

THEY FISH THE WAY THE VIKINGS DID A THOUSAND YEARS AGO—AND HAVE TO BE AS TOUGH



The haaf-fishers carry their nets to the sea. This kind of fishing was brought to Britain by the invading Vikings.

Children sailing to meet the Queen

ROYAL REUNION

PRINCE CHARLES and Princess Anne are to join the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at Tobruk for the last part of the Royal tour.

They will sail in the Royal yacht Britannia from Portsmouth on April 15. It will be the first time they have been outside Britain.

They will live on board the yacht during visits to Malta (May 3) and Gibraltar (May 10).

Prince Charles's governess, Miss Peebles, and their nurse, Miss Lightbody, will be with them.

A play room is already being built on the top deck of the Britannia.

Prince Charles was five last November, and Princess Anne three last August.

Man found dead—then wife dies

OWEN DAVIES, aged 78, retired quarryman, missing from Fron Hyfryd, Llystau, near Abergele, was found dead at the bottom of a village cliff yesterday. Two hours later his wife, Mrs. Sarah Davies, aged 72, died. She had been seriously ill for three weeks.

An inquest will be held on Davies today.

Conductor reinstated

John Ryan, Liverpool bus conductor, dismissed after being fined £3 for behaving uncivilly to a passenger of 90, returned to work yesterday. The union said his dismissal was a double penalty for one offence.



Haaf-fishers line up with their long nets in the rising tide. Two of them are over 70 years old.



The draw decides who gets the best position. Here Thomas Cowan, Ernest Percival and Robert Pattinson try their luck.

Back to normal

Forty goods porters at Wicker Depot, British Railways, Sheffield, have ended a three-week go-slow protest against a new bonus scheme.

Boy falls in well

Four-year-old Peter Grenfell fell into a well near his home at Crean, St. Buryan, Cornwall, and was drowned.

'Smoking not only cause'

IT will be difficult to pin the blame for lung cancer on the cigarette alone, Professor F. A. E. Crew, of Edinburgh University, said at Portobello last night.

Lung cancer was more common among city dwellers—yet there was no evidence that country people smoked less than those in towns.

Far more women were cigarette smokers now than formerly—yet the disease was more common in men.

THEATRE GIVES TIME TO WED

ACTOR-MANAGER RONALD RICHARDS hopes to get married soon. His audience is arranging things so that he can have time off to do so.

For three and a half years, Richards (27), has worked most of the 24 hours in a day to run his repertory theatre in Shrewsbury.

He has been producer, actor, scenic artist and business manager. Weekdays he has rehearsed all morning, attended to business in the afternoon, played in the evening and studied his next part into the small hours.

On Saturdays after the show he has prepared for the next play and has gone to bed about five a.m. on Sundays.

SLEEP TILL LUNCH

After sleeping till lunchtime, Richards would have an afternoon off with his fiancée, Claire Caldwell, also in the company.

It has been a struggle—and a bar to their marriage.

Yesterday, at a public meeting in the theatre, he told his audience: "It has finished me, and I must give up. I should like you to form a limited company to take over the theatre."

The audience agreed to form a limited company.

"Now there is some hope for Claire and me," said Richards.

Price tags to fox the fiddlers

News Chronicle Reporter

SHOPKEEPERS should be compelled to put price tags on all foods, says Mr. George William Burford, 57-year-old chief inspector of weights and measures at Salisbury (Lancs).

"Most housewives are reluctant to ask the price of goods," he says, "and fall easy victims to unscrupulous traders."

"Price tickets would deter traders who are inclined to fiddle odd coppers."

Mr. Burford is asking the Institute of Weights and Measures Administration to press for a law on price tickets.

"My opinions are backed up by letters from housewives all over the country," he told me.

W.R.A.F. chief's tour

The Women's Royal Air Force Director, Air Commandant N. M. Salmon, leaves on Saturday for the Far East, where she will visit all units in which members of the W.R.A.F. are serving.

101 today

Mrs. Sarah Carnell, Forres-road, Crookes, Sheffield, is 101 today. She can read without glasses and does her own sewing.

NOW MEN REMEMBER AS WIVES FORGET

HUSBANDS are at last remembering not to forget. Sale of birthday cards to be sent to wives has almost doubled in a year at Grimsby, and the price paid is six times more.

A manufacturer said yesterday: "There is now

Waist-deep in the icy sea, the fishers wait for salmon

Story by STANLEY BRENTMAN:

Pictures by JOHN LOMAS

THE flood tide seeped into the Solway Firth. A biting easterly wind blew. Five men waded waist deep into the water with 16ft.-wide fishing nets.

It was Feb., 1954—but it could have been a thousand years ago.

The men were haaf-net fishermen, after the salmon going up the Firth to spawn in the rivers Spey or Eden. There are only about 50 of them on the English side of the Firth, perhaps fewer on the Scots side.

This kind of fishing was brought here by the Norsemen. Haaf is a Viking word meaning hauling or simply sea.

The nets are strung round three poles, forming two pockets. The fisherman holds the net in position by the bowk, or centre-pole. If the tide brings a salmon into a "pocket" the fisherman raises the net and stuns the fish with a club.

I was introduced to the haaf-net men by Ernest Percival, a bus driver who lives on the bank of the Firth at Bowness. A recognised authority, he was making his first attempt of the English season, which opens on Feb. 10 and closes on Sept. 10.

For the last few weeks he had been preparing his nets in the back-yard. He had renewed his clothing, too.

He wore layer upon layer of woollens, three pairs of thick socks, waders covering his feet and reaching to the armpits, rubber overshoes and a waterproof jacket.

DRAWING LOTS

We drove along the shore for four miles to join the men fishing regularly at Glasson. There were four of them.

