

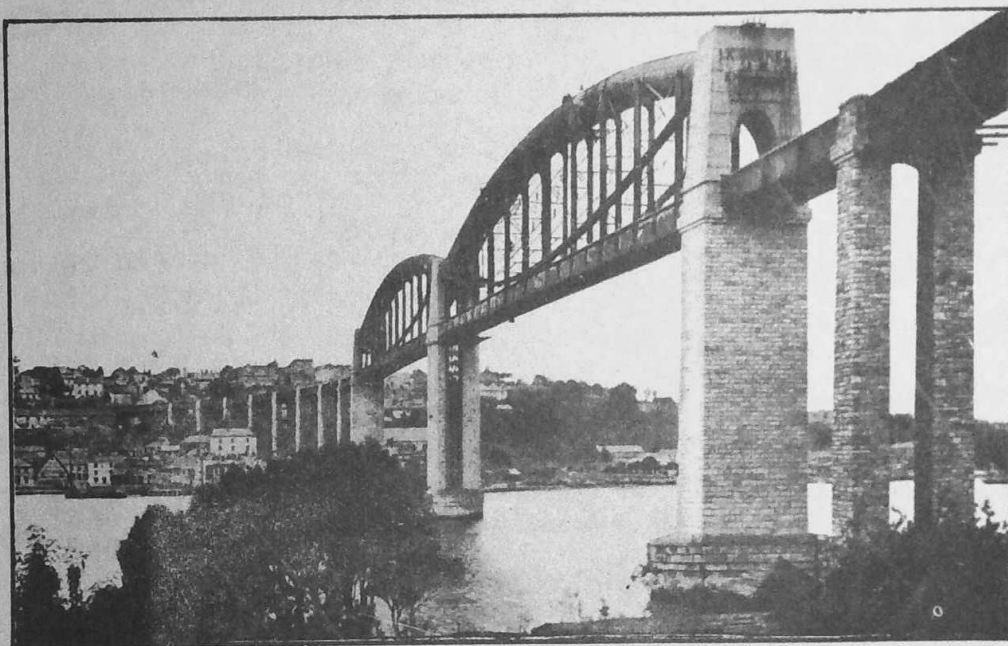


an weryn

no.15 winter 1981 15p

TAMAR BRIDGE DISAPPEARS

ACT OF FANATICS says M.K. chairman



Police last night were hunting those persons who removed the Tamar road bridge during the weekend. A hitherto unknown Cornish nationalist group, 'An Pons 1859', has claimed responsibility.

Cornwall Tourist Board spokesman, Arthur Higginbotham, said "this lunatic act will have untold repercussions on the tourist industry, the Cornish economy will collapse and we will all starve to death."

INSIDE

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and more!

CORNWALL'S radical magazine

RANK-TOSHIBA "NO LONGER VIABLE"

It is with great regret that we now have to tell you that the Rank Organisation and Toshiba Corporation has decided that the joint venture company Rank Toshiba Ltd. is no longer viable in its present form. If Toshiba does not take up the option to buy the company, we will have to find an alternative buyer. The situation has been explained to your managers and we will keep you informed.

News From

RO/13/80

The Rank Organisation

26 September 1980

... would be a successful joint venture operation, and the considerable economies achieved, market conditions arising from the strength of Sterling, high inflation in the UK and the world recession invalidated the assumptions of the original plan." ... disposal may amount to some £25 million.

The majority of this sum will be chargeable against reserves. The implementation of these decisions will have a favourable impact in 1981 and future years, on both cash generation and trading profits.

ADDENDUM TO REDUNDANCY AGREEMENT

.../...

PUBLIC AND PRESS RELATIONS
11, Hill Street, ...

The Rank-Toshiba factory at Pool, between Camborne and Redruth, employs 697 workers who make TV parts which are then sent to Ernesettle, Plymouth, for final assembly into sets. Last year the Rank Organisation announced that the plant would be closing down, throwing these workers onto the growing local dole queue - the most spectacular result of Thatcher's economic policies seen so far in Cornwall. Rank gave their reason as trading losses and falling demand, "arising from the strength of sterling, high inflation in the UK and the world recession".

We went along and discussed the situation with EPTU senior shop steward Connie Tull, as the workers awaited their final redundancy notices ...

AW When did you hear this news?

CT The very first we heard was on the 26 September when the statement was issued here.

AW ... And you were the first people to know?

CT We were the first people to be notified. We were called up to Ernesettle to a large body of both management and all the union reps (we have two other unions here - APEX, with about 15-20 members and ASTMS, about 30-40)



MANAGING DIRECTOR

AW ... I believe they're keeping the Plymouth plant open?

CT Well, there will be a break. Toshiba are taking over. They haven't actually given us the number yet. We expect they'll employ between 250 and 300 - and people will have to reapply for jobs as and when they come up even there.

AW ... What did the union do locally when they heard the news that Redruth was closing?

CT Locally we got hold of our MPs, Mr.Nott, Mr.Penhaligon, Mr.Mudd. We went up to lobby them in the Houses of Parliament - we tried all we could locally. Mr.Mudd was very helpful - he sent me all the replies to the correspondence he was getting. John Nott ... I phoned his secretary and asked if I could speak to him, but I was told "Mr.Nott is a very hard man to get hold of - he's not just an ordinary MP, he's a Cabinet Minister you see". I left him a message that I would like to speak to him but I never got a message back..

When we went to the House of Commons and he came in for a very few minutes. He didn't seem the slightest bit interested in what was going on. On the way out he said, "well, we tried, I'm a very busy man" and off he walked. He didn't want to know so I'm afraid I've never contacted him again - I wouldn't bother.

AW ... What about the local council?

CT Kerrier District Council have apparently done all they can do as well. They sent a delegation up to London to the Rank Organisation. I didn't hear much about it but I know there was one sent.

AW ... Have the company changed any of their plans as a result of this?

CT Not that I know of, no movement at all.

AW ... What was the reaction of the workforce when the news came through?

CT Very stunned obviously. I think it didn't sink in for a weeks. A lot of them still thought it's not true, it's just a bad dream. Because I think that deep in their hearts they thought that two years ago when the Japanese took over they're our life savers, knowing what they've made of them in other places. I think even now they think this place isn't going to close.

AW ... What about the union nationally - the national officers and full-time officials?

CT Well, to be quite honest, I've lost all heart with our union. The full-time official, Joe Cowan, is absolutely hopeless. He treated us all like a load of kids and imbeciles. He doesn't know - we actually work in the plant and know what's going on. On many occasions we've tried to get hold of him on some emergency but he's never at the office and things like that.

AW ... Where's the office?

CT In Plymouth - the local area goes as far as Bristol. Roy Sanderson is the national officer who took over the talks over redundancy.

AW ... How do you feel about the level of redundancy money?

CT Not very much. I think something else could be got out of the company if Roy Sanderson had tried harder.

AW ... They claimed though that the only way you would have got more money was to have taken some kind of action.

CT When Roy Sanderson came here to speak to the mass meeting - the way he put it over - if I'd been in the audience I would have felt 'well, I'd better accept this - there's nothing else'. But, as I said to our members that morning, when we'd met Mr.Deeson (managing director) there was no word of a final offer. He didn't mention the word 'final'. Roy Sanderson said to him "come on, now, what are the company prepared to offer" and then Mr.Deeson

came out with 'this is the offer the company are making'. But we felt there was more on the table if Roy Sanderson had pushed some more. We didn't want to take industrial action - all we wanted to do was to refuse the offer there and then and go back to the table and say, - 'look, our members refused this, can you offer more?' We would have got 'no, that's the final offer' or 'all right, we're going to offer you another half week.' We feel there was some thing more.

AW ... What exactly is involved?

CT We get the statutory rate anyway and then the company offered us a week and a half for every year up to 14 years service.

(... thus someone who has worked with Rank three years and is 30 years old will receive $12\frac{1}{2}$ weeks pay ($7\frac{1}{2}$ under the Redundancy Payments Act, 1965, and an five from the company.) For six years service this would be 24 weeks pay (15 and 9) and for nine years service $35\frac{1}{2}$ weeks (22 and $13\frac{1}{2}$).

AW ... Mrs. Thatcher says that people get unemployed because their pay is too high. What do you think of that?

CT ...!! Well if she'd like to come and see the pay offers we've had over the last nine years it wouldn't be because of that.

AW ... How does your pay relate to similar work elsewhere?

CT When I gat together with my colleagues up in London, for instance, like Pye TV and GEC etc., at a conference and compare pay rises - it's chronic .. No, I wouldn't say we've had drastic pay rises. I think the biggest one we had was last year - £6.50.

AW ... Wasn't there industrial action involving the engineering unions last year and this factory had a series of one day stoppages?

