged, and eventually he found a band—drawn from various towers

throughout the Midlands and East Anglia—prepared to ring alongside him in the venture. For the simple reason that a 20-hour stretch of ringing (it had been hoped to complete the peal shortly before midnight on Sunday) calls for stamina even on lightweight bells, Mr. Critchley looked to the physique of the men he chose, as well as to their ability as ringers.

AVERAGE AGE 27

Eventually, a young team, with an average age of 27, was briefed as follows:—

Treble: W. Eric Critchley, conductor, aged 31, Doncaster.

2: Clifford A. Barron (23), Birmingham.

3: Anthony Jesson (24), Leicester.

4: E. Alan Jacques (23), Leicester.

5: William Jackson (19), Hatfield, Yorks.

6: Norman V. Harding (45), King's Lynn.

7: Wilfrid F. Moreton (30), Hereford.

Tenor: Peter Border (22), Coventry.

All members of the team had, at one time or another, rung the foundry bells.

In preparation for the attempt, Mr. Paul Taylor and his colleagues at the Bell Foundry had made detailed arrangements at the Loughborough end to overcome various difficulties involved. In the first place, police permission was sought and secured for the bells to be rung for 20 hours; it was, in point of fact, on their recommendation that the early morning start was made. Sound-absorbing material was fitted to the roof of the bell chamber to make the sound inaudible except within a few feet of the tower walls. New bell ropes were fitted, the mechanism was doubly checked and shelves were erected around the walls of the ringing chamber and within a hand's reach of the ringers so that they might help themselves to food and thirst-quenching fruit during the course of the peal.

Nearer to last week-end, Mr. Taylor found a local hotelier willing to provide a hot breakfast at 3 a.m., with a midnight supper to follow should the attempt succeed. In fact, Mr. Harold Crutchley, manager of the King's Head Hotel at Loughborough, placed all the facilities of his hotel at the ringers' disposal, set accommodation aside for them and attended personally to their wants. Never have his guests been more grateful.

PRELIMINARY VISIT

Early on Friday evening, members of the band began to arrive at Loughborough, and before turning in for a few hours' sleep a preliminary visit was paid to the bell foundry to get the feel of the bells and make adjustments to the ropes, and to accustom themselves to the tiny chamber that was to be their quarters for the marathon. Three courses of Plain Bob were rung.

Only Tony Jesson was missing at this stage. He was recovering from an attack of influenza and, after spending the day at home, arrived at 9.30 p.m. to go straight to bed at the hotel.

So as to avoid ringing the peal into Sunday morning, it had been hoped to make a prompt start at 4 a.m., and after a 3 a.m. breakfast of bacon, eggs and tomatoes, the foundry was reached in good time.

But the organisers reckoned without the intense interest of the Press and the newsreel representatives in the venture. Precious time was given to last-minute interviews, and it was not until 4.14 (and 28 seconds) a.m. that Mr. Critchley called, 'Look to, treble going; she's gone!'

Mr. Shirley Burton, the well-known Leicester ringers, who, with Mr. Wilfred Robinson, of Eckington, Derbyshire, and Mr. Peter Staniforth, of Leicester, shared the arduous duties of umpiring the attempt, here takes up the story. By this time, all but the ringers themselves, the trio of umpires and a lone magazine photographer (who intermittently took photographs and slept as best he could beneath his overcoat on the chamber floor!), had been excluded from the tower.

After getting off to a good start, the first part of the peal, consisting of one-twelfth of the 40,320 maximum, was duly completed at 5.48 a.m. It is of interest to note that the first normal peal of 5,040 changes took just 2 hours 19 minutes.

The second part ended without incident at 7.20 a.m., and it was soon after the third part had been embarked upon that Queens came up at 7.27 a.m.

FEEDING PROBLEMS

After four hours of ringing, Mr. Critchley decided to explore the possibilities of the food shelf beside him. Snatching one or other of the morsels that Mr. Taylor had laid out in readiness proved in itself to be an exacting art, and it was only after several ineffective attempts—much to the amusement of his fel-

THE MENU

<i>Food Available During Attempt.</i>	
Marmite Sandwiches.	Horlicks Tablets.
Tomato Sandwiches.	Ovaltine Tablets.
Lean Ham Sandwiches.	Chocolate Raisins.
Sliced Tomatoes.	Chocolate.
Sliced Apples.	Boiled Sweets.
Sliced Oranges.	Treacle Tart.
Grapes.	

low-ringers—that Eric finally managed to grasp a ham sandwich.

Spurred on by his success, the others began to help themselves similarly to sustaining items from among the range of orange slices, glucose, boiled sweets, chocolate coated raisins, tomatoes and sandwiches on the shelves. Later, Tony Jesson was to prove himself adept at even drinking a glass of milk through a straw while the peal continued uninterruptedly!

The end of the third part came up at 8.53 a.m., by which time 10,080 changes—or two normal peals—had been accomplished. Then, at 10.27 a.m., came the end of the fourth part, one-third of the eight-bell maximum having by this time been rung in 6 hours 13 minutes. By 12.3 p.m. the fifth part had been completed.

It was during the sixth part that the drama arrived. By the eleventh course Tony Jesson was showing very evident signs of uneasiness, which was not surprising considering his illness of a few days before, and that a very bad cold still hung over him.

To his dismay, Mr. Critchley began to realise as Tony's condition worsened that there was but little hope of achieving the full extent, and he omitted three blocks of five in order to bring himself in a position to call back to rounds should the need arise.

But by the time the peal had reached the crucial point where the bells could be brought home, Tony had recovered, and it was decided to carry on, the end of the sixth part (marking the halfway point of the attempt) being reached at 1.30 p.m.

[Cont. overleaf



Rotherham Girls' High School Handbell Ringers and their tutor, Mr. Norman Chaddock, who entertained at the speech day on November 18th. A number of the girls are learning to ring tower bells at Rotherham Parish Church.

[Photo by kind permission of 'Rotherham Advertiser']

The seventh part was embarked upon with the eight ringers still full of hope that they would be able to create a new distance record, even if not ring the full extent.

OMISSION SPOTTED

But it was obvious that Mr. Critchley's mind was still very occupied with Tony Jesson. At the end of the tenth course a trip occurred, and before it could be corrected Eric omitted a bob at fifths. Two other members of the team spotted his omission and called it for him, but Eric at once realised the pointlessness of carrying on in these circumstances and so called 'stand' after 21,088 changes.

Ironically, Tony was by this time feeling much revived through the effects of an opened window and a glass of fresh milk that had been put within his reach on the shelf. Moreover, at this point, the peal was going very steadily.

Throughout the striking had been good, with little variation in pace, each course having occupied an average length of 3 minutes and 10 seconds. The average time for 5,040 changes before the attempt was given up had been 2 hours and 22 minutes.

With the possible exception of Tony Jesson, the ringers looked astonishingly fresh after their feat of nearly 10 hours—particularly Eric Critchley, who was showing no signs of exhaustion whatever. The fitter seven certainly looked good for the second ten hours, and there can be little doubt that, but for the missed call, a new record would have been created with energy to spare.

GAINED EXPERIENCE

As the ringers stood back to be interviewed by Press representatives all over again, keen disappointment was expressed that the endeavour had ended so prematurely; but it was generally felt that what had been lost in the way of records had been gained in experience.

What the attempt did prove, and prove conclusively—as both ringers in and observers of last Saturday's venture have agreed—is that the eight-bell extent is within reach. With the lessons learnt on this occasion it should prove to be well within the capabilities of eight fit men. But they must next time be absolutely fit.

