



The main road to Harkers House Farm in Upper Swaledale, Mr. Richard Metcalfe and his 11-year-old son Janet, tackle the deep drifts in the tractor. Here they are passing Hill Top Farm, 1,600 feet above sea level.



Children enjoyed tobogganning on the slopes of Leyburn Shawl during the weekend.

DROVE BULL FROM HAWES TO LEYBURN

Magistrates hear of driver's dilemma

The dilemma of a lorry driver who was bringing a bull from Hawes to a field near Leyburn was described at Leyburn magistrates' court on Friday of last week.

Miles Cottingham, a haulier, of West Witton, was charged with dangerous parking of the lorry between Wensley and Leyburn on November 20.

He was further charged with parking a lorry other than on the near side of the road, and with having parked a lorry with its headlights on. He pleaded "GUILTY."

Sgt. J. W. Lowe explained that (in the darkness), Cottingham had his lorry parked on the wrong side of the road between Leyburn and Wensley, and the headlight, which was on, confused other road users, and there was an accident.

" DANGEROUS "

Cottingham said he was bringing a bull, of whose behaviour he was uncertain, from Hawes into a field off the Wensley road, and as he had no halter for the bull he thought it wise to allow the animal to walk into the field rather than unload it on the main road.

Unfortunately, a motor-cyclist was confused by a swerving car and hit the lorry, but the rider was not injured.

The chairman, Mr. R. Scrope, said it was dangerous to park on the wrong side of the road.

Cottingham was fined £5 on the first charge and given conditional discharges on the other two charges.

Anne F. Nathan (36), of Loch Heather, Healaugh, was charged with careless driving of a car at Downholme on November 24. She wrote pleading "GUILTY."

PC Biggins (Reeth) supplied road measurements concerning an accident which had occurred near Downholme Quarry, when Miss Nathan had driven over the white line on a wet road, and there had been a collision with another vehicle.

In her letter Miss Nathan said she had been dazzled by oncoming headlights, and had made an error of judgment. She was fined £5.

Thomas Phillip Bowes, of Ushaw Bridge, Middleham, accused of using a motor vehicle without L plates, and, on a second charge of being unaccompanied, at Leyburn on November 26, pleaded "Not guilty."

"SLIGHT ERROR"

PC Motson (Leyburn) gave evidence that Bowes had been driving the vehicle without L plates and without being accompanied by a qualified driver.

Defending himself, Bowes said the officer had made a slight error in the number of his vehicle, but he agreed with the clerk of the court, Mr. M. E. Scott, that the facts were as stated.

The presiding magistrate, Mr. J. H. Siddall, stated the Bench found Bowes guilty on each of the two charges and he was fined £3 on each charge.

ELECTRICITY SCHEME WOULD HIT SOME FARMERS HARD

Additional cost if underground line is insisted upon

A dozen Upper Swaledale hill farmers and some cottagers at West Stonesdale are grumbling at the prospect of bringing electricity to their homes. The cost promises to hit them hard.

Originally the scheme was prepared for the cost to be about £180 per farm less about one third from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Yorkshire Dales National Parks Planning Committee is insisting that part of the supply line must be underground for a distance of between a mile and a half to two miles up the valley alongside the river Swale.

It is estimated this will cost about £12,000, equivalent to a possible cost of about £1,000 per farm less the Ministry of Agriculture allowance.

In interviews, several farmers pointed out the hardship of this and that such additional cost—if underground supply line is insisted upon—would be a great hardship. They also pointed out that the valley from near to Keld to Hoggarths Bridge is chiefly limestone rock under the lands and that the task of putting lines underground would be costly—perhaps more than planned.

These farmers and their wives have of necessity, lived hard lives, especially without electric light. Milking by hand is, in itself, a tedious and slow task. Old fashioned farm lamps are in use both in the farms and outbuildings old fashioned box and flat irons have to be used.

