

# Waiau Gazette

COUNTY TOWN COMMITTEE

## Complaints About Sawdust In Town

Concern was expressed at the Tuatapere County Town Committee meeting, held on April 20, about the amount of sawdust being spilt on the streets.

A complaint of a nuisance created by sawdust blowing from trucks and trailers carrying it through the streets from the dump at Templeton's mill was received. The saw dust was blocking the gutters and causing a mess in shops, it was stated.

The Town Committee decided to erect a notice at the mill advising patrons that the spilling of any material from trucks or trailers was an offence under the Traffic regulations.

Works to be provided for in the estimates for expenditure of \$11,707 in the 1970/71 financial year were decided as follows:—

Proposed Expenditure	Fixed Charges
Maintenance of streets etc.	\$2500
Street lighting system	\$500
Non-subsidised works	\$1500
Share of Fire Brigade costs	\$250
Sanitation	\$1500
Works already committed:	
Kerbing and channeling Orawia Road	\$2500
Kerbing and channeling and footpath Clifden Road to Faulkners Boundary Creek	\$1000
Flood protection	\$200

### Proposed additional works:

Kerb and channel, concrete footpath and stormwater sewer on north side of Half Mile Road west of Waiau River Approaches—\$1757.

### FIRE PROTECTION

An application from the Fire Brigade for the provision of two 5000 gallon tanks at the new building being erected at McIntyre's yard as an additional fire protection measure to serve the south end of the town was approved in principle, location to be sited as agreed between the brigade and McIntyre's and the two tanks to be linked, if possible, to allow 10,000 gallons being available for fire fighting.

### PARKING

A "No Stopping" restriction would be created for distances of 50 feet along the north side of Birch Street and 50 feet along the west side of Orawia Road to improve visibility and to remove a potential hazard at the play centre.

### FLOODING

The cost of erecting the stop bank on Boundary Creek to obviate flooding of the school grounds was referred to the clerk for investigation with the Catchment Board and Education Board. The desirability of extending this stop bank to the King Street Bridge was referred to the engineer for inspection and report.

An application by Mr Brown Thomson for permission to build additional garage facilities on his section at the corner of Half Mile Road and Erskine Street was approved in principle, the applicant to give public notice of his intention pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act.

### BEAUTIFYING WORK

Ornamental trees are to be planted during the coming season at the children's playground on Half Mile Road and on the area between Bennett's garage and the Catholic Church on Orawia Road. Letters of appreciation are to be sent to the Lion's Club for the work done by them to Lion Park and the

children's playground. Mr S. Alexander, who provided top-dressing material free of charge for this community project, is also to be thanked.

### TOWNSHIP WORKS

The following minor works were referred to the staff for attention.

- Paving in front of the police station of Orawia Road.
- Replacement of a compulsory stop sign at the intersection of King Street North and Orawia Road.
- Maintenance of parking area created at the rear of the doctor's surgery and the removal of a tree stump outside the manse.
- Discuss with NZ Railways Invercargill, the possibility of grading and graveling Railway Row which is used extensively by the public and is in urgent need of maintenance.

## IN THE SOUP!

Who among those present at the dog trials held at Blackmount on Saturday will forget what happened on that fateful day? For the past 30 years patrons have sat down to a grand dinner, the main attraction being the brandy sauce for the plum duff. Strong men have arrived, wet and shivering from a spell on the hill, and left with an inner glow to see them through the afternoon.

But not on Saturday, May 9, 1970.

Try to picture the scene, dear readers. A room filled with steam swarming with busy housewives each accustomed to a kitchen to herself, all keen to find jobs to do.

Are the potatoes boiling? Perhaps the stew is sticking? Wouldn't this jug of soup be better tipped back into the pot? Yes, here's the soup pot—and the dreadful deed was done!

That jug, which at a casual glance seemed to be full of soup, was actually the container of a far more precious liquid—none other than Mrs Ralph Gardner's brandy sauce. Plates were piled high with jellies and trifle, plum duff was smothered in whipped cream. Apologies were whispered. The word spread far and wide.

