

"SPOT IT" ENTRIES
most be received at the "Echo"
Office by 9 p.m. to-night.

Mark envelopes "Competition."

CHELTENHAM CYCLE CO.
The Cheltenham Cycle Co. offers the finest choice and the easiest terms in the district.
Terms to suit every pocket - from as low as 2/- weekly.
ONE PENNY - 82 STRAND -

A NEW CYCLE FOR EASTER!
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ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE

BRIGADE'S ROOF-TOP FIGHT WITH FIERCE FLAMES
CLASSROOMS FLOODED AND EQUIPMENT DESTROYED
BLAZE SPREADS RAPIDLY

DAMAGE that will run into hundreds of pounds was caused by fire that partially destroyed St. John's School, Cheltenham, to-day.
It is understood that the school will be closed for at least three months to effect the necessary repairs.

Flames that spread with lightning rapidity transformed the roof into a glowing furnace. The rafters throughout the whole roof were reduced to charred and smouldering debris.
Classrooms were flooded with thousands of gallons of water poured on to the flames by the Cheltenham Fire Brigade; school equipment was destroyed, and pianos and furniture damaged.

The outbreak started shortly before 9.0 a.m. in a little building in the rear of the school and the back premises of the St. John's Institute.
It is believed, although no definite proof is available, that the fire originated in a pile of scaffolding poles and timber in a room where the flames spread to the

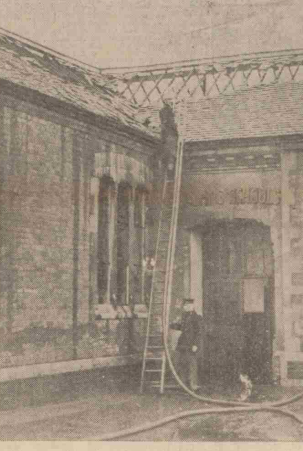
flames and smoke when the corporation engineer, another man and myself, our faces scorched by the heat of the fire, and they were almost choked by the acrid fumes that rose from the burning woodwork.
One of the people most amazed at the occurrence was Mr. Biddle, owner of the building's yard. Everything was intact and safe when he and his employees left the school at 8.30 a.m. It was not until nearly evening was all over that Mr. Biddle, who had been to Bishop's Cleeve, heard of the fire and arrived on the scene.

He was completely mystified as to the cause of the outbreak.

Mr. W. T. Long, Cheltenham Education Secretary, arrived at the school during the outbreak and anxious to ascertain the extent of the intended damage, went inside the flooded building.
He emerged later soaked with water carrying a load of blackboards on his head to protect himself from the streams of water and pieces of plaster falling from the ceiling.

In an interview with an "Echo" reporter he described the damage that had been done inside the building.
The whole of the interior has been damaged, and the rooms are flooded, school equipment, books, desks, cupboards, and furniture are damaged and some of it ruined. The nursery seems to have suffered the most damage, but it is not considered that it will be at least three months before the school can be reopened.

Mr. Long added that the books and equipment were the property of the Education Committee, and were insured.
The building is the property of St. John's Church. It was erected in 1862.



Firemen at work on the roof of St. John's School this morning following a fire which at one time threatened to destroy the schools. "Gloucestershire Echo" photograph.

A.R.P. DIVISIONAL OFFICERS
RAPID STEPS IN COUNTY SCHEME: CHELTENHAM APPOINTMENT

Rapid steps are being taken to place the air raid precautions for Gloucestershire on a full working basis.
At a meeting of the county authority at the Shire Hall, Gloucester, yesterday, four Divisional Officers were appointed for the Cheltenham area: Major G. H. Christie, The Grange, Carew-road, Eastbourne, is to be Divisional Officer. He has an anti-gas instructor since 1934 and is an A.R.P. warden at Eastbourne.

The Gloucester area will have the services of Captain C. A. Hayes, of Hendon Manor, Yeovil. He has been A.R.P. organiser in south-east Somerset for the past nine months and has had considerable experience in public, social and local government work.
Captain E. S. Martini, of 24 Westmoreland, Southsea, is to be Stroud area officer. He is a qualified anti-gas instructor and has been in charge of the Warley area, and the officer will be Captain R. Matheson, M.C., of Glenpark, Kirby Muxton, Leicester. He was an explosives and demolition officer during his military service and has been conspicuous with the Royal Air Force schemes in Leicester.

