

Bert Barrett 's Reminiscences (Acc 2594)

5.ii.80 (date of interview?)

Bert Barrett was Cassie Cripps' cousin. He lived up near the top of Shotover Old Road. He remembers Miss Life (daughter/sister of Mr RL) *could this be Leyshon?* used to do pillow lace and she taught his sister.

- Miss Gunn was very formidable.
- Dr Barnes was cantankerous: he would shout at people rather than cure them
- Miss Christian was very strict, and she would hit the children with her withered arm.

When Jilly? East retired, the children were told to bring one penny for a present. On their way to school a committee meeting decided that this penny should be spent on aniseed balls! On the day of the presentation, Bert was made to stand in the corner. He never saw the presentation - but he reckoned he had had the best of it as she was the cruelest woman.

Sometimes the boys would play truant from school to follow the hunt. Another of their games was to play on the railway steps.

During the 1914-18 War, he remembers seeing the troops and horses going through Wheatley station.

'Eton and Harrow Boys' would come for mock fights.

'We survived the Wheatley Flood: it went quite black, and a few children who stayed at school for dinner were there and, by 4 o'clock, his uncle came for him and his brothers and sisters. By the New Club the water was still up to his thighs when he carried them over. Old Ikey Munt had earth and taters come in his room'.

Mr Sheldon, the coal merchant, had a traction engine and Mr Perkins came down to drive it.

You could buy anything at Dungey's shop: chicken feed, paraffin, lamp glasses etc and it remained open until midnight.

The Tavern boys called it the Rampant Cat because the landlord (Phelps who came from London) used to trade in cats, and was suspected of stealing them.

There were four Village Pumps: one at the bottom of Fryday Lane, one near the Manor House, one by the Infant School in Bell Lane, and the other by the Pound.