Soon the cry was heard: "Never mind the plum duff. Let's taste the soup!"

Later the poltergeist struck again. One customer, no doubt brooding over his unsauced duff, slammed the door as he departed. It took four men five long minutes to lever it open. The "pub with no beer" has got nothing on a dog trials dinner with no brandy sauce!

## EFFECT OF HIGHER VALUES IN WALLACE COUNTY

An increase of 30.6 per cent in valuation for the Wallace County Council was reported by the county clerk, Mr J. A. R. Walker, at the meeting held on May 7.

However, Mr Walker explained that the new valuations did not mean rates would necessarily go up.

The council determined the amount it required for its activities for the 12 months and rated accordingly. There were still people who felt that the rates were going up, but there was nothing further from the truth, he said.

While the average increase in Orepuki, for instance, was 19.9 per cent, some people in Orepuki would find their values increased by 50 per cent

and some would have no increase at all, so the averages were not really significant.

### INCREASED COSTS

There could well be an increase in rates because of increases in costs of the council's activities, but that had no relation to the new valuations, Mr Walker said.

The new valuation figures are effective from April 1.

The position in regard to rateable capital value, with the updated 1965 values shown for comparison, are:

	1970 Rateable Capital	1965 Rateable Capital	Percentage Increase
Riding			
Orepuki	5,231,070	4,363,440	19.9
Pourakino	7,003,960	5,833,900	20.1
Waimatuku	6,233,320	5,234,720	18.9
Aparima	6,799,150	5,358,320	26.9
Otautau	8,305,400	6,831,945	21.6
Waiau	10,859,030	8,559,730	27.4
Tuatapere county town	1,536,330	1,457,730	4.3
Wairaki	8,016,320	5,322,730	50.6
Ohai county town	909,620	1,021,270	-13.7
Wairio	9,382,100	7,174,720	30.8
Nightcaps county town	591,990	678,310	-12.8
Mararoa	14,226,610	8,992,140	58.2
Te Anau county town	4,928,255	3,434,310	42.4
Total	84,023,185	64,272,265	30.6

The increase in the equivalent unimproved value is 28.9 per cent.

Until the council has completed its estimates for the current year, and so determines the to-

tal sum required by way of rate revenue, it is not possible to survey accurately the change in the impact of rating based on those new values.

**NEXT ISSUE.**  
The next issue of the Gazette is due out on **FRIDAY, JUNE 19.**  
All copy of news items and advertisements must be in by **MONDAY, JUNE 5.**

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1970.

Volume 2. No. 1.

### OBITUARY

## MR S. KOKAY DIES AT TUATAPERE

Western Southland, and particularly Waiau riding lost one of its most ardent supporters with the death at Tuatapere on April 22, 1970, of Mr S. L. ("Steve") Kokay.



Hungarian by birth, Mr Kokay came to New Zealand with his parents as a lad and settled at the top end of Groveburn Road, Tuatapere, where he grew up.

His first job was contracting with a horse and cart in the formation of the Groveburn road, and by hard work and determination he became in time, the most successful roading contractor in the district. He started about 1938 with a small crushing plant and continued to develop his business until about 1960, by which time he was in a fairly big way.

Then, with the advent of sealed roads throughout the county, the gravel contracting fell away and Mr Kokay turned his attention to farming and continued in this way of life until his death.

### ELECTED TO COUNCIL

Always interested in local and community affairs, he stood for the Wallace County Council in 1965, defeating the then chairman, Mr J. A. Bennett, and in 1968 he was re-elected to the council in a three-way contest under the newly inaugurated postal voting system. He was returned by a greater majority.

"Steve" Kokay was a man of vigorous and outspoken character and it was not surprising that he was at times a centre of controversy. But as a councillor he was a valuable acquisition to the county, applying himself wholeheartedly to his duties.

He was also an enthusiastic member of the local Lions Club.

### VISITS TO HUNGARY

Mr Kokay made two trips to Hungary—in the first he was almost caught in the 1965 uprising and brought home some colourful accounts of his experiences and of the ordeal the Hungarian people experienced at that time.

