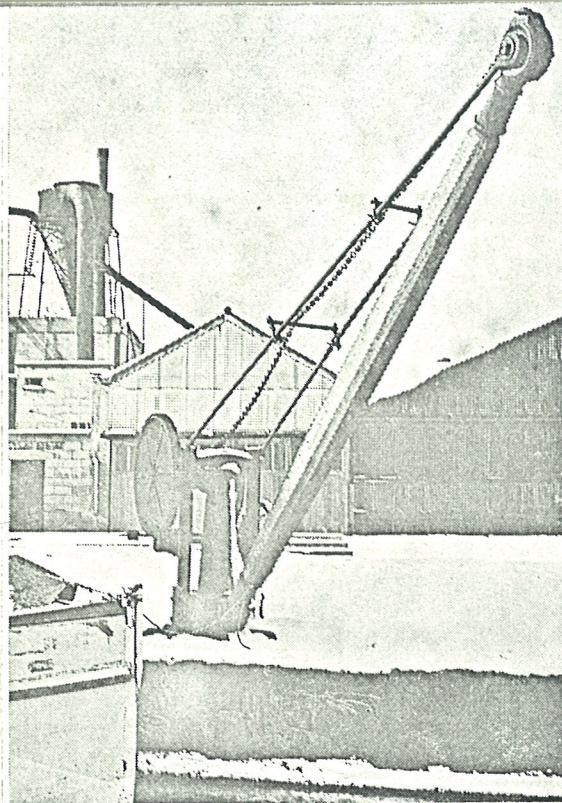


On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 481

Article from
Essex Countryside
April 1970
on V2 Rocket
Damage



About 100 years ago when horse-drawn barges were in regular use on the River Stort cranes like the one in my picture were used for unloading them. This one is at Bishop's Stortford on the wharf of a former timber yard and is thought to date from about 1860 and to be the last in the area. Because of this it is being restored by Bishop's Stortford Civic Society, which has been taking advice on how to preserve it from the ravages of the British weather. — G. TYRELL, Harlow.

islands of Wallasea, New England, Pottton, Rushley and Havengore. Everything will be most gratefully acknowledged and ultimately most carefully preserved for the benefit of generations to come, who I know will appreciate all this society is doing to preserve every facet of 1,000 years of history of the villages of Rochford hundred.

(MRS.) L. E. JERRAM-BURROWS,
Chairman.

88 Sutton Road,
Rochford.

WASC 481

People's Palace

WHEN reading H. E. Claxton's interesting article on St. Erkenwald's, "The story of a Barking church" (December), I got the impression that the demise of the People's Palace Choral Society was implied when the destruction of the People's Palace by fire was mentioned. It is true that the building was burnt down, but it was rebuilt and its associated activities were continued.

In the 1950s, however, the governors found it impossible to continue in office and relinquished their responsibilities. The buildings were acquired by London University and became part of Queen Mary College. After a season of uncertainty and change the choral society, founded in 1887, resumed its singing in its original home, where it still enjoys facilities for rehearsal and concert performance.

F. G. GODWIN.

68 Morley Road,
Chadwell Heath.

Highams Park

REFERRING to Mrs. Gladys Wright's inquiry, one of the Domesday manors of Walthamstow was that of Hecham—derived from Old English *heah*="high" and either *ham*="a homestead" or *hamm*="an enclosure." The manor passed into the hands of the Benstede family and became known as Higham Benstede. Later, when in the possession of Sir William Rowe, the manor house was rebuilt by him in 1596 and was known as Higham Hills.

Much later the property was acquired by Sir Anthony Bacon, who, apparently disliking the old manor house, built a new one in 1768 on an entirely different site known as The Highams, which is now the girls' high school. He ran into trouble for stubbing and enclosing three acres of Sale Wood. The court appointed the verderers—John Conyers, Eliab Harvey and Bamber Gascoyne (of the same family as the "University Challenge" question-master)—to examine the position, as a result of which the palings were removed in 1787 and normal access between Sale Wood and the forest was restored.

John Harman was the next lord of the manor, and it was he who commissioned the famous landscape gardener

tory which replaced it in Scotland two or three weeks before the rocket fell; but the subsequent tragedy taught me that one should never complain about what might appear to be a bit of bad luck. Nobody could have survived in that house if it had been occupied.

ELLIOTT L. BLEE.

2 Cobham Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea.

Rochford hundred

THE Rochford Hundred Historical Society is actively engaged in research into the history of the area, and to assist us in this work we are anxious to gather into the society's archives as many documents, pictures, photographs, prints, postcards, books and newspapers relating to Rochford hundred as may be found. We are also interested in obtaining items for our private museum collection.

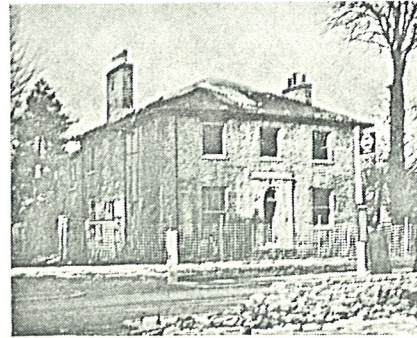
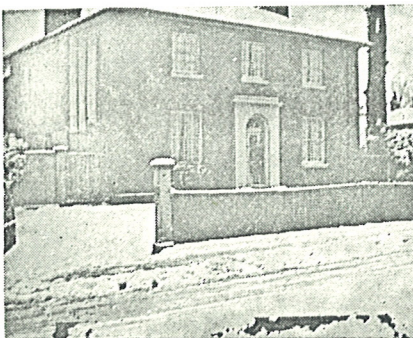
May I appeal to all your readers to search attics, cellars, barns and bureaux for any items of interest appertaining to any of the following villages—and forward them to me as soon as possible: Ashingdon, South Fambridge, Canewdon, Barling, Little Wakering, Great Wakering, Foulness, Hawkwell, Hockley, Hullbridge, Rochford, Paglesham, Sutton, Prittlewell, Great Stambridge, Little Stambridge, Leigh, South Shoebury, North Shoebury, Southchurch and the

V2 rocket at Waltham Abbey

THOSE interested in the picture of High Bridge Street sent in by Mr. Moss may also like to see the two enclosed photographs showing the house facing the road where the rocket fell. I took the first during the winter of 1939-40, just after I took over the place, and the second one some little while after the incident.

Although, apart from the windows, the building looks undamaged, the inside was completely wrecked by blast and the whole structure was so cracked that it had to be demolished.

The house was built just before the battle of Waterloo as government quarters for one of the officers in charge of the Ordnance explosives factory, and though severe in style it had all the grace and comfort of houses of the period. I occupied it for nearly five years as resident inspector of the factory, and was most upset at having to leave it when I was transferred to the new fac-



Photographs of a house at Waltham Abbey before and after a V2 rocket fell near it. (See letter.)