



The Cat and Fiddle, Buxton

Valentines Series



into from
J. Lomas.

The Well. It was, or is 96 feet deep and 5 feet in diameter. The top 12 feet is through peat and lined with stone, then 70 feet through rock and the bottom 14 feet into shale, the water level reaching the top of the shale layer.

The well was cleaned out in 1925/1926 by Mr. Peter Lomas and his son J. Lomas for a fee of £16. This was in readiness for a new electricity driven bucket chain to be installed.

Prior to this a double bucket winch had been used. 13 old buckets were found at the bottom of the well.

From "Goyt Valley Story" original written 1955.

The Cat & Fiddle was built early in the 19th century by John Ryle of Macclesfield who was a banker in the house of Scintry and Ryle in the days when there were so many private banking houses. Scintry and Ryle had premises on Park Green, Macclesfield. John Ryle acquired considerable wealth and in turn purchased the Herbury and Etrwood estates. The exact date of the building of the Cat & Fiddle is not known, but in 1831 it was described as "a newly erected and well accustomed inn or public house called and known as the cat & fiddle". Many attempts have been made to explain the name of the inn. Local tradition used to state that the inn received its queer name from the fact that an early Duke of Devonshire used frequently to drive along the road



and would stop at the summit to enjoy the view and pass half an hour playing upon his fiddle, to which instrument he was greatly devoted.

Other theories:- in honour of Catherine le Fidele, wife of the Czar ~~of~~ Peter the Great. or it may indicate the game Cat (trap ball) and a fiddle for dancing, which is probably the true one.

----- along the road to the valley there are foundations of a house on the left which in years gone by was the stopping place for the coach before arriving in Bursage. The stepping off stones which assisted the passengers to alight were removed only a recent year





Spencer
COLLECTOR

Buxton, The Cat & Fiddle, 1914

67581



Site of MOSS HOUSE FARM . Taken Jan. 1989 from
across the stream .



The site of MARCHINGTON FARM , lived in by
TRUMANS in the 1917 period .

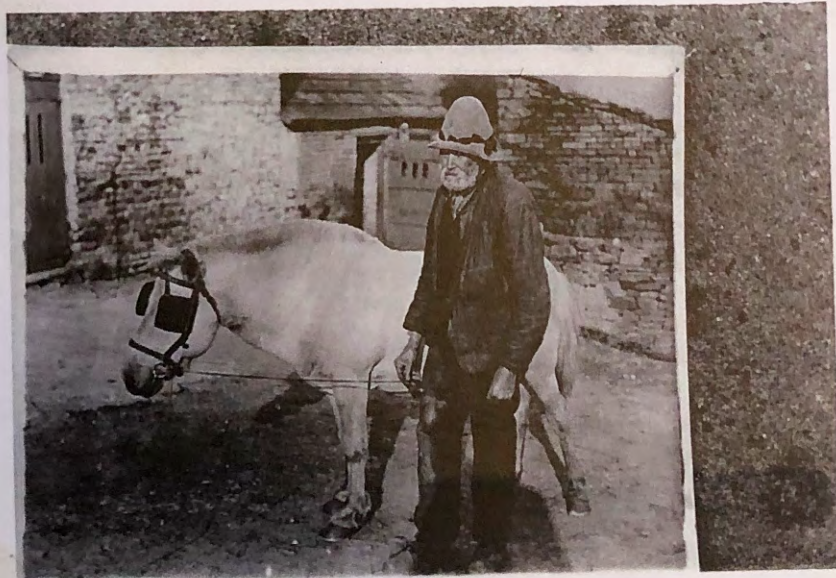


MOSS
HOUSE
FARM



The girl in the photograph is the grandchild of Mr. & Mrs. J. Swindells - Annie, who later worked at Errwood Hall until she married JOHN SOUTHERN. Years later they lived at

Vaughan Road,
Whaley Bridge.



MR. J. SWINDELLS.



MOSS HOUSE FARM circa 1915



MR. & MRS. J. SWINDELLS.

GOYTS MOSS FARM
(J. Lomas lived here 1917 - 1928)

The farm was 110 acres and extended along the South side of the old road to Burbage, up to the ridge of 'Girdin Hill', a large pasture which was grazed by cattle. Snipe were common on the wet flatter areas. Curlew were mainly on the edge of the ridge where the vegetation was cotton grass. These used



to be a 2 line telephone overhead cable along the old Burbage road, and Red Grouse were regularly found dead under the wires by Jim Lomas, quite often an average of 2 per week in late summer after young birds were on the wing. Later corks were put on the wires after complaints from the gamekeeper (Perks)

An extensive moorland fire burned 6"-9" of peat on the Diamond Hill area. It was started by a picnic fire somewhere near the Goyt stream and spread right up the moor, lasting for 3 weeks. It was controlled by the Berryclough stream, using water from the stream, and here there was less depth of peat. In the seasons following the fire, young heather did re-colonise the area but did not



produce such good growth as other parts of the moor. Bracken grew more easily after the fire.

The shooting cabin was abandoned when Boothmans Cottages were vacated, and shooting parties made use of the house as an alternative.

The Lomas family moved to Ketheshulme in 1928 when Stockport Corporation acquired the valley for Reservoir construction.



Pygott's Cottage

MOSS HALL FARM.



Site of MOSS HALL FARM taken Jan. 1989.



