

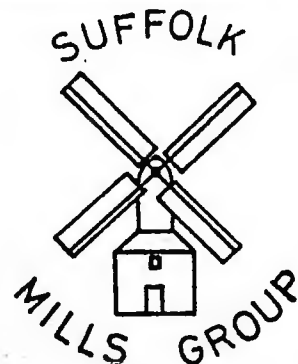
SUFFOLK MILLS GROUP

Newsletter Number 13

DECEMBER 1979

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The kind autumn weather enabled our programme of repair work to mills to be successfully completed by the end of October, and we now look forward to the winter's break! Once again we have arranged a public meeting in Ipswich for mid February, when we hope for a good turnout of Members. For the moment, however, Christmas is upon us and on behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all our Members a very merry Christmas and a successful New Year. If you're stuck for a present to ask for, then Brian Flint's new book, 'Suffolk Windmills', reviewed in this Newsletter, would prove a good choice; alternatively you can try to win a copy - see inside!

Mark Barnard

A KINDLY ECCENTRIC BRIAN FLINT

Those who have read my recent book, 'Suffolk Windmills' will have learnt that I owe quite a debt to the late Stanley Freese. Stanley is most widely remembered for his book 'Windmills and Millwrighting' originally published in 1957 by the Cambridge University Press and still available as a reprint by David and Charles.

I knew of him through this book but might never have met him had he not chosen Suffolk as his favourite county in which to retire, at the age of 62, in 1964.

Prior to the last war Stanley Freese spent several holidays cycling around Suffolk looking at windmills, at a time when there were still plenty to see and quite a few of them still at work. He carried two black notebooks in which he entered details of each mill and, until 1934, he made sketches of many of them with a fountain pen. He then bought a camera and thereafter took hundreds of excellent photographs, having 'an eye for a picture' probably as a result of his previous experience as a commercial artist, working with his twin brother Cyril in London.

Before retiring from his last job as a senior draughtsman with the Electricity Board, Stanley Freese lived at Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire. It was here that he started a survey of the windmills of that county which his friend, James Venn, hopes to finish and publish one day.

However windmills, and to a lesser extent watermills, were not Stanley Freese's only consuming interest. As has been mentioned he was a keen cyclist, an Honorary Life Member of the Cyclists' Touring Club, who toured every county of England and Wales and even ventured as far as Scotland, often taking his 'cycle on the train to a new area for exploration. Although he loved Suffolk, he disliked Norfolk strongly and strangely on more than one occasion, as we approached the Norfolk boundary, the weather deteriorated markedly as he had predicted!

He was interested in railways at the time when steam was still their motive power and he painted several excellent studies of trains at rest and at speed, in the

latter case with a windmill on a nearby hilltop and a cyclist, leaning on his machine at the side of the track, watching the smoking monster rushing by. He also had a keen interest in the countryside and in the use of horse-drawn implements and vehicles; even in the late 1960's and early 1970's Stanley found a farmer near his home who used horses which he would photograph going about their various tasks. He also took a series of colour transparencies of Wenhaston in summer and winter, snow and flood which he thoughtfully left to the village when he died.

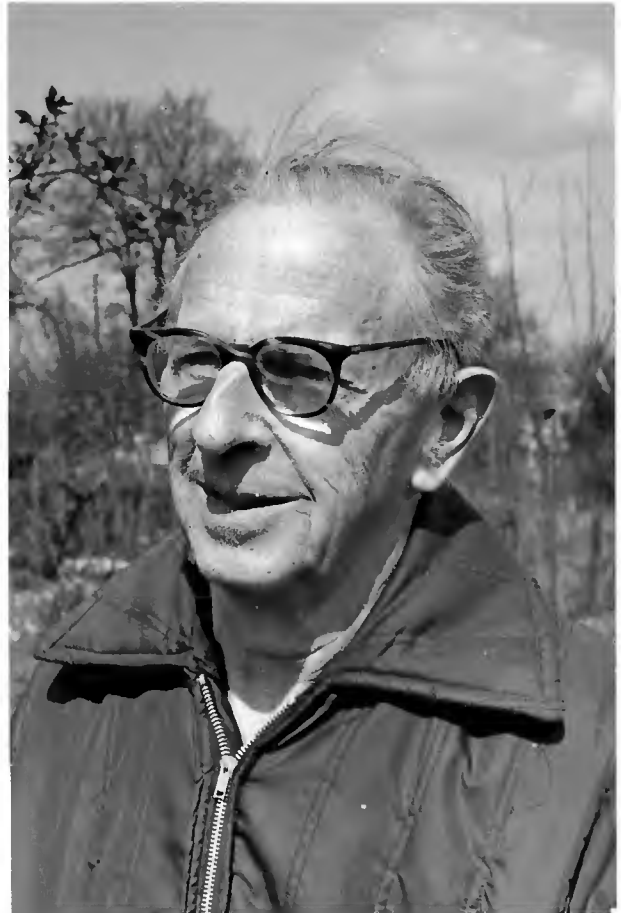
These are fairly common and normal hobbies but Stanley Freeses' interests went much further. During the 1930's and 1940's he was an active member of an international movement concerned with Town Planning and postulating the idea of long, narrow city plans enabling all the

inhabitants to live within a short distance of the surrounding countryside. Advanced means of transport, including overhead railways and aircraft, were proposed. A large quantity of papers were bequeathed to a Professor George Collins in New York on Stanley's death but I haven't heard from the professor for several years and another leading light in the movement, George Benoit Lévy of Paris, has since died so probably their dreams will never be realised.

Stanley Freese's other windmill book, 'In Search of English Windmills', written in conjunction with R. Thurston Hopkins, and published by Cecil Palmer in 1931, is fairly well known. It was illustrated with pen and ink sketches by Stanley as was his other, much less known work, also published by Cecil Palmer a year later, 'The Ten Year Plan' dealing with town planning and posing political as well as logistic arguments. Stanley was always a bit of a rebel, baulking at authority if he didn't agree with it and leaning a bit to the 'left' politically. To strengthen his often radical views he was not above advertising his brief on a hoarding on the side of his house or latterly by slogans emblazoned on the envelopes of his correspondence!

