

When George fell into the slurry

Electrician, milkman, ministering first-aid, taking pension books and telephone messages — just a few of the many odd jobs postman Mr George Blackburn has turned his hand to during 20 years as village postman at Seaton Ross.

Sixty-year-old Mr George Blackburn will complete his last round on Saturday because he is retiring after 20 years in his job.

Many villagers turned out on Saturday as he delivered his final letter — an electricity bill to village ironmonger Mr John Turner — to bid farewell to the man who is not only a postman but also a good friend.

And he has many happy memories of his days as village postman. He remembers one day taking so many cards to one house that he thought it must be her birthday and he wished her many happy returns. Only to find out it was her wedding day — one of the best kept secrets in the village!

He also has one or two less happy memories — like the day he was delivering mail to a farm after a heavy snowfall and fell into a ~~load~~ of slurry and had to wash himself down at the farm!

Mr Blackburn has always covered his round on bicycle and on foot and reckons he covers around 16 miles every day. "I have really enjoyed meeting and making friends with all the village people and gathering all the local news," he said.

He is retiring because of the reorganisation of postal services and the introduction of more mopeds and vans — a van will now cover Seaton Ross.

"I think it is a great pity — and I can't see it being more efficient. There are so many out of the way farms and long drives which you have to walk up," he said.

His retirement will leave more time for his favourite hobby which is cine photography. Mr Blackburn lives with his wife, Josephine, at Mill Lane, Seaton Ross.

At the presentation ceremony on Saturday Mr Blackburn was presented with a cheque by Mrs Rose Deeth, the holiday relief village postwoman, who retired on the same day, and her daughter Sharon, 13.



East Riding farm still smouldering after big blaze

1969.

THE remains of buildings ravaged by fire at Laytham Grange Farm, Seaton Ross, were still smouldering today. Firemen were damping down, and assisting to drag away what was left of two Dutch barns and outbuildings.

£117,000

left by NR man

MR. WILLIAM ROBERTS, of Church Meadows, Hutton Buscel, who died in September, left £117,080 (net £113,912; duty, £43,595).

He left his property mainly to his wife, Mabel.

Mr. William Douglas Beattie Grant, of 228 High Street, Boston Spa, Professor of American Literature at Leeds University since 1960, former professor of Toronto University and chairman of the Governor-General's Committee for Literary Awards from 1959 to 1960, who died in February, aged 47, left £28,723 (net, £27,205; duty, £11,651).

Mrs. Agnes Towse, of 3 Beverley Road, Market Weighton, left £11,372 (net, £11,302; duty, £326).

Mrs. Nellie May Northcott, of Richmond House, Richmond, who died in August, widow of Dr. Clarence Hunter Northcott, former labour manager at Rowntree's, York, and first Director of the Institute of Personnel Management, left £11,977 (net, £11,873; duty, £435).

She left her property equally between her three grandchildren.

It was shortly before 1 p.m. yesterday that veteran dairy farmer Mr. William Bennett suffered his first fire in 40 years of farming.

The alarm at the farm of W. L. Bennett and Sons was given by Mr. Bennett's daughter-in-law, Wendy, who, from the kitchen window of her bungalow, saw smoke issuing from the farm buildings.

Mrs. Bennett was clearing away dinner-time crockery, and her husband, Michael, rushed across a field to raise the alarm.

Vehicles burned

The fire engulfed, in all, 500 tons of straw and hay, two motor wagons, and a cattle container, and badly damaged a new fold yard. The cause is thought to have been an electrical fault.