DOWNSTREAM OF LINDSAY BRIDGE
(NOTE WALL TO SEVERAL CROSSING IN BACKGROUND)



GOYTS CLOUGH DUMBY



The gable end and roof of the cottages can be seen looking pale further up and back to the right is Goytsclough Farmhouse



4/72

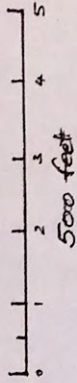
Cottages near Old Mill Goyt Valley



SIXTON THE ROAD TO GOYT BRIDGE



Goytsclough Quarry
1909



294
36-163

MAIN QUARRY AREA

original culvert outflow ?
prior to 1930 flood

PRESENT TOILETS

CULVERT AND STREAM SLIPWAY

CRUSHED POWDER STORAGE AREA

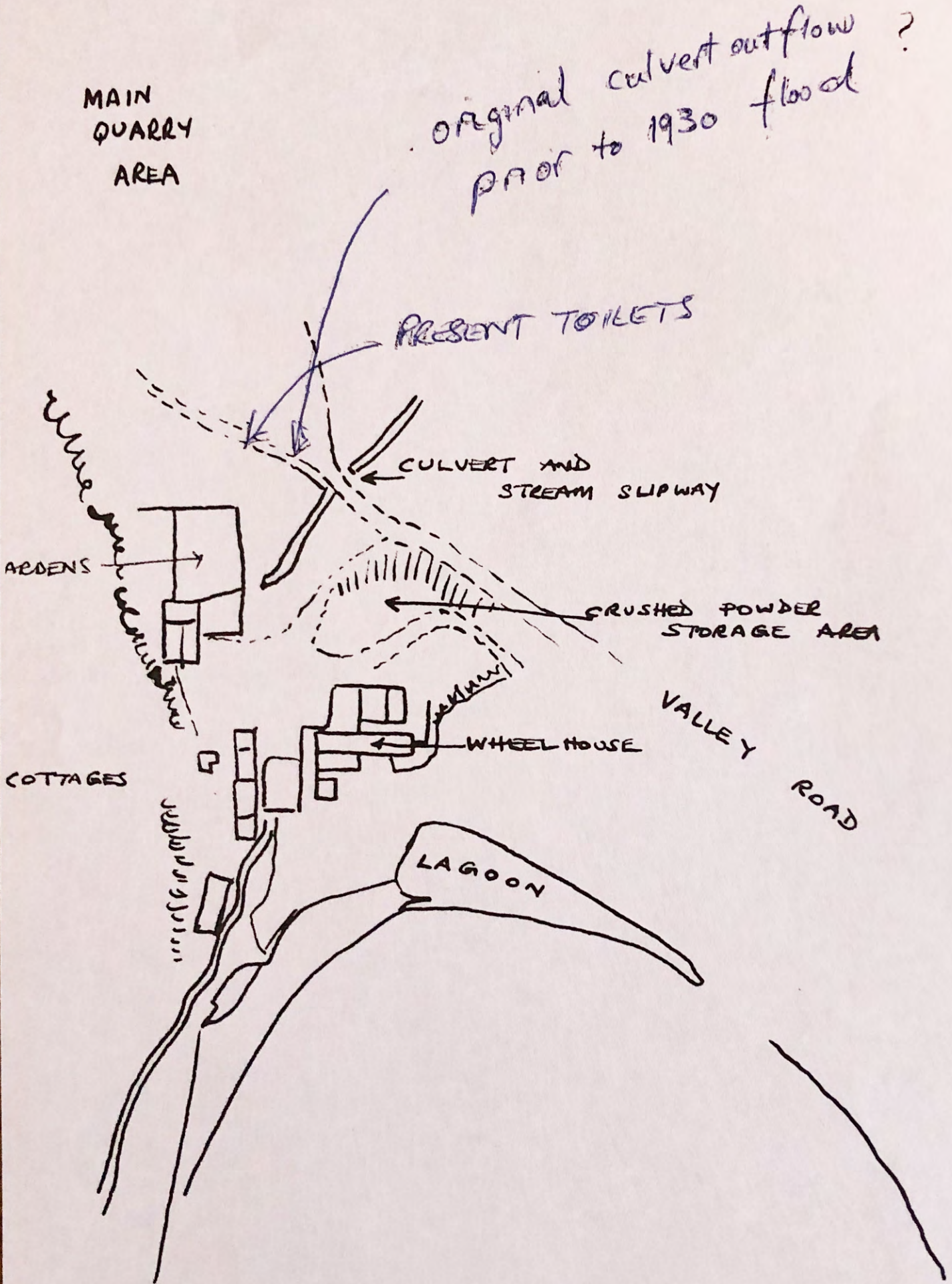
WHEEL HOUSE

VALLEY ROAD

LAGOON

ARDENS

COTTAGES



GOYTS CLOUGH



The small community at Goytsclough consisted of a water powered mill, a farm and 2 cottages. Water from the main Goyt stream and from Deep Clough stream fed by leats, a lagoon which was situated on the present site of disused Water Authority storage tanks. The lagoon supplied water to the water wheel and the overflow ran down the present outlet from the storage tanks, back into the stream. The main stream from Deep Clough was diverted past the cottages and a section of this culvert with large top stones is still visible.

When the mill was operating, caulk (barytes?) was brought from Ladmanlow area to Goytsclough in the 1800's, where it was washed and crushed. The end product was used in paint manufacture and Goytsclough is known locally as the "Paint Mills".

The bagged powder was taken by horse cart to the High Peak Railway at Bental. The loading area is still visible at the foot of what was the Incline, a curved platform of large stones with iron railings, overhanging Fernilee Reservoir. (There were "Paint Mills" at Shallcross and Cadster.)



THE OLD CULVERT LINE UNDER THE COTTAGES



From "Goyt Valley Story"

Flagstones were quarried and some were used to pave streets at London, in the 18th century. There were called all the way, via Leek.

The quarry is reputed to have been first worked by the Pickford family of removal company fame. Close by there is a wide opening in the valley where formerly stood Goytclough Mill. --- the mill was last used for the making of paint. [not sure of this last para. - it certainly crushed stone to make powder which was used in the paint making process - not necessarily at this location].



Viewed from Deep Clough looking down stream, the waterfall is more or less where the present one is situated. The old wall opposite, on the right of the cottages, is the remains of the old mill wheelhouse.