He was also a bit of an inventor. He devised a system of shorthand, the papers describing which were destroyed by his wish when he died. Being a keen cyclist, who sometimes had to attend a function after cycling several miles, he designed a dual purpose garment which he called 'Freeses' which really were shorts with zip-on trouser legs!

Stanley's twin brother Cyril was also a competent draughtsman and watercolourist but he suffered a cycling accident when quite young and subsequently died in



Stanley Freese in April, 1971

middle age leaving Stanley, who never married, on his own. In the 1940's Stanley did some practical work on mills, principally at Brill in Buckinghamshire, and on retiring to Suffolk he became involved with the project, headed by Chris Hullcoop, at nearby Holton post mill. After this he helped a little at Framsdon mill, where I first met him, but he was never really a practical mill enthusiast; his strong point was recording, in words and pictures, the mills standing before and just after the war.

I remember Stanley Freese as a tall, lean, rather stooping figure with a ready smile and twinkling eyes. I was always made welcome at his little cottage in Railway Terrace, Wenhaston - a fitting address - as were other younger mill enthusiasts who sought his company and learnt from his knowledge. He would regale one with weak tea, always a joke amongst his friends, poured from an ever-ready teapot which I'm sure only saw fresh tealeaves once a day! Then out would come the photographs and notebooks and old maps and one was immersed in windmills and allied subjects for hours, oblivious to the modern, hurrying world outside the little cottage.

Or sometimes we would get in my car and, taking our maps, travel to some corner of Suffolk where we would poke around for mill remains and chat to the local elderly inhabitants in the hope of gleaning another piece of information or the chance of copying another fading, sepia photograph.

Stanley Freese died in the summer of 1972 and his ashes were interred in the churchyard at Wenhaston where, in the few years he lived there, he said he felt more welcome than he had anywhere else.

C.O.G.S. MEETING M.J.B.

One of the most important things to come out of the meeting in May between the S.P.A.B. Wind and Watermill Section Committee and representatives of the local mills groups (see Newsletter 10) was the need for closer links between the groups and the national body. To help achieve this, a Sub-Committee of Mill Groups and Wind and Watermill Section ('C.O.G.S.' for short) has been established. The inaugural meeting was held at the S.P.A.B. office in London on November 25th., the day after the annual watermill meeting.

As indicated in Newsletter 10, Alan Stoyel and Michael Field are the Wind and Watermill Sections' representatives on C.O.G.S.; unfortunately, however, on this particular occasion Michael Field was unable to be present and his place was taken by Jenny West. S.M.G. was represented by Mark Barnard and Mike Organ; other delegates were: Mike Newton and Kate Davidson (Friends of Norfolk Windmills); Tony Bryan (Cambridgeshire Wind and Watermill Society); Paul Jarvis (East Kent Mills Group); John Bedington (Midlands Mills Group); David Plunkett (Hampshire Mills Group); David Jones (Mills Research Group). Mayling Hargreaves, Secretary to the Section, was also present.

Having unanimously agreed that C.O.G.S. should indeed be established, the meeting went on to discuss a proposed Terms of Reference and Constitution. The aim of the Committee is to promote maximum understanding and co-operation between both the groups and the Section in all aspects of mills, and to develop common policies. This business concluded, Alan Stoyel was elected Chairman for the meeting proper.

On the vexed question of mill protection and listing, reference was made to two

attempts at policy documents, by S.M.G. and the Mills Research Group respectively. Some concern was expressed about the different approaches taken - David Jones' paper for the Mills Research Group (relating to watermills) advocated careful consideration as to what to preserve based on detailed field surveys, while S.M.G. took a more pragmatic line, trying to get the best possible outcome in each individual case, and to maintain restoration potential for the future. Rather than start a detailed consideration of policy, it was decided to invite the other groups to have a think and submit their own ideas on this matter.

Still on the subject of protection, Alan Stoyel told the meeting that the S.P.A.B. was worried that some authorities may not be fulfilling their statutory obligation to inform the Society of proposals to demolish or significantly alter listed buildings, including mills. Thus there was a need for the local groups to keep their eyes open for such applications, and inform the Society of them. Discovering proposals for non-listed mills was, however, much more of a problem. Kate Davidson mentioned Burgh next Aylsham watermill - recently stopped work - as a case where prompt unsolicited action was needed on a private property to prevent the inevitable decline. However, it was generally recognised that it was very difficult to get any sort of official action in such cases - even the S.P.A.B. could only usually respond when actually called to help or when some proposal had been submitted for approval. Mark Barnard stressed the importance of getting authorities to appreciate the interior of mills, and the fact that mills were often listed - if at all - for the wrong reasons. Of course, listing was only 'paper protection' - it didn't stop the rot. Alan Stoyel said that the machinery inside a mill needed to be scheduled as well as the building being listed, and that there was no way of scheduling working machinery. It was concluded that the most important thing was to get the mills listed, and to report any threats to any mill - listed or not - to the S.P.A.B..

Jenny West told the meeting she would like to co-ordinate publication dates for the various group newsletters to tie in with preparation of the Wind and Watermill Section newsletter, which had been enlarged and would now probably appear three times a year. The Section was also keen to receive press cuttings from the groups.

Alan Stoyel informed us that the Wind and Watermill Section was in the process of concluding an insurance scheme which would encompass members of the local mill groups. No more details were available on this. The question of affiliation and membership ties between the groups and the Section was still in the melting pot.

The estate agency role of the Section was briefly discussed. Mark Barnard suggested it would be helpful if prices (where known) could be included when describing mills for sale in the newsletter. Details of property for sale but not yet on the open market could also be published if the owner was agreeable. It was important to get members to contact the S.P.A.B. if they were considering the purchase of a mill, so details could be promptly forwarded to them.

David Jones talked at some length about his proposal to re-establish the watermill index so it could be easily referred to in the S.P.A.B. office. One of the

aims of the Mills Research Group was to provide up-to-date information on as many mill sites as possible so one particular mill could be quickly located and its importance more easily assessed.