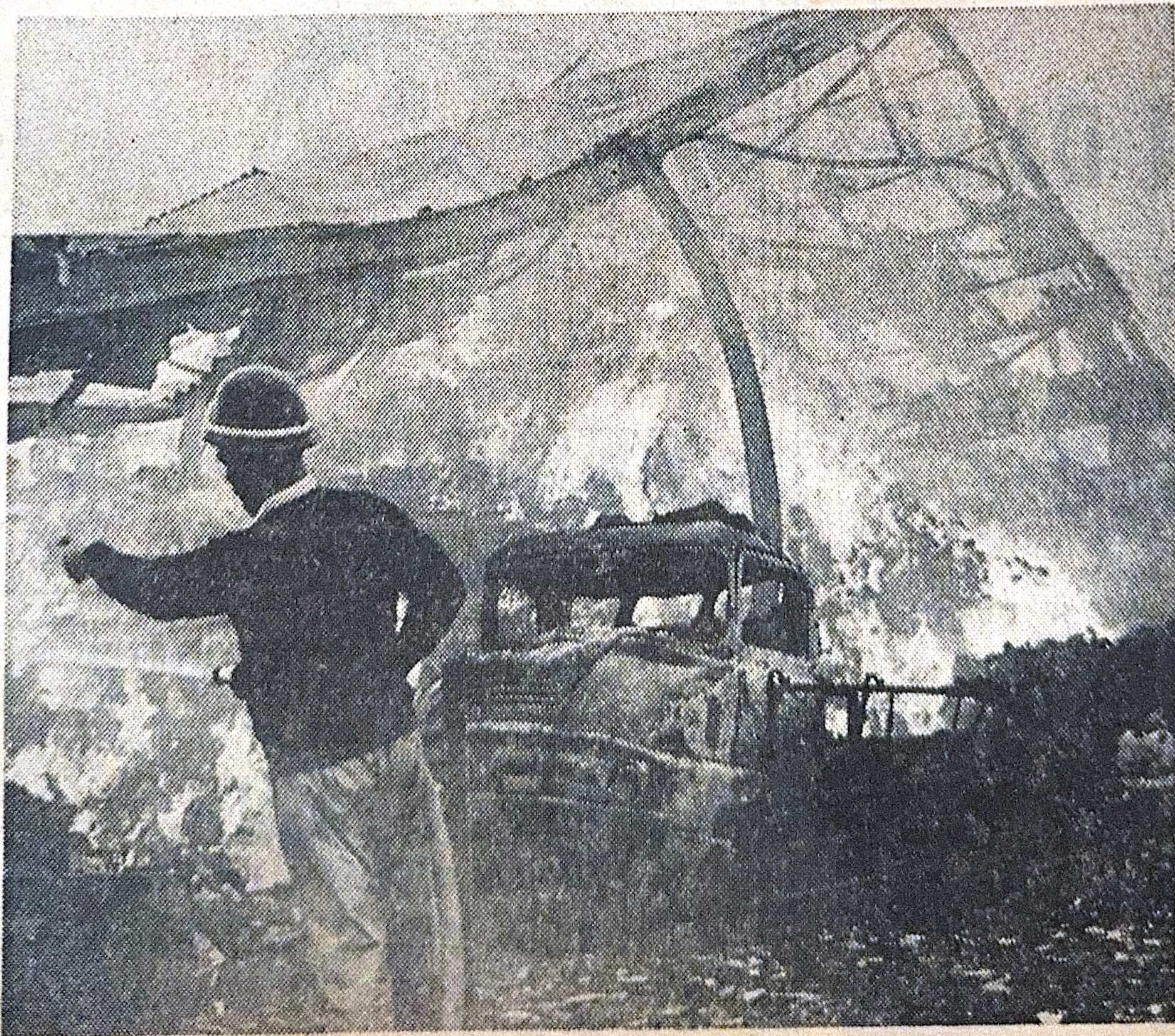
A three-year-old farm horse was led to safety, and, fortunately, 90 head of Friesian dairy cattle were still in the fields. Also outside were 200 breeding ewes.

Fanned by strong winds, the flames leapt from one building to another to create one of the most serious East Riding farm fires for a long time.

The farm was modernised six years ago by Mr. Bennett and his sons, and damage is estimated at thousands of pounds.

Fortunately, the wind did not vary direction when the fire was at its worst, or Mr. Bennett's home might have caught fire.

One end of the farm house became very hot, and furniture was removed from four rooms.



Firemen tackle the blaze at Seaton Ross.

Minister to settle the scrap over car scrap business

THE late Mr Samuel Henry Fentiman, of Seaton Ross, was a talented man, an inquiry was told at Pocklington on Tuesday.

In his time Mr Fentiman, who died in 1961 in his early 80s, had been the village sub-postmaster, a decorator, joiner, undertaker, bus proprietor and taxi-man.

And, said Mr Robert John Pipe, lorry driver and part-time motor mechanic, he also repaired cars in the village.

Mr Pipe was appealing against an East Riding County Council enforcement order requiring cessation of use of land for breaking-up vehicles and recovering spare parts and scrap metal.

ONLY A SHORT TIME

The County Planning Officer maintained that Mr Pipe only started in the business a short time ago and had therefore changed usage of land.

Mr Pipe, who has lived in Seaton Ross most of his life, denied this and said Mr Fentiman, whose property he bought in December 1961, carried on such a business.

Mr C. D. Parker, Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspector, who conducted the inquiry said his

job was to establish if such a business was carried on before 1967.

The hearing lasted over four hours.

Mr John Green, solicitor, Howden, who represented Mr Pipe, said his client took possession of the property in January, 1962, and started his business in that year.

He was a lorry driver by occupation but his part-time business was growing.

RIGHTS OF USE

"We are basing this case on existing rights of use and there were industrial buildings when he took over the property," said Mr Green.

Neighbours and village personalities had no objection to Mr Pipe's business.

Mr Pipe, in evidence, said Mr Fentiman was a man of many talents and repaired motor vehicles on his property. At the time of the sale there was garage equipment and some four or five cars at the back of the property.

Mr Pipe said he used spare parts from old vehicles and a scrap man took away what was left.

WORKED FOR HIM

The appellant said he knew Mr Fentiman repaired cars because he had worked for him at one time.

Giving supporting evidence, Mr George Blackburn, vice-chairman of Seaton Ross Parish Council, said he knew the late Mr Fentiman for 49 years. He was a man of many talents and built the first bus in the village.

As an apprentice with Mr Fentiman, witness said he put the first two seats in that bus and Mr Fentiman repaired cars and lorries.

He felt sure Mr Pipe had carried on repairing vehicles

when he took over the property in 1962 and he felt the county council was wrong in stating Mr Pipe had not started in business until 1968.

Similar evidence was given by Mr Ernest W. Fisher and Mr F. Lazenby, farmer of Storwood.

Mr David Durham, the enforcement officer for the county council, said the matter had first come to the attention of the County Planning Officer's Department as a result of a telephoned complaint from the surveyor of the Pocklington R.D.C. in June, 1968.

He went along to Mr Pipe's premises and spoke to Mrs Pipe. There were 50 to 60 old vehicles stored there. He later saw Mr Pipe and asked him how long he had been in business. Mr Pipe had replied "four to six months" and Mr Durham said he had no doubt about the answer.