His accent remained with him all his life and helped to accentuate the impression of a vivid personality.

Mr Kokay is survived by his wife, one son, Leslie and three daughters, Verona (Mrs S. Cournane, Invercargill), Margaret (Mrs B. Thomas, Invercargill) and Elona (Mrs J. Dean, Auckland).

## Two Candidates For Seat On County Council

Two nominations have been received by the Wallace County Council returning officer for the vacancy as the representative of the Waiau riding on the council, following the death of Cr Stephen Kokay.

They are: Mr Donn Alexander Dickens, of Hauroko, a farmer, nominated by Dr E. M. Elder, medical practitioner of Tuatapere, and A. M. Campbell, farmer, Papatotara.

Mr Brian James Tawaite, of Papatotara, farmer nominated by Messrs J. M. Buchanan, of Tuatapere, branch manager, and D. E. Erskine, of Tuatapere farmer.

The by-election will be held on Friday, June 5.

### CONTRACTS

Tenders accepted May 7th meeting of the Wallace County Council were:—

Stewarts Culvert, Clifden-Key road: R. Davidson and Son, \$2138.50.

Riverton Rocks highway, kerb, channel and concrete footpath: R. C. McIvor, \$2310.80.

Monomore bridge construction, Avondale road: R. Davidson and Son, \$1368.50; Fletcher Steel and Engineering Co., Ltd (supply of reinforcing steel on truck deck only) \$432.

Nightcap, Town Hall, remove part of shed and replace end, adjust fence: A. Weaver \$195.

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### TRIBUTES TO CR KOKAY

Reference to the death of Cr S. L. Kokay, Waiau Riding representative, was made at the meeting of the Wallace County Council by the chairman, Mr E. F. Turner.

Mr Turner paid tribute to the late Cr Kokay's services as a councillor and contractor over a long period.

Councillors stood in silence as a tribute to his memory.

### Renovations To County Office

Acceptance of the tender of Turner Bros. Ltd Drummond, by a sub-committee of the Wallace County Council for county office renovations and additions was confirmed.

The county clerk, Mr J. A. R. Walker, reported that the successful tenderer, Mr C. A. Fischer, had found it necessary to withdraw his tender before the contract was signed.

The agreed time schedule provided for work commencing next Monday. Vacant possession of the office is to be given on June 8, and the front portion is to be available for re-possession by the end of September. The building is to be completed and full possession given by February 28, 1971.

### TE WAE WAE SCHOOL CLOSED

The Te Wae Wae school, which was built in 1910, closed its doors for the last time at the end of the school term. Next term the pupils who were attending this school will be transported to the Waiau District High School at Tuatapere.

Duck shooters around Tuatapere generally had better shooting on opening day this year than they did last year.

This was particularly so nearer the coast where the cloud base was low. Further inland, higher cloud and high-flying ducks made limit bags scarce.

There were many bags of 10 or thereabouts shot by shooters around the coast.

As usual the gun dog proved its worth. A good gun dog is perhaps a better investment these days than a gun.



### DUCKSHOOTERS' SHOOT HELD AT PUKEMAORI

The Western Southland Gun Club held a special duckshoot-er's shoot on April 12 in perfect weather conditions. Twenty registered shooters participated and a good crowd of 27 duckshooters turned out.

Results:—

10 Bird Sweep: A Grade (5) — J. Eden 9, L. Scott, R. Pay 8, W. Blackmore, T. Coleman 7. B Grade (12) — J. Wilson 10, G. Muir, Ray Pahl, J. Sanford 9.

15 Bird (Bennett Cup): A Grade (4) — J. Eden 15, W. Blackmore 14, T. Coleman 13, R. Pay 11. B Grade (King Cup) (11) — R. Pahl 15, S. A. Diack J. Sanford, G. Shaw, D. McCracken 14.

10 Sparrows: A grade (5) — D. Pratt 9, W. Blackmore, T. Coleman 7, L. Scott J. Eden 5. B Grade (11) — G. Muir, V. Bennett, J. Sanford 8, R. Pahl 7.