CT Yes, we had. Three Mondays on the trot, and we supported the Confed (of Engineering Unions) on that, and then we took a vote on going on further for two days and then three day stoppages if it went on and the people decided no, they couldn't afford to take the extra day off a week so we carried on working normally after that.

AW ... Do you think the company might have said - 'well, we can close down Redruth because they're not particularly militant and we can get away with it easier than closing other operations?

CT I think they knew they would get away with it quite quietly.

AW ... Why are the workers here relatively quiescent?

CT To be quite honest I think they're afraid - they don't understand trades unionism as a whole they're frightened of action, even to come outside for a meeting.

AW ... It could be a tradition of high unemployment makes people more scared.

CT It could be. They've been here all their lives and they're not prepared to do anything for themselves - they take everything as it comes. It happens and they accept it.

AW ... What will the effect of closure be, given that a large proportion of the workforce are women?

CT It's going to hit a lot of people here - we've got one parent families, divorced people with children to look after, we've got widows who are solely dependent on money coming from here and we've also got full families here - husband, wife and daughter.

AW ... How do you feel now personally?

CT I would never join another union - unless it was a closed shop. I've fought my guts out here but all I've got out of it is a slap in the face. I'm here to look after number one now and that's what I intend to do, to put

it bluntly.

AW ... So, as a result of all this union has lost a good active member.

CT A militant one as far as they're concerned.

AW ... The EEPTU is a very right wing union. You don't see any prospect of changing it internally?

CT No, it'll never be any different. The Executive Council will all conform to what Frank Chappell is doing. What he says goes.

AW ... How do you see the immediate future for this area - the Pool industrial estate?

CT Teddingtons closed, Morelands on the brink, Krupp-Widia closed - the only hope we've got now is that the Taiwanese or Americans will take this place over.

..... the Taiwanese, who were showing interest at the time of this conversation, did not follow through and as we write Rank have announced the gradual rundown of the plant, with half the workforce leaving on February 6 and the rest over the following five months.

Postscript Since September workers at Rank have been doing as much overtime as they want, including Saturday and Sunday work, as Rank feverishly turn out TV sets there is apparently no demand for.

FISHERS

As a follower to the story of the Fisher closure in the last AW, we present the following new facts for your consideration.

Mumfords of Plymouth, the owners of Taylors garage in Penzance, have applied for a 'change of use' at the Fisher site. They wish to retail cars and sell petrol there. A further application has been submitted to turn their premises in Chapel Street, Penzance into holiday flats. Both applications were placed months ago and it is strongly rumoured that not only have Mumfords bought the Fisher site, but they have commenced making arrangements for the move!

The union (EEPTU) at Fishers have lodged objections to the proposals on the grounds that these premises were built as industrial premises. To move Taylors from Penzance would merely transfer employees and not employ more. Interestingly the application has not yet come before the Council. This writer has a sneaking suspicion they will approve it.

It seems also that Fisher intend removing (physically) buildings on site to Leicester (a pre-fabricated store, bought and paid for by

Penwith ratepayers). No planning application for demolition has yet been submitted, although one would imagine the burghers of Penwith will see their way clear to approving it. Vini Vidi Vici!

Tom Davy

UNION-BASHER

"The policy on the laws against secondary picketing are not tough enough. People that take on the risk of running their own business must be protected as these are the people who provide the wealth and jobs of the country"

"Government aid to people on low incomes is greater than ever before. Married women should be encouraged to stop at home ... they are doing their male counterparts out of a job"

"Either they (the unemployed) do not want help or they do not wish to work"

The author of these quotes??

Keith Joseph? Gerry (hang 'em high) Neale?? John Nott??? ... Mussolini ????????

No, none other than secretary of Falmouth Trades Council, David Retchford. With friends like this the labour movement in Cornwall hardly needs enemies.

NEWS FROM THE BUNKER

OSTRICHES

Manchester City Council is appealing to all local authorities in the UK to join with them in asking the Government to stop making or deploying nuclear weapons.

Little has been heard of Cornish authorities' reactions to Manchester's circular. But in Caradon only three councillors had the sense to support it (out of 40). Our congratulations to Cllr Jean Grimer of Looe who publicly condemned her colleagues for their ostrich-like attitudes.

What's happened in the other councils? Should local peace groups concentrate on calling on Cornwall Council to declare its support for the demand for a nuclear free zone in Cornwall as a first step?

ALIENS

Other women who have seen through the 'Home Defence' charade recently are councillors Brenda Ring and Eileen Kewell of Hayle Town Council who have joined CND. Unfortunately some of their male colleagues seemed to suffer something approaching brainstorms on hearing this.

Councillor John Sleeman is reported to have said the purpose of the town's 'emergency committee' was "to deal with the situation that arose after an attack by aliens" - too much time on the Space Invaders machine, John!

Whilst Councillor Brian Capper appears to equate a nuclear holocaust with a nasty gale - "all the council had been instructed to do was to help the townsfolk over the aftermath I fail to see what joining the CND has to do with it". He went on to think that "in the aftermath his employers, British Telecom, would want him to work elsewhere" - looking up telephone bill defaulters, no doubt.

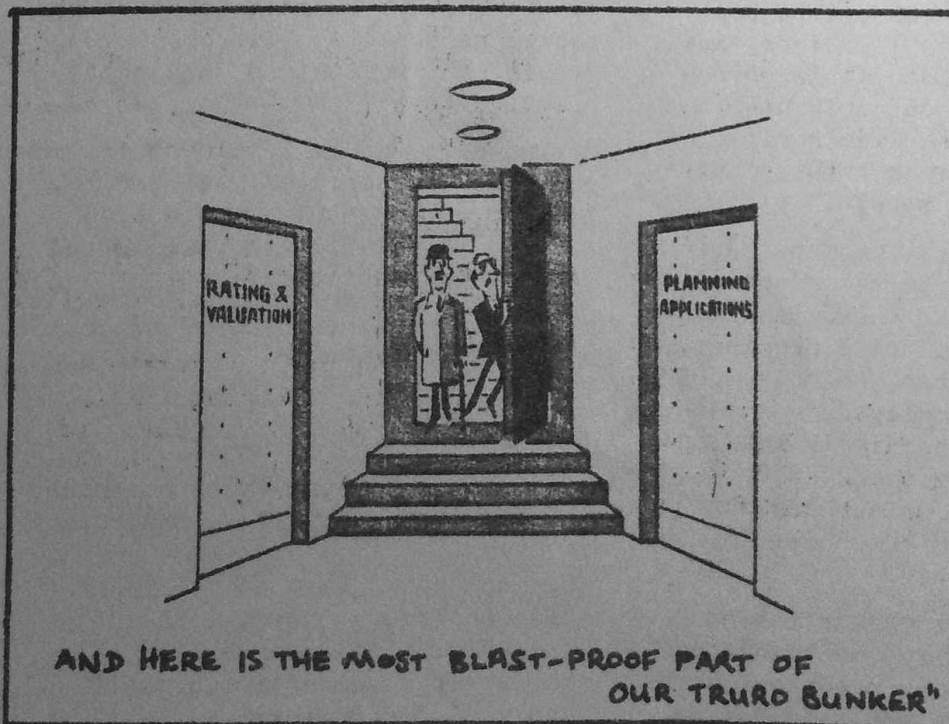
FRYING TONIGHT

It appears that Cornwall Council bureaucrats are not content with one emergency war-time bunker but possess a 'stand-by' at Tuckingmill, between Camborne and Redruth. This is currently being linked with the County Hall bunker by a private telephone line. Local people are not being asked to queue for places outside but may be interested in investigating the area to pinpoint the bunker's location.

THOSE BAGS AGAIN

The Western Morning News was led a merry dance recently trying to discover what those "casualty bags" produced by Remploy at Penzance and Redruth were intended to be used for. After first denying all knowledge the Ministry of 'Defence' admitted they were to be used to move 'casualties' after a nuclear or chemical attack.

Morning News reporters had obviously not closely read *An Weryn*. Our October 1979 issue had carried the story, under the heading 'US prepares for war', that Remploy were producing "shrouds (same thing) in large quantities on an American government contract." In January 1981 the MOD confirmed the Americans had placed a large order.



STOKING UP THE ARMS RACE

The Tories intend spending at least £400 for every man, woman and child in the UK (how many hospitals would that buy?) in order to replace Polaris submarines with Trident subs by the 1990s. Polaris submarines carry a total of 192 warheads. There will be at least 768 Trident warheads, with a far superior range. Each Trident warhead will be about 8 times more powerful than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima.
(statistics from Peace News)

LETTER

Dear AW,

I want to get local people more interested in anti-Cruise/Trident missile issues -- with regard to a campaign against St.Mawgan/Culdrose...