Eric Critchley takes a philosophic view of last week-end's failure. 'It was just one of those things—and that's how it is in ringing,' he commented afterwards. Eric is now hopeful of finding a band willing to join him in another attempt on the Loughborough Foundry bells next year.

As a preliminary to any further such attempt, however, it has been suggested that it would be advisable for the record-seeking band to ring two peals together. According to Mr. Burton the qualifications of toughness and ability to stick to the peal showed themselves on Saturday to be of about equal importance.

SELECTION OR METHOD

Whether Mr. Critchley was wise in choosing such an elementary method as Plain Bob for the attempt is a point that has raised a conflict of opinion. Mr. Critchley sticks to his view that Plain Bob offers the best chance of success. The reverse theory is that a more complex method would tend to assist concentration.

Another point that has been raised is that the band would have done better to choose a heavier ring than that at the Bell Foundry. Because of their very lightness, the Loughborough bells cannot be 'leaned upon,' and some consider that the 'support' afforded by heavier bells would have been in the ringers' favour in such an attempt.

Suffice it to say on this point that Mr. Critchley's team still consider the Loughborough Foundry bells to come nearest to the ideal for record purposes.

As a matter of interest from a Guild viewpoint, the Loughborough record, if it had succeeded, was to have counted for the Leicester Guild, by Mr. Critchley's own request.

PRESS INTERESTED

A sidelight that made a considerable impression upon all who were connected with the endeavour was the intense interest shown by the Press and the public at large in it. The B.B.C. kept its listeners in touch with the progress of the peal with bulletins throughout the day, and it had been intended, late on Saturday night, to break into the Light Programme with a commentary and the actual sound of the changes being rung.

Television newsreel sent equipment and a team to film the attempt, a cinema newsreel took early shots; the American magazines, 'Time' and 'Life,' had staff representatives standing by, and both the 'Times' and the 'Manchester Guardian' sent reporters to Loughborough.

Never can the Exercise have caught the public imagination so completely before.

MR. TAYLOR'S HOSPITALITY

As a consolation to the disappointed ringers, Mr. Paul Taylor entertained them and the umpires to dinner at the King's Head Hotel on Saturday night, and Mr. Critchley, on behalf of

his team, took the opportunity of expressing warm thanks to Mr. Taylor for his work in connection with the attempt.

The Mayor of Loughborough, who had intended to visit the foundry tower shortly before midnight on Saturday to hear the closing changes, sent his best wishes, and the hope that Loughborough, 'the town of bells,' would again have the opportunity of welcoming them for a further attempt in the future. During the day, one telegram was received at the foundry from Elizabeth Grimes, Bath. 'Keep on pulling,' was the exhortation it contained. During the day, the ringer well-wishers arrived from Leicester to give their support.

The 21,600 changes rung in 13 hours at Over in Cheshire in 1950 still remains the record, and, so ends—but not quite—the story of a gallant failure.

It has been described earlier in this account as a story without a happy ending. But, strictly speaking, that is not true. For, in the telling of it, events took such a happy turn as to give it the most jubilant of endings.

A SON AND HEIR

At 6 a.m. on Sunday, at the Loughborough Foundry House, there was born to Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Paul Taylor's wife, a son and heir, a bouncing 'treble,' turning the scales at more than 10lb. Young John William Taylor, as it was immediately decided to call Mr. Taylor's third child and first son, perpetuates an illustrious name that has been connected with bells and bell founding since 1759, when Robert Taylor was born.

The visiting ringers had stayed at Loughborough overnight and heard Paul's good news when they arrived at Loughborough Parish Church to ring for morning service, and it was at once decided that the occasion should be celebrated with a birthday peal. A return visit was paid to the foundry tower later on Sunday morning, and there being this time no missed bobs, a peal of 5,056 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung in 2 hours 30 minutes on behalf of the Leicester Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

Six of the band which had attempted the record took part, the ringers being as follows: Norman Harding treble, Clifford Barron 2, Eric Critchley 3, Anthony Jesson 4, Wilfred Robinson 5, David Vincent (Manchester) 6, Wilfrid Moreton 7; Peter Border (who conducted the peal) tenor.

WEEDON BEC, NORTHANTS.—On Nov. 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss P. Boiling 1, Miss E. Hyham 2, F. Robinson 3, B. Barton 4, V. Perry (cond.) 5. For the engagement of Barry Barton and Edith Hyham.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A VILLAGE PROBLEM

Dear Sir,—Reading the item, 'A Village problem' in 'The Ringing World,' brings to my mind experiences of complaints which have occurred at my church here in North London.

Some two years ago the Vicar came into the ringing chamber and handed me a letter which was improperly addressed and bore a non-de-plume for a signature, coming, as it did, from a block of flats a short distance from the church.

The letter contained a request to stop the bells being rung for 11 a.m. service on Sunday because the writer's husband wanted a 'lay in' on Sunday morning, having to get up very early on week-days for work, also a request to stop Tuesday evening practice because the children could not be got off to sleep.

On another occasion a stranger living nearby appeared in the doorway of the ringing room whilst a 'touch' was in progress, apparently boiling over with wrath at the ringing of the bells, but when he saw what was going on he almost became speechless with astonishment; his complaint was extremely mild in character. He would, after a short while, liked to have had a 'go' until it was explained to him that the average man in the street could not take part in bell-ringing in the same easy way in which he could take part in a game of darts. Needless to say, no more was heard from him.

The most persistent complaint comes from the local photographer in business a short distance from the church, but we are always able to tell him where he stands, knowing his eagerness to obtain business from weddings taking place at the church, especially those weddings where the bells are asked for.

In my opinion the West Surrey ringers have behaved in a most considerate and reasonable manner. Don't give way any more, West Surrey; it is just the thin edge of the wedge to stop you ringing altogether.

During the last war when bombs, accompanied by gunfire and shells, were bursting in London, I heard this remark more than once: 'Oh, Mr. Newman. May the time soon come when you are allowed to ring the bells again.'—Yours faithfully, R. NEWMAN.

Holloway, N.7.

AN EXAMPLE FROM LIVERPOOL

Dear Sir,—In the early 1930's a local resident (wife of a solicitor) made repeated complaints to the then Rector of Woolton regarding the bellringing at our Parish Church.

With our Rector's approval I telephoned the complainant offering to meet her and her husband to discuss her objection—apologising for any cause for complaint, whatever it might be, technical or general. However, this was not acceptable, it was just that she wanted us not to ring, to which I respectfully offered to let them know beforehand of any ringing other than Tuesday practice and Sunday service ringing, pointing out that without an odd peal or two each year necessitating perhaps an attempt every two months, we could not carry out these duties, and that as just previously Mr. Justice Goddard (now Lord Justice Goddard) had held a hearing on just such a case and had 'stated a case' for the bellringing, this offer of mine was the best I could do, sympathising most sincerely with her in her trouble.

Well, we heard no more; these people left their house just a month ago, so they must have settled down to the merry noise—the lady was a great breeder of budgerigars, I heard afterwards.

The case stated by the Lord Chief Justice was not quoted in your recent legal survey; surely a search of his cases, or 'Ringing Worlds,' would produce the information.—Yours very faithfully, E. L. HUMPHRISS.

Woolton, Liverpool.

SILENCERS

Dear Sir,—Referring to the Rev. O. G. Rees' letter in 'The Ringing World' of November 26th, I remember watching the late Mr. George Day, of Eye, rehang the five bells of St. Mary's Church, Brome, Suffolk, in 1886.