5 pair Double Rise: A Grade (5) — J. Eden 8, T. Coleman 7, D. Pratt 6, W. Blackmore 4. B Grade (9) — J. Wilson 8, R. Pahl, D. Whyte, R. Drake 7.

J. Eden, who turned in a good day's shooting from a back handicap of 24 yards, won the Bennett Cup by default from W. Todd who was unable to attend. The King Cup was won outright by Vic Bennett.

The duckshooters enjoyed a full programme and Russell Marshall won the specially donated trophy with a score of 10 x 10.

Other results: Duckshooter 10 Bird sweep and trophy — Russell Marshall 10, J. Hamilton, J. Carr 9. Double Rise — Ray Horrell 8, M. Gutsell 7, C. Scott 6, J. Tillard 6, B. Marshall 6.

Memberships are now being taken for coming year.

### WIN TO NIGHTCAPS

Nightcaps Young Farmers' Club won the trophy from the Tuatapere Young Farmers' Club by nine points after shooting in blustery wet conditions and being unable to compete in the double rise as the clay trap broke half way through this match.

Each club's team consisted of 15 shooters and some fine shooting eventuated.

Screw curtain rod brackets to the inside of a cupboard door in the room in which you do your sewing. Select a small wooden rod and slip spools of thread on until it is full. Lay the rod on the brackets. When you wish to use thread you can see what colour you want at a glance.

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# Recollections Of Early Tuatapere

(This article was written in 1952 by Mr Hugh McFeely, who was sole and head teacher at Tuatapere from 1910 to 1922)

From West's Waiiau Hotel, the present shop nearest the hotel was occupied by Mr Tom Ward, bootmaker.

## Part II The Township.

There were no other buildings until we reached near the present National Bank of New Zealand. There a Mr Stout occupied a new grocer's shop with a dwelling house nearby. Acting on behalf of Mr W. A. Gaffney, I afterwards sold this property, to the late Mr Sandy Robertson for £150. Truly a bargain when we see the prices of today.

Passing along we come to the site of Cymric Hall (built by Mr John Davies) and afterwards burnt down. This hall was where Mr Bert Stancombes garage now is. There were no further buildings until we reached Aitken and Young's butcher shop (where Mr Milne now is).

Across the creek on the left was Mr C. Sneyd's house and on the opposite corner was his shop, later to be called Charlton's store (and now Cameron and Finn). Coming further towards the school and near the store was a blacksmith's shop (Richards and McGearty). There was one house in Sneyd Street occupied by a family named Woollett.

These, with the railway houses and Mr McLean's farm at the back of the railway houses, comprised the infant settlement. Just over the river on the right was the shack occupied by the ferryman, Mr C. Rask, and on the left the old hotel behind the present dairy factory. The Half Mile Road was dense bush to the edge of

the road.

It was not long before there were changes in the business area. Mr George Charlton arrived, and took over Sneyd's shop and by his business ability made this store the leading business for many years. Mr W. A. Gaffney took over Stouts Grocery store, some years later leasing it to Adamson Bros. Mr T. J. Henderson had already purchased the butchery business of Messrs Aitken and Young. Jack Curry had a saddler's shop alongside Mr Tom Ward (bootmaker). Mr Jack Hinchcliff was early on the scene, and erected a shop and dwelling opposite Mr Charlton's store. This was a bakery business for many years. A boarding house was erected and this was taken over by Mr and Mrs James Rogers.

Cymric Hall and the billiard room were purchased by Mr Hugh Mason who was the first to inaugurate a taxi service. Mr Davies erected a billiard room near the hotel which afterwards passed into the hands of Mr Harry Lobb. As old photographs show, by 1920 the Main Street assumed much of the characteristics it has today. A dairy factory had been established early and this was managed by Mr Windleburn (1910).

After some years a pipe band was inaugurated and received strong support from all sections of the community. The band gave

its services freely, and was in evidence at all gatherings held to promote the welfare of the district. The pipers I remember best were Sandy Robertson and the Dickson family.