There was some discussion about professional advice on mills, which could be obtained by the mills groups through the Section. David Jones stressed that it was important to have the profession relevant to a particular problem, and this might range from a structural engineer to a museums advisor. As far as 'pure' millwrighting was concerned, it must be someone with a good knowledge of mill machinery, however acquired. When advising on millwrights the S.P.A.B. send a list of firms - no single firm is recommended. There was concern over the standard of some millwrighting work, and Alan Stoyel said the Section would be pleased to hear comments on repair work to particular mills.

The subject of mill parts banks was introduced by Alan Stoyel, who had drawn up twelve guidelines which met with general approval by those present. These were: machinery should only be removed if there is no hope of restoring the mill; gear should be obtained free of charge or for only a token payment to prevent a 'market' developing for such items; monetary gain should not be a motive; secure storage was needed; ownership must be established and an agreement made regarding any disposal of the gear to other mills; records must be kept of the transactions; there should be adequate insurance cover for all aspects of the removal operations; any scheme making use of mill parts should operate as locally as possible; extreme discretion should be exercised to ensure parts are re-used at suitable mills - mixing of local tradition in machinery is to be avoided; items in store should be fully documented; items should be photographed in situ before removal; care must be taken during dismantling to ensure accurate re-assembly is possible.

Suffolk Mills Group agreed that firm rules were not possible as circumstances would vary in each case. However, it was vital that all the facts were most carefully considered before removal - for example, a mill might acquire a new owner, suddenly giving it a bright future, or 'spare' gear might be requested merely to embellish the grounds or interior of a house-converted mill. Also, competent millwrights should be able to construct machinery anew. It was pointed out that French burrstones were getting scarce and at least two millwrighting firms were collecting stones and pieces to build up a stock in trade. Mike Newton mentioned that some machinery had already been rescued in Norfolk and was now in storage. Alan Stoyel stressed that any system of salvaging and re-using machinery would have to operate through the S.P.A.B., to enable contacts to be made in different parts of the country, although the idea of linking this to the needs of professional millwrights was fraught with hazards. He asked the local groups to investigate the potential for such schemes in their areas.

The S.P.A.B. has become increasingly concerned about safety in mills, and a set of guidelines is now being prepared, drawing the attention of owners, guardians and enthusiasts to hazards and the need for sensible safety precautions. It was stressed that control of visitors was an important factor, as was training of personnel and adequate maintenance of working machinery - David Plunkett said that this was being done at the newly-restored Eling tide mill. Mark Barnard thought that any guards

fitted around machinery should be removable to allow serious photography.

To end the meeting there was a brief discussion on ways of publicising the work of the groups (such as displays at the annual windmill and watermill meetings) and of involving groups in other parts of the country who had a particular interest in mills.

The next C.O.G.S. meeting will take place on March 23rd. 1980.

SOME FURTHER NOTES ON IPSWICH MILLS PETER DOLMAN

In the course of my searches through the old Ipswich newspapers, I have found numerous references to windmills, and a few to water and other types of mills. Among the latter types, I have had good fortune to find references to three of Ipswich's 'other' mills, namely Handford mill, Stoke tide mill and the Prison treadmill.

Handford Mill (1568,44,57)

This watermill stood in what is now Alderman Road, at its junction with Handford Road. It stood on the River Gipping which became a feeder for the tide mill pond downstream. The river has now been piped downstream of the mill site, although the line can be followed and a bridge even remains in Wolsey Street, though you wouldn't notice it if not forewarned. Upstream of the mill site the river is now a narrow 'canal' by a recreation ground.

In 1830, Ipswich Corporation, the owners, granted a 15 year lease to Ezra Dalton. By January 1840, however, he had gone (to one of the Stoke Hill windmills) for the following advertisement appeared in the 'Suffolk Chronicle':

TO MILLERS AND MILLWRIGHTS - On sale, at Handford Mill, Ipswich, Together or separately, As the above Mill is under alteration for an Oil Mill.

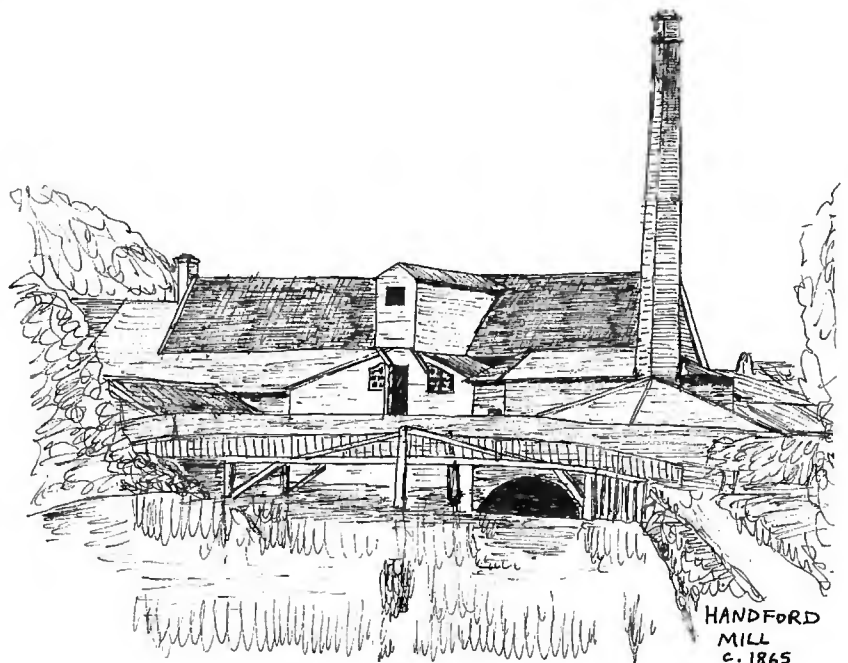
An OAK WATER WHEEL SHAFT, 17 feet 6 inches long, by 28 inches diameter, with gudgeons and hoops, pillow blocks and brasses, 4 cast iron flanches for wheel arms; a Water Wheel 19 feet 8 inches in diameter, 10 feet 6 inches wide, with floats and ironwork, staple posts and sills, iron breast-plate, with sheet and tackle for drawing ditto. The above have all been NEW within FIVE YEARS.