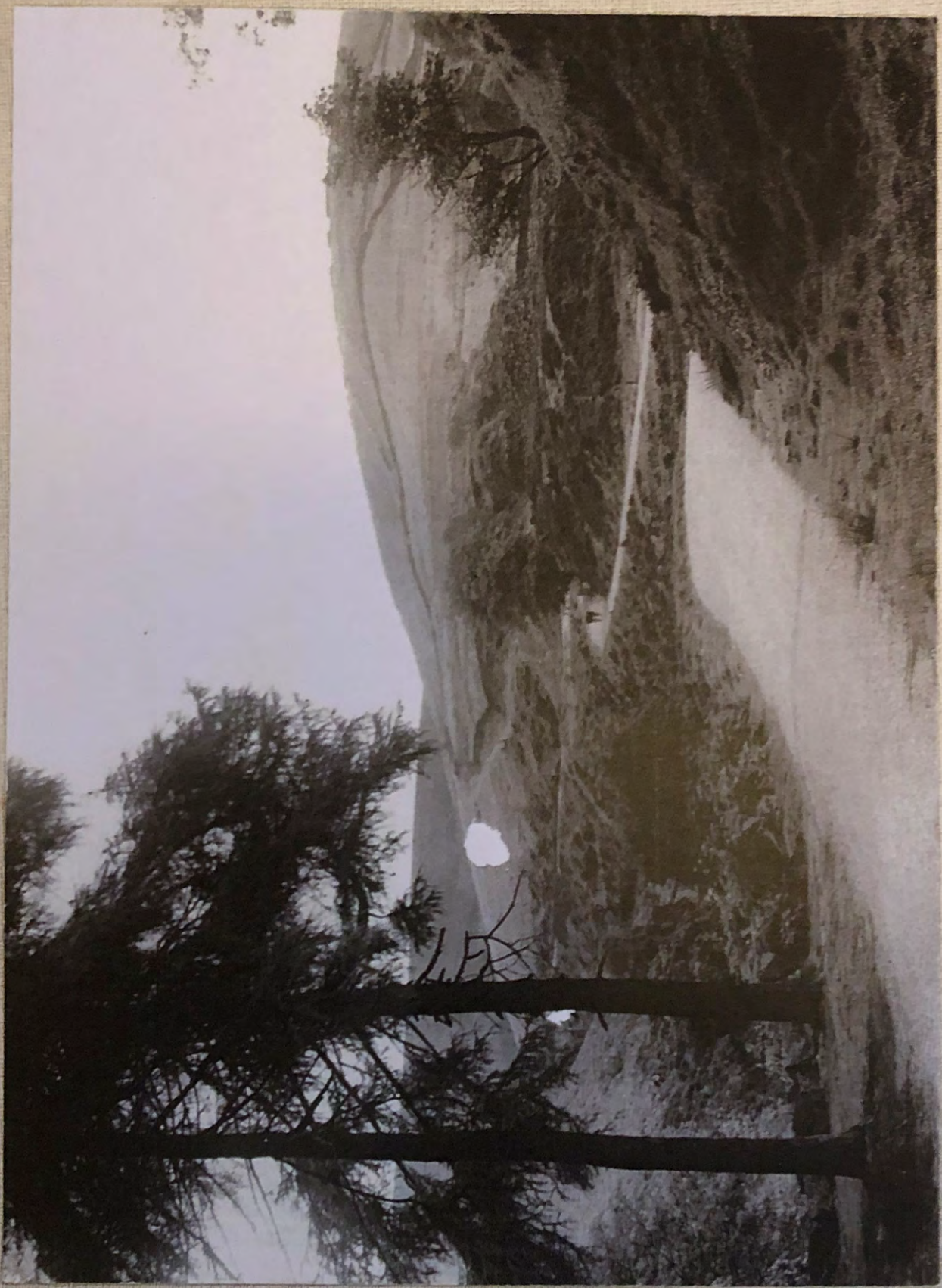
The site of the lagoon which fed the water wheel.



The old leat - looking towards Barrydaugh.



Coys Valley. Mid distance left is Stake Clough culvert wall on roadside



H. W. Hunt, Photographer, Whaley Bridge



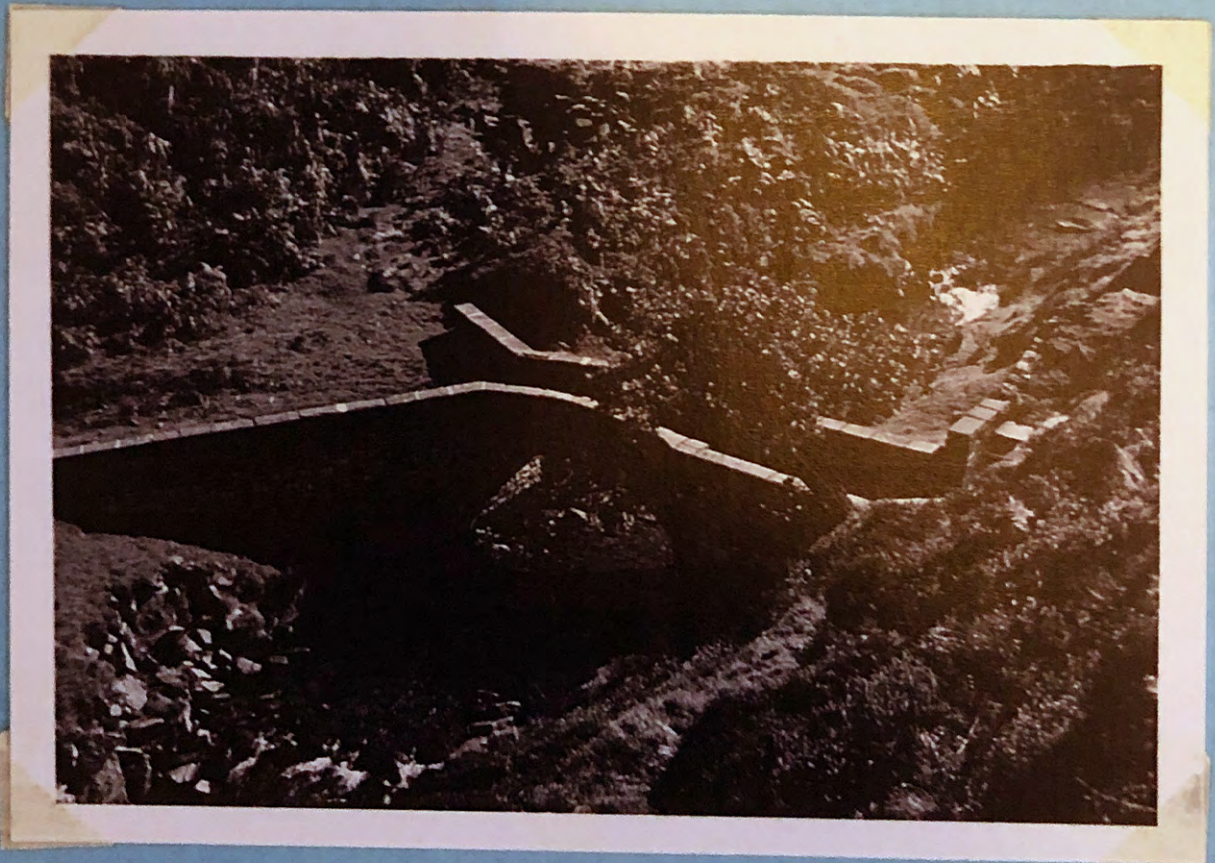
At one stage there were railings on the right of the coach, at the road edge where the culvert runs under the road, and they were painted white. (See later photo above)



MIDWAY BETWEEN LARVAE AND ...
DISTANT CLUMP OF TREES IN FIELD ...