For some years the only means of communication and transport was by the ferry or punt as we commonly called it. In these days of official closing of the hotels at 10 o'clock, there was often a wild rush to catch the last ferry. No doubt some of the laggards had made private arrangements with the ferryman to come for them at a given signal. Sometimes others were left lamenting and had to remain on this side of the river until early morning.

I was once told that Tuatapere means "standing and waving." Whether this is the true Maori meaning or only a skit on the punt waiters, I don't know.

Most of the large sawmills were on the Papatotara side and the river traffic was always fairly busy. I was sorry to see the river dump. More fitting would be a stately avenue of trees along the track of the river—a path so often trod by those grand old pioneers of the Far West.

During one hot dry summer, about Christmas time, bush fires raged and the township was threatened with destruction. Everyone turned out to fight the flames, an unenviable task with a thick pall of smoke enveloping everything, and the hot atmosphere almost unbearable. Interest was aroused one day when the news spread that a wild pig had been captured on Half Mile Road.

The railway station was burnt down, and a new one on the same lines took its place. The first station master was Mr G. Mackley, afterwards General Manager of NZ Railways and later MP for Masterton. There was no post office, but mail was delivered at the railway station.

Later a post office was built near the hotel and this served for some years until the present post office was built. The old building was sold and removed.

There was a strong branch of the Southland Progress League with Mr Geo. Charlton as chairman, and Mr H. McFeely as secretary. Much work was done by the League in the initial stages of the Monowai electricity scheme to further it and bring it into operation. One of the leading movers in this was Mr A. W. Rodgers of Birchwood who was frequently in Tuatapere boosting the scheme along.

The Domain, commonly known then as Ryan's Island, after a half caste who squatted there, was improved and the annual athletic sports meeting was held there.

## SAWMILLING IN THE WEST

The sawmilling industry has passed through many ups and downs in Southland. Naturally in the March of progress, conditions of working, transport and modern machinery have revolutionised the industry.

As the railway pressed on to Tuatapere, sawmilling gained momentum, and with mills first at Waihoaka and on to Te Wae Wae, the Southland Sawmilling Company and the Austin Mills began operations. The Southland Sawmilling Company was to loom largely in the sawmilling world of the Waiiau for many years, the principals in the firm being Messrs W. Guthrie and W. Brent. Mills were also established at Te Tua, the chief of which were those of Peter Hamilton and Company.

With the arrival of the railway to the banks of the Waiiau, sawmilling received a great im-

petus. The Southland Sawmilling Company had four mills adjacent to Tuatapere, Hamilton and Co, two, and Lance Raymond one. The timber was mostly red pine but totara and white pine were also milled. The native beech had not then come into its own.

Noted bushmen of the early days were the Bone Bros, J. Clayton, Jack Pont, M. O'Neill, W. Norman, M. Cash, M. Bennett, O'Rourke and the Frawley Bros. A number of these axemen were Tasmanians and some of them had no peer in New Zealand in the wielding of the axe. A well-known and popular figure in the industry for many years was Mr M. Dowling who was the pioneer in the many sports fixtures in which figured the axe and the saw.

The timber from the Papatotara side of the river was carted by horse wagons and crossed the Waiiau River by punt at the railhead. Although the sawmills have pushed into the back country, some 30 miles from the railhead, modern transport and good roads have made it comparatively easy to get the timber to market today. Last year (1951) 10½ million feet of timber was raile

Probably the great romance of the timber industry in the west was the establishing of the largest mill in New Zealand at Port Craig (Mussel Beach), some 25 miles from Tuatapere, and on the coast of Te Wae Wae Bay.

The leading spirit in this venture was a director of the Marlborough Timber Company, Mr Dan Reece, of Christchurch, and one of New Zealand's greatest cricketers. An area of 4000 acres with a frontage on the sea was taken up; this included some magnificent stands of red pine. After leaving Bluecliffs one entered the primeval forest with its potential wealth. A never-to-be-forgotten sight was the row on row of stately rimus like the vast pillars of some great cathedral, but seeming to stretch unendingly. This was how the writer saw it in 1916.