Also, a good pit wheel, 14 feet diameter and wallower, fir upright shaft and main bridge-tree, with iron box and brass; a spur wheel 9 feet 4 inches in diameter, 3 stone nuts, 3 sets of stone irons, 3 stone bridgetrees, with iron boxes, and brasses to ditto, 3 sets of lighter tackle.

Apply to Mr. Webber, at the Mill, or to Mr. Wright, millwright, Ipswich.

Note that Mr. Wright was not selling any millstones - he probably bought them himself!

After this the mill continued



in use as an oil mill, worked by Samuel Webber. Water power was still used and after enlargement in 1845 a partner, Henry Jupp, was taken on. In October 1847 a 'nearly new' governor was advertised for sale 'equal to regulating a 14 feet shut'. We see that the wheel width had been increased from the 10 ft. 6 ins. of 1840. The use of a governor to control the wheel's speed is also interesting to note. The advertisement mentions that steam power had been coupled to the wheel to increase the power.

Hedge, Webber & Co. ran the mill in 1853 and George Mason & Co. in 1874. At some stage it was further enlarged and lost all its water power. The large complex is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 town plan of 1883 but by 1886 the site had been leased to the 'Ipswich Sanitary Steam Laundry Co. Ltd.', and the mill replaced by the laundry premises, recently cleared away.

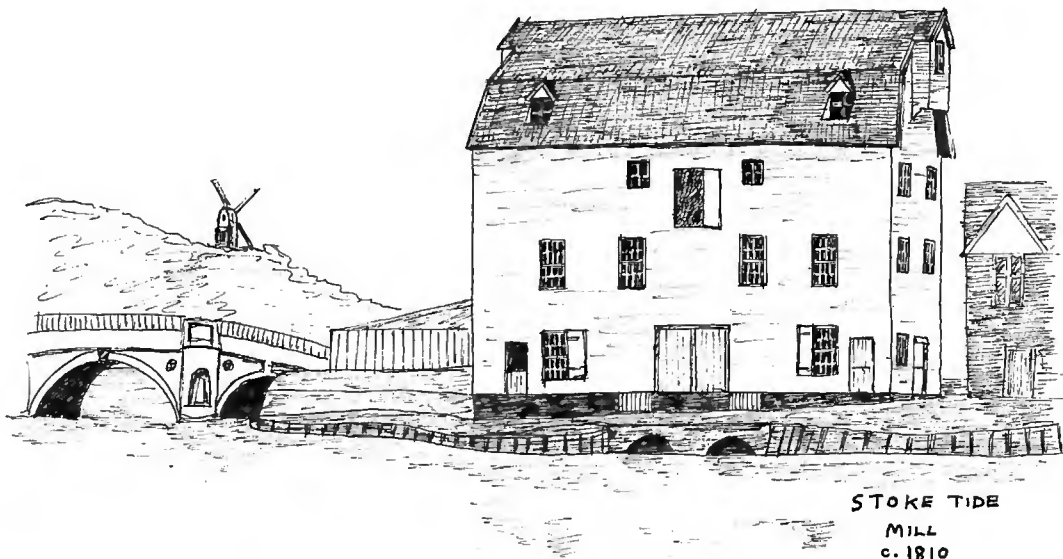
The mill site was an ancient one; a mill stood there at Domesday and being sited on the edge of the old town the mill was of some importance, being owned by the Corporation of Ipswich.

An old photograph of c.1860 - 70 shows a fairly large three or four storey weatherboarded mill with a tiled roof, out of which sprang a long lucam reaching over the road bridge in front of the mill. The original building was almost entirely swamped by extensions, and a tall chimney was at one end.

Stoke Tide Mill (1634,4398)

This watermill was situated on the north bank of the River Orwell by Stoke Bridge and utilised a long pond running parallel to the river upstream, which was filled at high tide and run through the mill at low tide in true tide mill fashion. The River Gipping also ran into this pond, helping to top it up. It also stood on an old site, again owned by the Corporation of Ipswich.

When the last mill on this site was built I couldn't say, but I would guess the late eighteenth century. In appearance it was similar to Woodbridge tide mill, only about twice the size, being two almost identical mills joined together under one roof, with a lucam at each end. Each half was let separately, thus in 1823 we find John Cook and William Calver; in 1834, William Archer and William Rouse, and later that year Rouse took Archer's half as well. Joseph Fison took the mill in 1842 and continued



there for nearly 90 years. In 1846 the Eastern Union Railway Co. leased the mill, but kept Fison on as tenant. The railway company wanted the site to put a track through to the new dock, and also to establish a goods yard on the site of the pond. These objectives were achieved by moving the whole building some fifty yards or so across the road on rollers. Just prior to this undertaking, the following mammoth advertisement appeared in the paper (13th. November 1847):

Auction - (17th. December 1847) 'THE entire and excellent MACHINERY and GEARS of the STOKE WATER-MILL, at IPSWICH; comprising a wood waterwheel, 22 feet diameter, and 5 ft. 6 in. wide, with 2 sets of clasp arms, wood rings, and floats, shut breast, & c.; cast-iron shaft, 13 ft. long and 9½ in. square, with plummer blocks and brasses; cast-iron pit wheel, 11 ft. 9 in. in diameter, and cast-iron nut for the same, 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter, with sleepers and bridgetrees complete; on upright oak shaft, 19½ in. diameter, and 20 ft. long, with gudgeons, hoops, coupling brasses, step, brass and bridging box complete; wood spur wheel, 9 ft. 10 in. diameter, 3-inch pitch, with stone nuts, each 16½ in. diameter, with stone spindles and iron neck, and bridging boxes and brasses, with lighter tackle complete; timber-framed hurst for 4 pairs of stones, with bridgetrees, casings and meal troughs complete; 2 pair of French Stones, 4 ft. 4 in. diameter, with hoppers, shoe, screens, & c. complete; 1 pair of ditto, 4 ft. 6 in. diameter, with ditto; 1 pair 4 ft. diameter, with ditto; crown bevel wheel, 7 ft. diameter, ¾-in. pitch, nut for ditto, 22 in. dia., with shaft, riggers, & c. complete; flour dressing machine, with cylinder, 3 ft. 10 in. long, 16 in. diameter, complete; standing flour mill, with case & c., complete; jumper, 6 ft. long, 18 in. wide, with 3 wires; smut machine, 4 ft. 6 in. long, 14-inch cylinder, with fan, & c. complete.