The tower was completely cleared and two new floors filled six inches apart. This space Mr. Day filled in with mortar and straw to soften the noise to the ringers. He said to the writer, 'There, boy, you will be able to tell future ringers how I quietened the bells.' This method should be preferable to a layer of earth.

The ringers were so near the bells that the sallies went on the wheels at backstroke. As soon as the bells were rehung I began ringing.

G. E. SYMONDS.

Ipswich.

JOHN WALLIS, OF MAIDSTONE

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter from G. Head under 'Ringers' Epitaphs,' in 'The Ringing World' dated November 19th, pertaining to John Wallis, of Maidstone, his name is recorded on a peal board in the belfry, as under:—

'On October 30th, 1743, in this place was performed a complete peal of Union Trebles, 5,040 changes, in 3 hrs. 15 mins. by the following persons:—

Mich. Dove	.. .. .	Treble
John Wallis	.. .. .	2nd
John Hearnden	.. .. .	3rd
Thos. Sancho	.. .. .	4th
Robt. Hills	.. .. .	5th
Sam Tassell	.. .. .	6th
Thos. Hills	.. .. .	7th
William Bath	.. .. .	Tenor

This being the first of its kind ever performed in this County.'

John Wallis died 16 months after this performance at the age of 29 years.—Yours faithfully,

Maidstone.

L. MANNERING.

DOUBLES METHODS

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Blagrove's letter re Doubles methods, All Saints' has been included in peals and quarter peals on no less than 70 different occasions, all of which have been recorded in 'The Ringing World.' Mr. Blagrove feels sure that All Saints' will not be recognised by the Central Council, but appeals to all Doubles ringers to stand firm against the Methods Committee.

I, personally, am very grateful to him for his appeal. Over 300 copies of All Saints' have been sent to various parts of the country since October, 1952; supplies are now exhausted.

For those not familiar with the method I append a lead:—

ALL SAINTS' DOUBLES

1 2 3 4 5
2 1 3 4 5
2 3 1 5 4
3 2 5 1 4
3 5 2 4 1
5 3 4 2 1
5 4 3 1 2
4 5 1 3 2
4 1 5 2 3
1 4 5 2 3
1 4 5 3 2

Bob

2 1 3 5 4
1 2 3 5 4
1 2 5 3 4
2 1 5 3 4

W. H. CAVILL.

Ashcott, Bridgwater.

SPICED SURPRISE MAJOR

Dear Sir,—For the present I am concerning myself with only two paragraphs in Mr. K. S. B. Croft's letter. In the first one he observes that my article on the above subject deserves the comment I invite. I would like to thank him for this, and hope that his exhortation will not go unheeded. At the same time I would like to ask that the discussion be confined strictly to the subject, as I do feel that to invoke Stedman and Grandsire Triples for instance is going outside the terms of reference, and should form the subject of a separate debate, if Mr. Croft is desirous of initiating one. If the discussion is to proceed on these lines, we may expect to finish up with an argument on Bob Triples.

Secondly, Mr. Croft's reference to real values. Is he really suggesting that the value of Spiced Surprise Major ringing did not change with the advent of Messrs. Pitman's and Cashmore's productions? In my submission there can be little doubt about this, or that it was definitely in a positive direction.

I would like in conclusion to thank Mr. Croft for his interest, and to say that I have noted such of his views that are germane to the subject.—Yours truly,

L. W. G. MORRIS.

Bradford.

STEDMAN AND GRANDSIRE JUST CONDUCTORS' METHODS

Dear Sir,—Surely Mr. Croft's letter is a little contradictory? Mr. L. W. G. Morris writes a very good and timely leader on 'advancement,' or, in other words, have we, since the first introduction of spliced compositions (Surprise Treble Bob having been widely exploited) made an advancement proportional to the time, i.e., introduced to the full, 'pure' spliced as opposed to the three-lead plan?

Now Mr. Croft is in wholehearted agreement with a striving for something new and worth while—that goes for all of us, I think, especially in this sphere, and yet he boldly declares that he would like to see more peals of Stedman and Grandsire in the columns. Why?

I'm certainly not belittling peals in these methods, but no matter what compositions are used, they are plainly and simply conductors' methods. Apart from that, never a week goes by when at least a dozen or so peals of these fail to appear in 'The Ringing World'; that's a fair enough sprinkling, isn't it?

Take Stedman Triples; no matter whether the composition be the Four Part, Dr. G. W. Slack's Two Part, or the Odd Bob, it's still Stedman. Fifty bobs and singles instead of five make no difference to the ringers, because even with five one cannot very well relax to follow the calling perhaps, or really listen to the music, because one brief slip of the memory means chaos rarely rectified!

No, Mr. Croft, Stedman is a *vogue*, probably originating in London. Cinques is very pleasant, Caters is tolerable (on a good ring), but Triples—ugh, what boredom! In and out quick, in and out slow! Having taken part in a course of Cambridge at Norwich Central Council meeting (1946), I was asked to ring some Stedman. I confess I didn't know it. I'm lucky, though, to be able to say it; I was nearly 'eaten alive'!

No bands set better examples for this advancement than those ringing new methods, usually, too, with new compositions. Many require 'ringing,' and even if the vast collection of Stedman compositions was exhausted by a band, only one person would have advanced—the conductor; whereas in Zennor, Tyburn and Goscote Surprise, 25 have advanced!—Yours faithfully,

G. W. PIPE

Grundisburgh.

LETTERS—Continued

REPLIES TO MESSRS. BUTLER AND
BLAGROVE

Dear Sir,—I write as an individual and not on behalf of the Methods Committee, to answer one or two points which have arisen in letters recently.

Firstly, Mr. Butler's letter in the issue of November 12th. I was, of course, the author of the letter of ten years ago. I must confess I was tempted to try to reply in a humorous vein, but thought it might be misunderstood, so I will answer seriously in the hope that Mr. Butler is asking genuinely and not 'trying to be funny,' as some of his other recent letters make one inclined to think, I fear. Ten years ago I started to ring and first read books on the subject. The letter was the result. Mr. Butler seems to suggest that it is a crime to change one's ideas and that my views ought still to be the same, so that in holding different ones now, I am, perhaps, guilty of being a hypocrite (I hope I am not reading too much into what he implies). I must say that with ten years' experience, I would be peculiar if I didn't have different ideas.

Take (ii) for instance. Ten years ago Superlative was only a name to me. To-day, I would disagree with the quotation, which suggests that this method is the 'queen' of methods. Now that I can ring it, I think it is a poor method in more ways than one. Thus I am not so sure about the 'excellent methods' having the same characteristics. However, I know that it is not answering the question about Plain Bob Lead Heads. Suffice it to say about these that I have changed my opinion in the light of greater knowledge—not because of any one particular reason but through a combination of small points such as easier composition with such (against all others), easier conducting, symmetry of the method, music, etc.

These same reasons also apply to (vi). I'm not so sure I was right about (iv)—I think I was repeating the opinion of just one or two people, believing that it was a general opinion. Nobody seems to regard back-handed places as 'bad' now. As for (iii) and (v) my personal opinions are the same now as then. In the latter case, I think most ringers would prefer a better classification of methods, but for want of another, we keep to the present system.

This brings me to a very important point which Mr. Butler and others keep on forgetting. Most people have individual ideas which differ from those of the majority. When one belongs to an organisation, those ideas may have to be immersed under the majority view. That is being loyal to the organisation (of course, there will then be the problem of when to put one's own view first before that of the group—as in the recent Labour Party conflict—but that will normally only be necessary where a question of morality is concerned, not in a bell ringing question).

