

# New president from ancient lands

**W**HAT man more fitting to hold the office of president of the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society than Mr. Henry L. Knight?

Mr. Knight is a land agent whose ancestors have lived and held rights at Tythegston Court, near Bridgend, since early Norman days, during which period it passed from the Turberville family of Coity to the Loughers of Sker, whose daughter in 1708 married Robert Knight, son of Sir John Knight, M.P. for Bristol.

At the Vale of Glamorgan Show at Penllyn Castle Park on Wednesday it was Mr. Christopher Cory, who lives in the castle and whose home and lands once formed part of the Knight estates, who proposed the toast to the president.

Mrs. C. C. Williams, the 427th High Sheriff of Glamorgan, but the first woman to hold the office, proposed the toast to the society and Col. R. H. March responded. As always at this friendly show, held in such ideal surroundings, by the kindness of Major H. F. R. Homfray, town and country were well represented and gold chains glinted in the sunshine.

The Lord-Lieutenant, Sir Cennydd Traherne, was present with his wife. As joint master of the South Wales Basset Hounds, Lady Traherne was keeping her fingers crossed for their good behaviour when they paraded later in the day to fill the gap left by this year's absence of cattle.

The Mayor of Cowbridge,

Councillor D. F. Tilley, with his wife, received guests in the president's tent before lunch and suggested that anyone in desperate need of a "cuppa" later on, should call in at the family caravan which he and Mrs. Tilley had thoughtfully brought along to the show-ground and where daughter Rosalind was dispensing tea.

Lord Kenyon, who had come from his home in Shropshire to judge the mountain ponies, responded to the toast, proposed by Mr. H. D. Hanks, to those most necessary people, the judges, among whom were Mrs. F. E. Shirley Beavan, Mr. John Cory, Lady Boothby, Mr. Alan B. Turnbull, Lord Swaythling and Capt. H. W. Williams, last year's president.

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SOUTH WALES ECHO.

## RECORD ENTRIES AT COWBRIDGE SHOW

THE 77th annual Cowbridge Show at Penllyn Castle Park, got off to a brisk start today.

Entries were a record for all the horse and pony classes.

One of the biggest attractions of Cowbridge Show, the horticultural section, once again had a magnificent display.

Branches of the Women's Institutes were well represented and a demonstration by the National Farmers' Union was well patronised.

Trade stands were well up to previous shows and a new feature was a marquee run by six Cowbridge shopkeepers displaying their goods.

This year's show was marred by the absence of the cattle sections. The committee cancelled all classes following the small number of entries because exhibitors were reluctant to enter because of Ministry of Agriculture tests on brucellosis.

The show was officially opened by the Mayor of Cowbridge, Coun. David Tilley.

AUG 1968

# No cattle at Cowbridge Show

By CHRIS YORATH

ANOTHER Cowbridge Show at Penllyn Castle Park will be under way next Wednesday, and, once again, it will be an event, bringing great pleasure and enjoyment to thousands of folk from town and country alike.

For Cowbridge Show is famed for its social friendliness apart from its reputation for high quality exhibits. It is one of the major social events in Glamorgan, and the convivial atmosphere is fully shared by ordinary folk and "top brass."

In the splendid setting of Penllyn Castle Park everyone will see the magnificent produce of the Vale of Glamorgan, aptly described as the "Garden of South Wales."

The Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society has been organising the Cowbridge Show for about 77 years, and their fine achievements through the years would fill at least 77 pages of a book on local history.

Cowbridge Show has

always been renowned for its cattle exhibits from all parts of the country. It is, therefore, a sad occasion this year to have to report that there are no cattle classes whatever. This is due to farmer participation in the Brucellosis (Accredited Herd) Scheme. Exhibitors have been reluctant to enter, and the number who did was so small—only one or two in some classes—that the society decided to cancel them completely. Show secretary, Mr. Clive Neathey, told me, "It is obviously a major blow to the prestige of the show, and a tremendous setback, but thankfully, we have excellent entries in all the horse and pony classes.

"My society are most anxious to retain the support of famous cattle breeders and exhibitors, and we hope they will put in a personal appearance on the show-ground, and give us their support."

Many well-known judges have offered their services, including Lord Kenyon, of Whitchurch, Salop, who will judge Welsh mountain

ponies. The horticultural section is one of the major attractions of Cowbridge Show, and this year entries are as high as ever. The secretary is Mrs. V. Hudson, of Bridgend.

In the popular dog section, about eight cups will be presented to winning owners, for the first time in the show's history. There will be strong competition in all breeds, for the cups are valued at between £30 and £70 each.

Sheep dog trials and an exhibition by the National Farmers' Union will attract many of the visitors, and farmers will be particularly interested in the demonstration of farm tractors by a leading tractor company. As usual, the Women's Institute will be well represented, while the number of trade stands this year exceeds last year's fine display. An interesting feature is the decision of about half-a-dozen Cowbridge traders to set up their own marquee and engage girl models to display their goods. If successful, and there is no reason why it

should not be, the organisers hope more traders will follow suit next year. The society has offered free space on the ground to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the South Wales Handicapped Children's Society.