Of the bush country itself Mr Reece writes: "It proved to be an enormous area of bush that ran back into the hills, along the coast to Sand Hill Point, about five miles to the south, and from there in a westerly direction beyond the Wairaurahiri River towards Preservation Inlet, Lake Hauroko, more than twenty miles long, the source of this fast flowing river lies some 25 miles inland and as the best tracts of mixed bush covered extensive milling areas on both sides of the river and around the lake, the amount of timber may be imagined. It was estimated that there was more than 500 million feet of millable timber."

A small mill was built at Port Craig for sawing the timber for the building of the big mill and for houses, stores and huts, as well as for a dance hall and billiards room.

Just as the small mill was ready to get steam up, a tragedy occurred in which John Craig, the manager (after whom Port Craig was named) and Fred Parry were drowned at the mouth of the Waikoau. In less than a year, John Craig's brother was caught in an explosion in the bush and died a few days later. The loss of these capable men was a cruel blow for the company.

The machinery for the new mill arrived from America and at last the new mill arrived and was erected. Messrs Sims, Cooper and Co and Sir Robert Anderson joined the company and brought much needed financial help. A wharf was built and soon coastal steamers were loading the timber for northern markets. The output climbed to three quarters of a million feet of timber a month, the record being 729,000 feet in May 1928. This was the largest out-

put of any sawmill in New Zealand.

The future looked very bright for the Company, but without warning came the economic blizzard and the depression which lasted for some years. The price of timber fell and fell, and the Port Craig mill was doomed. It was a great venture and had it struck prosperous times would have made a fortune for its promoters.

The road keeps forging ahead beyond the town of Tuatapere. Some day it will reach these forest areas where a dozen small mills, transporting the timber by lorries, will play the part that one great mill under more favourable circumstances might have played.

(To be Continued.)

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A. E. Templeton.

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sincerity in standing for this  
position.

I would strive to uphold the  
high reputation of our late  
member, Mr Steve Kokay.

Having many interests in lo-  
cal organisations, I am sure  
this could be put to great bene-  
fit.

I once again ask for your  
support as a candidate as your  
member of the Wallace County  
Council.

(Signed)

**BRIAN JAMES THWAITES,**  
Papatotara.

#### TO THE ELECTORS OF THE WALAU RIDING, WALLACE COUNTY

I have been interested in  
Wallace County matters for a  
good number of years and hav-  
ing completed the initial devel-  
opment of my property I am  
now free to give a great deal  
of time to this important work.

The enormous potential of  
our farming, timber and tour-  
ist resources in this riding are  
only really becoming apparent  
and with the completion of  
sealing of the Blackmount —  
Redcliff Road in the next 3-4  
years, more money should be-  
come available for other work  
in the Waiamui Riding.

If elected, I would continue  
to push for a fair share of Coun-  
ty Spending in this riding and  
I would do everything possible  
for the continued development  
of our farming, timber and  
tourist industries.

(Signed) **D. A. DICKENS,**

Hauroko.

### TUATAPERE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB.

Our

## PLOUGHING MATCH

Including the

## Atlantic Qualifying Event

Will be held on the Property of

**MR J. SANFORD, CLIFDEN,**

On

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3,**

COMMENCING AT 11.30 AM.

CLASS A.—ATLANTIC QUALIFYING EVENT.  
CLASS B.—SEMI DIGGER, OPEN.  
CLASS C.—NOVICE. 2 OR MORE FURROWS.  
CUT OPTIONAL.

GOOD PRIZES FOR ALL CLASSES.

DINNER AND AFTERNOON TEA AVAILABLE ON  
GROUND.

Also—

### LARGE MACHINERY DEMONSTRATION.

Entries close on WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, with  
Secretary, M. J. KNOWLER, Te Wae Wae.  
Riverton RD. Phone 36M Tuatapere.

## BOXING CLUB SHOP DAY, FRIDAY, JUNE 3, at 10 am.

PRODUCE, CAKES, VEGETABLES.