THE REBUILT PACKHORSE BRIDGE AT GOYTSCLOUGH.





THE ORIGINAL PACKHORSE BRIDGE NEAR GOYTS ^{HEAD} BRIDGE FARM



THE MAIN GOYTS BRIDGE, NOW UNDER ELLWOOD RESERVOIR



The stepping stones over the River Goyt on the corner where Wildmoorstone Brook joined. Looking towards Errwood Hall Lodge cottages. The ford, above, to the left of the stepping stones, led to Goytshead Farm.



The opposite view



GOYTS BRIDGE



The community at Goytsbridge consisted of 2 farms - Goytsbridge and Goyts Head, Errwood cottages, Errwood schoolhouse and the Estate buildings.



SHOOTERS CLOUGH - THE STREAM WITH ERRWOOD SCHOOLHOUSE IN THE BACKGROUND.

Mr. Oyarzabal came from Spain to be head gardener at the Hall and later married the school teacher, Miss Bridgett Murphy.

Errwood Estate kept their own livestock; sheep, cattle, horses, and grew corn (oats) in field where the present car park at Errwood Reservoir is now situated. One shippen / barn building was near the main drive entrance not far from Errwood Cottages, and the other was over the river, at the bottom of Goyts Lane.



Goyts Bridge Farm

Point chimney top



THE ORIGINAL PACKHORSE BRIDGE NEAR GOYTS HEAD FARM



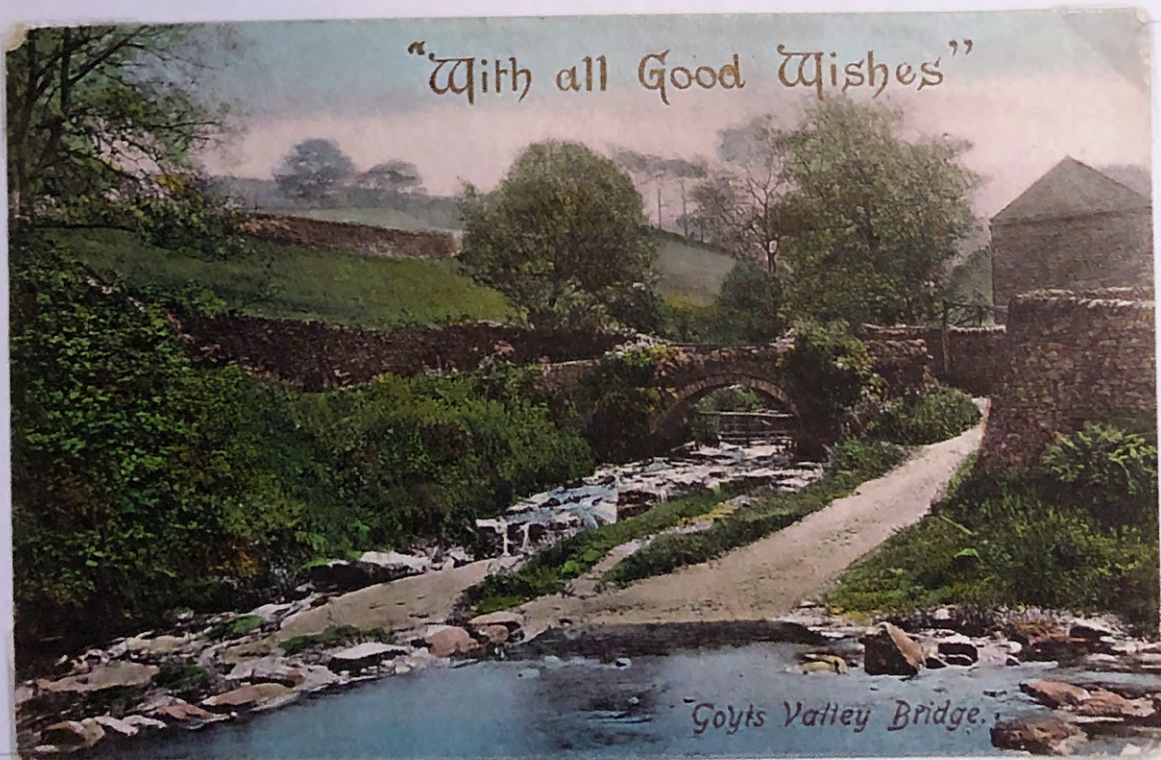
THE MAIN GOYTS BRIDGE NOW UNDER ERWOOD RESERVOIR



GOYTS HEAD FARM & PACKHORSE BRIDGE



ERRWOOD COTTAGES with main drive entrance gate posts just visible (left).
GOYTS BRIDGE FARM (background left)
GOYTS HEAD FARM (background middle)
'BARN' BUILDING (foreground) was where farmhands, school children had
their lunch until Mrs. Oyezozable objected. (School house hidden in trees).