Thus the members of the Methods Committee may have various individual ideas which are contrary to the rules of the Central Council. But as loyal members of that body, their work is governed by the Rules and Decisions of the Council, and must be so. Consequently, any book of Doubles methods, say, will obey those rules and it is quite immaterial whether those rules are good or bad. A judge applies the laws of the land, but sometimes he admits that he thinks a certain law is a bad one and requires alteration. He still, however, administers justice according to that law and not according to his own ideas. It is the same here.

If ringers think a rule is 'bad,' let them see that it is changed in the proper way at a Central Council meeting, for it is futile and unfair to think that loyal members of the Council will do otherwise than apply its rules. This is not altered by the turning of a blind eye in the past to certain things—it only means that, per-

haps, members are trying to be more loyal now than sometimes they have been.

Secondly, it has frequently been pointed out of late that nobody can say what ringers may ring. They can ring anything they like—Bob Triples, Canterbury Pleasure or anything with different 'rules' to those accepted by the Council. As far as I am aware, there is nothing to prevent two soccer teams playing with a different off-side rule to that now generally accepted (except probably the same sort of promise that we have, to abide loyally by the Rules and Decisions of the football authority) because they think such a rule better than the present one. I'm quite sure a match thus played wouldn't be counted. It is the same with us. Only peals rung according to the rules are accepted. I fail to see what there is wrong in that, or that the few are trying to impose their wills on the majority.

Some of these remarks also apply to Mr. Blagrove's letter appealing for 'rebellion' against the Methods Committee. I find his letter most extraordinary. He entirely forgets most of what I have said about the relations between the Council and its committees and about loyalty. Another thing he and others ought to bear in mind is 'compromise.' I fear that spirit is sadly lacking. We find it often in the world these days—labour disputes because some workers want it all ways, there's no 'give and take,' it is all 'take.' Letters a few months ago helped to show how chaotic was the field in Doubles methods and how order was needed. We are trying to produce that order and it seems to have been forgotten that, in the interests of five-bell ringers, the Methods Committee persuaded the Council to relax certain rules on their behalf. In producing order out

of chaos, one would have thought it a small price to pay (by way of compromise) that one or two methods would have to be excluded, for there will be 97 true methods still for ringers to use.

May I also be allowed to say that I was especially surprised by Mr. Blagrove's letter inasmuch as he has been most helpful to us in getting together and naming those 97 methods, and recently rang an excellent peal using methods which were chosen with our ideas in mind.

Finally, I really must protest about his sweeping assertion that only Doubles ringers are Sunday service ringers and that most Surprise ringers are not. I'm sure you will receive many such protests. I have only been ringing for ten years, but I believe that is longer than Mr. Blagrove has. I also believe that I have greater experience in ringing in all parts of the country than he has. How, then, can he judge? His statement is simply not true.—Yours sincerely,

K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Southampton.

P.S.—Buckland, Glos. was the first peal on the bells. Little Bob Major was rung at St. Maric's, Sheffield, on March 27th, 1926.

K. W. H. F.

REASONS FOR PEALS

Dear Sir,—Your leader on reasons for peal ringing has set me thinking. Obviously peal ringers who number their peals by hundreds must have a campanological sense beyond the ear and mathematical ability of those who number their peals singly. As a member of the latter group I list my peals for the following reasons:—

- (1) The ringer's natural method of expressing
 - (a) Prayer and praise, an Eastertide Peal;
 - (b) Respect, a Coronation Peal;
 - (c) Good wishes, a Birthday Peal.
- (2) For the encouragement of younger ringers (a peal of Plain Bob Minor).
- (3) For the personal satisfaction that I have rung a peal in the method (a peal of Grandsire Triples).
- (4) For the sheer delight of ringing. But peals are not necessary for this.

The delight I find in ringing derives from the satisfaction of a service given to God's Church, a simple pleasure in, but little understanding of, the music of the bells, and a sheer physical contentment in the rhythm of the exercise.

I hope others will give us their reasons that we may share them.

BEATRICE M. BOYLE.

Combe Martin.

NATIONAL SERVICE MEN AT
PLYMOUTH

Special congratulations from his friends in Plymouth are extended to Alan Ward, of Manchester, in calling his first peal of Plain Bob Royal at Worsley in honour of his 21st birthday. Most of Alan's two years' National Service was spent at Seaton Barracks, near Plymouth. When he returned to civilian life he was much missed by his friends at Emmanuel Church, Plymouth.

Another National Service man just lost to this tower is John Hough, of Barwell, Leics. Unfortunately, the farewell quarter for John came to grief in the last minute. Both John and Alan were close friends.

An Anthology

From America we have received an anthology on bell music entitled 'Chimes,' collected by Mrs. Lois Springer, of Elgin, Illinois, with illustrations by Catherine W. Springer. The collection is divided into sections dealing with 'Christmas Bells,' 'New Year Peals,' 'Chimes,' 'Five Legends,' 'The Angelus,' 'Animal Bells,' 'War and Peace' and 'Miscellany.'

NOW READY

*The Ringer's
Notebook
and Diary, 1955*

Compiled by

William Viggers and Maurice Hodgson

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QUARTER PEALS

ALVERSTOKE, HANTS.—On Nov. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. W. Nuttall 1, Kathleen Knight 2, Doris Banks 3, Ann West 4, R. Beale 5, F. G. Barron 6, H. A. Nobes (cond.) 7, S. A. Scott (first quarter) 8. Rung half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

ASFOEDBY, LEICS.—On Nov. 11th, 2,520 Grandsire Doubles: Evander Littlewood 1, A. Hinman 2, Mrs. D. Day 3, G. Bowcutt 4, J. H. Cook (cond.) 5, R. Looker 6. First half peal for 1, 3 and 4. An 81st birthday compliment to Mr. E. Littlewood; also as a welcome to the Rector of Asfordby (the Rev. S. A. Jackson) and Mrs. Jackson on their coming to live in the new Rectory.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, LANCs.—On Nov. 6th, at St. Peter's Church, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: P. Banks (first quarter) 1, Miss J. Cordwell (first in method) 2, Miss D. M. Heap (first in method) 3, Miss M. J. Llewellyn (first in method) 4, A. W. Stone 5, A. Ward (first in method and first as cond.) 6. Rung with the bells half-muffled for Remembrance Day.

BONVILSTON, GLAM.—On Nov. 6th, 1,380 Doubles (360 Stedman, 120 Spiced Stedman and Grandsire, 360 Grandsire, 240 Reverse Canterbury and 300 Plain Bob): Miss D. Hulbert 1, Miss J. Powell 2, G. Williams 3, K. Jones (first of Doubles) 4, A. R. Price (cond.) 5, T. Petty 6. A compliment to Mr. D. Clarke and Miss M. Moore, both of Newport, Mon., on the occasion of their marriage.

BOSTON, Lincs.—On Nov. 28th, at St. Botolph's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Brown 1, F. Dewey 2, S. Jessop 3, R. Brown (cond.) 4, W. E. Clarke 5, F. Leggett 6, J. Petch 7, T. Freeston 8. For Advent Sunday.