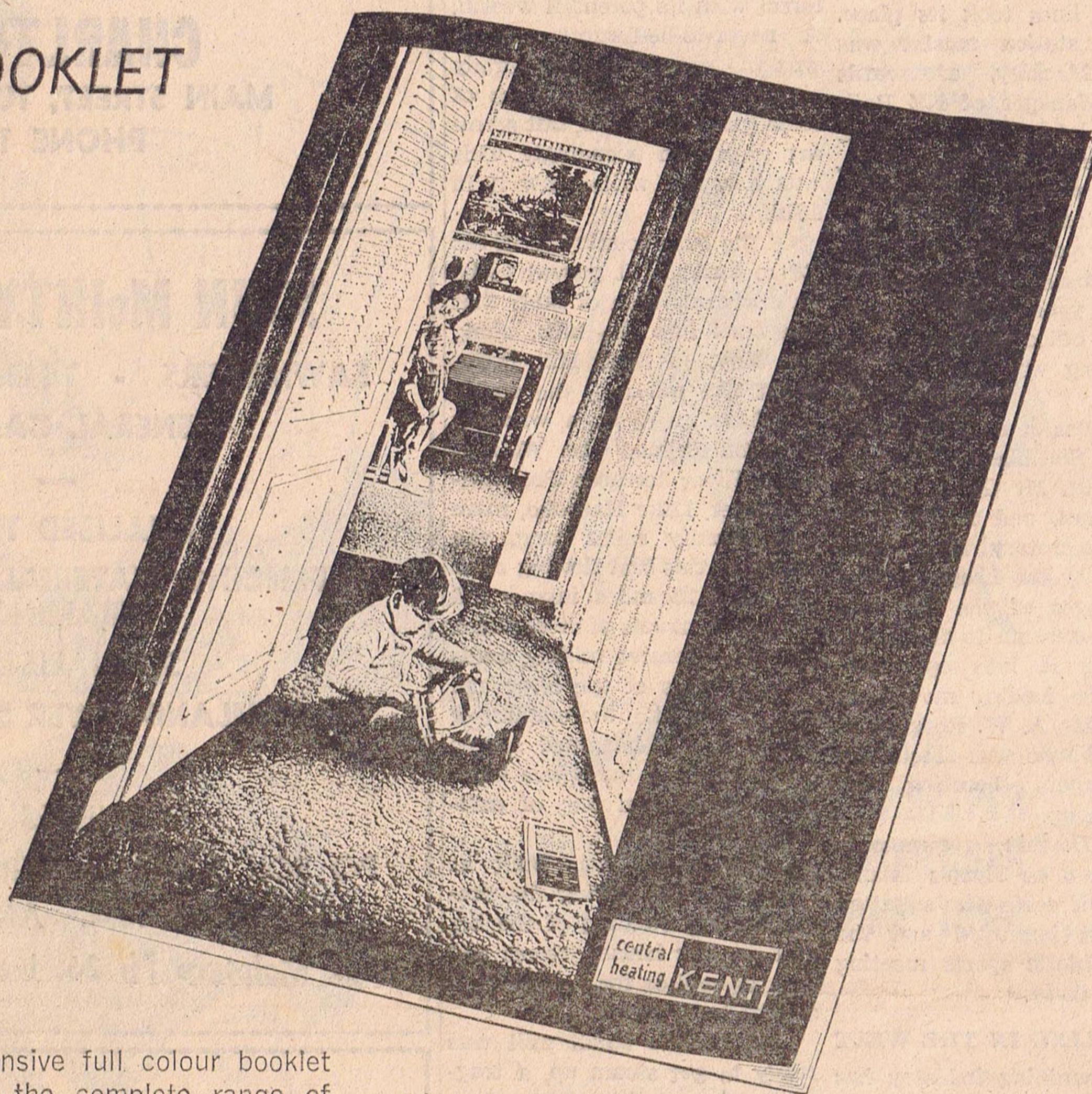
WHITE ELEPHANT STALL.

PLEASE BRING AND BUY.

G. TEMPLETON, Secretary.

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