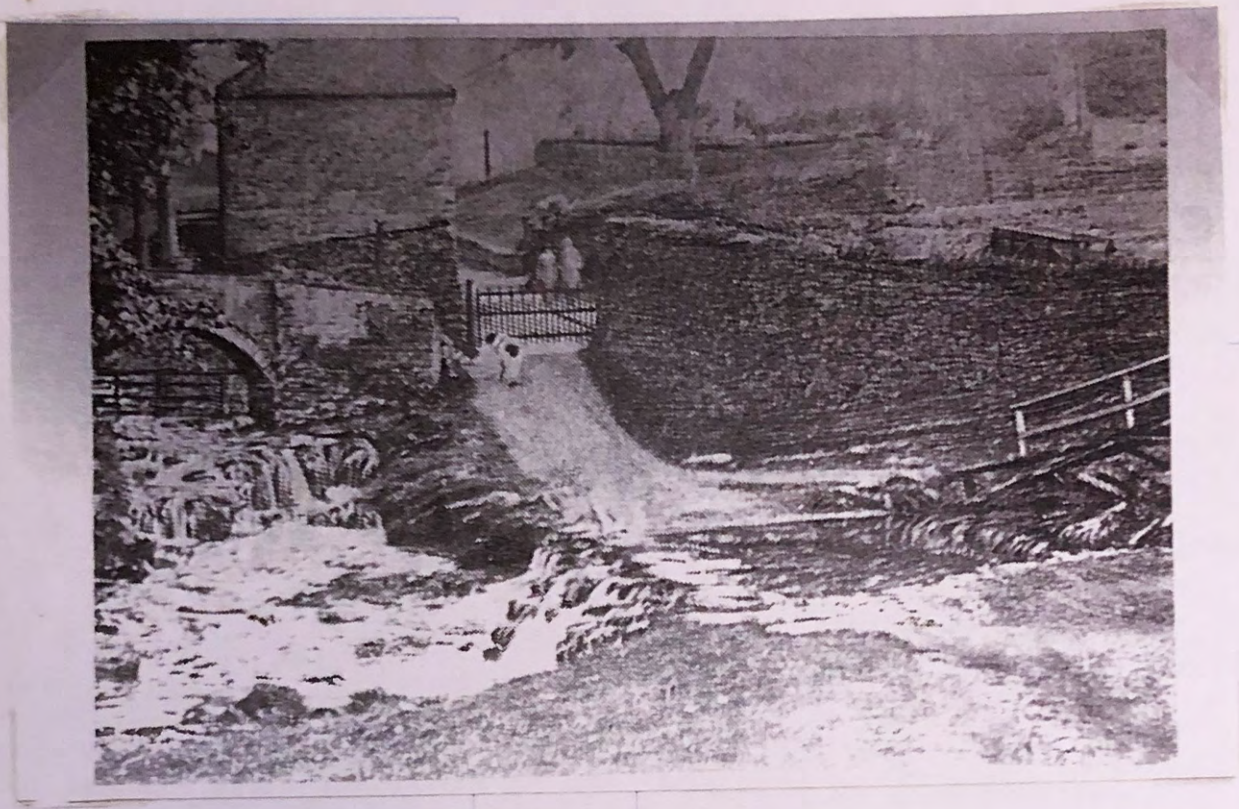


"With all Good Wishes"

Goyts Valley Bridge.

Goyts Bridge, Buxton





PACHNORRE BRIDGE, LODS, GOUTSHEAD FARM





↑ DISTANT
GOYTSHEAD FM

ERRWOOD HALL

HOATE FARM
BUILDINGS

← GOYTS BRIDGE
FARM

GOYTS BRIDGE

→ LODGE COTTAGE



ERRWOOD LODGE COTTAGE

THE PAST EXPOSED

ELEVEN years ago a customer walked into Arnold and Plants television shop in Whaley Bridge with an old photograph he wanted copying.

Frank Armstrong, who is the managing director, was doing some photographic work in the shop and agreed to help. When he had reproduced the old print he was so pleased with the result he asked the customer if he could keep a copy himself. And this led to the start of a unique collection of almost 800 negatives of old photographs recording Whaley Bridge and its history over the past hundred years.

Although Frank looks on his photographic work as a time-consuming hobby his collection of old photographs is of tremendous value to Whaley Bridge and the surrounding area. There are copies of photographs of Shallcross and Errwood Halls — the former now replaced by a housing estate, the latter in ruins — which are now there for future generations to see.

There is another of a stagecoach passing through Whaley Bridge village centre, and a whole series of photographs of the old powder mill, now under the waters of Fernilee Reservoir, and its workers. It was an ancient mill and it is said that gunpowder was made there for use against the Spanish Armada, it was certainly used for the First World War.

Shortly after starting to reproduce old photographs Frank was fortunate enough to get hold of a large number of glass plates — original exposures of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries — and gradually his collection has got bigger and bigger.

Hand-enlarged prints, which have been “double-fixed” for chemical stability, bleached and sepia tinted are on sale in the shop, and Frank’s reproductions have been sent to over 40 countries, many to former residents of the Whaley Bridge area.

Apart from the painstaking work which goes into the reproduction of the old photographs Frank finds his work time-consuming in other ways too. “You find a shot and wonder where it is, so you have a

drive round to see. If you’re lucky you can suddenly find yourself ‘in the picture’” he said.

Although most of his photographs are of Whaley Bridge other towns and villages feature. Kettlethulme, Chapel, Fernilee, New Mills, Furness Vale, Birch Vale and Hayfield are all included, and he is currently trying to expand his collection of Buxton photographs.

He has selections of railway photographs; local schools and scholars; local mills and mines; the Whaley Bridge of 75 years ago, and records of his negatives are filed on computer so that he can search for an odd one, or list them, at the touch of a button.

Of course Frank is always on the lookout for old photographs, negatives, and postcards, dated before 1940, and he takes great care of anything loaned.

He can’t stress too strongly how important it is not to throw away the old black Celluloid negatives which frequently turn up when people are clearing out old drawers and boxes. “They think they are of no value, but they can be priceless negatives recording days gone by” he says.

Particularly important to him are the old glass plates. “Don’t throw any old photos or negatives away. Just bring them into the shop, and we can assess the quality” he adds.

To have acquired such a collection of photographs hasn’t been altogether easy, and Frank hasn’t just sat back in his shop waiting for people to bring their old snaps to him.

On occasions he’s even had to risk life and limb, such as the time in 1979 when he hired a light aircraft and a pilot, removed one of the windows, strapped himself in, and flew over Whaley Bridge to take a series of aerial photographs.

