

RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Vol. 10 No. 3

July, 1953

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Reset in Times Roman typeface

This number of the Chronicle is dedicated to the memory of
HUGH FRANCIS NEVILLE INGE, Priest,
1872—1953
Rector of Rendcomb 1922—1953
and
ROBERT NOBLE DENISON WILSON
1899—1953
Rendcomb College 1934—1944

Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 10, No. 3.

July, 1953.

OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of Robin Wilson in January this year. He will be remembered by many Old Rendcombians as a stimulating Sixth Form teacher with an original and unconventional approach. Others will remember him for his long tenure of the Top Floor, for the plays he produced or for his daily walks with Mr. Molineaux. We reprint on page 5 part of an obituary notice which appeared in the Coleraine Chronicle on January 31st, 1953, as well as a personal tribute.

We also regret to announce the death on the 1st of May, of the Rev. H. F. N. Inge, Rector of Rendcomb from 1922. The funeral took place on the 6th of May and senior boys of the College lined the pathway to St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb. The Rev. P. S. Brown, Rural Dean, took the service, assisted by the Rev. L. G. Allum, an old friend of the College now living in the village. The College choir took part.

A brief obituary appears on page 7.

SCHOOL NOTES. Easter Term, 1953.

Term began on Friday the 16th of January and ended on Friday the 27th of March.

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The Lodges Race was run on Tuesday, 10th March, and the North Cerney Race on Friday the 20th of March.

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A party from the Senior School went to see the Sadlers Wells Theatre Ballet. An account appears on page 7.

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We are most grateful to Mr. David Wills for the gift of ten splendid Rugger posts. These will completely equip us for a long time. We are also grateful to Mr. Wills for some fine short lengths of box, cherry and holly for use on the lathe.

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We acknowledge with thanks the current issue of our contemporary the *Wycliffe Star*.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1953.

- Prefects.** —D. C. de Peyer, K. A. Statham, D. G. Vaisey, T. Gay,
R. W. Muchamore, R. M. Sumsion, P. L. Waite.
- Workman.** —F. S. G. Richards.
- Pictureman.** —J. K. Comrie.
- Music Warden.** —J. M. Harrison.
- Senior Music Librarian.** —H. J. Greenhalf.
- Choir Librarians.** —A. T. Brooks, P. C. R. Burns.
- Lampmen.** —J. B. R. Browne, J. K. Walter.
- Deck Chairs and Church Collections.** —W. J. Prime.
- Stagemen.** —R. M. Sumsion, M. D. Richards, R. O. G. Hayter,
G. H. Richards, M. A. B. Forster, P. G. Auden.
- Librarians.** —R. W. Muchamore, D. G. Vaisey, R. M. Sumsion,
R. A. Powell, M. V. Harley.
- Manual Foremen.** —T. Gay, J. Gough, M. G. Richards, D. J. B.
Forster, D. A. Godfrey, J. M. Rolfe.
- Henmen.** —R. A. Powell, D. E. Barbour, W. J. Prime, H. A. Gough,
G. H. G. Herbert, C. H. Thomason, S. D. Hicks; M. D. Naish.

College Officers elected by the General Meeting:

- P. W. Man.** —R. W. Muchamore.
- Furniture Committee.** —J. Gough, J. R. Ellis, J. A. Richards.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1953.

- Chairman**—D. G. Vaisey.
- Secretary**—R. M. Sumsion.
- Cricket Captain**—K. A. Statham.
- Field Secretary**—D. G. Vaisey.
- Games Committee**—P. L. Waite, D. C. de Peyer.
- Senior Shopman**—M. D. Richards.
- Games Committee Treasurer**—M. G. Richards.
- House Committee Treasurer**—R. W. Alder.
- Finance Committee Treasurer**—J. M. Astill.
- Finance Committee**—C. Handoll, H. A. Gough.
- Shopmen**—T. W. Rowley, H. J. Greenhalf.
- Auditors**—R. W. Alder, M. G. Richards.
- Breakages Man**—J. A. Richards.

Entertainments Committee—A. G. B. Wallace, R. W. Muchamore, C. Handoll, R. C. Pilkington, R. J. Lawson.

Record Committee—M. J. Edwards, T. Gay, A. G. B. Wallace, K. A. Statham, P. L. Waite.

Cycle Committee—P. B. Marwood, M. V. Harley, G. H. Richards.

Inspector of Nuisances—J. D. R. Paine.

Magazine Committee—H. J. Greenhalf, M. A. B. Forster, J. R. Ellis.

Drying Room Committee—P. G. Auden, O. S. David, C.H. Thomason.