Another wood water-wheel, 20 ft. dia., 5 ft. 9 in. wide, with wood shaft, pit wheel, and nut, with the machinery similar to the above, for the driving of 4 pair of stones, complete; flour machine, 5 ft. 6 in. long, and 16 in. diameter; jumper and smut machine, sack tackling, & c.

The above machinery is complete for two Mills, each with 4 pairs of stones, and may be readily worked either by steam or water power. To persons desirous of erecting a Mill, an opportunity presents itself of obtaining the Machinery at a comparatively trifling outlay, as the mill must be removed immediately, the site of it being required by the Ipswich and Bury Railway Company.

May be viewed on application at the Mill, or by applying to Mr. G. Hurwood, Engineer, or the Auctioneer, both of Ipswich.'

After removal, a large steam mill was erected next to the old mill and the mill itself refitted. In this form it worked, known as the 'Eastern Union Mills', until the late 1920's when Fisons ceased milling. (They had meanwhile expanded their fertilizer manufacturing industry.) About 1930 the old tide mill was pulled down, and a concrete and brick building erected in its place. The whole complex was then used by British Fermentation Products Ltd. to make yeast products, and ceased production in the 1960's or early 1970's, finally being demolished in September 1975.

Ipswich Prison Treadmill (approx. 168,444)

The prison treadmill was a punishment device, invented in the early nineteenth century by William Cubitt, perhaps better known for his all-conquering 'Patent Sails'. Cubitt was an engineer at Ipswich for many years and presumably erected this treadmill during his period in the town. The prison was on the site of the present County Hall in St. Helens Street.

It must have been decided that the treadmill was a little too harsh on prisoners, or perhaps it cost too much to supervise and maintain, for the following advertisement appeared in February 1840:

'To be sold by Auction. The Whole of the Machinery and Going Gear of the Mill, at the County Gaol, Ipswich; comprising tread wheels, shafts, spur and bevil wheels;

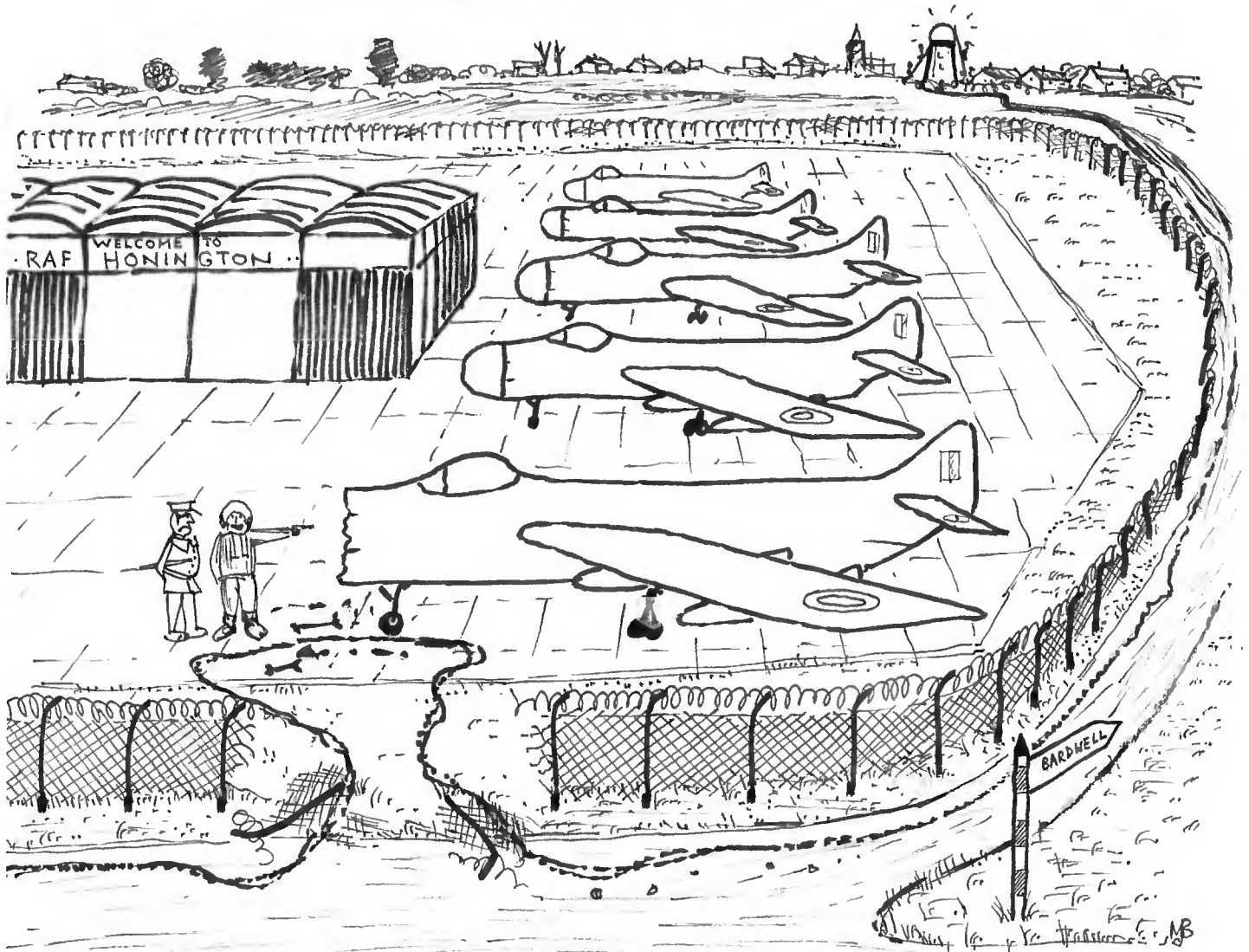
2 pair of French stones, one 3 ft. 4 in. diameter, and the other 3 ft.; iron bridge trees, boxes and brasses, stone irons and lighter tackle, iron shafts, flour mill and sack tackle, & c. Also a weighing machine and weights, 2 stone cisterns, a quantity of iron bolts, and miscellaneous effects.'