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GOODS TRAIN SMASH
Twenty Trucks And Vans Pile Up In Midlands

Two goods trains collided on the points at the entrance to Whitacre Junction Station on the main Leicester-Birmingham line yesterday.
Some 23 trucks and vans were involved and the vehicles piled up on one another, causing considerable damage to some extent and damaging the passenger footbridge.
A railway policeman was slightly injured.
In order to relieve traffic congestion, a bus service is being used in conjunction with the train service.

ALLEGED CYCLE THEFT
A Man Remanded At Tewkesbury

John O'Connor, of no fixed home, was brought up in custody to-day at the Tewkesbury Police Court and charged with stealing from a shed on the Ashchurch-road on March 25 a bicycle, valued at 25s, the property of Luke Miles, Southcott, Ashchurch-road, Ashchurch.
Assistant Justice, of Tewkesbury, said that at 8.25 p.m. yesterday, as the result of a telephone message, he directed a constable to the Ashchurch-road, and when a quarter of a mile beyond Aston Cross he saw O'Connor on the grass verge.
He asked him to answer the description of a man wanted for stealing a bicycle an hour before. O'Connor replied that he had not had the bike. Witness was not satisfied, and took O'Connor to custody, when he made a voluntary statement admitting the theft.



Edward Royal Chaplin (35), described as of Abbotsway-road, Wimborne, Dorset, yesterday charged with murder.

MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER: SHOOTING TRAGEDY SEQUEL
ALLEGED STATEMENT ABOUT GUN IN CAVITY IN WALL

THE courtroom at Wimborne yesterday was crowded to-day when Edward Royal Chaplin (35), described as of Abbotsway-road, Wimborne, Dorset, yesterday charged with murder.
The Central Authority is also recommending the appointment, which is subject to the confirmation of the county council at their next meeting, of Mr. F. E. Gurney, of 101, Old Bath-road, as Deputy County Organiser.
Major Gurney was a chemical adviser during Staff Command Anti-Gas training.

He has given lectures throughout the county, and is an examiner in anti-gas measures organised by the British Red Cross Society. He has done considerable work in the same houses in London and during the last week or so has given the utmost assistance in the County A.R.P. officers in the same houses.
All these appointments are for not less than two years. They carry salaries of £200 per annum.

GOLDEN WEDDING OF MR. AND MRS. F. HILL
Broadway Parents of Former Cheltenham Town Player

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hill, of Church-End, Broadway, are to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day. They have lived ever since in the same house.
Mrs. Hill was born at Harewood Park, Herefordshire, and her husband at Broadway. They have had seven children: four sons and three daughters, and there are nine grandchildren.
One son, Mr. Roy Hill, played for Cheltenham Town for eight seasons, and is now a referee at Newport (Mon). He has also played football for Newport.

LEAGUE CONTROL OF COLONIES SUGGESTED

"Whether he will propose to the League of Nations, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the experimental control for ten years of certain British and foreign colonial areas by an international staff responsible to the League."
Mr. R. W. Sorenson (Lab., Leyton, Essex) has given notice to ask the Prime Minister this question in the House of Commons on Monday.

HOSPITAL BULLETIN

Daily Hospital of Cheltenham General and Eye Hospital, Serotony Hill, Nos. 402, 408, 432, 436, 418, 476, for operation. Nos. 183, 185, 182; total number of in-patients. Those not given above are comfortable.
At Chaplin's flat in Abbotsway-road I completed a batch which had with doing so he produced the outfit from his locker and said "The shirt is going to be missing," the Inspector added.
Chaplin later said, "That's quite all right. You have got your job to do. I have got nothing to be afraid about."

CLOUSTON EXPECTED IN LONDON TO-DAY
HEADWINDS ON LAST LAP OF RECORD FLIGHT

Flying-Officer Clouston and Mr. Victor Ricketts are heading for Marseilles on the last stage of their record flight from England to New Zealand and back, and barring accident should reach London late this afternoon.
They left Cairo at 4.18 this morning G.M.T., when Clouston took Reuter, "I don't know how long it will take for London direct owing to headwinds."

At Cairo they stopped only to refuel and snatch a cup of tea. They should set up a round trip record of about ten days.
Clouston arrived at Marseilles at 1.32 London time. He took nine hours 14 minutes for the flight from Cairo, and five days 14 hours 58 minutes from Blenheim, New Zealand.