Amplifier Technicians—R. W. Muchamore, M. J. Edwards.

Paperman—G. H. Richards.

Tennis Captain—P. L. Waite.

Hockey Games Warden—H. A. Gough.

Tennis Games Wardbns—B. R. Paish, G. H. G. Herbert.

Cricket Games Wardens—D. A. Godfrey, K. E. Payne.

Cricket Groimdsman—K. E. Payne.

Junior Cricket Groundsman—H. A. Gough.

Tennis Groundsman—T. D. A. Semple.

Junior Tennis Groundsman—C. H. Thomason.

Record Committee Treasurer—P. L. Waite.

Hockey Secretary, 1954—R. N. Horne.

Cricket Secretary, 1953—B. Glastonbury.

Rugby Secretary, 1953—A. G. B. Wallace.

Meeting Banker—R. N. Horne.

Boys' Banker—F. S. G. Richards.

Council—T. Gay, R. M. Sumsion, D. G. Vaisey, D. C. de Peyer, K. A. Statham, D. E. Barbour, P. B. Marwood.

Selection Committee—P. L. Waite, D. G. Vaisey, R. W. Muchamore, K. A. Statham, D. C. de Peyer.

Rugby Games Warden—J. M. Rolfe.

HONOURS.

We congratulate J. Owen on being elected to a Fellowship by examination in Physics at Magdalen College, Oxford.

* * *

J. F. Alder has obtained his Ph. D. (Cantab.).

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

A. M. M. Wilson has been appointed Lecturer in Pathology at the University College of East Africa, Uganda. He and Mrs. Wilson sailed in March.

* * *

We congratulate Dick Field on being appointed Head of the Art Teachers Training Department in the College of Art and Craft, Birmingham.

* * *

We congratulate J. A. Cunnison and J. E. Miller on becoming Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

* * *

We congratulate E. A. Jones on playing for the Oxford University Occasionals against the Cambridge University Wanderers on the morning of the University Match, February, 1953.

* * *

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Smith on the birth of a second son, Philip Henry Malric, on 4th April, 1953.

* * *

P. A. T. Griffiths has been appointed to a post in the green-houses at Sandringham.

* * *

Walter Burns is on leave in this country from Malaya and will be here until October. His address is [REDACTED] Ventnor, I. O. W.

* * *

S. J. Curry has an Entomologist's appointment with the Forestry Commission in Kenya. He is married and has a son.

* * *

E. J. Clissold is an established Civil Servant in the Executive Grade of the War Department. He is at present in Germany, is married and has a family.

* * *

Giles Ivens has obtained a Senior Scientific Officer's appointment with the Colonial Research Survey to work on the chemical destruction of vegetation in Tanganyika in connection with the control of the tsetse fly.

* * *

D. J. Dodwell has been appointed Manager of the Woodville Hotel, St. Helier, Jersey.

* * *

J. A. Cunnison was married on June 27th. We have no other details, except that his wife is a Civil Hydrographic Officer at the Admiralty. He himself is an architect at the Ministry of Works and is designing Telephone exchanges.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Robert N. D. Wilson.

The death, following a long illness, took place in Ratheane Hospital, Coleraine, on Sunday last, January 25th, of Mr. Robert Noble Denison Wilson, and brought to an untimely close a gifted career. He was elder son of the late Rev. W. A. Wilson, M. A., former minister of New Row Presbyterian Church, and of Mrs. Wilson, Ashbrook, Captain Street, Coleraine, who passed away last month.

Both as schoolmaster and writer, Mr. Robert Wilson's early promise developed, albeit slowly, to a rich maturity. Educated at Coleraine Model School, under Mr. Robert Henry, and the Academic Institution, under Mr. T. G. Houston, he showed his bent for literature. At C. A. I. he edited the School Magazine and at Trinity College, Dublin, to which he went after serving as a subaltern in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the first World War, he edited the University Magazine.

A foundation scholar and gold medallist, he graduated in two of the arts groups at Trinity, and, after a few years as a librarian, he entered the teaching profession in which he found an absorbing satisfaction.

Critical in his development was his association with the Dublin Literary Movement, which brought him the personal friendship of W. B. Yeates, "A. E.," Lennox Robinson, Arland Ussher and many others.

At Rendcomb College in Gloucestershire, and latterly at Wolverhampton Grammar School, he pursued a happy and successful career. He won friendship easily, and whether in coaching boys for scholarships, producing their plays, or introducing them to Continental travel, he endeared himself to many.

Through the death of Mr. Wilson, Northern Ireland has lost one of her most accomplished poets. His output was small, but in literary circles he was recognised as a thoughtful and creative writer, with a skilled command of verse forms.