Anyway I'm starting to try and dig out some more solid information on what exactly there is based at the two sites, and the capabilities involved. If you know anyone else who'd be interested/be able to give help and information I would be very grateful...

Once I get some facts together and other people interested - perhaps a leafletting of the local villages will happen...

Thanks
Betty Levene,
38, Marlborough Rd,
Falmouth.

THE GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

With the snowball effect of the current unemployment scene, the mighty South West Water Authority has surprisingly been looking into its staffing levels and has been axing, I am glad to hear, personnel from the high income bracket. However, it has been most interesting to learn the size of the 'Golden Handshake' associated with these heirarchical redundancies.

It is understood that one high ranking officer has been given as a farewell gift, $2\frac{1}{2}$ times his annual salary (£23,000) plus a pension of half salary. Simple arithmetic reveals this as a 'Golden Handshake' of £57,500 with an annual unearned income of £11,500!

Surely a person who has been paid this salary should be more than satisfied with his £11,500 pension and leave the £57,500 to help towards better redundancy payments for those far less fortunate.

Last year the Government 'called up' the army reserve. An AW reader reports:

MOBILISED

In the past ex-regulars on the reserve list received a giro cheque to the value of £5.40 for 3 months' service' with a form to sign and return in order to collect the next payment in 3 months time. There was always the threat that you were liable to be called up for annual training. This never happened.

1980 saw a dramatic change. New orders from the Thatcher hawks - reservists will report once a year for kitting and instruction. A handsome bounty of £100 (taxed) will be paid upon reporting. A nice juicy financial carrot? On 23 November 1980 (a Sunday) I did my international duty and reported to the Junior Leaders Regt, Taunton. Didn't know the army worked on a Sunday?

Much to my surprise there were no army cock-ups. Kit was issued swiftly (and must be produced for checking next year). Value - £70? Expenses incurred on the journey from Cornwall were paid out without any cross-examination or hiccup. A video film (colour) was shown explaining to us how important it was for 'our country's' forces (reserve) to be on a quicker standby in case of our shores being threatened. Apparently Russia knows that 'we' don't have as many soldiers as they do! After tea and biscuits, collecting cash and expenses (and kit) we were given transport to the station with the message 'see you next year, if not before' (?). A pub crawl of Taunton proceeded that night, but that's another story.

AF

8 Paul Holmes of Camborne has publicly stated his intention of filling out this year's census form in Cornish only. We invited Paul to tell us why he is taking this stance:

A CASE FOR KERNIEWEK

A rule of thumb defines a Country as an area, and group of people, where a language and culture exists which is different to its neighbours. In this Cornwall passes the test with ease, being different to its only land linked neighbour, 'England'. Cornwall has a Celtic culture and a living Celtic language whereas England uses a language and culture which is in no way Celtic. Even the border between them defining geographic area has been agreed by political treaty after wars were ended.

The only reason why England rules Cornwall is because the English army won the wars fought between the two peoples and the Cornish army lost. In short - England conquered Cornwall by MIGHT and not right. The simple fact that Kernewek (Cornish language) still exists and is a living language 1000 years after Cornwall ceased to be a free Independent country proves that the Cornish people prefer to be Celtic and not English.

What's this to do with me filling in the Census form in Cornish you may ask. My reasons are simple; we either live in a democracy or we do not! True democracy includes protection of minorities, freedom of the individual, freedom from oppression, and the right to be different from ones neighbours.

I believe in democracy and the promotion of Human Rights for peoples, where ever they dwell in the world. Most conflicts are caused in the world today because large or strong countries either impose their will on smaller or weaker peoples by force, or attempt to destroy others' cultures or dominate by political or commercial greed. Cornwall has suffered from these problems in the past. Now that England no longer 'rules the waves' it should re-assess its role in Britain and make amends for past excesses here. England must cease to treat Britain's Celtic countries as colonies.

The ballot box is the place to fight to change Kernow's political and economic activities. But for our culture and language that act is not sufficient. Protection of Celtic Cornwall can only succeed if Cornish folk USE their language at every opportunity and enjoy their culture to the full.

If, on the other hand, laws from England try and stop our citizens from using their language then individuals (by conscience) should challenge these unjust infringements of Human Rights in every way possible.

My humble act of filling the Census form in Cornish (for the third consecutive time) is a reminder to English politicians and our 'Civil Servants' that a small nation does still exist in the far South-West, and that there are individuals who will risk penalties from UNJUST laws to promote Human Rights in Cornwall.

One might ask the question 'what about the cost involved'. But democracy and freedom cost money. There is no such thing as a CHEAP DEMOCRACY. If freedom is worth anything at all then its worth paying for. Devalue or undervalue democracy and you'll lose it. Ask the Germans. To give them back democracy cost 52 million lives, some of them Cornish.

I believe now is the time to test the temperature for Kernewek. It's up to the hundreds of Cornish speakers to stand up for our language by using it on official forms. Why else did we learn Kernewek if not to use it? I will gladly stand by Kernewek's side and be counted. Will it just be me? April 5th 1981 will give the answer.

Paul T. Holmes

(eds note: If anyone wants any help or advice on filling out their Census form in Cornish contact An Weryn)

A ROAD TO NOWHERE

Penwith District Council have given their approval to the £4 million plus by-pass around Penzance, that will carry trippers faster than ever toward Lands End. They approved this latest folly by only one vote after certain councillors from Penzance changed their minds between committee and full council. Cornwall Council approved the scheme by 20 votes to one!

Public outcry has been voiced by Penzance MK, who picketed the meeting and have distributed leaflets to houses along the proposed route. The branch organised a public meeting at St. Johns Hall, Penzance that was sparsely attended due to the fact that the Cornishman accidentally on purpose got the advert wrong, thus directing the public to Alverne Hall. An establishment that appears to be a figment of their imagination.

Davey in two of the songs.

I particularly enjoyed the marches on side A and Ryb an Avon on side B. The whistle playing was lovely in the latter song, indeed it was superb throughout the tape. There is some very good crowdly crawn playing and an interesting song featuring the bombard.

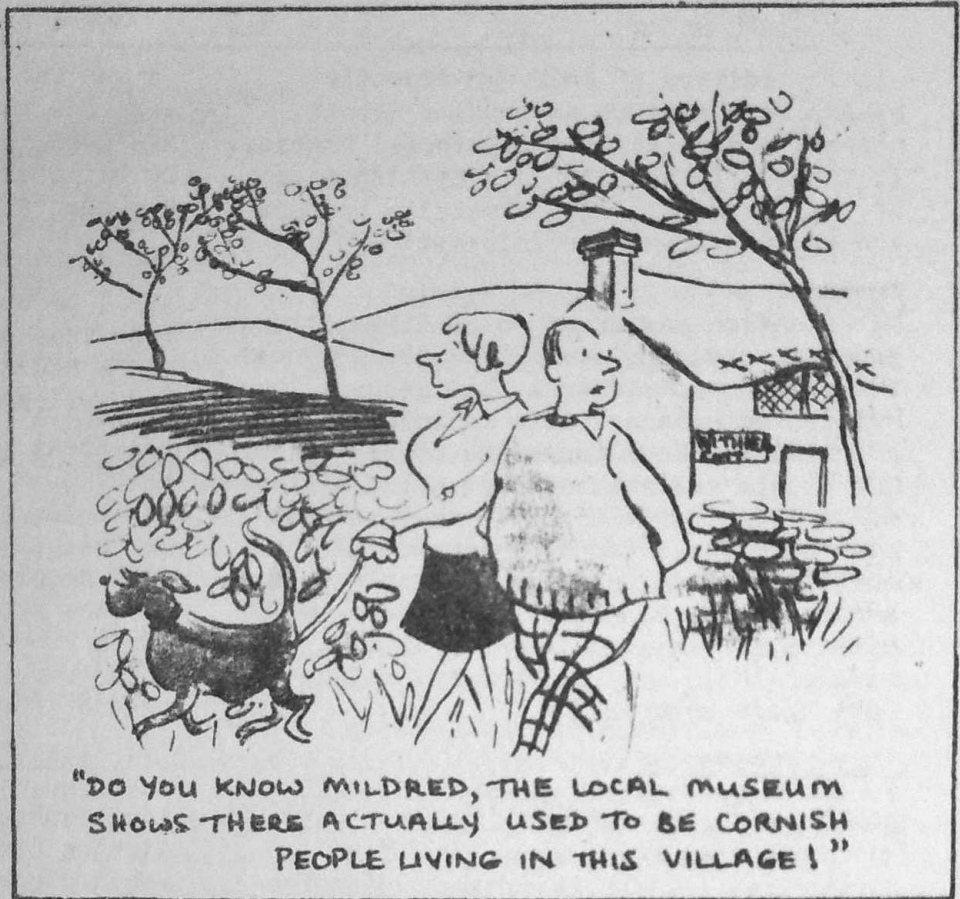
However I had two small quibbles. The commentary and interview which I found interesting on the first hearing quickly became very wearing on repeated plays and I also found the timing on one or two songs was not all it should be, but these small points should not detract enjoyment. On the whole I found the tape well worth the money.