BOTTESFORD, LEICS.—On Nov. 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. W. Pinchbeck 1, Mrs. K. Ketteringham (first of Triples) 2, D. A. Friith (cond.) 3, C. Jallands 4, K. Ketteringham 5, B. Box 6, H. R. Woods 7, T. W. Charity 8.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On Nov. 16th, at St. John's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss S. Titchener (first quarter) 1, J. E. Daniels 2, Mrs. F. M. Marshall 3, Miss V. Crouch (first quarter) 4, D. T. Matkin 5, H. A. Mitchell 6, M. J. E. Best (cond.) 7, Miss K. Fletcher 8. Rung for the anniversary of the dedication of the church.

BOZEAT, NORTHANTS.—On Nov. 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: R. Daniels (first on treble) 1, R. Linc 2, R. Edwards (first on 'inside' bell) 3, N. Linc 4, E. Smart (cond.) 5. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Miss E. Dobbs.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.—At the Church of St. Peter, on Nov. 28th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: G. North (first quarter) 1, A. W. Bond 2, M. W. Stephenson (first in method) 3, A. W. Gravett (cond.) 4, J. Lonsborough 5, S. E. Armstrong 6, H. W. Woolven 7, W. H. Hargreaves 8. Rung for Evensong.

BUCKLEY, FLINTS.—On Nov. 28th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. H. Hayes 1, R. V. Robinson 2, B. R. Millward 3, A. Lewis 4, A. G. Watkin 5, F. H. Birks 6, D. H. B. Millward (cond.) 7, P. C. Roberts 8. Rung for Advent Sunday; also as a farewell to F. H. Birks, who has taken an appointment in Glasgow, and a 21st birthday compliment to B. R. Millward, eldest son of the conductor.

CREWE, CHESHIRE.—On Nov. 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. Owen 1, H. F. Holding 2, S. Leyland 3, J. Holloway 4, I. Nichols 5, R. D. Langford 6, G. A. Packer (cond.) 7, F. S. Stenson 8. Rung for the christening of the son of W. Kerr, secretary of the Crewe branch.

DERBY.—At St. Andrew's Church, on Nov. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. F. Murfin (first of Triples, aged 13) 1, Miss E. Foulk 2, G. Freebrey 3, D. K. Walklate (cond.) 4, Miss V. Horton (first of Triples) 5, S. Walklate 6, D. P. Jones 7, K. Tunnicliffe 8.

DEVIZES, WILTS.—At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist, on Nov. 18th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Mrs. D. Parsons 1, W. J. Mortimer 2, J. Romain 3, G. Winter 4, F. Hale 5, H. Gummer 6, S. G. Grant (cond.) 7, H. Sturgess 8.

DUFFIELD, DERBYS.—On Oct. 3rd, 1,320 Doubles (600 Grandsire, 360 Plain Bob, 360 April Day): Brenda Nelson 1, F. W. Stone 2, D. Gebbett 3, Carolyn Prudl (first quarter) 4, Vivienne Horton 5, J. MacArthur 6, M. F. Hatch (cond.) 7, W. Webster 8. Rung for harvest festival on the back eight, with 4, 6, 8 covering. Also on Nov. 19th, 1,260 Doubles (360 April Day, 480 Plain Bob, 420 Grandsire): Brenda Nelson 1, F. W. Stone 2, M. F. Hatch (cond.) 3, Miss E. Foulke 4, D. Gebbett 5, Lynn Goodwin (first quarter) 6. Rung on the front six.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.—On Nov. 24th, at the Church of St. Saviour, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Downing 1, Mrs. Betty Percy 2, O. Wood 3, G. Becey 4, H. C. F. Reynolds 5, R. W. Pankhurst 6, F. H. Dallaway (cond.) 7, C. Gatland 8.

ELTHAM, KENT.—On Nov. 18th, 1,232 Plain Bob Major: G. Hurrell 1, G. Daynes 2, K. Burbridge 3, W. Rawlings 4, D. Holland 5, F. Hurrell 6, J. Hurrell 7, B. Aldridge (cond.) 8. A 78th birthday compliment to Mr. H. Wood.

EWELME, OXON.—On Nov. 13th, 1,152 Bob Minor: W. Fulker 1, W. Absalom 2, F. Godden 3, J. Godman 4, R. Tuckwell (first of Minor) 5, F. Absalom (cond.) 6.

FINCHLEY, MIDDLEX.—On Nov. 14th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: M. Carter (first quarter) 1, A. Richardson 2, A. Warren 3, A. Goodall 4, F. Barker 5, P. Blake 6, B. Willis (cond.) 7, L. Tubb 8. Rung for Evensong. Also on Nov. 28th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: Ann Gower 1, A. Richardson 2, Nicola Savage (first quarter 'inside') 3, F. Barker 4, A. Warren 5, P. Blake 6, B. Willis (cond.) 7, L. Tubb 8. Rung for Evensong.

FRYERNING, ESSEX.—On Nov. 14th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Miss M. E. J. Egglestone (first quarter) 1, Miss J. E. Race 2, H. Wright 3, F. Abrey 4, P. Wilscher 5, H. W. Egglestone (cond.) 6. Rung for Evensong.

FULHAM, S.W.—On Nov. 28th, 1,275 Stedman Caters: Mrs. C. Watts 1, J. Chilcott (cond.) 2, H. Belcher 3, J. W. Stephenson 4, W. J. Rawlings 5, J. Waters 6, James Phillips 7, P. A. F. Chalk 8, John Phillips 9, H. M. Page 10.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL, MIDDLEX.—On Nov. 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. G. Pitcher 1, J. Schofield (50th quarter as cond.) 2, Miss M. C. Howe 3, J. C. Taylor 4, R. E. Waters 5, C. E. Slade 6, B. W. Huntley 7, J. C. Pitcher 8. First quarter of Triples for all except 2 and 4. For Advent Sunday.

HAWKLEY, HANTS.—On Nov. 21st, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: C. Pound (first of Major) 1, R. Baldwin 2, R. H. Smith 3, E. J. Munday 4, P. Page 5, Winifred Keys 6, F. W. Burnett 7, Kathleen Knight (first in method as cond.) 8. Rung half-muffled for evening service.

HERSHAM, SURREY.—On Nov. 14th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Eunice Hiley (first quarter) 1, Judy Dodson 2, Pam Collins 3, H. Colcombe 4, J. King 5, J. F. Dodson (cond.) 6. First of Plain Bob Minor for 2, 3, 5 and 6. Rung for Prince Charles' birthday.

HINCKLEY, LEICS.—On Nov. 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Ann Johnstone 1, Nancy Marklew 2, A. Ballard (cond.) 3, F. Long 4, E. Sowman 5, B. Ridgway 6, F. K. Measures 7, F. Mellory 8. Rung half-muffled in memory of Walter Willis, for many years a ringer in this tower, and late of Aylestone.

HITCHIN, HERTS.—On Oct. 31st, 1,260 Cambridge Surprise Major: A. J. Tuttle (first of Surprise Major) 1, L. Fidler 2, G. Cherry 3, P. W. Croft 4, J. Church 5, E. W. Winters 6, C. M. Orme 7, F. W. Croft (cond.) 8. Also on Nov. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Tuttle 1, C. P. Hare 2, L. Fidler 3, G. Cherry 4, D. Jones (first in method as cond.) 5, E. W. Winters 6, F. W. Croft 7, P. W. Croft 8. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Day parade.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS.—On Nov. 24th, 1,277 Grandsire Caters: V. Conquest 1, Miss J. Gladman 2, K. L. Brown 3, B. Whitney 4, A. E. Rushton (cond.) 5, R. Kendall 6, R. Piron 7, E. Conquest 8, J. Sinfeld 9, J. Conquest 10. A compliment to Mr. H. Holmes (churchwarden) and Mrs. Holmes on the occasion of their golden wedding.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Nov. 28th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: C. W. Powell 1, E. L. Taylor 2, Mrs. C. W. Powell 3, H. G. Keeley 4, G. Whitmore 5, G. S. Morris 6, R. Keeley (cond.) 7, A. G. Whitmore 8. For Evensong.