VILLAGE JUDGE

Mr David Learoyd, County Planning Officer's assistant, said he was one of the adjudicators who visited Seaton Ross in 1967 for the Yorkshire best-kept village competition. Had there been cars on Mr Pipe's site he would have noticed them. The inspection had been fairly thorough and Seaton Ross had finished as runners-up.

For the county council, Mr R. A. Boam, solicitor in the County Clerk's department, submitted there was evidence to show that the present business had not existed before 1967.

The Inspector closed the inquiry and visited the site.

The decision of the Minister of Housing will be made known later.



Mr. PAT FISHER in his garden at Seaton Ross.

12
The
Racin

Windmills stand among his roses

By KEN TAYLOR

THE small East Riding village of Seaton Ross has no particular natural beauty, but the residents have transformed it by cultivating the grass verges and planting thousands of daffodils, tulips, roses and other flowers.

Twice in recent years it has been the runner-up for the 'best-kept garden in the Riding' award, an honour it has richly deserved by the hard work and public spirit of the householders.

One could point to several gardens in Seaton Ross which are outstanding in beauty or interest but one which combines both qualities is that of Mr. E. W. (Pat) Fisher, of Glen Royde, Mill Lane.

Mr. Fisher is a smallholder and when he bought the three acres on which his home and garden stand, the site was derelict.

Now, about two-thirds of it

is used for stock rearing and intensive food production, and the remaining third is a beautiful pleasure garden.

From their kitchen-dining room window, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher look over a back garden bordered with flowering trees and shrubs and central lawn studded with flower beds.

Popular

The flowering trees include two of the popular double-pink cherry (*prunus Hisakura*) which gives a bonus of copper coloured leaves in spring, turning to shining green in summer and becoming yellow in autumn.

Another of Mr. Fisher's favourite trees is the copper-leaved *prunus pissardii nigra*, a flowering plum which looks

like a small copper beech for most of the summer and has small pink flowers in early spring. This flowering plum is suitable for quite small gardens and Mr. Fisher has used several of it as a foil to set off his green leafed trees and shrubs.

One of his cupressus died some years ago, leaving an ugly stump in a prominent part of the rear garden. Mr. Fisher planted a pink flowering clematis (*clematis montana rubens*) at the foot of the stump and now it is completely masked by the climber.

These small-flowered clematis incidentally, are not so well known as they deserve to be. What they lack in size of flower they make up for in vigour and freedom of flowering. They come from various parts of the world where they are found growing wild and, although they need little attention, their myriads of flowers festoon everything with great beauty.

Mystery

For spring display, Mr. Fisher has planted thousands of daffodils, narcissi and other bulbs (he orders them by the hundredweight) and for his main summer display relies on hundreds of roses, many of which he has budded and grafted himself.

An unusual feature of his garden is a pair of windmills, one 16 ft. tall specimen for the front garden, and a 14 ft. high one for the rear garden. His interest in windmills comes from the days when, as a boy he used to help his father — the local miller — to grind corn for the whole village.

These ornamental windmills are made of concrete but they have none of the hard look usually associated with slabs of concrete. He fashioned them out of home made bricks of coloured cement, using a simple hand-casting gadget.

One little mystery in his garden which he has finally cleared up is why one of two holly trees in the front garden regularly gives a good crop of berries while the other has never berried.

The reason is that the berrying one, Golden King, is, despite its name, a female, while the non-berrying one, Silver Queen, is a male and will never berry.

The Bombers for sale

by Malcolm Baylis

A village pub with historical and nostalgic connections with Bomber Command during World War Two is for sale.

The Blacksmiths Arms at Seaton Ross, known as The Bombers because of its wartime connections, is to be auctioned on May 22 unless sold by private treaty earlier.

Agents Stanilands say the pub was used by servicemen with No 10 Squadron, Bomber Command at the nearby airfield of Melbourne.

These connections have been maintained right up to the present day.

In September, 1983, the cocktail lounge was officially dedicated to the squadron and opened by the then Officer Commanding No 10 squadron, Wing Commander Gerry Bunn, MBE.

The bar in the main lounge was presented to The Bombers by the Squadron just after the war and came from the officers' mess at the Melbourne airfield having been made from timber from York Minster.

Later when the dining room extension was added the walls and ceiling were lined with wings taken from World War Two Mosquito bombers.

These were built of plywood and the outline of the wings



The Blacksmiths Arms, Seaton Ross, where historical and nostalgic connections are still maintained and servicemen who were based at a nearby World War Two Bomber Command airfield. In fact the pub is known with affection as The Bombers.

can be clearly seen in the ceiling.

Number 10 Squadron Association (Royal Air Force) have a host of memorabilia which until recently has been on permanent display in the bar of the pub, but for the time being is in the safe keeping of the Association.

However the Association is anxious to maintain the connection and when the pub is

sold again it will be getting in touch with the new owner to see if he would like to continue the connection.

The Blacksmiths Arms has three bedrooms, a dining room, a main bar with two brick fireplaces, a second bar, pool room, bathroom and kitchen. There are also two letting units with bedroom and bathroom.

Village visit

village and I enjoy working in the parish," he told me.

His wife, Rosemary, is a teacher. She used to teach at Market Weighton, but is now working at York.

The two Methodist chapels in the village have not survived as places of worship, however. One of the churches is for sale, having closed down some time ago, while the other is used by an ironmonger.