Further notes on Ipswich Windmills

I can now reveal the fates of the tower mill and post mill at Albion Hill (see Newsletter 9). The post mill (North Mill) was last worked by Arthur Cox in 1885; it then stood vacant for two years and was demolished between 1887-8. All its life it was owned by John Bedwell. The tower mill (North Hill Road) was last worked in 1890 by Abram Southgate; after a year it too was demolished.

It also appears that Smith's Windmill on Woodbridge Road ('Lattice Barn') was not pulled down by Amos Clarke, but by a local builder.

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"But what would anyone want with a nose cone, Sir?"

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Reviewed by MARK BARNARD

'SUFFOLK WINDMILLS' by Brian Flint. Published by The Boydell Press; 1979. Price £15.00. 164 pages; hardback.

This long-awaited book is the product of research both by the author and by the late Stanley Freese, who recorded many Suffolk mills in the 1930's and continued his work on retiring to the county in 1964. The book does not attempt a description of each

mill individually, but instead paints a general picture of the history and technology of windmills in Suffolk, citing innumerable examples to illustrate what was typical and what was more unusual or unique.

The book opens with a brief general historical survey, charting the rise and fall of the windmill population in the county. Much more detailed chapters follow on the post mill, tower mills and other types, millers and millwrights, drainage mills and pumps, and finally on preservation and the future. All this is written very thoughtfully and concisely, so that although each chapter is not of great length, a considerable amount of information is put down in a thoroughly readable style. Special attention is paid to the question of the tallest post mill, and to describing the distinctive Whitmore tower mills, while the chapter on millers and millwrights covers everything from fire and gale damage to mill removals. In the section on drainage mills the author has permitted himself a description of each known example, and although this level of detail is not matched elsewhere in the book it can be excused as there was such considerable variety to be found.

Perhaps most entertaining to those with an active interest in today's mills is the final chapter, which deals comprehensively with the attempts to preserve windmills since the 1930's, and focusses in particular on the Framsdon repairs, in which Brian Flint played a part. However, I was rather surprised to find no mention of Suffolk Mills Group.

The main text is supplemented by three appendices and an excellent gazeteer of all known mill sites, with their grid reference and dates where known. There is also a list of mill remains.

Although there will undoubtedly be a few bones of contention, in general the text is very reliable (references are given where necessary). Syleham's roundhouse is quoted as being of flint and brick, whereas it is flint and clay lump; the all-wooden windshaft on Little Stonham tower mill is not mentioned; also, a few demolition dates are astray - for example, Haughley post mill burnt down in August 1943, not 1940, while two different dates are quoted for the demise of the Great Bradley tower. Small points, though.

The 70-odd photographs have been chosen with care, although in some cases a full-page illustration (such as the Dalham hurst frame on page 48) could have profitably swapped places with one of the many small (about 2½" x 3") pictures. It is also a pity some of these smaller pictures were so closely cropped - the surroundings of a mill lend so much to its character. The very fine sectional drawings have been literally reduced to insignificance - why could they not occupy pull-out sheets? The distribution map could have similarly benefitted and more information could then have been plotted, such as mill type where known.

The dust jacket cover - a painting based on some of the pictures in the book - is a brave attempt at something 'different' yet still relating to the subject; I will leave readers to judge this for themselves.

There is no doubt that Brian Flint has written an excellent general survey covering all the main aspects of Suffolk windmills, and one which deserves to be

widely read. In view of this it is a pity to say that the most serious criticism is one which most people will spot first - the price. Quite why this book should be so much more expensive than anything else of similar size I do not know. I only hope it will not prevent the book achieving the success it deserves.

'THE WINDMILLS OF SUSSEX' by Martin Brunnarius. Published by Phillimore; 1979. Price £8.95. 211 pages plus 201 plates; hardback.

Another invaluable county windmill book, this takes a completely different approach to 'Suffolk Windmills' reviewed above, concentrating on detailed historical and technical descriptions of the surviving mills, with briefer treatment for minor remains. There are also chapters on mill types and machinery, local mill personalities and mill-wrights. Appendices list obscure remains, pumping mills, wind wheels and working models among others; there is also a list of mills known to have stood in the county, by parish. I found the appendices a bit difficult to relate to the rest of the book, while the complete list of mills would have been much more useful if grid references and some dates had been added.

The photographs are an excellent series, both historical and contemporary, gathered together in a wad of 'glossy' pages in the middle of the book. There are also several drawings of machinery, generally adequate, although the sectional diagrams of the mills have been spoilt by the extraordinary, spaghetti-like pointers.

This book is obviously the result of considerable research into the surviving mills, but perhaps it could have been set out slightly better and incorporated at least a few details of mills which have entirely disappeared since, say, the early 1930's. Generally, though, very good value for money.

'THE INTERNATIONAL MOLINOLOGICAL SOCIETY: TRANSACTIONS OF THE FOURTH SYMPOSIUM' Published by, & obtainable from, The Wind and Watermill Section, S.P.A.B., 55, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JA; 1979. Price £9.00 (+ £1.30 postage). 420 pages; paperback)

This excellently-produced work summarises no less than 47 papers presented at the T.I.M.S. conference held at Matlock in 1977, and prefaces these with a brief account of the conference itself. The topics covered on British mills include small tower mills (Laurence Turner and Martin Watts), research techniques (Ken Farries), overdriven watermills (David Jones), mills on the North Walsham and Dilham Canal (Ken Major), Kentish windmill sweeps (Vincent Pargeter) and tidemills (Walter Minchinton) among others. The volume is well illustrated with both drawings and monochrome plates and maintains the very high standard of production set by the previous three volumes of 'Transactions'.

Other Publications News

Members who attended the 'Molicon '79' conference at Avoncroft earlier this year may be interested to learn that tape recordings of the lectures are now available, price £2.50 for one tape (60 mins.) and £1.00 for each subsequent tape ordered at the same time. Further details from Mike Field, Gatepiece Cottage, Highfields, Wichenford, Worcs..

