

We now/

We now carried on through Long Eaton and Breedon-on-the-Hill to Ashly-de-La-Zouch near a coal district but some pleasant scenery. Near Ashly there is a castle scene of incidents in Scott's 'Ivanhoe'. We now passed through some very pleasant scenery to Atherston and Coventry which was so badly damaged by enemy air raids during the 1939 war. On to Kenilworth, after which one of the Union Castle ships was named Kenilworth Castle and on to Warwick. After passing through which we travelled on to Stratford-On-Avon, the birth place of the great poet. We were fortunate in finding accommodation in Mrs. Fraser's 'New Moon' guest house spending the night there. Here we saw one of Shakespeares play 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' I will have more to say about this area as we spent some time in a small villiage 'Salford Priors' during our next visit to England in 1950.

We then passed through Evesham, another town of which we were to see much in 1950. This is in the Cotswold country.

Then Oxford, the seat of learning Oxford University, - Henly-On-Thames, past Windsor Castle and so on to Epsom, and the Derby. The run from Stratford to Epsom is not long and as it was still early we decided to have our usual picnic lunch before looking for accommodation in the town as we wanted to see the Derby being run the next day. We then motored into the town to find accommodation which we thought, on account of the Derby Race meeting would be at a premium. Well we drove round to several of what we thought were hotels but were oversized restuarants with liquor licences. Then we struck luck, noticing a board advertising accommodation. Even here we thought it would be hopeless on account of the large crowd attending this meeting. Well no harm in asking and oh boy we were pleasantly surprised when Mr. Leslie Hase, the proprietor said he could let us have three rooms. When I remarked that I thought there would be a scarcity of accommodation he said that although so many people attended the meeting, Epsom being so near London, people returned there each night where they could attend night clubs and so make a real holiday of the season. This was the Tower House )Private and Residential. Well we settled in The hotel consisted of two very large double story houses in rather large grounds where, as the weather was fine, we could sit out, and have our tea.

This was the afternoon before the race so we decided to motor the mile or so to the course and have a look round this famous track.

Mother accompanied us but said that the next day she would rather have a quiet day and rest instead of seeing the race.

It was all most interesting, all the tents, gypsy caravans and touts offering, as they did the following morning too, envelopes for a bob supposed to give the names of the winners and vouched that we would make money.

Joyce and Lorna could not resist entering the Gypsy caravans to have, like all women, their fortunes told. Well they both had a half crowns worth and then the woman told them that for another half crown she would tell them more. Lorna was not tempted but Joyce could not resist. Having inspected the course with its up hill start and then the famous Tottenham Corner we motored back to the hotel. We had a very fine and well served dinner and later retired to our very comfortable rooms.

We were up fairly early next morning and decided that instead of motor- ing to the course we would take the tram which passed our front door and right to the course. which saved all the worry of finding parking for the car. There are several pavilions but as they were all fairly expensive we decided to join the crowd on The Hill, a well known area. After leaving the tram and on the way to the Hill Lorna spotted a Book Maker and decided to risk a pound each way on the favourite Toms Walls- the ice cream magnet- Blue Peter. I think the price was four to one. Tom Walls apart from being an ice cream magnet was a well known actor. The Hill as it is known is the high ground on the inner portion of the course, and it is here that one meets tourists, and