

11/6/50

# Readers' Letters

WE reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail though we will protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Gem Newspapers Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

## Not THE Cowbridge stage coach!

Dear Editor

IN reply to Alan G Rees of Bridgend's letter in your newspaper requesting information regarding the coach that was at the bottom of Primrose Hill during the Second World War. You can assure him, that he has not "lost his marbles", as there was a coach there, but it was not the Cowbridge Stage Coach.

It was in fact, the last horse drawn coach that had belonged to the Cony family of Dyffryn House.

The coach had been bought by my father, the late Llewellyn David Francis of Broadway Farm, St Nicholas for the sum of £15, when the entire contents of Dyffryn House had been auctioned in early 1938 following the death of Miss Cony and the sale of the estate.

With the outbreak of the Second World War and the possibility of invasion following Dunkirk, the Army/Home Guard requisitioned the coach to form part of a mobile road block within St Nicholas village. It was later at the bottom of Primrose Hill, doing its bit in defence of the country.

Unfortunately, due to its age and being exposed to the weather, it deteriorated and I can sadly recall seeing the gradual demise of the old coach.

After the threat of invasion had passed towards the middle of the war, the remains of the coach and the other mobile barriers were removed and all disappeared without trace.

Yours sincerely  
John Francis, St Nicholas

# Wartime road blocks and the Cowbridge coach

Dear Editor

I CAN assure Mr Alun Reed that he has not 'lost his marbles' (GEM letters, May 4), as the coach to which he referred was in fact part of Cowbridge's front line defences during the last war!

In 1940, when the LDV/HG was formed, all the roads into Cowbridge had road blocks, which could be defended in case of an invasion.

They were manned every night by armed members of the Cowbridge Company of the LDV/HG and during air raids, every one passing through was stopped and required to produce his/her identity card.

The coach formed part of the barricade on the

Aberthin Road, near the High School. The coach in question had belonged to Lady Franklen, who lived at The Cottage in St Hilary.

As well as acting as part of the barricade, we used to sleep in it when off duty, as we had no other form of shelter at that particular road block.

When the road blocks were dismantled, the coach ended up near the entry to the Old Roman Road, at Primrose Hill. I was a pupil at the Grammar School until June 1940, so it is possible that I was there at the same time as Mr Reed.

The Cowbridge Company of LDV/HG was made up of volunteers of all ages, from 17-year-old school boys to 70-year-old veterans.

Yours sincerely  
Alan Thomas, St Hilary