We are further informed that the model of Lacey Green mill, mentioned in the last Newsletter, now costs £4.95; the same firm, Marlow Models, have also brought out a model of Pitstone post mill, priced £4.95.



MILL NEWS (see pages 14-15)

Top: Pakenham windmill with sails decked with bunting on S.M.G.'s open day on October 14th.

Bottom: Chris Hullcoop at work on the smock mill at Drinkstone

Top: Drinkstone post mill 'dressed overall' on December 4th.

Bottom: Thelnetham mill (November 1979)

(Photos. by Mark Barnard)

PRIZE CROSSWORD Compiled by MARK BARNARD

As usual, here is our popular Christmas prize crossword - and this year every Member ought to 'have a go' because the prize is an autographed copy of Brian Flint's new book, 'Suffolk Windmills', which sells for £15 in the bookshops!

All the words in the crossword are connected in some way with mills and milling, and I have kept clear of obscure technical terms and expressions. Some of the clues are straightforward, some cryptic and some contain anagrams. The books I used were: 'The English Windmill' (Wailes); 'Windmills and Watermills' (Reynolds); 'Windmills and Millwrighting' (Freese).

To enter the competition simply fill in the copy of the crossword provided at the end of this Newsletter. The copy below can then be retained for your own reference. Don't despair if you cannot complete it - send it in all the same and you may still be lucky. In the event of a tie the winner's name will be drawn by the Chairman. Entries, to either the Secretary or the Editor (addresses on page 1) to be received by the end of February, 1980, please.

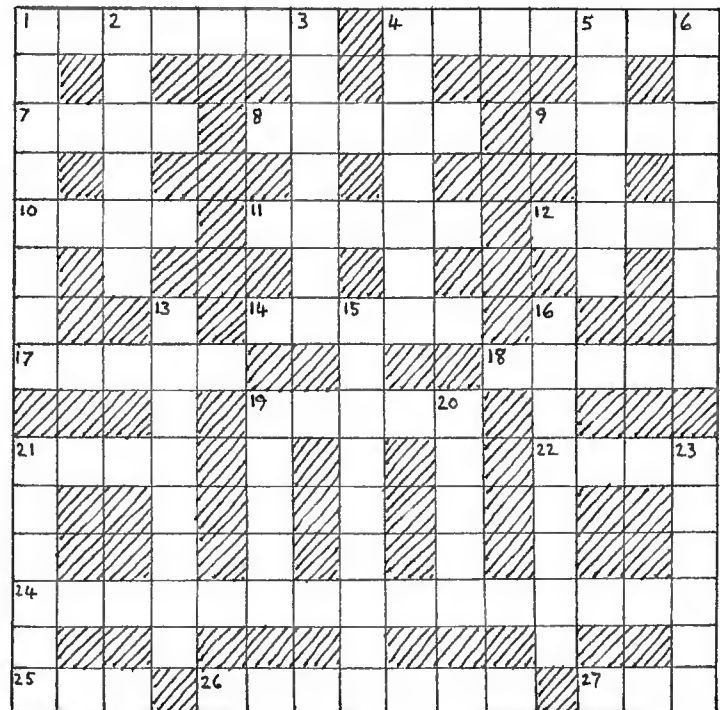
The competition is open to all Members of Suffolk Mills Group except for the Secretary and Editor. The winner's name and the solution will appear in the next Newsletter. Good luck!!

CLUES ACROSS

1. These fit the bill! (7)
4. Small, rather primitive Dutch pumping mill (7)
7. Country on the face of a millstone? (4)
8. Sometimes found above the stones (5)
9. Needs out map reference of a watermill (4)
10. Inner end of a sail (4)
11. By 'showing his ---', a stone dresser would prove his experience (5)
12. Cap turns on the edge of the pavement? (4)
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18. The --- post helps to support the windshaft in a post mill (5)
19. Peak stones (5)
21. Familiar windmill feature! (4)
22. He patented the regulation of millstones by governors in 1787 (4)
24. Most Suffolk watermills have these (9,6)
25. Catchpole's sails with air brakes were popularly known as '--- scrapers' (3)
26. Rough table, often found in a roundhouse (7)
27. Some mills produced it; all mills used it (3)

CLUES DOWN

1. These helped to raise the steps (8)
2. Athletic stone! (6)
3. Cleaning machine (7)
4. Do campers adjust the stones? (7)



5. Where the flour really comes from! (6)
6. North country weather beam (4,4)
13. Muddy gearwheel? (8)
15. Grain lifts (9)
16. Famous Suffolk post mill (8)
19. Beams in a post mill's side (5)
20. When a miller 4 Down he may use this (5)
21. Always below the stones (6)
23. Mad Les is certainly noisy (6)

NEWS

THELNETHAM MILL: A PROJECT FOR THE 1980's

Several months ago S.M.G. was informed that the owner of Thelnetham tower mill wished to sell it at fairly short notice, preferably to someone who would preserve it as a mill and not seek to convert it. After discussions with several people who we knew might be interested, the mill was eventually purchased by five people (four of them Members of S.M.G.) who were all keen to see the mill restored but couldn't afford to take the project on on an individual basis.

Thelnetham mill is (just) the oldest complete tower mill in the county (1819), and is remarkable in having its early history unusually well documented (see Newsletter 7). After ceasing commercial work it has stood with no maintenance for over fifty years, with the inevitable results. All floors need replacing or repairing, and new cap and sails are required.

It is intended to commence the programme of repair work next summer, when hopefully a two week 'work-in' will be held. Further details of this work will appear in the next Newsletter, but meanwhile we would be delighted to hear from Members willing to assist, both during the work-in (probably July / August) and also at week-ends from next Spring. Incidentally, as at Bardwell there will be ample space for campers to pitch their tents, although we also have the luxury of a 3-4 berth caravan for the less hardy!

To give the mill some protection during the coming winter, polythene sheeting has recently been laid on the dust floor, with drainage through pipes going out of the windows on the floor below, to prevent further ingress of water. The wooden brakewheel has also been covered in polythene to keep out the worst of the weather.

