

FERRYFIELDERS REMEMBERED

Sally Maycock asks: How well do you remember the Ferryfielders Cricket Club? She says:

"I scored for the Club for about five years. Our home matches were played on the Sports Ground in New Romney and we travelled all around the local area for away games. Capt. Colin Street was Captain of the team, although there were many times when he would still be in the air on his way back to Ferryfield from Le Touquet at the start of the game. Our oppositions would, in such cases, allow us to bat first. I would write the first three names in the scorebook then, besides keeping score, I would look out for Colin's Freighter. He would alter his flight course, wobble the aircraft's wings and I would know that in approximately twenty minutes he would arrive at the ground. He would be added to the batting order and give me the rest of the batting order.

"We certainly had some characters in the team from Capt. Paddy Kelly our skilful opener, Eric Harrington CID our wicketkeeper, Ted Maycock our medium left hand bowler (whose best figures were 9 for 16 until the following week when he took 9 for 12) and Mr '10%' Ron Richardson. Ron would be brought on to bowl from the town end when the sun was low. He would lob the ball up and took quite a few wickets as the batsmen were blinded by the sun.

"Once a year we travelled to Beckenham to play General Steam Navigation. I remember an occasion when Capt. Len Madeleine went out to field after tea. He suddenly started jumping and slapping his leg. He'd been smoking his pipe during the break, thought he'd knock it out and put it in his pocket. Yes, you guessed it; the pipe was still alight and was burning his leg and trousers.

"Jim Howgego was responsible for the Club's bats and a month before our first game of each season he would soak them in linseed oil in his bath. Helen his wife would moan about not being able to use their bath for a month every year.

"We had a few injuries, fortunately nothing very serious. I recall the time Freddy Routh dislocated his finger when fielding. Wicketkeeper Harrington took one look, gave it a sharp pull and much to Freddy's amazement the finger popped back and play continued.

"Maybe you can remember stories of the Ferryfielders? If so, please send them to Paul, our Chairman, for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter."

SIXTY YEARS AGO - FERRY NEWS 1958

New Season Routes for Northern Network

Six new routes, excluding inclusive tour services, are to be operated during the coming season by Silver City Airways (Northern Division) and these will complete a 1958 route network of twenty scheduled services from Blackpool, Newcastle and Yeadon. The new routes will link Woolsington Airport, Newcastle-on-Tyne, with Amsterdam, Dusseldorf, Brussels (with a stop at Yeadon Airport, Leeds) and Hamburg and there will, in addition, be internal services between Newcastle and both Blackpool and the Isle of Man. All six new services will be operated with DC-3 aircraft.

With a busy season ahead, Mr Ray Baker, Northern Division General Manager, is optimistic. "We are fortunate", he told Ferry News, "in having a team who have worked together successfully for the last years with a motto that is echoed by everybody: 'It is bottoms on seats that count, not flannel'."

Double Celebration

The tenth anniversary of the Silver City Air Ferry was celebrated on July 14 with an unveiling ceremony on the Air Ferry flagship [Bristol Superfreighter G-ANWK] at both Ferryfield and Le Touquet and by a luncheon at the Casino de la Foret, Le Touquet, which was attended by a number of well-known journalists and other distinguished guests.

From Londoner's Log

When I wrote last month's notes, I briefly reported that we were on the move [from 11 Great Cumberland Place] to Silver City House. I remember, late on Saturday morning, December 14 [1957], going down to the old Reservations department at 'No.11'. All the furniture had gone. The Progress room was bare. But sitting alone on the floor against a wall, nursing a telephone with her knees tucked under her chin, was Miss Lynetta Cole answering an enquiry as if she had done it that way all her life.

Motoring Miscellany

Air Ferry travellers from both sides of the Channel will be interested in the new Lucas 'No Passing' mirror set. By an ingenious arrangement of two special driving mirrors – one facing forward from the left or right-hand windscreen pillar and one placed in the centre of the windscreen – it is now possible to see from the driving seat along the line of vision of a co-driver or front seat passenger. This makes driving a left-hand-drive car in this country or a right-hand-drive car on the Continent not only simpler but considerably safer and is, of course, of particular help in overtaking.

From The Ferryman's Diary

Figures for the months of March, April and May 1958 reveal that passenger traffic at Ferryfield increased by 129 per cent, 28 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, over the same months last year. Amongst other interesting details revealed by the figures is the fact that Ferryfield's April and May freight totals both exceeded that of London Airport, those for May by nearly 50 per cent, and that the Ferryfield freight total for the three months in question was more than one third of the United Kingdom total for the same period.

Land-Rover Adventure

A party of six students from Westminster Hospital Medical School left Ferryfield Airport for Le Touquet on September 19 with the two Land-Rovers in which they are to cover over 12,000 miles during their overland journey to the Belgian Congo. The expedition, which is to carry out scientific studies in the Congo during its stay, has planned its outward journey through Europe to Greece, across by sea to Alexandria and through Egypt and the Sudan, whilst the return route will be through French Equatorial Africa to Nigeria and then northwards across the Sahara desert to Algiers, on to Tangier, across the Straits of Gibraltar and up through Spain and France for the return flight to Lydd on December 30.

The Last of the 'Boats'

In July, the Chairman of British Aviation Services Ltd announced that the flying-boat services operated by Aquila Airways were to be suspended from the end of September 1958. The Company operate scheduled services [from Southampton] to Madeira on a twice weekly frequency and also operate an inclusive tour service to Majorca. Summer services have also been operated up till this year to Marseilles, Santa Margherita, Corfu, Capri, Palermo, Bicarosse and Montreux.

You, Too, Can Own a Superfreighter

At last a scale model of the Bristol Superfreighter is available – and for the remarkable sum of only 7s 6d. It will be produced around mid-December and will eventually be on sale in most toy and model shops throughout the country, at Woolworths, at the Ferryfield shop and at Silver City House. The model is a do-it-yourself kit manufactured by the well-known firm of Airfix. It is to 1/72nd scale and the easily assembled parts are packed in a box bearing on the lid a picture of Ferryfield – albeit with a certain amount of artistic licence. The model has opening nose-doors, loading ramps, correct Silver City transfers, and is in every way complete except for passengers and cars.

Night Flying Made Easy

Elderly lady to Silver City Pilot: "And how do you find your way when it is dark?"

Silver City Pilot to elderly lady: "Well, Madam [pointing to the aircraft's wing], there is a little red light on that wing tip and a little green one on the other; I just fly between them."