JW

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS

"the town's name (Redruth) was a puzzle to the Duke (of Edinburgh). No, it was not a witch explained Mr. Davey, but meant a Red River". (WB - 4/12)

- Redruth is actually believed to mean Red Ford or Rich Ford.



REVIEW — ERTACH...

is a cassette tape of traditional Cornish music played by Bucca, with commentary by Ted Gundry.

A very interesting tape, with Bucca giving one of their most professional performances, their range of instruments is very wide with the Cornish bagpipe played by Mervyn

ERTACH (Ertatz)
a first cassette from
BUCCA
Bardia 2, Southdowns Redruth
£4.50 + post.

OLD BORE'S COLUMN

.. The editors of An Weryn recently handed me a copy of an amusing 'shock, horror' paper called the Cornwall Courier. It apparently aims to be a Cornish News of the World but fails abysmally because the adverts aren't so interesting.

Turnid

My attention was drawn to an ill-written, rambling diatribe against AW itself under the pseudonym 'Archer'. This is normally written by urbane, witty Westcountryman and Liberal, Paul (only 666 to go) Tyler. But highly reliable sources not a million miles from Gunnislake tell me that Paul was on holiday. Archer on the day in question was in fact the Courier's editor, a common ploy by newspaper editors who wish to remain anonymous but inflict even more of their self-opinionated delusions upon their readers.

Even more boring

An Weryn readers may judge the banal level of 'Archer's' political analysis by the following amazing remark - "the Communists ... are in complete disagreement with the Marxists" (!?) But four paragraphs lifted straight from AW did at least raise the tone of the column - thanks for the free publicity, boys - but next time how about putting in the subscription rates.

Positively puzzling

It would seem probable that the real

reason for these bizarre scribbles was that the Courier had not, unlike AW, been given phenomenal publicity by being seen on BBC Nationwide on December 4.

ZZZZZ

Still on the Courier, (sorry), is it true they spend most of their time in their Bodmin office shopping their own colleagues to the Bomb Squad?

Existentialism

Talking of which my good friend, Inspector Knacker of the Yard, tells me that they've interviewed nearly 1500 people in Cornwall in the hunt for the St. Austell bombers. A truly horrifying figure when you consider that, according to the Inspector, most of these were on the right wing.

Slartibartfast

Have you heard the appalling news that Godfather of the Cornish publishing firm, Fibber and Fibber, has won a place on Television South-West's (yuki) Advisory Board for Cornwall. Lemmy, del' dybyav, ny a'eill dycevoz dhe welez esal ann Maffya'na, Arianna Angarrack he'y thylu a gernywegoryon, ow tyski Cornweick y'nn tallwolog!

© Old Bore 1981

Yawn

Still no news of the impending merger



HOW CORE the Cornish Constabulary can get back copies of An Weryn and a genuine collector cannot? Nos. 1,2,3,6,8,9 still wanted ring Redruth 217074

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(Times Literary Supplement)

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£3.00 for 4 issues
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MEETINGS : Why not advertise your meetings free in AW?

→ [e.g. FEB 19 - Redruth CANA - Murdoch House, 8 pm] ←
for next issue - meetings in May/June

ROGUES CHARTER

between head of Fibber and Fibber and CNP Publications (see AW 13), despite fraternal Christmas messages and the like. CNP secret internal newsletter No 6 carries no hint of this amazing volte-face, just "we have joined with the broad-based Cornish Assembly to form the Cornish Union". A curious 'union' of Cornish groups that doesn't include either MK or the Stannary Parliament. But I suppose it conforms to Daniel Gumb's Law of Cornish Politics - "the self-importance of any group varies in inverse relation to the number of members contained therein"

c Daniel Gumb

Tedious

- News of moves on the electoral front - Falmouth-Camborne Liberal Party's intention to get a "Cornish candidate" next time seems to be running into early trouble. (Was it all that 'up-country advertising')
- James Whetter intends contesting North Cornwall for the CNP to escape from the shadow of 10% nationalist Penhaligon.
- and surely rumours that Rik Evans will be looking with favour on any invitations to stand as Labour candidate in more hopeful seats to the east of the Tamar next time are not true....

The recently issued report of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedures must be seen as a very worrying document. The job of the commission appears to have been a rationalising of the archaic and cumbersome procedures now used. The resultant report must be seen as inspired by a police force demanding and getting more power and resources. The police argue that current law is too soft on the perpetrators of serious crime, with many loopholes. Rising crime would seem to bear that out. Perhaps I'm paranoid, but I see something far more sinister in this.

Current economic conditions, particularly in depressed areas, must be seen as a prime motivation for a great deal of petty crime and indeed for much more serious Mafia style 'syndicates'. This is a direct result of the conditions communities find themselves living in. Political 'crime' is increasing, because of the intransigent attitude of the Thatcher regime towards its internal colonies of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Cornwall. Thus the fabric of the establishment is threatened and it should surprise us not in the least that in order to

prop it up the police require more power.

In particular we see powers of arrest strengthened to any imprisonable offence and any offence if the suspect refuses to give a name. In the case of "grave offences" the prisoner may be denied access to a solicitor. Powers of search and questioning are increased, whilst on the credit side (as the Guardian put it) ... "it wants the final stages of questioning to be tape recorded". Presumably after the application of rubber truncheons etc.

This, combined with the Prevention of Terrorism Act, could prove to make life for those on the left and members of Nationalist groups etc. very unpleasant indeed. In fact I would go so far as to say we are not so very far from the knock on the door at two in the morning syndrome, so favoured in Eastern Europe. An adoption of these proposals by Parliament will be the commencement of the slippery slope toward a police state, for as the Government becomes more and more oppressive, as social conditions grow worse so will violence etc. Inevitably the police will demand more and more power and resources. A veritable rogues charter.

MW

MARTIAL LAW

"I wouldn't mind the right to execute some people" - Ivor Whiting, North Cornwall District Council Chief Officer, denying the fact that after a nuclear holocaust he would have the right to crawl out of his bunker and execute 'looters' in North Cornwall. (quote from Courier)

CHAOS AT CANA A.G.M.

In July the Cornwall Anti-Nuclear Alliance pulled together over 2000 people for a highly successful demo in Truro. In January in the same town 56 people failed to agree on a constitutional change in a sometimes chaotic and occasionally acrimonious AGM.

The meeting began amicably enough with the officers giving their final reports (they were all resigning). And a motion calling for CANA to do more to expose the facts of nuclear power and employment was passed unanimously.

A resolution from Truro CND calling on CANA to "state its position" on nuclear weapons was rejected by about 3 or 4 to 1. To be charitable maybe people were thinking tactically and were confused by the ambiguous wording of the motion. On the other hand there was maybe an element of moral cowardice. It seems incredible that people can be against nuclear power but support mass murder/suicide by nuclear weapons. Yet we were assured by a succession of speakers that such creatures did exist. While "personally disarmers", they argued against losing support (i.e. David Penhooligan).

The real cock-up didn't begin until a long resolution was introduced from Praze group detailing a series of constitutional changes and defining the powers of the officers. The idea of the motion seemed straightforward enough - to guard against the possible emergence of elitism by having direct representation for local branches on the executive committee. It soon became apparent that there was more to this than met the eye.