Although a hair-raising experience Frank now has a superb collection of aerial views which also help to solve the riddles posed by some of his old pictures, for it is sometimes possible to see old workings on aerial shots which are no longer apparent from



New Mills — 1890

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Frank now has hich also help to his old pictures, old workings on apparent from



House now under Fernilee Reservoir

ground level.

All Frank's photographs he copies and develops at his Poynton home where he has his own darkroom. Eight years ago he was fortunate enough to acquire the same old, wooden, horizontal bed enlarger used in the village for many decades, from Christies of London. This he uses to process the old glass plates, and is one of his most treasured possessions.

Frank is also able to copy large exhibition prints up to a size of six foot by five foot from some negatives, but it's a very expensive process and it's not an easy job. He has a specially made stainless steel trough in which to develop them, but it takes two people to handle the print and as he hasn't enough room in his darkroom they have to be processed in his garage in the dead of night. Print washing too poses difficulties and he's found the

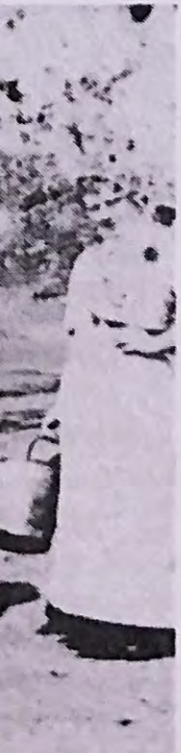
best way is to hang them over the washing line and hose them down with the garden hose.

But the results are well worth it and he has a magnificent poster print of old Market Street looking south towards Old Road.

He stores his old material, original negatives and glass plates, at home under controlled conditions to slow down the inevitable deterioration process. Other material has been rephotographed and is held mainly on 6 by 7cm film stock.

Currently a hundred or so of his photographs are on display at the shop, but he plans to stage a larger exhibiton of his work at the local Mechanics' Institute shortly after Christmas.

This will include local views, and sections on local industry, rail and canal transport, and early 1900s school groups.



Bottom of Long Hill — 1930

GOYT'S BRIDGE "in Goyt Valley story"

There were 2 farms, Goyt's head and Goyt's bridge. Hibberts lived at one, and the Ferns at the other.

30 children attended the school at one period

Miss Dolores taught nettlework and other subjects and was helped by the wife of the gardener who lived nearby (Brazzett nee Murphy?).

-- under the shade of a large tree was the burial ground of the dogs for the Hall.

The Goytstanes were great travellers and had their own yacht which took them to all parts of the world.

The terraced walks were named 'Apple tree walk', 'Scottish Plantation walk' 'Italian Rose walk'.

The last priest of the Hall was Father Grimes.

~~Mr. Grosvenor~~

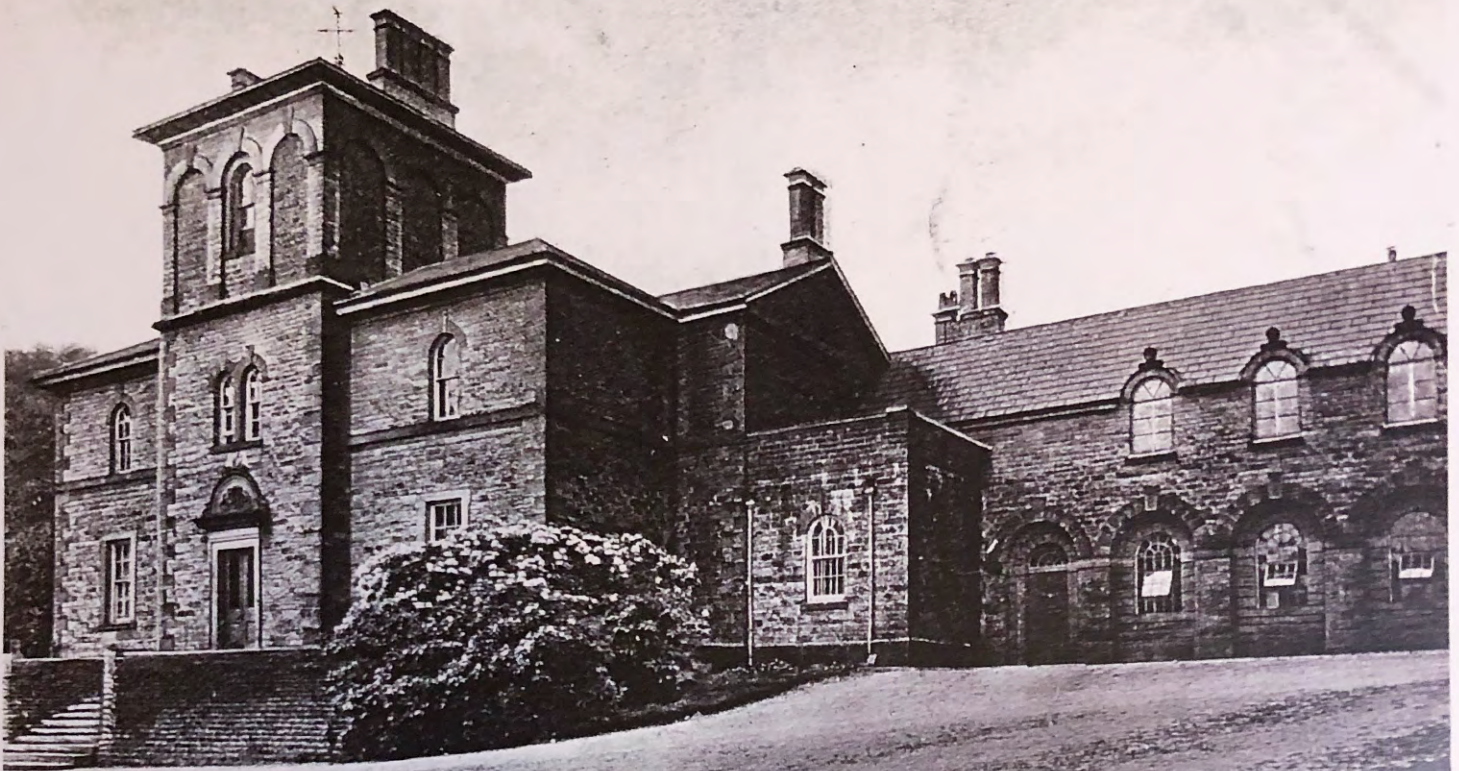
The family were of Lancashire descent and built Edward Hall in the first half of the 19th century. The son of the builder of the hall, Samuel Dominic Goytstane died in 1883 and his wife died 10 years later. They had 2 daughters - Mary who married Mr. Helier Robert Hadley Gossett of Hertford, and Ann who married Capt. The Hon. Edward F. J. Preston. Mrs. Gossett died in the hall in 1930

and it was following this that the Hall and its contents were sold. I heard of the days when Goytstanes employed large numbers of Irish men to help with the harvest and how as many as five sheep were killed in one week to provide them with meat.