Busy man

Local Roman Catholic congregations attend the church of St. Mary and St. Everilda two miles away at Everingham, where the sacristan is a Seaton Ross man, parish councillor Mr George Blackburn.

George is one of those characters who seem to have tackled an impossible number of jobs during a lifetime spanning 68 years. The very name of Blackburn, in fact, is synonymous with the social, business and formal existence of the village.

George, the son of Mr John Joseph and Mrs Laura Mary Blackburn, who ran a smallholding at Manor Farm, Seaton Ross, attended his village school and the Roman Catholic school at Everingham, which used to be run by nuns.

"I left at the age of 14 and couldn't really get away fast enough," he told me. Away from the classroom he spent his first five years serving an apprenticeship with a local joiner and wheelwright, Mr Harry Fentiman.

He was paid nothing for the first three months and when his wages eventually "climbed" to half-a-crown a week it seemed like a small fortune. "You could buy a suit for 30 bob in those days," he recalled.

George's next move was to a joinery business at nearby Bielby, where he was employed by Mr Fred Layton for a further three years. It was then that he decided to set up on his own account. "The wages were so small — £1.10s — that I felt there was nothing to lose by giving it a try," he said.

He went on: "I began at my parents' house, West Lea Cottage, where they had moved after leaving Manor Farm. They had been tenants of the Everingham Estate, and much of the property and land had to be sold to pay off death duties.

Having built a concrete block workshop at the back of the cottage, I stayed in the trade until retiring two years ago."

Was postman

George made and repaired numerous items, using the welding and woodworking skills he had acquired as an apprentice. "In the olden days I used to make wooden wheels for farm trailers," he added, "But that part of the job died a natural death.

"Still, there was plenty to keep me occupied until 9 o'clock at night. I also spent 20 years from 1956 onwards as the village postman until I was made redundant four years ago."

George's postal duties, which involved 16 miles of cycling every day, began at 6 am. He usually spent half-an-hour sorting the mail, although the office side of his job could take hours during the Christmas season. The round itself took until about 11 o'clock to finish.

George lost his job in 1976 as part of a Post Office programme to motorise rural deliveries, although he still retained another of his part-time occupations — as undertaker covering Seaton Ross, Everingham, Melbourne, Bielby and other towns and villages in the district.

His other duties over the years have included looking after the 22 street lights at Seaton Ross, serving on the parish council since 1950 — he is the present vice-chairman — and acting as the sacristan at St. Mary and St. Everilda's Church.

George took over the sacristan duties when his brother-in-law, Mr Wilf Fentiman, died late last year at the age of 85. Wilf had done the job for about 70 years and his "outstanding Christian effort and achievement" earned him the Benemerente Medal



Mr George Blackburn, former postman, undertaker and wheelwright, pictured in his workshop.

THEY TELL TIME BY THE SUN AT SEATON ROSS

A FORTNIGHT AGO we published a story about a one-handed grandfather clock at Kiplingcotes, near Market Weighton.

This week we take another step back into time and present an item about three well-displayed sundials — and they are all in the village of Seaton Ross.

However, unlike the grandfather clock, these sun dials do not keep good time. In fact, they are all one hour behind "Big Ben." This, of course, came about with the advent of British Summer Time.

Nevertheless, local people report, the sun dials still cause a great deal of interest with visitors, and if Seaton Ross folk need to know the approximate time they simply add on one hour to the stated time.

MOST IMPRESSIVE

All three dials were made by a Seaton Ross man, a Mr William Watson, who was born in 1825 and died in 1873.

By far the most impressive of his works is at a cottage—appropriately named Sundail—on the main street in the village.

It takes up almost half of the front of the picturesque cottage and is about 15ft in width and 8ft. high.

The tenant, 80-year-old Mr Bert Wilkinson, said that visitors are always asking about the dial, and are always curious why it is one hour behind time.

Mr Wilkinson has only lived in the cottage about four years, but he was born in Nunburnham and remembers seeing the dial "when I was a lad."

Another of the late Mr Watson's dials is at a local farm—again aptly named: Dial Farm.

And the third sundial, about two feet square, is placed above the main door of St. Edmund's Church.