He wrote several works for children, including "Books and their History."

Three collections of his poetry were published under the name Robin Wilson—"The Hermit," in 1951; "The Holy Wells of Orris," in 1927; and "Equinox," ten years later. In recent years he was a contributor to several literary periodicals.

Art was one of his keenest interests, and he wrote two works on the subject—"Sculpture," for young people, and a critical anthology, "The National and Tate Galleries," published seven years ago. There are references in his writings to his childhood in Coleraine.

Mr. Wilson married Clare, daughter of the late Colonel Wickham. She died in 1932. He endured his long illness with fortitude and also with humour which found its way into many light verses on Ratheane Hospital and its staff.

**ROBERT NOBLE DENISON WILSON, 1899—1953.
RENDCOMB 1934-1944.**

Something of an epicure, fond of the theatre, a born mimic and story-teller with an endless fund of gossip that had the inestimable virtue of hurting no-one, friend of W. B. Yeates, W. H. Davies, Maud Gonne, "A.E." and Lennox Robinson; poet, author, lecturer, historian, public librarian, schoolmaster; seldom can there have been one of his profession who knew so much or who had seen so much of painting and architecture. His passionate interest took him to Italy, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium and Spain, and his knowledge was never superficial.

Who will forget his vast collection of pictures, photographs and books... "Come upstairs to my room and I'll show you." How many of us listened enthralled while he talked of church history and rituals—or recited from his apparently limitless store of remembered poetry.

'Robin' Wilson was Irish to the bone; an individualist who walked and talked and taught in his own way, wrapping up both obstinacy and determination in a cloak of charming and disarming manners in which your weapons of criticism were easily enveloped.

It was difficult to provoke him as Senior English Master into even suggesting a book for the Library. His middle and lower school teaching was pedestrian. Neither side really understood the other, so there was not always peace. He took no part in games. He was far too long in charge of the Top Floor for one who had been deeply upset by the war and, more than most people, by the isolation of the College which cut him off so completely from all that mattered most to him—friends spread widely in England, Ireland and abroad—and his April and August travel. Those who knew him best before or after this period rather than during it will understand how vulnerable was a nature such as his to the disability that temporarily lowered his spirit and made him hardly himself towards the end of his time at Rendcomb.

[REDACTED]

The College was fortunate indeed in such a man although in the conventional sense he was not a good schoolmaster. Warm and generous, his gift to Rendcomb was mainly to and through the staff and to those few boys in the VIth Form who were mature enough to value him. It was extraordinary how many men and boys met in Robin. Long after he left it was said of him, "He was a pervading influence." His passing will be mourned by many whose interest was stirred or deepened by his enthusiasm for the things he loved.

THE REVEREND H. F. N. INGE.

We deeply regret to report the death, at Rendcomb, on Friday May 1st, of the Rector, the Reverend H. F. N. Inge.

Mr. Inge had been Rector of Rendcomb for over thirty years and, with the exception of Dr. Gladstone, he was the only person connected with the College who would be remembered by all boys who were at Rendcomb between June 2nd, 1922, and May 1st, 1953.

The many hundreds of boys and staff who attended Rendcomb Church during part of this span of years will remember the quiet and simple way in which Mr. Inge took the services, and those in authority have good reason to be grateful for the freedom that he gave the college over the organ, the choir. Church music, the lessons and the use of the bells.

There are many who will remember the kindness which the Rector and Miss Inge invariably showed to all those boys with whom they came into contact. Those who were at the school before the war will recall him also as a good shot and a cunning back-line tennis player whose placing was a delight to watch; and motoring enthusiasts will remember his old 30/98 Vauxhall.

Those of us who knew him only towards the end of his life will not easily forget his simple dignity, his invariable courtesy and his quiet sense of humour. And we extend our deepest sympathy to Miss Inge in her great loss in which we also share.

THE SADLER'S WELLS BALLET.

On Monday, February 9th, a large number of the Sixth Form went to a performance by the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet Company at Stratford. The programme consisted of three items: "Pastorale" to the music of Divertimento No. 2 in D by Mozart; "The Rake's Progress," after William Hogarth, with music by Gavin

Gordon and choreography by Ninette de Valois; and lastly "Pine-apple Poll", with Sullivan's music arranged by Charles Mackerras.

The first ballet was unsatisfactory, to say the least. The quiet music of Mozart was frequently drowned by noises from loose boards in the stage and the dancing seemed lifeless. The second item in the programme, however, was beyond criticism. The story was taken from the series of paintings by William Hogarth, though neither the story nor the costumes slavishly followed this model. The music was admirably suited to the theme, and the decor and costumes were extremely effective. The dancing, although not always inspired, was always competent, and was in some cases brilliant. Worthy of particular mention are David Blair, who danced "the Rake", and Sheilah O'Reilly as "the Betrayed Girl."