James Hodgson, of Kirkbride, an Admiralty policeman at Anthon, had caught an 18-lb salmon the previous day. Thomas Cowen, of Port Carlisle, had also had one catch this season.

The other two men preparing to go into the icy water were both nearly 70. Robert Pattinson, a retired farmer from Port Carlisle, took up haaf fishing four years ago.

Joe Bell, a retired stoker from Glasson, is an old hand. First the men drew lots for the coveted Number One position. Joe Bell won.

The fishers set off across the sands to where the tide was rapidly filling the channel and walked into the water side by side—except Joe, on his favoured spot near the gravel bank.

OVER HIS CHEST

The man nearest the shore was thigh-deep; the man on the inside started waist-deep. When the water topped his chest.

Within five minutes they had the first—and as it happened, the only—catch of the day.

For the second day running Mr. Hodgson was lucky. A 20lb. salmon, bigger than anything caught this season, was trapped in the net.

It required several blows from the policeman's truncheon, he was using before it was stunned. Two or three of the fishermen were using these truncheons, but Joe Bell preferred a hefty chair leg.

The hardy haaf-net fishermen stand for hours in the water, their hands ungloved. Their outlay is considerable—a net costing £3 10s. to £4 10s., a licence £3 7s. 6d., clothing from £10 upwards.

The rewards are correspondingly high—if they are lucky.

PRICE IS GOOD

Men have been out in the Firth for eleven weeks without catching a single fish. Then, perhaps, on their next outing, they will catch two in 10 minutes.

At this time salmon fetch the best prices—up to 9s. a lb. Later, the price drops, but Mr. Thomas Beattie, a Carlisle fishmonger who sells the haaf-net-caught salmon in London, said the average fish fetches 4s.

Most haaf-net fishermen are spare-timers with regular jobs. This kind of fishing can be done twice a day, at the night and morning tides, but is banned at week-end.

There are dangers. One man was stuck fast in a sand-bank, and did not move for fear of losing his footing. He had to wait hours while the tide lapped almost up to his mouth before ebbing.

Mr. Percival led two rescue parties within a fortnight. He found two men who had been fishing from the Scots side clinging to a raft. Only one survived.

In your garden

THE royal lily (Lilium regale) is probably the easiest lily to grow and the most satisfactory for planting in herbaceous or shrub borders, where its stem would be shaded by the foliage of neighbouring plants. Its large trumpet-shaped white-flushed yellow blooms, with golden anthers, are very beautiful and sweetly fragrant.

As soon as you get the bulbs plant them right away. If inconvenient, store for a short time only in damp sand in a sheltered spot outdoors. Apply garden compost or peat liberally to the spot where they are to be planted, and when planting put each bulb on a small mound of sand, then surround it with a little more. Finally, water it with three or four inches of friable soil.

22/2/54.

ALBERT GURIE



James Hodgson puts a 20lb. salmon in his bag. This was the only one caught on a day of biting winds, and icy water.



With a policeman's truncheon ready to stun the fish, James Hodgson secures his catch. It may take a lot of blows to quieten a big salmon.



Bus-driver Ernest Percival repairs a net before starting out for the morning's fishing. His 10-year-old son, David, watches.

The pipers won't lament

NEWS CHRONICLE REPORTER

THERE are bagpipes and bagpipes, and pipers and pipers—if you know what I mean," said the manager of R. G. Lawrie, Ltd., one of Glasgow's leading bagpipe makers, when told that a Canadian order for pipes had gone to Pakistan because Scotland's price was twice as high.

"The instruments don't stand comparison with each other," he said. "But for those who don't know very much about piping, Pakistani pipes might do."

Regular orders come from the Canadian Government to Glasgow for bagpipes, so there is no lament over the loss of the contract for the Kitchener Band of the Canadian British Legion.

RAIL HERO DIES

Train driver John Lee (61), High-street, Perth, who despite severe injuries, dragged his fireman off the footplate to safety when both were badly scalded in a blow-back on Feb. 16, has died in hospital.

The fireman, John Lindsay (26), Hunter-crescent, Perth, was last night "making progress."

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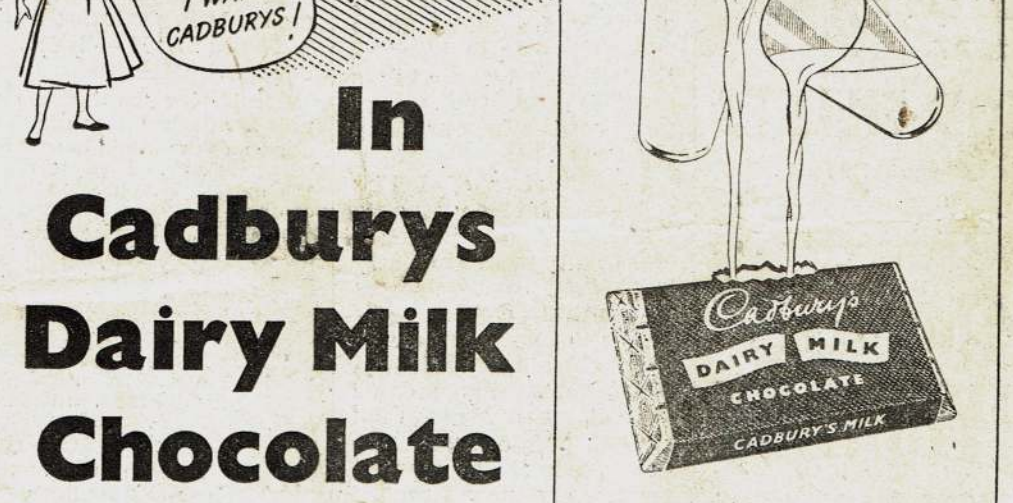
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BACK AGAIN!



FROM THE FACTORY IN A GARDEN