HIS EPITAPH

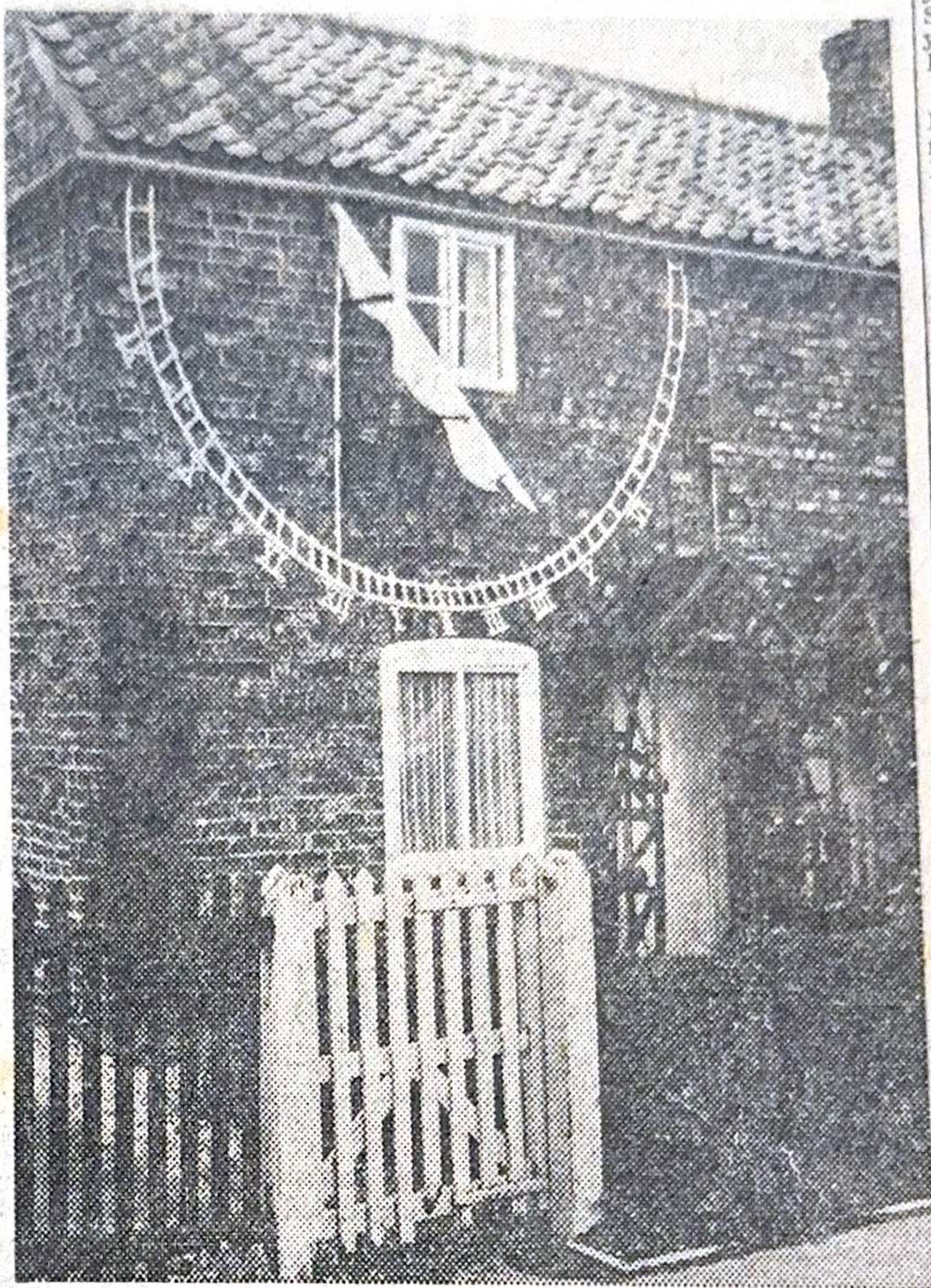
The Watsons were a very well known family in Seaton Ross and district in the last century and there are still descendants living in the vicinity.

Mr Watson's fine craftsmanship lives on, and on his gravestone in the churchyard is the epitaph:

*At this church, so often with
pleasure did I call;*

*That I made a sun dial upon
the church wall.*

Cornwall



The sundial on the wall of the cottage occupied by 80-year-old Mr Bert Wilkinson at Seaton Ross.

"HAZELDENE", SEATON ROSS



A detached double fronted Cottage in need of some modernisation set on the southern outskirts of the village together with a range of Outbuildings and field extending to 1.3 acres. **FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION.** On Monday 23rd September, 1985. Solicitors: Messrs. Gildener Goodrich, York. Ref: 4/756.