There was the story of the Irishman who seeing tubers for the first time moved it down the family's good crop, thinking it was a weed.

Memorial stone at Tuxford Church :- are buried Samuel Goytstane who built Edward Hall and his wife Anne. Samuel died in 1851 aged 83

Their only daughter married MR. JOHN UPTON of GARNER, St Ingostrey



ERRWOOD HALL, NR. BUXTON.



"THE VALLEY OF THE GRIMSHAWES"

By Peaklander

On the extreme edge of Derbyshire's Peak National Park, near its junction with the Stafford and Cheshire borders, lies one of England's beauty spots, the beautiful valley of the River Goyt, the valley of the Grimshawes. We may

approach this lovely area by various ways. Taking the Long Hill road out of Buxton, towards Whaley Bridge, and then turning left at the top of Long Hill is one way, or we may choose to descend from the moors of the Cat and Fiddle

road, and follow the path of the infant Goyt, on its winding, rushing, tumbling journey down the valley, till its restlessness is finally checked, in the great calm of Errwood reservoir.

Errwood, which has a capacity of 927 million gallons, was completed in 1966, at a cost of £1½m, and supplies with neighbouring Fernilee, between 7 and 8 million gallons daily, into the mains system. Here is the home of the Errwood sailing club, the members of which count themselves fortunate indeed, to be able to indulge in their sport in such ideal surroundings. A fishing club is also based on Errwood, and the reservoir is stocked with trout every Spring.

Farther down the valley, Errwood's sister reservoir, Fernilee, stretches nearly to the town of Whaley Bridge. Fernilee, with a capacity of 1087 million gallons, is the larger of the two reservoirs, and was built in 1938 by the Stockport Corporation Water Undertaking, at a cost of £480,000.

In the upper end of the valley, about half way between the Cat and Fiddle road and Errwood, is Goytsclough quarry, which was first used in 1670, by Thomas Pickford. Pickford's estate had been confiscated by Oliver Cromwell, so he started in business at Goytsclough, quarrying stone, which was used in Macclesfield for pavements. After a while the



business grew, and he began to supply gritstone slabs for the streets of London. The stone slabs were transported to the capital in panniers, by teams of 40 or 50 pack horses. It was not profitable for the horses to return with the panniers empty, so before long, the enterprising Pickford arranged for goods to be delivered on the journey back to Derbyshire. This laid the foundations which were to eventually develop into the huge present day firm of Pickfords Ltd, a name synonymous with

resident priest on the staff of the Hall. Errwood, in these days, had a large staff of servants, many of whom were foreign, and in the summer time Irish labourers were employed to help with the harvest. The harvesters had tremendous appetites, and at one time as many as five sheep were slaughtered in a week, to keep them in meat.

The Grimshawes were renowned entertainers, and at holiday times, especially in the shooting season, the Hall would be full of guests, many of them titled.

The family were great travellers, and had their own ocean going yacht, the Mariquita, in which they travelled all over the world. Once, when calling at a small port in Spain, the kindly Samuel Grimshaw took pity on a ragged Spanish orphan boy, bringing him home to Errwood. The boy repaid his kindness by becoming one of the families most trusted retainers, and rising to the position of butler.

Mrs. Grimshawe's personal companion was a beautiful and talented Spanish girl, whose name was Dolores de Bergrin. Dolores, also ran the Errwood school, and was greatly loved, not only by the Grimshawes but by the whole estate. An expert horsewoman, she was often seen riding out to her favourite place, a wild and lonely ridge, high on the moors. Dolores never had robust health however, and

road transport, and removals and storage.

Looking down on Errwood from the west side of the valley, we see the bridge, which carries the new road, over what was once the hamlet of Goyts Bridge, for, long ago, in the Goyt valley, there was a thriving community, the focal point of which was

died, while on a visit to Lourdes. The Grimshawes erected a shrine in her memory, dedicated to St. Joseph. The shrine still stands, on Dolores favourite spot, surrounded by a group of gnarled pines, maintained and kept clean by whom no one knows. Fresh flowers are often to be seen on the tiny altar.

thousands of blooms is an unforgettable sight. It was the Grimshawes who planted the rhododendrons, over 40,000 it is said. The plants have flourished, and today live on, among the ruins of Errwood, a living tribute to the people who once lived here, and loved the valley so much.

From the present day Errwood Hall car park, it is only a short walk up a wooded valley, before we come to the ruins of Errwood Hall itself. Standing on the lawn, facing the three old gritstone arches which were once great windows, we feel the magic of Errwood casting its spell over us, and it is easy to see, in our minds eye, the old house in all its glory, as it once was, long ago. But we must return to reality, and continue our walk, to a hill top, just above the Hall.

The Grimshawes were known for their generosity, and great kindness, and indeed it is difficult to

imagine otherwise, for if one stands here, in the still of a summer evening, an almost indescribable aura of great peace pervades the whole atmosphere.

On this hill top is the family cemetery, overlooking the waters of Errwood, shimmering softly in the evening light. Here lies John Butler, captain of the yacht Mariquita, here a French maid, and other faithful members of the staff. And here also is the vault of the Grimshawes, where rests Samuel Dominic Grimshawe, his wife Mary, their two daughters and their husbands, also the son Arthur, who died in infancy.

The glory that once was Errwood, is gone now, the once magnificent Hall, only a pile of stones. The Grimshawes are long since dead, but their memory is with us for ever. It lives on, in the lovely flowers, in the crystal clear moorland streams, and in the remains of Errwood, stronger than time itself.



Errwood Hall.