MERROW, SURREY.—On Nov. 23rd, 1,380 Doubles in ten variations of Grandsire and Plain Bob, being 60 Old Doubles, 120 Reverse Canterbury, 120 Southrepps Pleasure, 240 Plain Bob, 120 April Day, 120 each two versions of Dedworth, 120 Reverse St. Bartholomew, 120 Northrepps Pleasure and 240 Grandsire: R. Warren (longest length on a working bell) 1, Miss P. Warren 2, G. L. Grover (cond.) 3, B. G. Grover 4, J. Etherington 5, J. Gould 6. Rung half-muffled in memoriam William Henry Cooper, for 35 years ringer and chorister-at Merrow, interred there that day.

MILTON ERNEST, BEDS.—On Nov. 13th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: N. Hull (first quarter) 1, Miss Betty Marsh 2, R. A. Lucas 3, B. J. Makeham 4, R. F. Barrett 5, B. Pattison (cond.) 6. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar.

ORMESBY, YORKS.—On Nov. 7th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: P. W. B. Semmens 1, J. G. Hall 2, Mrs. L. Warrior 3, R. Jackson 4, W. Ellerington 5, P. Wishart 6, T. M. Cox (cond.) 7, J. Baxter (first quarter) 8.

OXFORD.—On Nov. 17th, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, 1,260 Doubles (120 each of Stedman, Reverse Canterbury, Southrepps Pleasure, Plain Bob, April Day and Reverse St. Bartholomew, and 540 Grandsire): J. J. P. Ellams 1, D. Hodgson 2, G. F. Jenkins 3, D. H. Niblett (cond.) 4, J. H. Smart 5, A. C. P. Pugh 6. First quarter in seven Doubles methods by all the band. Rung for the festival of St. Hugh. Also on Nov. 18th, at the Church of St. Ebbe, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. E. Lock 1, W. F. Holloway 2, Mrs. A. E. Lock 3, R. J. Nash 4, G. F. Jenkins 5, M. S. Cloke 6, D. H. Niblett (cond.) 7, W. H. B. Wilkins 8.

PUCKINGTON, SOMERSET.—On Nov. 16th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: K. Welch 1, R. Deane (first of Minor) 2, H. Bungay 3, F. Welch 4, J. T. Locke 5, J. H. Gilbert (cond.) 6.

RAMSGATE, KENT.—At St. Laurence-in-Thanel, on Nov. 22nd, 1,263 Grandsire Triples: T. W. Edwards 1, Mrs. N. Bridges 2, C. Durham 3, J. L. Hilton 4, S. J. Gee 5, L. Twyman 6, A. E. Jarman (cond.) 7, R. S. Weekes 8. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Mr. Fred Hilton, who died on November 19th, a member until recently of the St. Laurence band for over 25 years.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.—On Nov. 14th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor (tenor covering): Mrs. M. M. Osborne 1, Mrs. E. Merrett 2, Mrs. J. C. Northan 4, H. Corney 5, J. Barrance (first in method 'inside') 6, L. W. Bullock (cond.) 7, H. F. Perry 8. A birthday compliment to Prince Charles. Also on Nov. 23rd, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor (with tenor covering): A. T. Langstone 1, Mrs. M. M. Osborne 3, Mrs. E. Merrett 4, L. W. Bullock (cond.) 5, J. Barrance 6, J. Merrett 7, J. R. Brice 8. A welcome home to H.M. the Queen Mother.

ROYDON, ESSEX.—On Nov. 21st, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: F. Wright 1, B. Pike 2, B. G. Burton 3, A. A. Livings 4, P. C. Bicknell 5, J. R. Ketteringham (cond.) 6.

SEAL CHART, KENT.—On Oct. 30th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: S. Jenner (first quarter) 1, Miss J. Grenham (first 'inside') 2, Miss B. Tester 3, G. Fry 4, K. S. Hohl 5, C. A. Tester (cond.) 6.

SKILLINGTON, Lincs.—On Nov. 13th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: B. Hunt 1, H. Thorp 2, R. Read 3, D. A. Friith (cond.) 4, B. Buttery (first quarter 'inside') 6.

STANMORE, MIDDLEX.—On Oct. 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Hopwood 1, C. Wenban 2, Joan Wilcockson 3, Margaret Mesley 4, E. J. Leversuch 5, W. Wenban (cond.) 6, R. Stoddard 7, R. Lambert 8. Also on Nov. 27th, 1,392 Plain Bob Major: D. Hopwood 1, D. Cattell 2, Joan Wilcockson 3, E. J. Leversuch 4, T. J. Clark 5, C. Wenban 6, W. Wenban (cond.) 7, J. E. Rootes 8. First quarter for 1 and 3.

TEMPLECOMBE, SOMERSET.—On Nov. 26th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: J. F. Hatchley 1, J. Brown (first quarter) 2, F. J. Hazzard 3, Daphne J. Webb 4, D. Randall 5, H. P. Sparks (cond.) 6.

TOTTERNHOPE, BEDS.—On Nov. 21st, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: Joan Newman 1, D. G. Broyd 2, R. J. Scott 3, D. M. Knox 4, J. W. Sinfeld 5, A. G. Matthews 6, J. G. Newman 7, A. E. Sharman (cond.) 8.

TWERTON-ON-AVON, SOMERSET.—On Nov. 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: P. R. Young, Miss A. Stephens 2, A. F. Lee (first of Triples 'inside') 3, R. O. Fry (cond.) 4, J. R. Hobbs (first on eight) 5, L. R. G. Taylor 6, C. J. A. Brown 7, T. Milson (first on eight) 8. In honour of the 82nd birthday of Mr. A. E. Baverstock, of Bath.

UPPER CLAPTON, E.—At the Church of St. Matthew, on Nov. 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss N. Hales 1, Miss G. L. Friswell 2, J. A. Hales 3, R. K. C. Wilkins 4, J. Hales 5, G. A. Parsons 6, D. Neal (cond.) 7, D. K. Brady (first quarter, aged 14) 8. A compliment to Mr. and Mrs. R. K. C. Wilkins on the birth of a daughter (Barbara Joyce) on Nov. 2nd.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—On Nov. 28th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Miss B. C. Philpot (first quarter) 1, D. Staples 2, C. T. Hillis 3, W. P. Garner 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, A. J. Lancefield (cond.) 6.

A CORNISH HOLIDAY

In a leader recently Muriel Reay wrote her impressions of her first ringing tour, and now I would like to add mine of my first ringing holiday.

Thanks to kind Cornishmen and two or three other well known ringers who were staying at Bude, I'm afraid 'the seaside' part of the holiday took second place.

I arrived at 4 p.m., and by 6.30, after hurried greetings and ablutions, I was ringing on a very beautiful ring of six. This was on a Saturday, and from then until Thursday I ring in 28 towers; Friday, being Amami night, we had a rest.

On Saturday a well organised tour was arranged. Six new towers were added to my list, and a very pleasant hour spent with old friends from Plymouth.