A power struggle was lurking beneath the surface involving, on the one hand, a Friends of the Earth/Cornish Chough clique and, on the other, a more political, Labour Party grouping. The situation degenerated into utter confusion as exquisitely well spoken people with plums in their mouths continually rose

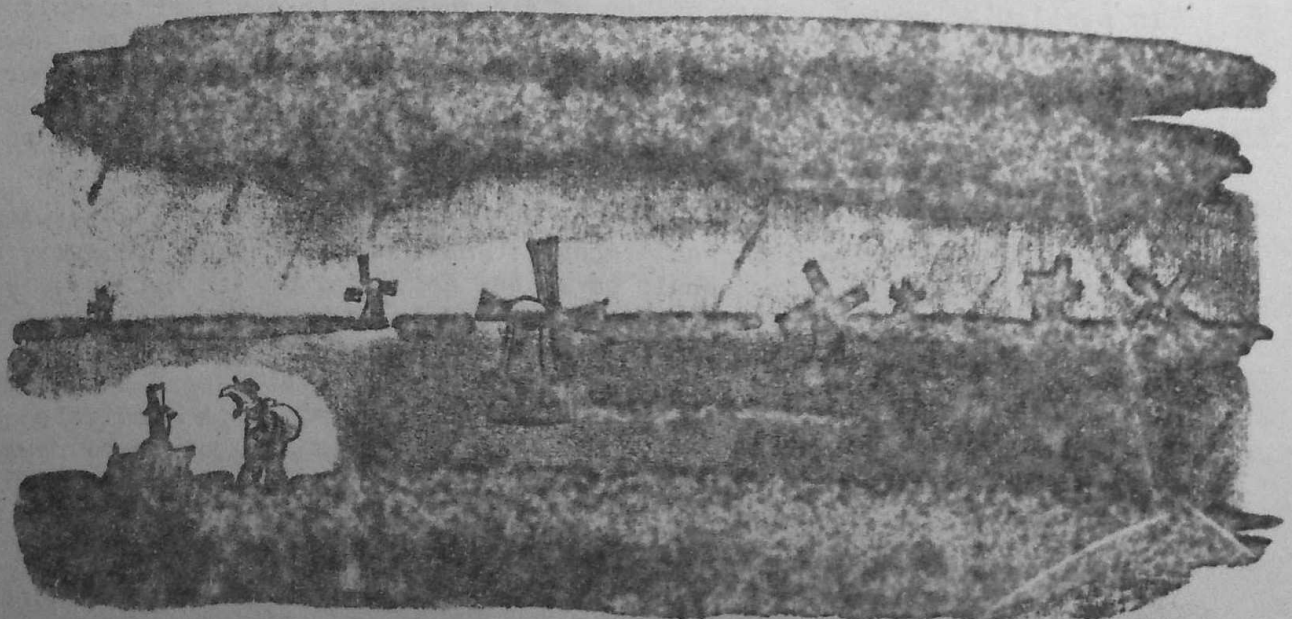
THE NUCLEAR QUESTION?

READ

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FOR LOCAL  VIEWS & NEWS

send 52 for issue no 2 to:
13 Pengeon Moor, Camborne.



"IN THE END WE COMPROMISED AND SETTLED FOR NUCLEAR-POWERED
WINDMILLS"

.. to bring up points that had been decided about 20 minutes previously. Was this a deliberate ploy by the professional ecologists to discredit the workability of the motion or was the remark made by a local activist - "half of these have escaped from St. Lawrences" nearer the truth? (Curiously enough, although about half those present were women no-one thought fit to complain about the motion's depressingly sexist terminology.)

Things were made worse by the Executive's previous inability to take procedural decisions and the obvious distaste of retiring chairman Dave Lewis for the in-fighting.

When it came to a vote the motion was first passed 17-16, then there was a recount (!) and it was tied 17-17. Dave Lewis refused to use his casting vote and the whole thing declined into farce. After talk of adjournment the casting vote was finally made in favour of the status quo.

The significance of the somewhat hysterical attacks by Val Cox of Bodmin on the proposed changes as being undemocratic when they in fact seemed, to this observer at least (or did I miss something important), to open out membership of the Executive and limit the potential power of the chairperson, were seen when she proposed her husband, Peter Cox, for that post. He wasn't present but had sent a pompous statement and was elected unopposed after the opposition dropped out.

The new secretary, Dani Salisbury (Liskeard) was associated with the Ecologist magazine for a number of years. With the new chairperson's record as editor of the now defunct and extremely boring Cornish Chough, it would seem that CANA is firmly in the hands of a very 'responsible' group of people. Just the sort to buy a used car from but are they the people to provide an enthusiastic lead when the need for direct action arises?

As a postscript the lack of Cornish people among the controlling group should be noted. (I lost count of the times Cornwall was referred to as a 'county'). After having helped

set up CANA it seems Mebyon Kernow have gone to sleep. They sent no delegates and only one MK member was present (representing a local CANA group). No-one was spotted from the CNP or the Cornish Assembly either. Is this really good enough? If we want a fighting CANA that relates to the Cornish people then Cornish activists and progressives in general must get involved. WR

LETTER LETTER

Dear Sirs,

Amazed to read in your columns that representatives of the Cornish Tourist Board and local business interests are disgusted by the sale and display of 'Non-Emmet' stickers.

In view of their tremendous social conscience maybe they could bring pressure to bear on local 'emmet' owned gift shops to stop selling badges printed with such slogans as 'The Nuremberg Judges had no Sense of Humour'. Maybe they could also boycott the larger manufacturers and warehouses that produce and supply same.

As an 'emmet' myself I know which slogan I find more disgraceful and insulting. How about you, Mrs. Esmee Couch?

Yours ... Shirley Palmer,
Camborne.

YOUTH EXPLOITED

The Youth Opportunities Scheme is the Government's bright idea (introduced by Labour) to get school leavers off the dole statistics. A Manpower Services Commission report has concluded that in East Cornwall those placed under the YOP scheme are "often no more than cheap labour and recent studies suggest that in 30% of such placements they have been substituted for permanent employees".

TORY CORNWALL

In Kerrier 24.4% of council tenants are on supplementary benefits. Another 22.2% have incomes low enough to qualify for rent rebates.

Council rents in Kerrier have just been put up by a mere 40%

WELSHES IN CRISIS

Wales today is going through three ordeals which Cornwall has already suffered: she is losing her industries, her people, and her language. But, unlike Cornwall, she is suffering these three losses at the same time.

Welsh industry has depended on two things: coal and steel. The schemes of nationalization for both were designed to benefit the old coalowners and ironmasters. Since nationalization, the workers of both industries have, in effect, paid for them several times over. The 'National' Coal Board and the 'British' Steel Corporation have worked hand-in-glove with the former owners to transfer production to cheaper countries, especially those under brutal dictatorships. Multi-national corporations control even more Welsh industry than either of the nationalized corporations. Redundancies run at hundreds and even thousands every week, causing shops and service industries to go bankrupt and close.

Wales has lost over a million people this century through emigration alone. There are three reasons for this loss. First of all, because of unemployment people have had to choose between emigration or poverty, destitution or even starvation. Secondly, the education system has valued English academic achievement above anything. Instead of equipping Welsh people with the scientific, technical, organizational and other skills they needed to make their country a happy and prosperous home, it has turned out narrow academic specialists who were unemployable in their own country. The third cause of emigration is tourism. Tourism is a blight on the local economy, breaks up communities, and turns houses for ordinary people into millionaire-price holiday cottages.

In the old days, six months' work in Wales would turn anybody into a fluent Welsh-speaker. The bosses couldn't understand what the workers were talking about, so they instituted barbaric English-language schools to kill the Welsh language. English is the language of power and prestige, while Welsh has become iaith y werin - the language of the common people. However, middle class cultural nationalists have been using the demand for equality for Welsh as a means to feather their own nests. Most Welsh speakers are working people or small farmers, but 'equality for Welsh' generally means creating prestigious jobs with fat salaries, and subsidizing arty rubbish nobody can understand. Instead of using good, natural everyday Welsh, the media tend more and more to use a cissy jargon you need a Ph.D to understand. Instead of supporting the needs of ordinary Welsh speakers the new 'elite' tends to use language to advance their own careers.

The Labour Party includes merchant bankers, Freemasons, and all kinds of self-suckers and fat careerists. These riff-raff exploit and discredit the genuine socialists within this decrepit and collapsing electoral machine. The Communist Party strategy of supporting the 'Labour Left' leaves out the fact that in many places the 'Labour Left' consists of bickering cliques of sectarian nutters. On the national question, the CP tends to repeat Plaid Cymru's tired-out slogans. Plaid contains both airy-fairy cultural nationalists and ex-Labour militants who have left in disgust. Both, however, tend to be manipulated to the advantage of smooth-cheeked party bigwigs with a political position somewhere between Norman St. John Steverson and Woy Jenkins.

The need now is for a scientific investigation of the changes in modern capitalism. Why are the ruling class de-industrializing Wales? How is capital working at an international level? Why does the ruling class foster and encourage a Welsh speaking middle class? What role do Welsh factories, pension funds, etc., play in the oppression of people in Chile, Jamaica, and other countries? We need to know what is going on if we are to harness all our energies for the overthrow of capitalist oppression in this country. If we are to form ourselves into an effective, democratic, disciplined mass movement, we need to understand the world we are trying to change.

J. St. C. Featherstonehaugh-Carruthers

cornish nation

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INTERVIEW
with **CLIVE PALMER**

by Shirley Ward

Brought up in North London, banjo player Clive Palmer left Horney Art School in 1960 and then spent 2 years busking in Paris and travelling through France. He then moved to Scotland, teamed up with Robin Williamson, working as a duo for some time, before being joined by Mike Heron to

form The Incredible String Band. After recording the first ISB L.P. Clive left the group to travel to India. After his return in 1966 he spent six years in Cornwall, forming various musical line-ups including The Famous Jug Band, The Stockroom 5 and The Temple Creatures. In 1972 his group C.O.B. based themselves in London, toured extensively, and made two albums. When C.O.B. broke up in 1974 Clive studied musical instrument making for a year, and returned to Cornwall in 1975, with no intentions of leaving again.