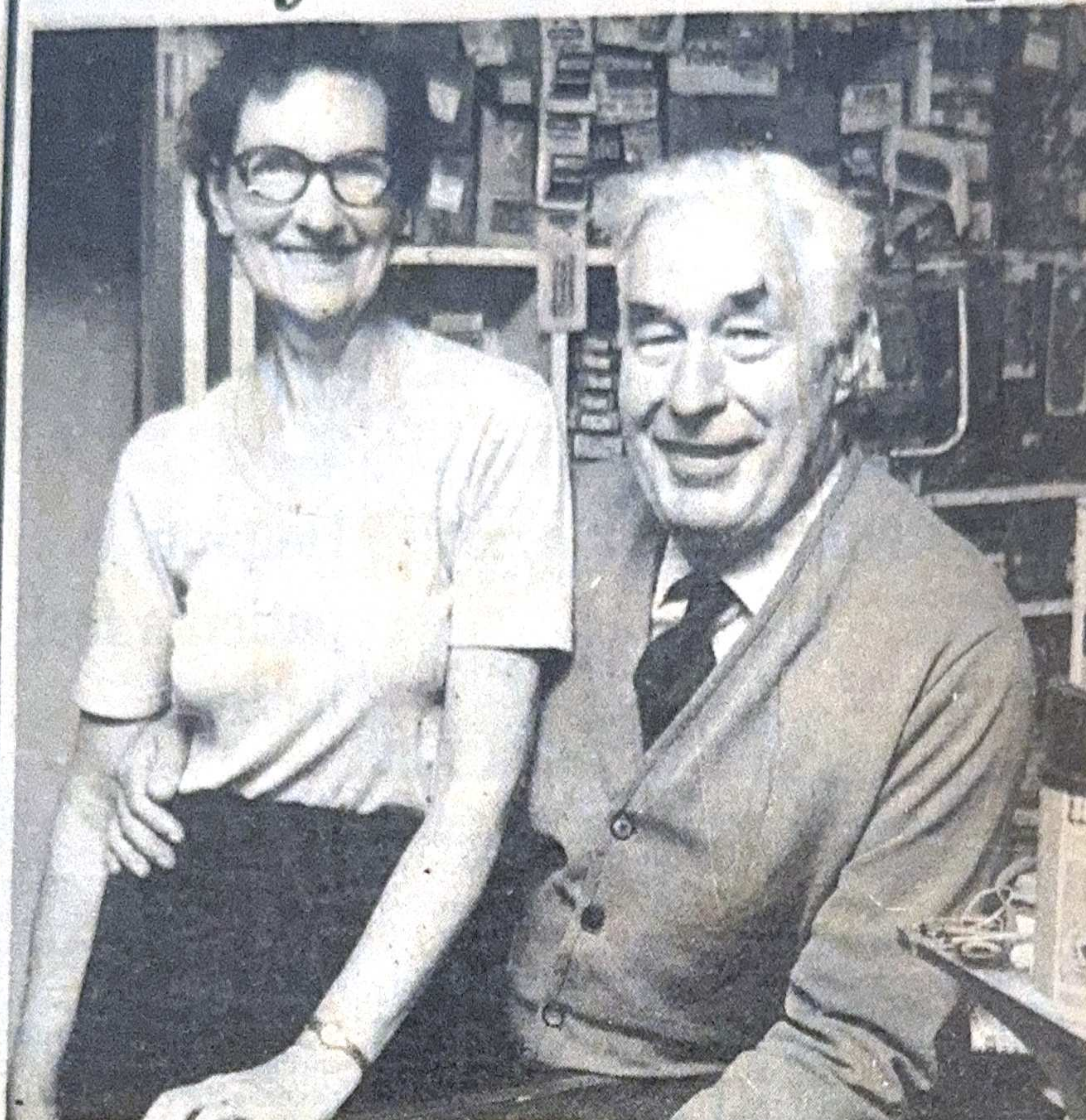
WELLS CUNDALL

1985.

Mrs Sarah Ann Kendra, of
Bielby Fields, Pocklington —
£68,249 (£67,387).

Mr Donald Allen Moore, of
The Moors Inn, Appleton-le-

They've shut shop



Mrs Edna Turner and her husband, John – shutting up shop at Seaton Ross.

A well-known Seaton Ross couple have decided to shut shop for the last time at J. and E. Turner, ironmongers, of The Cross, Seaton Ross.

Mr John Turner and his wife, Mrs Edna Turner, have run an ironmonger's business in the village for 19 years – 16 at the shop and three when it was operated from their home.

Mr Turner has been involved with ironmongery all his life and before opening his own business was employed by a Pocklington company travelling around farms to advise farmers.

The couple were married at Pocklington Parish Church 34 years ago and Mr Turner is originally from the town.

The shop gained an excellent reputation with farmers in the area, and everything connected to farming was sold. Mr Turner visited all the farmers to ascertain their requirements.

The couple, of Raygarth, South End, Seaton Ross, have no children and said they were retiring "for a rest." But the shop will not close because someone from the village will take over.

Mr Turner served with the Royal Navy during the Second World War in the Far East. He is a member of Seaton Ross Parish Council.

Mrs Turner was employed as a clerical officer for the Ministry of Labour in Pocklington before she joined her husband's business.

July, 1985.

Dear Sir/s,

We wish to inform you that we have sold our business to Mr. & Mrs. D.S. Cornell, of Mill Lane, Seaton Ross who take over on 29th July, 1985.

May we take this opportunity of thanking you for the business you have placed with us, and hope that our Successors will be of service to you in the future.

We would appreciate payment by 27th July, 1985, of any accounts owing.

Yours faithfully,

John Turner

J. & E. TURNER
AGRICULTURAL IRONMONGERS & MERCHANTS
Seaton Ross, York YO4 4LT
Tel. Melbourne 347

"Dream Trip" Winners Due In Brockville

Winners of a newspaper "dream trip", a British couple will be visiting Brockville during their tour of Canada and United States.

Mr. and Mrs. John Turner, of Seaton Ross, York, England, are the winners of a competition sponsored by the Yorkshire Evening Press, BOAC and Continental Trailways, a U.S. bus company. Entrants were required to identify photographs of six places in the U.S.

The Turners will fly to Montreal to start their three-week tour of North America. They will be guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Cornforth, R.R. 3, Brockville, on September 13 and 14. They have been friends for years. While here the Cornforths hope to have them visit the 1,000 Islands and Upper Canada Village. They will tour across Canada and United States before returning home.

No 10 memorial is unveiled

Hundreds of airmen from throughout the world attended a special service and unveiling ceremony at Melbourne airfield on Sunday — as a tribute to Number 10 Squadron Bomber Command, which was stationed there during the Second World War.

A memorial which has

been built at the entrance to the former RAF Station Melbourne was unveiled. It was erected by former members and friends of the Squadron to honour the memory of all airmen who died in the service of their country and as a tribute to villagers of Melbourne and Seaton Ross for their many deeds of kindness.

And to show the villages "shall never forget," the chairman of Melbourne Parish Council, Mr Malcolm Kemp, and the chairman of Seaton Ross Parish Council, Mr Rob Preston, laid floral tributes at the ceremony.

The memorial was unveiled by Wing Commander Len Marshall, Commanding Officer of 10 Squadron, based at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, and the unveiling was organised by Mr Doug Dent, chairman of the 10 Squadron Association.