After this, "Pineapple Poll" was an anti-climax. This ballet was lively and pleasant, but lacked the force of "The Rake's Progress". It served to end the evening on a high note, particularly as Osbert Lancaster's decor made an amusing contrast to that of the previous items.

For many of the party this evening's entertainment was a first experience of the delights of the ballet, and it was generally felt that it had been a most stimulating introduction.

M. D. R.

HOCKEY REPORT, 1953.

This year conditions were admirable for hockey. It snowed heavily, stopping games for a fortnight, but the elements were kind enough to choose a period of three weeks when we were without 1st XI fixtures. Apart from this period we lost no games and the ground was firm, though rough.

Three games were run regularly on top, and one on the asphalt. One of the games had generally to start late as we have only two hockey umpires on the staff. This meant that members of first game took it in turns to umpire second or third game.

We are very grateful to Mr. Lee-Browne and to Mr. Bird, who took the burden of umpiring twice, or upon occasion three times a week. Mr. Hull was also kind enough to help out on several occasions.

There was a good spirit in first game and this helped to produce a 1st XI that lost only two matches, one of them to an outstandingly powerful Old Rendcombians side. It is never very easy to find the best 1st XI, particularly in the winter term, and we

were lucky this year in having most of last year's defence available. This advantage was counter-balanced by the loss of all last year's forwards except Statham and Edwards.

At the beginning of the season the most serious deficiency was a goalkeeper. R. A. Powell and T. D. A. Semple, neither of whom had previously played in goal, were tried in two practice games before being put in the First and Second XIs respectively for the first matches of the season. They filled their positions with credit.

Powell was naturally rather uncertain at the beginning of the season but rapidly improved. He has a fine clearing kick and some of his saves were excellent. With experience he will learn to come out more effectively. He should watch a tendency to use a sliding tackle overmuch.

The backs, P. L. Waite and J. M. Harrison, played fairly consistently throughout the season, their chief fault being a tendency to stand too square. Waite at right back had already played one season for the first XI. He is sound, has an excellent clearance and positions himself well. But he is slow in covering once he has been beaten.

Harrison was upon occasion very good, combining a strong tackle with an excellent clearance. Towards the end of the season he was able to come well up and help out the centre-half.

D. G. Vaisey at right half was very valuable and steady. He tackled and cleared well, and was always up behind his wing. He was perhaps the most consistent member of the side.

There were three left halves who all had their virtues: a combination of all three would have been desirable. P. R. Rose played well in practice games, but his qualities seemed to desert him in matches. T. Gay tackled and marked well, but must learn to hit quicker and harder. K. E. Payne was the final choice. He was very sound, rarely making mistakes and clearing and tackling well.

On the whole the defence was solid. The marking was closer than of recent seasons and the covering was good. The forwards at the beginning of the season appeared very weak, K. A. Statham and, occasionally, A. G. B. Wallace, being the only forwards capable of cutting through a defence.

M. J. Edwards played on the right wing for most of the term, but was unfortunate to miss the last three matches through injury. His centres were usually well judged and he was rarely out of position, but he is slow and showed a bad tendency to crowd his inside. M. D. Rayner played at inside-right. He combined well with the other forwards and his absence from the last match of the season was very noticeable. He lacked penetration and his shooting was poor.

At centre-forward Statham provided the dash and hard shooting that the forwards otherwise so badly lacked. He tended to wander, but was rarely caught out of position by a pass, and amply made up for any faults by scoring 90 per cent, of our goals. He will be very hard to replace next year.

R. J. Lawson came into the side early in the term at inside left. He is a strong player with a potentially hard shot, but he is still inexperienced. He should be valuable in seasons to come.

R. N. Horne was the left wing. He seemed to work very hard for rather little result, but he got across several good centres later in the season. He was generally "more sinned against than sinning," however, as he was starved of passes.

A. G. B. Wallace filled gaps on the wings at various times. On the left wing he was not very successful, but on the right wing he was able to use his speed to make several fine runs. He was the only forward other than Statham who could cut through a defence on his own. A fast right wing is very valuable.

D. A. Godfrey also played on two occasions in the forwards. He is potentially a good half and was rather lost in the forwards, but he did not disgrace himself. He should be valuable next season.

This year we played two new fixtures, both enjoyable games and both won; against Marlborough College 2nd XI and Monkton Combe 2nd XI Apart from these we played six matches.