WEATHERPROOFING DRINKSTONE SMOCK MILL

Work continued here for about six week-ends in September and October, encouraged by the fine autumn weather. The old layers of felt over the weatherboarding on the tower were stripped off (a filthy job but an entomologist's paradise!) and replaced by two layers of extra-thick black polythene sheet. Five sides of the tower have now been completed (see photograph on page 12); on the remaining three sides the felt covering has been left for the time being as it did not appear to be leaking badly. The tower is now almost completely waterproof - a great improvement on the situation a few months ago.

JUBILEE BUNTING

To commemorate the 50th. anniversary of the founding of the Windmill Section of the S.P.A.B., the two sails of Pakenham windmill were dressed with bunting on our open day there on October 14th., when about 60 people turned up.

More recently, Drinkstone post mill was also 'dressed overall' to mark the event, and for a short while her sails turned steadily in the breeze, bringing back memories of the days when Wilfred Clover worked her regularly (see photographs).

HERRINGFLEET MILL

Repairs to this mill, including the replacement of most of the cant posts and a

substantial part of the intermediate framing, were finally completed in November, and the mill is now in working order once again. However, the repair work has yet to be officially inspected and approved by the Department of the Environment (who will be making a 50% grant towards the cost of the work). We hope to arrange an open day here early next year - more details in the next Newsletter.

PROGRESS AT DALHAM

Steady progress is being made towards finishing the first phase of the restoration. The cap is nearing completion and it is hoped to lift it into place by Christmas. Some weatherboarding and finishing off of floors is still to be completed, but this is likely to be done early in the new year. Meanwhile we understand that tenders are being sought for the final phase of the work, namely the sails, fantail and machinery. More news of this when it becomes available.

MILL FOR SALE

The latest mill to come onto the market is Layham watermill, which is in working order and was visited by S.M.G. last year. As well as the brick watermill, there is a fine period house and 13 acres. The asking price is £110,000 and the agents are Strutt & Parker.

AN APOLOGY

Recently several of our Members have had the misfortune to be charged twice for their renewal of subscriptions. We apologise most sincerely for this and are trying to ensure it doesn't happen again. It would assist us if Members could send their renewals direct to the Secretary, who keeps all records of membership, as the confusion seems to arise when subscriptions are paid to other Committee members.

EVENTS

S.M.G. PUBLIC MEETING: 'OLD SUFFOLK WINDMILLS'; IPSWICH TOWN HALL; SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23rd. 1980, at 7.30 p.m. Admission Free

Following our very successful public meeting in Ipswich last February, we are once again inviting both Members and the public to an evening's entertainment and enlightenment. This year's speakers are Brian Flint, author of 'Suffolk Windmills', and Peter Dolman, author of 'Suffolk Windmills: a Contemporary Survey'. It would be difficult to think of two men more qualified to speak about old Suffolk windmills, as both have spent many years researching the subject and between them have acquired a considerable fund of knowledge. There will also be the chance to hear, for the first time, an illustrated account of our work this year at Bardwell and Stanton mills, and about the work of the Group in general. See you there!

Other Dates for 1980

March 22 S.P.A.B. Windmill Meeting; London
May 10 S.P.A.B. one-day mill tour
October 2-5 S.P.A.B. week-end mill tour to mid Wales
November 22 S.P.A.B. Watermill Meeting; London

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List of new S.M.G. Members since last Newsletter

BURMAN, A. (Miss) (F)
156, Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northampton NN7 1NG
(General interest in mills)

DAVIDGE, Kerry (F)
16, Steeles Road, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9RE
Tel.: Elmswell 41287 (home); Bury St. Edmunds 66281 (work)
(General interest)

HAMOND, F. (F)
75, Locksley Park, Belfast 10, Northern Ireland
(General interest)

THOROLD, Dennis L. (F)
Gable House, 26, Albion Street, Saxmundham, Suffolk
Tel.: Saxmundham 3502 (home); Woodbridge 2212 (work)
(General interest & the machinery of mills)

Oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

Have YOU enjoyed reading this Newsletter?
You can help to maintain our high
standard of publication by submitting
items for inclusion in future editions.
All material gratefully received by the Editor.

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CROSSWORD ENTRY FORM

To enter the crossword competition on page 13, please fill in the copy on this page, write your name and address below and post this page to either the Secretary or the Editor (addresses on page 1).

The winner's name will appear in the next Newsletter (published at the end of March, 1980), together with the solution to the crossword.

NAME

ADDRESS

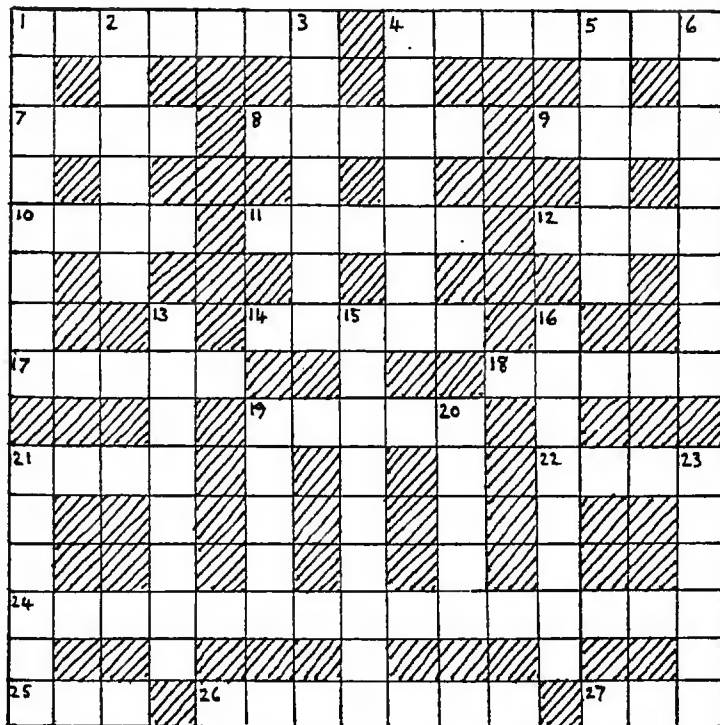
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