Heads turned for the flypast of an RAF VC10 and after the ceremony about 100 former servicemen and women marched past the memorial to pay their respects — on what was also Battle of Britain anniversary day.

The memorial was dedicated by Canon Jack Armstrong, the Rural Dean of York and chaplain of York Air Training Corps. Also in attendance was Air Marshal Sir Augustus Walker, base commander at Fylingdales during the war.



Heads turn to watch the flypast by an RAF VC10 at Melbourne airfield on Sunday.

Retired farmer ^{Aug 1985}

The funeral of Mr Charles Joseph Wilkinson (95), husband of the late Mrs Gertrude Mary Wilkinson, of Riding Cottage, Everingham, took place at Everingham RC Church. The officiating clergy were Father Murray, Monsignor P. Storey and Canon B. Lovelady.

Mr Wilkinson was born in Everingham, and apart from a few years in Holme on Spalding Moor during his youth and five years' farming in Helperby, he farmed at Everingham for most of his life until his retirement 20 years ago.

He was a keen cricketer and played for the team at Holme on Spalding Moor for about 35 years. Later he was an enthusiastic member of Holme Bowling Club.

Mr Wilkinson leaves two daughters, Mrs W. Layton and Miss Clare Wilkinson, and two sons, Mr Paul Wilkinson and Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson.

Family mourners were: Mr and Mrs W. Layton, Mr and Mrs P. Wilkinson, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Wilkinson, Miss C. Wilkinson, Mrs Barbara Wilkinson, Mr and Mrs B. Layton, Mrs M. Hannon, Mr and Mrs G. Wilkinson, Mrs M. Richardson, Mr and Mrs J. Hodgson, Mr and Mrs David Wilkinson and Miss Margaret Wilkinson.

Other mourners were: Mrs Ainsworth, Mr and Mrs C. Saunders, Mrs M. Wood, Mrs J. M. Hall and family, D. Benson, J. Stockill, Mr and Mrs J. Thomas, Mrs R. Rool, Dorothy Stephenson, Mr and Mrs G. Blackburn, Mrs J. Pears, Mr and Mrs A. Surton, Mr E. Blackburn, Mr and Mrs R. Stepeson, A. M. Kress, M. Smith, N. Jaques, Mr and Mrs J. Layton, J. Waring, Mrs Hall, Mr and Mrs Hobson, Mr and Mrs J. Richardson, C. Fucey, M. Sherwood, J. Fucey, F. Rawson, Mrs Waring, Mr J. Waring, M. Quirke, Mr and Mrs T. Leake, Mrs H. Richardson, N. Andrews, R. Waterland (Sue Ryder Home), Mrs Warriner, Mrs M. E. Johnson, Mr W. Welford.

Cromwell Road.
WILKINSON, Charles Joseph. — On August 10th, at The Sue Ryder Home, Holme on Spalding Moor, beloved husband of the late Gertrude, much loved father of Molly, Clare, Paul, Geoff and the late John, a loving granddad and great-granddad. — Requiem Mass on Wednesday, August 14th, at the Church of St. Mary's and Everilda, Everingham. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if so desired, to The Sue Ryder Home. Plate provided at the church.

J. & E. TURNER
AGRICULTURAL IRONMONGERS & MERCHANTS
Seaton Ross, York

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JEAN-L. GEORGE CANADA



R.R. 4, MALLORYTOWN
4 bedrooms; 100 foot frontage Graham Lake.

WATSON. — On January 2, at "Lyndale Lodge," South End, Seaton Ross, Stephen, aged 82 years, of Lynford Mill Lane, Seaton Ross, dearly beloved husband of Gertrude, dear father of Peggy, Douglas and Geoffrey, a dear father-in-law and grandpa. Funeral service and interment St. Edmund's Church, Seaton Ross, Saturday, January 5 at 11 a.m. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, if so desired, to St. Edmund's Church Fabric Fund. Relatives and friends please meet at the church.

STEPHEN WATSON.

1985

Retired haulier

An 82-year-old man, who had lived in Seaton Ross all his life, died after a short illness.

He was Mr Stephen Watson, of Lynford, Mill Lane, Seaton Ross, who died at the home of his youngest son. He leaves a widow, Gertrude, a daughter and two sons.

He was born in the village in 1902. In 1926 he started up in business as a haulier, beginning with a horse and cart. Over the years his business grew and he became mainly involved with transporting livestock. Through his work he became a familiar figure at local livestock markets for more than 40 years.

He retired in 1968, and his son, Douglas, took over his business. During the Second World War Mr Watson served as a Special Constable and was responsible for transport for the local Home Guards. The funeral service for

Mr Watson was held at St. Edmunds Church in Seaton Ross.

Family mourners were: Mr and Mrs D. Hesketh, Mr and Mrs J. D. Watson, Mr and Mrs G. S. Watson, Mr and Mrs T. Watson, Mr and Mrs W. Hall, Mr and Mrs J. Watson, Miss R. Watson, Miss A. Hesketh, Mr G. Hall, Mrs I. Gowthorpe, Mrs B. Allinson, Mr and Mrs A. Morley, Mr and Mrs H. Wade, Mr F. Wade, Miss R. Wade, Mr R. Blair, Mrs K. Wilson, Mr J. Blair, Mr D. Potter, Mrs S. Stonehouse, Mr J. Stonehouse.