SW ... Musically you've had a chequered career, and have been called a confirmed Group escapist by the musical press, leaving groups when they threaten to become successful. Why is this?

CP Just natural development. It was purely accidental that I left ISB and the Jug Band when things began to happen for them. I just moved on to something else.

SW ... You've spent very little time in London since the 60s, four years in Scotland and 11 years in Cornwall. As a Londoner what attracted you to these countries?

CP I liked Scotland when I was there, in my early 20s. I could do there the things I liked doing at that time. But Cornwall I loved for the peace and quiet and lifestyle. I only left in 1972 because of C.O.B., and came back as soon as I could after giving up full time professional music.

SW ... Why did you give up music professionally?

CP I had no desire to do it any more. That stage of my life was over by 1974.

SW ... What have you been doing for the past five years in Cornwall?

CP Playing music on a small scale, supporting local clubs and events which I like because there is no pressure on me, no financial complications, contracts or commitments. I can just go along and play when I feel like it, and not have to play when I'm supposed to.

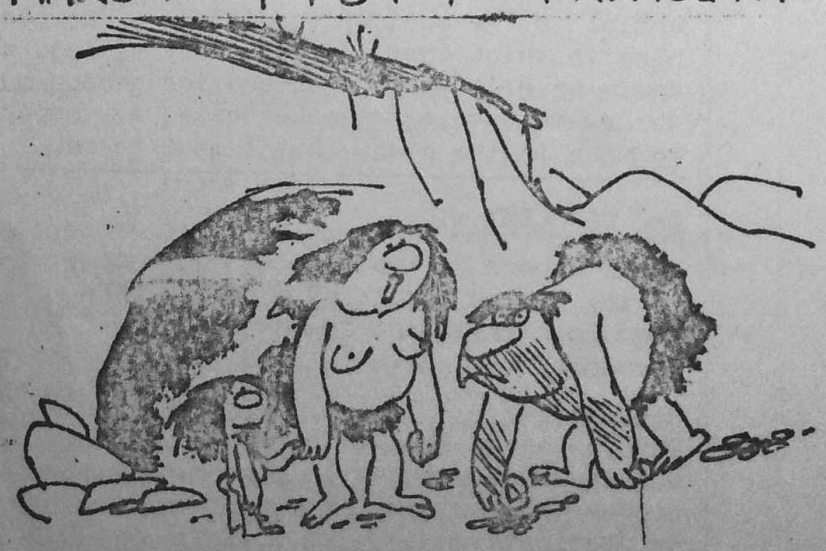
On a practical level I've done seasonal and odd jobs to keep going, and for the past two years have worked in an electronics factory, at shop floor level, but have just been made redundant.

SW ... Does that threaten your security here?

CP It does not make my life any less secure than most people's. There's really no such thing as a secure future anyway. I've spent my whole life just managing and seeing what will turn up next, so I'm not too worried.

cont...

CORNISH LANGUAGE WEEKEND
MARCH 1981 FALMOUTH.



"The longer you leave it, the harder it is to learn."

SW ... Do you feel that your prospects are any worse here than they would be elsewhere in the UK?

CP No. In fact I think they are better - at least here you can be poor in a nice place. Cornwall also provides a good atmosphere for the artisan and craftsman, which is a direction I'd like to go in. Maybe produce musical instruments from local materials, preferably for use by local musicians.

SW ... How do you see the cultural and economic future of Cornwall?

CP I cannot separate the two. At present Cornwall could be made more economically secure by exploitation of its natural resources, but this would destroy some of its aesthetic appeal and its culture. Maybe one day it will be full of factories and awful bungalows, but hopefully not in my lifetime. There should be more industry, in selected areas, but I feel that large industry is not necessarily the answer. Even the present Government is coming round to the idea of small independent firms and businesses rather than large conglomerates. You get more drive and go with small concerns, where all the workers are directly involved. People in large factories are like babies at the mother's breast - totally dependent.

The factory I worked in was a good concern, here for 10 years, and its workforce was quite contented, but it was closed down on the whim of international management.

SW ... Do you feel then that Cornwall should have more autonomy?

CP Yes, definitely. Do it yourself, you and your own little community, because you'll get no help from anyone else. The only Government interest in Cornwall is in putting things here which they don't want in large centres of population, little things like Germ Warfare Plants, secret R.S.Gs, nuclear power stations, etc.

SW ... How would you get local people to realise this, and look towards self-help? Could the revival of Cornish culture help at all?

CP The revival should be of great help, especially to young people and to future generations. If people can be made aware of their identity and culture then the acceptance and servility which now exist should eventually disappear. There is a lot going on in Cornwall right now, and the revival has thrown up some good musicians and songwriters. Gwenogan and Bucca are playing Cornish music, and are working hard to collect and preserve Cornish songs and tunes. Mervyn Davey of Bucca even persuaded me to make him a set of Cornish Bagpipes (at one time a national folk instrument of the working people). We had only sketches of ancient Church pew carvings to go by, but I managed to produce the pipes and Mervyn to play them, and the interest they have received from many quarters proves that there is great potential in the musical traditions of Cornwall, if nothing else. It would be nice to think that one day every village and town in Cornwall will once again have its own piper and indigenous musicians. That would certainly secure my future and make for a very happy existence, making things I want to make in the place that I want to be.

THE PEOPLES' WILL

Local papers failed to give huge publicity to the result of a parish referendum carried out in Luxulyan in November.

Here it is:

"Do you agree that the parish council should do everything in its power to oppose the building of a nuclear power station?"

YES	666	(92.3%)
NO	56	(7.7%)
total	722	(84.6% of the electorate)

The number voting was higher than in a Parliamentary election. Will other parish councils follow suit?

XX

.....>

NANCEKUKU RIDDLE

The new RAF radar base at Nancekuke (the one supposed to plug the hole in 'our' defences of the Western Approaches) apparently just consists of radar equipment mounted on a trailer, surrounded by sandbags and barbed wire. To man this example of NATO ingenuity are 120 service personnel, including a large staff, half of whom are officer specialists.

Our mole at Nancekuke tells us that there is no easy explanation for such a manning level, unless their time is solely taken up by paperwork, hardly necessary as the radar equipment is of an old and proven model.

When taxed on the need for the sandbags and barbed wire an officer stated "there might be communists in Redruth who would want to blow it up." (!? joke?) On further probing it appears that in the year since its establishment there have been no Russian overflights (to check on the good surfing beaches?) in this area. Even if there was the nearest fighters that would be scrambled to intercept are 20 minutes away, a bit late to prevent the Bolsheviks photographing a Newquay traffic jam.

New permanent installations are in the pipeline but could be 3-4 years away. 'Our' new Defence Minister John Nott might well investigate the actual need for such a base and why so many servicemen are employed there. Is the MOD keeping the base open so that the land stays in government hands (useful when they restart germ warfare production - any connection with nuclear power stations) or is it a paper base to make defence spending estimates look a little more plausible?

LIVING IN GLASS HOUSES

In August last year, chairman of Kerrier DC Employment Committee Peter Young, launched a ridiculous attack on the Redruth MK branch for "frightening away industry and causing unemployment." On Xmas Eve Tolgus Tin, near Redruth, laid off 16 people. The owner of Tolgus Tin is Peter Young, chairman of Kerrier DC (un)employment committee and Conservative.

TOO TRUE

"fringe small-time nationalism was never envisaged by the founders of the Old Cornwall movement, its infiltration being a later development" (Cman)
- W.Watters, Plymouth Cornish Association

MISSING THE POINT

The Boundary Commission report on Cornwall's Westminster constituencies has stirred up a hornets' nest. Many are amazed at the decision to create a new South-East Cornwall Constituency which Saltash and St. Austell, areas with nothing in common. The new S.E. Constituency will be the biggest in terms of population but also contains the fastest growing area (the Plymouth dormitory towns with their migrant labour)!

Predictably those party hacks who think they might lose out are protesting loudly; i.e. the Liberals in Truro and the Tories in SE Cornwall. But no-one has looked at the overall picture and raised the demand of equality with the other mainland Celtic nations. As the following table shows we are entitled to six seats, not five, if we were treated in the same way as Scotland and Wales.