Marseilles for London at 2.50 British time.
The log of the flight (all times in G.M.T.) reads as follows:
March 15: Left Gravesend 8.20 p.m.
March 16: Arrived Marseilles 8.10 a.m.
9.22 a.m. Arrived Barza 2.20 p.m.
March 17: Arrived Penara 3.55 p.m. left 5.45 p.m. Arrived Singapore 3.45 p.m.
March 18: Arrived Port Darwin 8.28 a.m. left 9.30 p.m.
March 19: Arrived Sydney 9.20 a.m. left 9.30 p.m.
March 20: Arrived Blenheim 4.57 a.m.
March 21: Arrived Sydney 6.17 a.m. left 5.59 p.m.
March 22: Arrived Port Darwin 4.56 a.m. left 9.55 a.m.
March 23: Arrived Batavia 5.50 a.m.
March 24: Arrived Singapore 9.28 a.m. left 5.47 p.m.
March 24: Arrived Alibabkah 7.45 a.m. left 8.25 p.m.
March 25: Arrived Karachi 1.42 a.m.
March 25: Arrived Sydney 1.42 a.m.
March 26: Left Cairo 4.18 a.m. arrived Marseilles 1.32 p.m. left for London 2.5.

EXHUMATION IN VILLAGE CHURCHYARD
FARM HAND'S DEATH MYSTERY: DR. ROCHE LYNCH AT GRAVESIDE

THE exhumation of Lewis Arthur Sandford, the 30-year-old farm hand, of West Dereham, Norfolk, was carried out to-day in the village churchyard at Pentney, a few miles from Sandford's home. Dr. Roche Lynch, the Home Office analyst, was present.

On the result of an analysis of the organs removed from the body will depend the future course of the investigation. It is believed that the cause of death was a fatal infection, possibly typhoid, contracted by the victim at West Dereham on January 4 after being taken ill within a short time of leaving home for his work. He complained of losing the use of his legs, and took place as he was being taken to hospital in an ambulance.
At the inquest evidence was given that he had had a corn with a penknife-shaped hole in the sole of his foot, and it was stated that the possible means of entry for a tetanus germ. The coroner is believed to be Dr. Roche Lynch, the Home Office analyst, was present.

POLICE WATCH

SIX-FOOT COFFIN Sandford was a big man and the coffin measures 6ft. 2ins. To raise it to ground level Coggies and his assistants were used to assist and slowly hoisted it to the surface.
The work began Inspector Daniel Aldis, of the Sandringham Division, in which the church is situated, visited the churchyard and the parties of Whitaker, whose house is opposite the churchyard, and showed him a document received from the Home Office.
The police are anxious to keep back any crowds that might have gathered, but during the early part of the digging there was nothing for these unfortunates to do, as no one apart from those immediately connected with the exhumation, was present to see it, although it was easy to see the grave from the roadside flanking the churchyard.

Mr. J. C. Capp, the undertaker who was in charge of the funeral, later took charge of the digging. He brought with him three workmen to help Coggies. They created a canvas screen round the grave.
On the 17th day of the digging the soil the digging took little time, and within three hours the coffin was seen raised. It bore little trace of its three months' internment.

FRANCO'S CLAIMS
Twenty-Three Villages Captured

The Spanish Republican Cabinet sat for four hours last night. Communiqués from Salamanca and Barcelona show that the Republican Forces on the Aragon Front are still suffering reverses.
Franco claims the capture of 23 villages, hundreds of prisoners, and an immense amount of war material.
An American journalist, after returning to New York from Nationalist Spain, says that Franco's forces include 5,000 French, 8,000 Russian, and 200 British.

GANDHI ON RIOTS
Congress Not Yet Fit Substitute For British Authority

The recent communal riots at Allahabad, which necessitated summoning the assistance of police and military, show that the Congress is not yet fitted to be a substitute for British authority, declares Mr. Gandhi, in his newspaper "Harijan."
"It is best to face this, the naked truth, however unpleasant it may be," he adds.

NEXT WEEK AT THE PALACE
GARY COOPER
GEORGE RAFT

FRANCES DEE - HENRY WILCOX
HARRY CARY - ROBERT BARRAT
Directed by Henry Hathaway. A Paramount Picture.
Romance and Drama! A story that will fascinate you from the first scene of the sea... from the man who gave you "Lives of a Bengal Lancer." Screened daily at 3.15, 6.15 and 9.15.