Others were: Mr G. Blackburn, Mr C. W. Fisher, Mr and Mrs R. Preston, Mr and Mrs J. C. Buckton, Mr and Mrs R. W. Kirk, Mr C. Leake, Miss N. Leach, Mrs F. Davis, Mr K. Gowthorpe, Mrs M. E. Johnson, Mrs E. Murr, Mr and Mrs S. Wilkinson, Miss D. Hessel, Mr F. Garside, Mr A. Glew, Mrs M. Glew, Mr D. Henley, Mr A. J. Massheder, Mr J. Thomas, Mr and Mrs N. Johnson, Mr R. G. Moore, Mrs J. Hopwood, G. H. Daniel, T. H. Daniel, Mr J. Hall, Mrs E. Turner, Mr M. Kemp, Mr D. Kemp, Mr P. Brocklebank, Mrs R. Deeth, Mr H. Pears, Mr and Mrs D. Kirby.

WATSON. — The Family of the late Stephen Watson would like to thank relatives and friends most sincerely for the kind support and sympathy received during their recent sad bereavement, also thanks to all at The Health Centre, Pocklington, the Rev. Thornton, all who attended the funeral service at St. Edmund's, Seaton Ross, for donations given to The Church Fabric Fund, and to J. E. Fielder and Son, for efficient funeral arrangements.

LADIES & GENTLEMEN:

IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT WE HAVE REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE IN OUR VILLAGE LIFE, NAMELY THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF OUR POSTMAN. BEING PART-TIME I KNOW HE WILL DEVOTE EVEN MORE OF HIS TIME TO HELPING OUR COMMUNITY IN THE WAY HE ALWAYS HAS.

I, FOR ONE, WILL MISS HIS SMILING FACE, ESPECIALLY ON A WET MONDAY MORNING WHEN HE PRESENTS US WITH OUR MANY BILLS, NOTABLY RATES, ELECTRICITY, AND INCOME TAX: IN FACT THERE IS ONE MAN AMONG US WHO NICK-NAMES HIM "THE BILL MAN". HOWEVER, IN FUTURE I MAY ENJOY MY BREAKFAST MORE, KNOWING THAT OUR MAIL WILL ~~XXXXXX~~ MOST LIKELY BE REACHING US MUCH LATER IN THE DAY.

ROSE DEETH, YOUR DEPUTY, TOGETHER WITH SHARON, HER DAUGHTER, HAVE MADE A COLLECTION FROM SEATON ROSS RESIDENTS, TOTALLING £ 27, AND IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE IN ASKING ROSE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS AMOUNT, HOPING THAT YOU WILL PURCHASE SOMETHING TO YOUR LIKING. P.T.O.

Mr. George Blackburn, of "Lyn Sharon", Mill Lane, Seaton Ross, who has been the village Postman (Part-time) at Seaton Ross for the last 20 years, is now relinquishing his duties, and will make his last mail delivery on Saturday, 21st August, 1976.

His premature retirement has been brought about by the Postal Authorities reorganisation of rural mail services, and it is understood that in future Seaton Ross people will have their mail delivered by a Van covering one or more other villages.

Mr. Blackburn has rendered a cheerful friendly service to the people of Seaton Ross, and he will be greatly missed by them.

As a token of their appreciation, the people at Seaton Ross are making him a presentation on Saturday, 21st August, 1976, at 10 a.m. at "The Cross", Seaton Ross.



SEATON ROSS

Robbie and Nan Preston with the parish account book that dates back to 1914. Picture: Garry Atkinson.

Where minutes last years . . .

HOURS spent with minutes have turned into years for a Seaton Ross family.

Sixty years, to be precise.

For the Prestons of Sunnyside are celebrating a unique diamond anniversary.

Since 1926, a Preston has been clerk to the parish council.

Son following father, wife taking over from husband. A family affair — of which a true and accurate record has been circulated to all members.

It means there is not a whiff of scandal about the parish chairman, Mr Robbie Preston, sleeping with the clerk.

Neither are eyebrows raised that a warden at Seaton Ross church is sharing the same bed as the organist.

Community life and the Prestons have been walking out together for decades.

Mr Preston, a 59-year-old, farming 60 acres, took over as chairman from Mr Harold Pears, who is still a councillor, but decided at 85 to make way for a younger man.

For a period in the early 70s, Mr Preston was clerk himself — as well as a member — when his late father, Mr Henry Preston, gave up the appointment after 46 years.

"I took over from him when he became ill but, because I was a councillor, I couldn't claim remuneration and was out of pocket," said Mr Preston.

"The District Auditor suggested that I could take the

minutes and put my wife down for the job, but it seemed much easier to persuade her to come along herself."

That was 10 years ago. She is still there — hundreds of council minutes later.

Apart from having the parish council in common, the Prestons share a love of Seaton Ross church.

Mrs Nan Preston, former deputy head at Melbourne School, is honorary secretary to the parochial church council and organist. Her husband is a warden.

"My mother, Edith, who is 85, tells us we have taken on too much, but the family has been involved with Seaton Ross for more than 150 years and I can't

see us stopping now," said Mr Preston.

"Great grandfather is buried in the village churchyard. He owned one of the two windmills at Seaton Ross.

Parish chairman Preston for three years was a member of the old Pocklington Rural Council.

He was elected after his father had served the authority for 20 years.

"This is a remarkable link of service to the village community," said Mr Albert Rimington, secretary of Humberside Association of Parish and Town Councils.

"I've certainly heard of nothing like it in parish councils in this part of the country.