	<u>Voters per seat (in '000s)</u>		
	<u>1974</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1984 (proj-ected)</u>
CORNWALL	58.8	63.6	68.4
WALES	55.1	57.0	58.9
SCOTLAND	51.5	53.5	55.5

Our particular economic problems surely demand equal representation in the Imperial Parliament and the gap is widening as our population is growing faster. So our clear interim demand (pending autonomy) should be parity with Scotland and Wales, an extra seat for Cornwall.

BD

WHO'S PAYING ?

January 12: David Penhaligon reveals that ECC has cut 800 jobs during 1980 by early retirement and non-replacement.

January 15: ECC announce profits in last financial year rose from £33.1m to £40.5, despite paying out £3m to those retiring early.

Dividends were up 20%. Cost of 800 salaries - £5-7m ?

HOME BIRTHS

The beginning of December saw a meeting at Penair School in Truro about women's rights in the field of childbirth. An excellent speaker, Mrs. Robinson, came from Oxford and the meeting was chaired by Dr. McHenry, a G.P. in the Pool practice, one of the few in West Cornwall to be in favour of home births.

The meeting was attended by about a hundred people from all parts of Cornwall and a decision to arrange a further meeting was taken. As we print we have no news of the outcome of that meeting which was open to all interested in forming an action group with the aim of improving local maternity services and generally educating GPs and others in the health service concerned with childbirth.

Further meetings/action will be reported in the next issue.

Jan Williams

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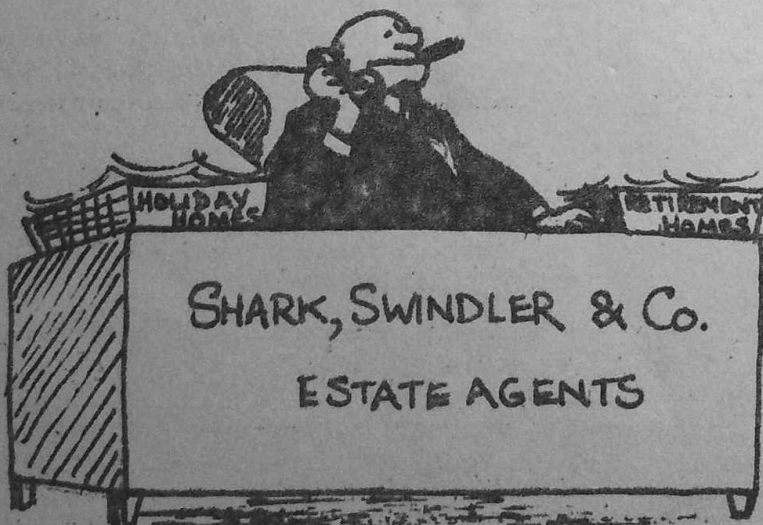
A Cornish Council for Civil Liberties has been set up:-

"the CCCL's initial campaign shall be directed towards investigating and publicising the way in which official and semi-official organisations collect information on private individuals - frequently without their knowledge or consent. The CCCL also plans to make recommendations to local authorities about proposals to site a nuclear power station in Cornwall - with unacceptable infringements of basic rights.

There are many other aspects of Cornish life which the CCCL plans to turn its attention to in coming months. It is vital that a broad base of support for this work is built up now. So far, more than 20 individuals have indicated their willingness to participate - but we need more." You can become a member of the CCCL for £2.50 per annum. Membership carries voting powers at Annual General Meetings, and means you will be regularly informed and consulted about the CCCL's work. Organisations may affiliate to the CCCL and send delegates to meetings."

- contact Graham Smith, secretary; Clover Cottage; St. Mabyn

Stoppresse we hear that the CCCL is contacting the Cornwall and Devon Chief Constable to ask how many individuals have so far been questioned in connection with an explosion at the St. Austell magistrates' court in December, why those individuals were questioned and what has become of the information collected by the police. (see also p.22)



WHAT! LOCAL COUPLE, FIRST-TIME BUYERS, UNDER £15,000.
WE DON'T CATER FOR MINORITY GROUPS IN THIS BUSINESS!

QUOTES

"She (Thatcher) is a First World War subaltern, leading the troops over the top. If one is out there in front, one sometimes gets mown down before the others" - John Nott MP (WMN)

"this county was built on the small landlady" - Oakley Eddy, St. Ives Cornwall councillor and member of Cornwall Tourist Board. (WMN)

POST NUCLEAR GOVERNMENT

Home defence committees have been trained throughout Cornwall and Community Advisers now have the main knowledge needed to cope with the after-math of a Nuclear war. Above them the machinery of government will be as follows

- Central government disbanded and dispersed.
senior cabinet ministers ready to go to the regional governments.
- Regional government regional commissioner in charge, with the help of the armed forces, govt. depts., police, fire brigades etc.
the hq will be set up in one of a number of location throughout the 7 SW counties (one that's left)
- Sub region as above, staffed similarly, but covering Cornwall and Devon probably.
- County and District Chief executive to be controller in each. full powers if isolated.
hq below county hall, Truro, and near district council offices, e.g. the new Caradon council basement.

Authority does not envisage the sub-regional government to function for at least 8-9 weeks. During that time the district level would become "law-maker". All actions by the controllers, etc. would be made legal on a later date.

Armed forces would be in charge of guarding installations and looking after law and order. If you have not seen the film banned by the BBC-THE WAR GAME-then do your best to get it to your area. It has been in Bude and Liskeard (Sat Feb 7th) and deals with the aftermath of a nuclear war.

Cornwall has no plans for evacuation, in fact it seems we may be an area again for evacuees from the cities. There is official confidence that Cornwall is a 'low risk target'. More information of this nature is available from Redding, County emergency Chief - recently promoted from his £140 per week job as deputy. For instance, all emergency food is stored at Norton Fitzwarren near Taunton, a long way from Cornwall across nuclear damaged countryside.

GERRY NEALE v G.P.O

In a recent radio broadcast Gerry Neale supported the de-nationalisation of British Telecom even though it is patently obvious that the result will be higher charges in rural areas, of the sort that he represents. Big profits will be made in the cities. Mr. Neale is a director of a telecommunication company.

TRADES COUNCILS
XX

Bodmin Labour Party is hoping to start a new trades council for North Cornwall, whilst SE Cornwall appears to be losing its, from lack of interest. These organisations need support if Cornwall is to have a viable TU movement. There is at last progress on a liaison committee for manual and non-manual workers on the CCC, the first hopeful step towards a joint approach to common problems.

ROBERT HICKS AND THE LABOUR SPLIT

When the right wing of the Labour party became unhappy with the democratic decisions taken within the party little did we think that the SE Cornwall Constituency would be affected. But Robert Hicks' seat is being re-organised by the Boundary Commission, losing the villages to the north and east of Liskeard, many of which were happy grounds for Tory canvassers. Now it will absorb the St. Austell area, strong for Penhaligon, though more Labour than Liberal given the right candidate. The effects of these changes will show up at the next election.

Robert Hicks is already known in the area as the best MP that the Liberals have had, during the run-up to the last election he studiously avoided reference to controversial policies sticking carefully to local issues relating especially to the small businessmen around. Now with the advent of a new party, and with the changes in the political make-up of his constituency, R Hicks has dropped himself right in it. He has never been afraid to speak out against Thatcher policies but this denunciation of the right wing Tory government may have caused him some serious trouble in the local area.

Nationally, he has opened up a new range of discussion and his fellow 'West-country' MPs are not at all happy. Many, such as Alan Clark of Plymouth, belong to the right of the party and support Thatcher unquestioningly. Having come out into the open, Hicks will be in a tricky position if the 'middle-class revolution' fails to materialise. As the first of the rats to threaten to leave the sinking ship, he may be left with no orthodox party backing, and SE Cornwall may well become wide open at the next election.

Meanwhile, Archer of the Courier, speaking under the name of Paul Tyler, has told Hicks to resign the Tory whip. Doesn't the Liberal Party have any more credible spokesman around?

CORNWALL COUNCIL AND THE RATES FIASCO

Preliminary information leaked from the CCC predicted cuts of 5 per cent in education. Jobs would be lost at all levels of schools and services slashed. The papers lapped it up. Threats of yet more unemployment. It helps to keep the wage demands in check! Tory camp-followers, West Briton and Cornish Guardian, carried banner-headlines. Two months ago the county Treasurer expected 15 pc rate increases to go with the cuts. But the latest news is 9.75 rise in rates and 1 pc cuts. And with this income comes a massive rise in reserves.

Can anybody have been that inefficient with their calculations? The education department spent considerable time and money preparing contingency plans for 2.5 and 5 pc, and these were presented to the unions who wondered how they could cope, not fight. Was it an empty threat or a total blunder?????

Our councillors now look like saviours, fighting off the cuts and preserving jobs. Then again, it is election year. After these dubious manouverings we begin to wonder what will happen when the elections are over and the old crew get back again. Will the new council find it impossible to cope without raising a supplementary rate and bringing back the old cuts?