The Hall is now only a romantic ruin, a memory of bygone days, when it was the home of the wealthy Grimshawe family. A coal mine, school, private chapel, water mill, and cottages for the estate workers, were all part of the Errwood scene, in the late 19th century. The Hall was built about 1830, by Samuel Dominic Grimshawe, the head of a family who were to dominate the life style of the valley for nearly a century.

Mr. Grimshawe resided in the Hall with his wife Mary, and their two daughters, Louise, and Anne Marie. Louise married Captain, the Hon. Edward Preston, an officer in the army, while Anne Marie's husband was Mr. Helier Robert Hadsley Gosselin, from Hertfordshire.

The family were devout Catholics, and there was a

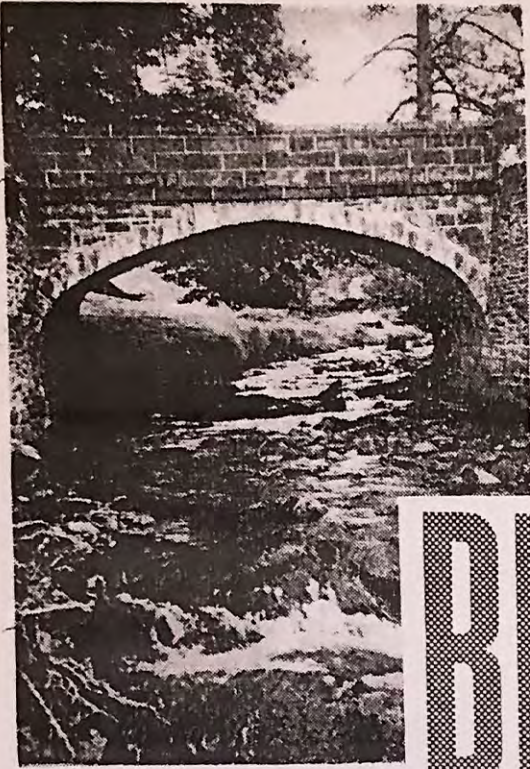
Spring and Summer are the times most popular with visitors to the Goyt valley, but, as Autumn shadows creep across the face of Errwood, and Autumn fades into Winter, the valley takes on a wild and lonely beauty, which is enhanced even more when the first snow arrives. But Winter in turn gives way to Spring, in the eternal cycle of nature, and the promise of things to come, follows on, inevitably.

To visit the valley when the rhododendrons are in blossom is to experience a rare treat, for the dazzling spectacle of literally

☆ The march of progress is quietly changing a famous North-West beauty spot: Eric Gilli

GOODBYE TO GO

BRIDGE



SOME water supply schemes raise a storm, others don't. One of the latter kind—even though it means flooding a famous beauty spot—is being started by men in a camp of blue-painted huts on a Derbyshire hillside.

Down its pleasant valley, so popular with walkers and motorists, the River Goyt (from the old English "Geotan," meaning "to pour") tumbles and sparkles to broaden out at last into the 86 acres of Stockport's Fernilee Reservoir, started in 1932.

Now comes the new scheme—to build a 145 feet high earth dam across the upper "neck" of Fernilee and so create a 78 acre reservoir backing up the valley, submerging the site of famous Goyt's Bridge, transforming the whole scene.

That Stockport and District Water Board needs this new Errwood reservoir is without

question. It has no fewer than 320,000 people to supply in Wilmslow, Hazel Grove and Bramhall, Cheadle and Gatley, Bredbury and Romiley, Marple, New Mills, Disley and Whaley Bridge, as well as Stockport borough.

How, though, has everything gone so smoothly right up to the stage where the bulldozers are now biting deep into the earth? Partly foresight, partly a noteworthy effort to "do the right thing" by lovers of the Goyt.

By buying all the land many years ago, Stockport has prevented any building, so there are no homes to pull down.

In fact, the only real demolition will be the two Goyt's bridges. Vandals have so damaged the Packhorse Bridge that it is beyond preserving. If by the time the valley is flooded anyone wants the other, the water board has undertaken to number each stone as it is taken down, so that the bridge can be re-erected.

To care for the amenities, two Manchester University men, Mr Denis Thornley and Dr George Chadwick, are working as consultant landscape architects. Talks are still going on with the Forestry Commission about tree planting on the hill-sides—all trees below the reservoir level will have to be cut down.

«««««
 "But there is no intention of a complete blanket of trees," stresses Mr William Yale, water board engineer and manager. "Some of the planting will be quite uneconomic, for the sake of appearance."

Access will be better. So far, drivers can reach the west side of the valley by a Roman road, The Street; on the east, some have risked their car springs down Goyt's Lane, off the A6 from Long Hill.

Parts of both these roads will be flooded, but already work has begun on diverting Goyt's Lane along the line of the old Cromford and High Peak Railway, then across the dam to link up with The Street, the submerged part of which will be replaced by a new road alongside the reservoir. A

bridge will carry it over one arm of the reservoir.

So it will be possible for the first time to drive in comfort across the valley. What is more, there will be plenty of car parks.

"We are not thinking in terms of vast tarmac areas, but rather of hard standing for groups of three or four cars in places where they will not be conspicuous," says Mr Yale.

For ramblers, there will be new footpaths to replace submerged ones, and also greater freedom to walk where there are no footpaths.

It will take about four years' work by 150 men, none of whom will live on the

site—many of them travel from Manchester daily.

"The main problem of the job," says 37-year-old Mr Geoffrey Kirk, agent for the Matlock firm doing the work (they also built Fernilee) "is that we have to build a coffer dam to hold back the waters of Fernilee before we can start the earth dam. That makes it different from most jobs of this kind."

So the face of the Goyt Valley begins to change, and in time the waters will lap almost halfway up that rhododendron fringe drive down which the old ladies of Errwood Hall used to bowl in their carriage to church at Whaley.



☆ In four years' time this valley will be covered by the Goyt Valley reservoir.



☆ Geoffrey Kirk, agent in charge of the building of the new reservoir.



☆ The new reservoir at the Goyt Valley will be separate from the Fernilee reservoir but very close to it. The dam wall will rise from a point just beyond the bridge. This picture was taken from the Fernilee reservoir. A coffer dam is to be built this side of the bridge.