The first was against Prince Henry's Grammar School and was played under semi-Arctic conditions on a heavy pitch at Evesham. The side, after being two goals down and apparently beaten a quarter of an hour from the end, managed to force a draw with goals from Rayner and Statham. This recovery was one of our best efforts.

Similar conditions prevailed during the match with Bristol Grammar School, with a high wind thrown in. The game was un-inspired in consequence.

Against Cheltenham College the whole, except perhaps Vaisey, played badly in the first half and improved only slightly in the second. A final score of 2—7 was not flattering, particularly as we were potentially at least as good as our opponents.

The Dean Close match was a pleasant occasion, played in sunshine on a good pitch. We were a goal up at half-time, but Dean Close equalised just before the end. Statham was in particularly good form and scored all three goals, but apart from him the forwards were not impressive. The Dean Close wings were allowed to get away too often by the defence.

The Old Rendcombian team this year was particularly strong, containing a high proportion of club and county players, and a county captain. The weather was pleasant, but the pitch, due to a prolonged dry spell, was rough. We always start with the advantage of a team over a group of individual players, and so at half-time the score was 1—1. A lapse in our defence led to a second goal, but we equalised soon afterwards. After this the O. R. forwards were rather too strong for the defence, the final score being 2—4. The team, as usual in this match, played well.

Our two new fixtures with Monkton Combe 2nd XI and, Marlborough College 2nd XI, were both played away. The former match gave us an easy victory by 6—1. The side played well after an indifferent and lethargic start and we were at no time hurried.

The Marlborough game was much more even. The ground was very hard and over-hitting was easy, particularly when playing down the slope. Actually it proved easier to play up the slope than down it, and three of our goals came in the second half when we were playing up. The side played very well together and the defence, particularly the wing halves, was very solid. This was a very enjoyable match and the best of the season. Wallace used his speed very effectively on the right wing. Statham again scored all our goals.

The season ended with a match against Crypt G. S., which was notable only for a very fine scoring shot by Lawson.

The Second XI were weak this year, but nevertheless did not disgrace themselves, losing one match and drawing the other.

The Under 15 XI was moderately successful. In spite of being weakened by the absence of Payne and Lawson, they beat the Marlborough Juniors 3—2. Several of the players showed considerable promise.

We are grateful to the groundsmen for their fine work during the season, and to the Secretary for an excellent fixture list.

D. C. de Peyer had his second season as Captain. His increased experience and sureness were a great asset to the side and at centre-half he welded the team together. He appeared to be tireless and must have been an inspiration to the defence. As the season progressed his interception and passing improved and his opening up of the game gave many opportunities to inside and outside forwards alike.

RESULTS, 1953.

1st XI.

- Jan. 24. v. Prince Henry's G. S. Drawn 4—4.
- Jan. 31. v. Bristol G. S. Won 5—1.
- Feb. 21. v. Cheltenham College. Lost 2—7.
- Mar. 5. v. Dean Close "A" XI Drawn 3—3.
- Mar. 7. v. Monkton Combe 2nd XI. Won 6—1.
- Mar. 14. v. Old Rendcombiens. Lost 2—4.
- Mar. 17. v. Marlborough College 2nd XI Won 4—1.
- Mar. 19. v. Crypt G. S. Won 3—1.

2nd XI.

- Jan. 24. v. Prince Henry's G. S. Lost 2—4.
- Feb. 21. v. Cheltenham College Colts. Drawn 2—2.

Under 15 XI.

- Jan. 31. v. Bristol G. S. Drawn 2—2.
- Mar. 5. v. Dean Close. Lost 0—4.
- Mar. 7. v. Monkton Combe. Lost 1—3.
- Mar. 17. v. Marlborough College. Won 3—2.

LODGE

S. Seniors.

- 1st—Wallace, A. G. B., 13:44.
- 2nd—Powell, R. A., 13:50.
- 3rd—Horne, R. N., 14:0½.
- 4th—Godfrey, D. A., 14:29.
- 5th—Gough, H., 15:19.
- 6th—Richards, G. H., 15:36.

11 Competitors. Record: 13:07.

Juniors.

- 1st—Auden, P. G., 15:55.
- 2nd—Gooding, J., 16:27.
- 3rd—Brooks, A. T., 16:29.
- 4th—Gilbert, P., 16:47.
- 5th Tie—Naish, M., and Morton, M. S. H., 17:22.

11 Competitors. Record: 14:25.

NORTH CERNEY RACE.

- 1st—Wallace, A. G. B., 23:6.
- 2nd—Powell, R. A., 23:20.
- 3rd—Horne, R. N., 23:46.