"BEAUTIFUL SWALEDALE"

They need the amenity but not at the price now being quoted. Swaledale men have sung about "Beautiful Swaledale" and they acknowledge its beauty, but some argue that Upper Swaledale is no more a beauty spot than other parts of this National Park which extends from west of Richmond to within four miles of Kirkby Stephen, covering some 28 miles in length. Granted the falls of the River Swale add to the beauty of Upper Swaledale and at the moment it is frozen above Keld. But some farmers say that if the Parks authority insist on its policy, they should find means of paying for the additional cost and not saddle the hill farmer with it.

They strengthen their argument with the fact that although the lone telephone kiosk has an underground line, they did not pay for that extra amenity.

The dozen isolated farms from Hoggarths House Farm to Ravenseat are chiefly across Birkdale Common and the road is much used in summertime by coaches and cars as the short road to Nateby, Kirkby Stephen and the Lake District.

They rise quickly above sea level from 1,200 ft. to 1,700 ft. and the main roads to several of

these farms are now completely cut off by deep drifts.

Some of these farms continue to burn peat as their forebears have done for centuries. Electricity would indeed be a boon to them.

While the Yorkshire Electricity Board operate a differential payment scheme to spread such extra costs over the whole area, the N.E.E.B. is not prepared to do this.

Coun. Norman Brown, Swale Hall Farm, chairman of Reeth Rural Council, is very bitter about the prospect of such increased charges and points out that many other parts of Swaledale are equally beautiful and that the poles, not badly placed in other districts in Swaledale, are hardly noticeable.

NORTHALLERTON POSTMAN FINED

Admitted letter-theft charge

Investigating complaints of missing letters and packets officials at the Northallerton Post Office posted a decoy letter containing £8 and kept watch on a 38-year-old postman in the sorting office.

They saw him collect the mail from the post box and then take the letter and put it in his pocket.

This was stated by Mr. A. Herbert, prosecuting, at Northallerton on Wednesday, when the postman, Fred Pollard, of The Crescent, Northallerton, pleaded "GUILTY" to stealing the letter on December 7 and asked for three other offences to be considered.

Fining Pollard £20 and ordering him to pay £5 5s. costs the chairman, Mr. T. Weighell, said: "You are extremely lucky not to be sent to prison. The Bench has been very lenient with you. The public has every right to expect honesty from a man in your position."

Pollard, a married man with eight children, was stated to have been a postman for 15 years.

Mr. Herbert said that many of the complaints that were made about missing letters concerned those addressed to magistrates and county court clerks offices.

The decoy letter had been addressed to the Magistrates Clerk, Middlesbrough.

Pollard said in a statement that he had taken three other letters which had been addressed to the clerk of Darlington County Court. He had taken about £10 from these but denied knowledge of any other missing letters.

Mr. B. Stockton, defending, said that Pollard could give no explanation why he had done this. He was in no financial difficulty. He had had a perfectly clean record and before becoming a postman he had been a sergeant in the Artillery.

ALARM BY BARKING DOG

Richmond family's lives saved

Warning of their mongrel barking, probably saved the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel and their three sons when they were out at their home at 15 Richmond, early on the morning of January 3, which started in a livid fire on the top floor of the house gutted two rooms and destroyed the roof, making the homeless.

ARKENGARHTHDALE C. OF E. SCHOOL

Nativity play precedes carol service

A Nativity Play in costume preceded a carol service, held in the Arkengarthdale C of E. school, when the following scholars trained by the Headmistress, Mrs. F. Taylor, took part: Mary, Linda Atkinson; Joseph, Peter Coates; Angel Gabriel, Susan Stubbs; Shepherds, Allan Allison, Jean Longstaff, Allan Whitehead; Kings, Dennis Harker, Mervyn Alderson, Gerald Willis, and Innkeeper, Allan Allison. The story was told by the speech

NASTY PIECE OF DISHONESTY

Former Northallerton barman's fraud

While working as a barman at the Golden Lion, Northallerton, in September 1960, a 40-years-old Bishop Auckland man, agreed to put five £1 bets on horses running at Thirsk for a customer. Two horses won and another was a non-runner, and the customer was entitled to £10 2s 6d. But he never got his money because the barman, Matthew Stephenson, of Grange Hill Terrace, Bishop Auckland, kept the stake money with-