POLICIES FROM PERRANPORTH

Mebyon Kernow took a step towards the big league last year by holding a weekend delegate policy conference at Perranporth. Organisationally it was a big success and long overdue.

The usual host of motions dear to MK hearts sailed through virtually unanimously - i.e. a more constructive tourist industry, Cornish in schools, the Institute of Cornish Studies, labelling of Cornish goods, change of name for Cornwall County Council etc.

Politically though, the Conference beat a hasty retreat from its brief flirtation with radicalism, as adopted at the February 1980 conference. Motions were passed accepting the principle of trades unionism (unanimous), affirming opposition to nuclear power (by 3 to 1), expressing hostility to multi-national corporations and calling for a wealth tax (by 2 votes) but generally the mood of delegates was fairly timid. Certainly not much evidence of those famous Trotakysts!

Thus:-

- a resolution against increased Government spending on nuclear arms and condemning their possible use only scraped through by 3 votes. And an amendment condemning "any state taking military action against another state for any reason" only secured 3 votes.
- the policy of calling for the closure of foreign military bases in Cornwall and the removal of nuclear weapons from Cornish soil (adopted last February and re-affirmed in April at the AGM) was decisively overturned by two to one.

www carter over

-a call to commit MK to the Cornish peoples' eventual ownership of the creation and distribution of wealth was easily defeated by 3 to 1.

-only 3 votes could be found to support a demand for the public control of those leeches of the late 20th century - estate agents. And the demand for a ban on the advertising in England of holiday or retirement type homes was only just passed by 2 votes.

To give the flavour of the weekend here are some of the remarks of more outspoken delegates :-

"it is not what is written that I take objection to, but what is not written"

- Roger Holmes (Liskeard)

"in Cornwall we are seeking to create a national revolution"

- Malcolm Williams (St. Just)

"there is a Greater Cornwall"

- Roger Holmes

"we should give this government a chance" - Margaret Ricketts (St. Ives)

"those incredibly nasty, foul people in the Kremlin"

- Roger Holmes

"there's no point in falling out with people just because they've continually exploited you"

- Pedyr Prior (nat sec)

"absolute, arrant nonsense"

- Roger Holmes

"the word 'co-operatives' reminds me of other words like 'Bolshevik', 'proletariat' - Margaret Ricketts

BD

THE FOURTH WORLD ASSEMBLY

The Fourth World Assembly will be held in July. Those invited are "groups working for their autonomy and independence at all levels from the neighbourhood to the nation, minority groups, whether ethnic, linguistic, cultural or religious and those in the fields of peace action, ecology, energy resources, womens lib and the whole spectrum of the alternative movement who are struggling against the gigantism of the institutions of today's mass society and for a human scale."

There is a proposed forum on 'Cornish Nationalism', which involves someone writing a 10-15,000 word paper (!?)

At the moment we don't know who this mysterious scribe is and they're certainly keeping very quiet about it. When we track this person/group down we'll let you know. (any information gladly accepted)

Unfortunately the Assembly meets in London. Cost - £15. For more info contact us or Fourth World; 24, Abercorn Place; London NW8.

PARANDIA GULCH

In the aftermath of an explosion at St. Austell police have interviewed many people in and around the Cornish movement. All those we know of have spoken of the civil and friendly manner of the detectives engaged in this task.

Nevertheless, one result of this bomb must have been a major updating of Special Branch files on the relationships and activities of all sections of the national movement. Maybe it was a deliberate intention but the impression gathered from the detectives we spoke to was that the police knew amazingly little about events in the movement. That must all have changed, possibly as the result of a phone call from one individual. Convenient ?

The police certainly appear to have made a meal out of investigating different leads. For example those questioned have included members of the Labour Party and the newly formed Cornish Council for Civil Liberties, owners of a radical bookshop and an ex-member of Solidarity. What possible connection can these people have with right-wing Cornish nationalism? Was there an 'intelligence gathering on potential subversives' aspect of police activity as well as straight 'hunt for the bombers'? Whether or not this was originally intended it has certainly been the result.

Clearly a 'Cornish nationalist' group that spends more of its time threatening non-existent "Muscovites" and "Trotskyists" inside the national movement than the exploiters outside must be a rarity in terms of Celtic politics.

But the moral responsibility for the hair-raising threats issued against leading nationalists must ultimately be laid at the door of those elements who initiated the totally groundless cries of "Trotskyist infiltration" last April and before. They are now reaping the harvest of their ill-considered remarks. Perhaps a retraction would now cool the situation down.

EDITORIAL

THE CRISIS

In our last issue we called for a broad based campaign against unemployment in Cornwall, involving selective direct action. Sadly movement since has been slim. The exceptions ?

a) a co-ordinated picketing by MK members and sympathisers of the 5 Tory constituency party offices in Cornwall, plus 10, Downing Street, in November.

b) a non-sectarian Union of Unemployed Workers has been started, based on Hayle. Any move to initiate self-organisation amongst the jobless and any extra platform to nail the responsibility for our unemployment firmly where it belongs - on Government policy, must be a welcome development.

The official labour movement in Cornwall has been slow to respond to the situation. A prominent Labour party spokesman has stated "the Labour Party must lead the protest at this devastation of employment prospects in our county(sic)". Yet action has been slower than words.

A year ago 500 or so people took to the streets in Truro in pouring rain to support a Trades Councils protest march. Unemployment was then 11.3%. It now stands at 14.6% (with a male rate of 28.2% in St.Ives!), but that march has not been followed up by anything save a deafening silence and a few press releases.

Centre-alists

The latest Establishment trick to con people into supporting a discredited economic system is the so-called 'Centre Party' idea. A sickly deluge of sympathetic publicity gushes from the media in support of such as Shirley Williams, David Owen and now apparently Cornwall's own Tory Wet, Robert Hicks MP.

But what do these people offer? Be-

Number 15 was put together by .. m.williams... j.williams... i.williams... w.rodde... p.johns... b.deacon... m.casson

NOTE: opinions expressed by our contributors are not necessarily those of the editorial group

hind waffle about 'democracy' and 'moderation' we find the same old bankrupt policies:- 'the mixed economy' (= an inegalitarian society); 'the Common Market' (= bureaucratic insanity); 'the nuclear deterrent and support for NATO (=the arms race); and 'the good of the country' (= English nationalism).

But we've had Tory/Labour governments with precisely those policies from the 1950s to 1979 and they did nothing to solve the problems that face the Cornish people. There is no reason to suspect that a 'Centre Party' could do anything more for us now.

Tributaries

Far more relevant to Cornwall's position as a colony is the AW special publication - Tributaries - OUT NOW. 11 contributors, mainly members of MK or individual autonomists and socialists, plus pieces from members of Labour and the Diggers, give their view of the options facing the Cornish movement.

It can be obtained from An Weryn for 25p, which includes postage. Don't miss it, write now.

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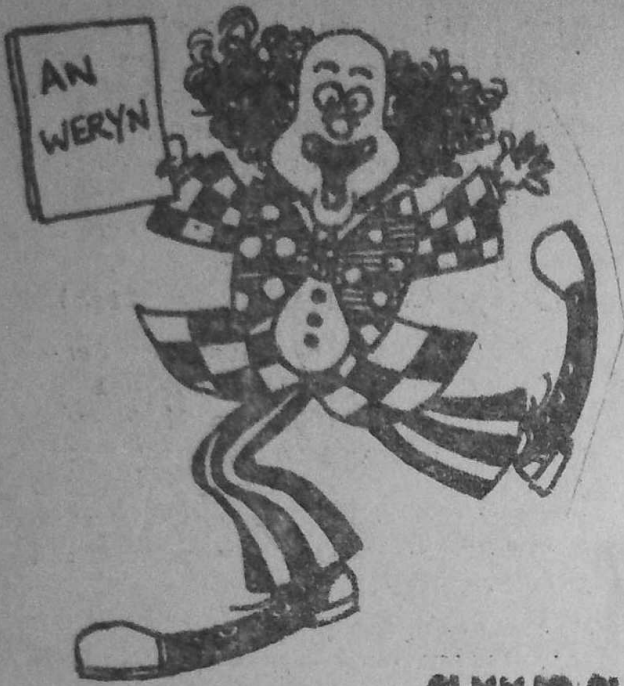
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National elections

Next issue will contain our guide to the Cornwall Council elections in May. With former 'independent' Tories coming out in the open here is our chance to rid ourselves of some of the more neanderthal councillors.

An Weryn 16

Articles, cartoons, letters, news, etc for the next AW should reach us by April 12 and number 16 will be printed around Easter. Keep the contributions coming, - all are welcome.



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