Sunday was the highlight of the fortnight. Ringing call changes at Kilkhampton in the morning, calling a good quarter peal of Grandsire Triples at Holsworthy in the afternoon by the following: J. Rich 1, C. Sangwin 2, D. Burnett 3, R. Pearce 4, P. Lewington 5, J. Sangwin 6, W. Hibbert 7, H. Stacey 8. Then on to Bideford, where we rang call changes with such precision that I was in a bath of perspiration in case I was the one to spoil such beautiful rhythm. I have read with interest many comments by well known ringers about 'call changes,' and can now add my forcible observations that many of our method ringers could listen to call changes and, if honest, realise that their striking is not all that could be desired.

The second week was quieter, but on the Saturday six of us had a lovely afternoon, just chancing that we could ring in a tower on arrival, and such fun we had, looking for keys, borrowing ladders to surmount screens to get on to the ringing floor and going up amongst the bells to adjust the ropes after setting bells up with no stays, and it was at St. Teath where we heard the very plaintive voice of the tenor man saying, 'Speak to me, speak to me,' when three quarters of the way up there was no response from his bell.

To conclude a wonderful day we rang at Tintagel, and how I wish I had the ability to describe the beauty and mystery of this village, with its solid old church built on the edge of the cliff, the light and shade of a full moon, and winking lights from ships and lighthouses warning sailors of the ruggedness of this part of King Arthur's England.

The end of the holiday came all too soon, and I say a heartfelt 'thank you' to Cornish and Devon ringers for their great kindness and hospitality and good friendship to a 'foreigner.'

Maybe next year I shall ring in more towers and make more friends, but it will never efface this memorable first ringing holiday.

P. L.

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following donations to help meet the cost of producing 'The Ringing World':—

Personal.—J. B., 5s.; W. C. J., 7s.
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OBITUARY

MR. ALBERT MILLS

Rossendale ringing has suffered a sad loss by the passing of Mr. Albert Mills, who died at his home in Bacup on November 24th after only a week's illness, at the age of 63.

A native of Bacup, Mr. Mills had a life-long association with Christ Church, where he was a sidesman and church councillor in addition to being the head ringer. For 40 years he had been a member of the Lancashire Association, and at the time of his death had been for some years the Branch Ringing Master of the Rossendale Branch. Not only was he a capable and enthusiastic ringer himself; he was also an industrious teacher, and his readiness to help beginners at branch meetings will long be remembered.

The funeral service took place at Christ Church on November 29th, followed by cremation at Rochdale. The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Rev. R. W. Miles, curate-in-charge, in the absence of the Vicar through illness, assisted by the Rev. R. D. St. John Smith, president of the Lancashire Association, who gave the address, in which he spoke of Albert Mills as 'one of those who can least be spared.'

The bearers included two of the deceased's fellow-ringers, Mr. James Walsh, of Christ Church, and Mr. J. Porter (Bury), secretary of the Rossendale Branch. A number of other ringers were present at the service to pay their tribute to one who set a high example both as a service ringer and as a member of the Association. R. D. St. J. S.

MR. EDWARD G. GODLEY

Aldrington, Hove, records with deep regret the passing, on November 25th, of Mr. Edward G. Godley, who for 60 years had been a regular service ringer at this church. Only two months ago the local band rang a quarter peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor in honour of 'Ted's' 80th birthday.

A peal in which Ted took part was one of Plain Bob Minor by the local band in 1902. The most notable features of this well-loved ringer were his kindness, humility and great interest in the progress of the beginners with always an encouraging word to help them on.

Members of the local band rang a half-muffled quarter peal prior to Sunday Evensong and the bells were rung half-muffled at the funeral service. We extend our sympathy to his widow and family. May he rest in peace.

5,056 Pudsey Surprise Major

By W. E. CRITCHLEY

23456	B	M	W	H
45236	—	—	—	—
24536	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—
23564	x	—	—	—
56234	—	—	—	—
26435	—	—	—	—
63254	x	—	—	—
25634	—	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—	—
25346	x	—	—	—
42356	—	—	—	—
53624	—	—	—	—
32546	x	—	—	—

Repeated.

First rung at Hemsworth, Yorks, on Saturday, October 9th, 1954

WOOLWICH, S.E.—On Nov. 14th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: Miss C. Wakfield 1, A. Grove, sen., 2, R. A. Johnson 3, Gnr. D. Holland, R.A., 4, M. Perry 5, B. W. Aldridge (cond.) 6. For evening service, and as a birthday compliment to H.R.H. Prince Charles and to Miss Ann Smith, of the local band.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO, CHUMS?

We felt that way on November 27th at Lancaster. The same question came up, 'What would you have done?'

Most of us had travelled 40 miles or so to get to Lancaster for a peal attempt and we all arrived about 2.30 p.m. We discovered that there was the inevitable wedding to wait for but we didn't mind that, it just put us back three-quarters of an hour or so. What was far more serious, however, was that whilst we were waiting the electric lights went out in the tower. We phoned for the electrician and he came and inspected but, like us, he could do nothing until after the wedding.

We decided to start in the lingering daylight and trusted to the electrician to switch on as soon as he could.

We got going on Parker's 12-part peal of Grandsire and it was tapping along very nicely; all the same it was rapidly growing dark. By the first part-end the dusky looking sallies could hardly be seen.

We began to look for the ringers' hands as they went up. Numbers 2, 3 and 4 could be seen quite well as they were back to the big window, but 6, 7 and treble could hardly be made out as they stood in the gloom.

Towards the end of the second part all sorts of thoughts began to assail the conductor. How much longer could we go on? Should we wait for the crash that was bound to come, or should he call rounds when they got somewhere near? So he gave a warning, 'We can't go on much longer.' Even so there was always the possibility that the lights would come on within minutes of his calling rounds.

So, soon after the second part-end, he called rounds and stand. The lights came on within ten minutes of standing.

How exasperating it all was. By then it was too late to start again, and besides, Lancaster Priory eight are not exactly finger light. We had to content ourselves with a quarter.

Well? What would you have done, chums?

J. E. B.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

Appreciation was expressed of the work of the Rev. J. L. Turney as branch chairman, and good wishes for work in his new parish at Milton Ernest, Bedford, at the meeting of the West Norfolk Branch at North Creak on November 20th. The Rector (the Rev. T. Elliott) conducted the service attended by about 30 ringers. Tea was provided by the wives and friends of the local band.

At the business meeting the Standing Committee was asked to have the observations of Plain Bob Minor printed in the annual report book. The next meeting was fixed for February 26th at King's Lynn.

LATE NOTICES

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting, Tilney All Saints', Saturday, Dec. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Tea provided.—J. Fox, Dis. Sec. 5491

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Handsworth, Saturday, Dec. 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea in Parish Room at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. A hearty welcome is extended to all. Names for tea to J. J. L. Gilbert, 56, Glencoe Road, Sheffield 2, by 16th. 5488

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 2s. 6d. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s.

All Notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

BIRTHS

SEMMENS.—To Barbara (née Knee) and Peter Semmens, on Sunday, November 28th, 1954, at 52, Belle Vue Grove, Middlesbrough, a daughter, Norwenna Barbara. 5482

TAYLOR.—On Dec. 5th, 1954, at Bell-foundry House, Loughborough, to Merle, wife of Paul Lea Taylor—a son (John William), a brother for Sarah and Frances. 5490

SILVER WEDDING

JONES—RESTALL.—On December 7th, 1929, at Hucclecote Church, by the Rev. Henry E. Emmet, William Charles to Eleanor. Present address: 7, Castle Cottages, Barnwood, Gloucester. 5465

DEATH

LONGHURST.—On November 27th, 1954, at 92, Butcher's Row, West Grinstead, Henry Longhurst, age 62, after a long illness. 5470

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of Michael E. Brown is now Harecroft Farm, 2, Leicester Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire. 5489

PUBLICATIONS

A FEW COPIES remain of 'The Church Bells of Flintshire,' 3s. 6d.; 'Ayrshire,' 3s. 6d.; 'Stirlingshire,' 3s.; 'Scottish Rings of Bells,' 2s. All post free from the author, Ronald Clouston, Swanslea, Westerfield, near Ipswich, Suffolk. 5464

MISCELLANEOUS

UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.—I have received notice of a motion to add rules relating to finance and recording of peals, to be proposed at the general meeting on January 7th, 1955.—B. D. Threlfall, Hon. Sec. 5474

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS will be published in 'The Ringing World' of December 17th and December 24th. Price 3s. for 36 words.

MEETINGS

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Annual meeting, St. David's, Exeter, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, Imperial Hotel, 5 p.m. Meeting, St. David's Vestry, 6.15. Names to F. Wreford, 24, Normandy Road, Exeter. 5403

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. District.—By invitation of the Bishop's Stortford ringers, there will be a meeting at St. Michael's (10) on Saturday, Dec. 11th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m.—G. Blake, Dis. Sec., Hamlet House, Roydon Hamlet, Harlow. 5395

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Annual meeting—Charlton Kings, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30. Tea and meeting 4. Service 6.—P. Baker, 40, St. Michael's Avenue, Bishop's Cleeve. 5402

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Nomination meeting at Aldershot, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Service 6 p.m., followed by meeting.—G. S. G. Joyce, 130, Ship Lane, Farnborough. 5417

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Nomination meeting, East Clandon Institute, Dec. 11th. Tea and meeting 4 p.m., followed by service at East Clandon and ringing at West Clandon until 8.30.—A. H. Smith, District Sec. 5428

CHRISTMAS WEEK PUBLICATION

The issue of December 24th will be on sale on Thursday, December 23rd. Notices must be in as early as possible in view of Christmas postal delays. We go to press on Monday noon.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—King's Langley (8), Saturday, Dec. 11th.—R. Shutter, Dis. Sec. 5439

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Mary-atte-Bow on Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business.—T. J. Lock. 5449

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—City Branch.—Annual meeting, Dec. 11th, St. Giles' Church, Oxford. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m.—T. S. Bowles, Hon. Sec. 5431

OXFORD GUILD.—Reading Branch.—A monthly practice will be held at St. Mary's, Mortimer, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) available 6.30 p.m.—N. E. Colley. 5475

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Annual meeting at Bridport, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.—Barrett, Proutbridge, Beaminstor. 5443

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Redhill, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5. Business includes nominations for district officers for 1955. 5396

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Andover District.—Practice meeting for the less advanced members to be held at Goodworth Clatford (6) on Dec. 11th. Bells 2. Service 4.15. Tea in Vicarage 4.45. Andover (8) 6 p.m. for advanced practice, all welcome. Names for tea to Rev. S. Gidlow, Goodworth Clatford, Andover. No NAMES NO TEA. 5463

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting, Upton-on-Severn, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. 5458

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Business meeting, The Ship, Talbot Court, E.C., Saturday, Dec. 18th, 6 p.m. There will be no practice at Southwark Cathedral on Dec. 14th.—A. B. Peck. 5460

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Yeovil, Dec. 18th. Please notify for tea not later than Dec. 14th.—F. Farrant, Martock. 5460

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting, Christ Church, Port Sunlight, December 18th. Bells (8) 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d. approximately) for those notifying by 15th at latest.—Alexander J. Martin, 19, Falcon Road, Birkenhead. 5486

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Skelton on Saturday, December 18th, at 3 p.m. Tea, Church Room at 5 p.m.—P. W. B. Semmens, Hon. Sec. 5483

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Branch.—Meeting at Church Lawford, Saturday, December 18th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Please notify J. L. Garner-Hayward, 8, Orchard Crescent, Coventry. 5487

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Annual meeting, St. Peter's, Derby, December 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea by December 15th to Miss M. Hobbs, 7, Langley Road, Spondon, near Derby. 5472

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Stroud Branch.—Annual meeting at Stroud, December 18th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea after service. Names for tea December 14th.—S. T. Price, 12, Regent Street, Stonehouse, Glos. 5480

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—Annual meeting at Wotton-under-Edge on December 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Notify for tea by December 15th.—Mary Drew, Bibstone Farm, Cromhall. 5478

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Goudhurst (8), Saturday, December 18th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by December 15th, to G. Billenness, 3, Grasmere Terrace, Hawkhurst. 5469

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Bartholomew's, Bolton, on Saturday, December 18th. Bells 2.30. Business 6. Tea 5 (free). N.B.—December practice still at Leigh on Mondays.—J. Thornley, Hon. Sec. 5471

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Branch annual meeting at Manchester Cathedral, December 18th. Ringing after service approx. 4.30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Nearby cafes. All welcome.—R. Benson. 5485

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Markfield on Saturday, December 18th. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea in schoolroom at 5. Names to J. Wardle, 180, Main Street, Markfield, by December 15th. 5479

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Evening practice Saturday, December 18th, Stokes Poges, 6 p.m. Note date.—Butler, 2, Faraday Road, Slough. 5476

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Subscriptions should be paid and accounts remitted to Gen. Sec. before end of year. General meeting, Stowmarket, December 18th, 2.30 p.m. Notice for tea to Mr. O. G. Barnard, 33, Recreation Road, Stowmarket.—C. W. Pipe. 5467

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Quarterly meeting St. Nicholas', Brighton, December 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Names for tea by December 16th to C. W. Linington, 11, Queen's Drive, Hassocks. 5466

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Practice meeting, Twyford, Dec. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 at the Boys' Club. Names by previous Tuesday to R. F. Brewer, Dean, Sparsholt, Winchester. 5459

WING, BUCKS.—The rehung heavy six available on Saturday, December 18th, from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names, please, to Mr. A. G. Paxton, Lower Ascott, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. 5481

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Quarterly meeting, Saturday, Dec. 18th, at Pontefract. All Saints' bells available from 2 p.m., also St. Giles' after tea. Service 3.45 p.m. Committee meeting 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Names for tea should be sent to Mr. H. Newton, 17, Micklegate, Pontefract, not later than Wednesday, Dec. 15th.—A. E. Marsh, Hon. Dis. Sec. 5477

ALL SAINTS', BOYNE HILL, MAIDENHEAD.—The Lord Bishop of Buckingham will dedicate the bells (retuned and rehung by John Taylor and Co.) on Sunday, December 19th, at 3.30 p.m. All are welcome.—E. E. G. 5477

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—The date of the Annual General Meeting at Kettering has been altered from Saturday, January 8th, to Saturday, January 15th.—D. I. Haynes, Hon. Sec. 5473

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Melton District.—Preliminary Notice.—Annual meeting at Melton Mowbray on Saturday, January 22nd, 1955. Festival service 4 p.m. All are welcome.—J. H. Cook. 5484

EAST HARLING.—Preliminary Notice.—Ringers' supper mangle will be held at The Fox, Garboldisham, nr. Diss, on Jan. 26th. Please note this is a Wednesday. Accommodation limited to 30. Names before Jan. 1st, please.—P. H. A. Jonason, East Harling, Norwich. 5378

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