Adding to the afternoon enjoyment will be the appearance of the Glamorgan Fox Hounds, under their Master, Mr. Anthony Martyn, and the South Wales Bassett Hounds, under Joint Masters Lady Traherne, Mr. George Vaughan, and Col. N. Thomas. The society is fortunate in having such an energetic and popular chairman in Mr. John Cory, of Peterston-super-Ely, who took over the leadership from the late Capt. H. C. R. Homfray.

The show will be officially opened at noon by the Mayor of Cowbridge (Councillor David Tilley), who will welcome this year's president, Mr. H. L. Knight, of Tythegston Court.

There are ample car parking facilities, in and adjoining the show ground, and an excellent bus service from surrounding towns and villages.

**UNDER gloomy skies the 78th annual show organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society opened at Penllyne Castle Park on Wednesday. Throughout the day the weather man threatened to wash the show out of existence, but the rains held off until the early evening when a fine, misty drizzle soon cleared the showground of all but the hardest, spectators.**

This year the show was without one of its greatest attractions—the cattle classes—due to regulations imposed because of the brucellosis eradication campaign, but it left a void which was impossible to fill.

The absence of the cattle meant that the only farm animals up for judging were sheep, and fortunately this class was slightly up on last year's poor entry.

Growing crop classes were excellent, but these are judged on the farm, and only a specimen entry from each entrant was on display near the sheep lines. However, these were out of sight behind the rows of trade stands, and not all the spectators realised that they were there.

The main ring was devoted to the horse classes, and here the entries were well up on last year.

Entries in the dog show and horticultural section were also well up.

#### AMUSEMENTS

This year the committee had gone to town to make the show as attractive as possible

for the man in the town. As well as the many trade stands, some of which showed agricultural machinery, there were amusements for both adults and children, and one could have a flutter on a gambling side show.

Cowbridge Chamber of Trade had erected a marquee in which members showed off their products. The Army had an exhibition put on by the Glamorgan Yeomanry detachment of the Royal Artillery, and at the other end of the field the Navy and Royal Marines had an exhibition.

Throughout the day there were activities in the main ring, when the equestrian classes were interspersed with a demonstration by the Glamorgan Police dog handlers and their dogs, music by Pencoed Silver Band, and the parade of the Glamorgan Foxhounds and the South Wales Bassett hounds.

#### ENTHRALLING

The sheep dog trials proved a big attraction with enthralled spectators watching the shepherds putting their animals through their paces in bringing a number of sheep down a difficult course.

The show was officially opened at noon, when the Mayor of Cowbridge, Coun. David Tilley, by tradition a vice-president of the show, welcomed the president, Mr H. L. Knight.

The Mayor referred to his family's close ties with the show. His father, the late Ald. David Tilley, was both a vice-president and a chairman of the society, and when after several years of wet show days, the society had been faced with the decision whether to stop holding shows or to carry on, it was his father, as chairman, who gave the casting vote which ensured the survival of the show.

Coun. Tilley reminded the guests that it was one of the last occasions on which the

Mayor of Cowbridge would perform the pleasant task of welcoming the president, for Cowbridge would cease to remain a municipal borough, although he hoped that it would retain some powers as a rural borough.

Responding, Mr Knight welcomed the guests to his tent, and said that as he was making a speech at the show luncheon, he would not say anything at that juncture.

#### WHEN AUTOMATION TAKES OVER

At the luncheon, when proposing the toast to the society, Mrs C. C. Williams, the High Sheriff of Glamorgan, painted a humorous picture of what she described as the rosy future which the farmer could expect once automation took over his farm. In the future the six weeks holiday which the farmer would enjoy, would seem more like hard work than working on the farm. In the morning he would sit in his armchair supervising the milking, which would be done automatically, watched through closed circuit television. Mucking out would be done at the touch of a button. His tractors and other machinery would work by remote control, and any other hard work would be done by robots.

She referred to the hard work put in by members of the various committees of the society, and paid tribute to the members who, every year, gave so much of their valuable time to the show.

Referring to the absence of the cattle classes, Mrs Williams said that she felt that their absence was only temporary.

Col. C. H. March responded. Proposing a toast to the president, Mr Christopher Cory referred to the agricultural interests of Mr Knight whose family had held the lands at Tythegston in direct descent from before the Norman conquest.

His heart was in all the things that the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society stood for.

#### FOUNDED IN 1772

Responding, Mr Knight referred to the history of the society, pointing out that while the show was the society's 78th, it stemmed from a far older society than that—the Glamorgan Agricultural Society which was founded in 1772.

He regretted the absence of the cattle classes, and explained the difficulties which the society faced under the brucellosis regulations, and hoped that by next year the difficulties would be overcome and the cattle classes restored.

He felt that a society such as this had a great part to play to demonstrate to their urban friends the high degrees of skill which are required today. There were stock judging competitions for members of Young Farmers' Clubs, but he felt that they should be extended to cover

other facets of agricultural life such as tractor driving, maintenance, etc., so that the urban dweller would gain a better understanding of the skills of the farmer.

He paid tribute to those persons who had given their time and energy to setting up the show, especially the show director, Mr A. H. Llewellyn. He also offered the society's congratulations to Mr Jack Baker, who had won the Welsh sheep dog championship and will now lead the Welsh team. Mr Baker was the organiser of the sheep dog trials at the Cowbridge show.

The judges were toasted by Mr H. D. Hanks, and the response on behalf of the judges was made by Lord Kenyon, who judged in the Welsh mountain pony classes.