

thirteen" was a popular game. The Tillotsons, at that time, had no indoor toilets, so we had to go down the yard to spend a penny. At the bottom of the yard was a large double deck building, and the top floor was where Chipping Band used to practise. Yes, we had a top class brass band playing in Chipping with the band going to the surrounding places for different functions. On Ascension Day this band led the parade through the streets of Chipping. Behind the band marched the Oddfellows with their lovely coloured sashes draped over their shoulders. After the parade there was a large fair on the front of the Talbot and in the yard behind, roundabouts, swings, coconut shy etc. Ascension Day was a big day in Chipping. I think we got an extra two pennies to spend.

Next to the Tillotsons was Mrs Crane's toffee shop, sweets, ices, cigs, etc., now a private house. Under the lobby was a row of houses, whilst over the lobby was a hairdresser's salon for a while. Next to the lobby, four doors up, was Bill Patchet's shop, selling toffees, cigs etc.. Bill was a bit bad-tempered. He had a bad leg and it made him grumpy. At night the local lads came to his house to play cards and Bill was the local dentist. Anyone with a toothache came to have his tooth taken out, just cold steel, no injections.

Back at the top of Chipping in front of the Sun Inn, I have just a few more memories to write down. Next to Startifants on Longridge Road was Chipping Dairy which was owned by Miss Knowles, who lived at Radcliffe Cottage, and produced a lot of cheese which mostly went to Preston on Miss Knowles's wagon. The wagon had solid tyres and was very ancient. Petrol was one old shilling a gallon. Later, in 1940, petrol was two shillings a gallon.

In days gone by we got a lot of snow in winter. On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1940 it snowed all day, the wind blew and the road from Longridge to Chipping was blocked for a week. There were no buses to bring the workers to Chipping and we only got through to Preston the following Friday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. After that, my father helped the council to cut snow round Out Lane Head, Colt Coats, Fiddler Lane etc. They cut snow during all of February.

Standing on snowdrifts, they could touch the telephone wires with their spades. We had no heaters in our wagons or cars, so early in the mornings, I would fill a hot water bottle and put it near the wagon window to stop it getting frozen.

After winter came summer, the same as it does now and hay time. The farmers used to cut the grass with an iron mowing machine pulled by one horse. Then the grass was turned - in the early days, with a wooden rake - then shaken out with a fork and left a few days to dry. When dry, it was raked up in to rows wide enough apart for the horse and cart to go between. A man would get on the cart and a man at each row would fork it up to the cart. When they got a large load on they would rope it on so as not to lose the load on the way to the barn. Then it would be all forked off the cart into the barn, and then the cart would go back for another load. If the hay was not properly dry it would heat up and we had the odd barn fire in those days. Before hay time the Irish boys would come over from Ireland in June and the local farmers would hire a man or two for two, three or four weeks depending on the size of the farm. No balers, silage or rollers then!

Times have changed in Chipping in my 80 plus days, since my father bought our first car, an Austin 10, when it was just twelve months old, and paid £120 for it. I have enjoyed putting down these memories, not all in the order they occurred. I thank God I was born in Chipping, for a wonderful father and mother, a lovely wife, who died at 63, and a grand family, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren.

Thanks for the memories!

Arthur Preston.

