

Walking Man Steps Out

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WINDOW ON EAST ANGLIA

Walking Man steps out

BESIDES being a stone mason, Mr. William Lain, of Norwich Road, Reepham, is a sculptor, although not many people know it.

He works both in uncut stone or in his own prepared medium which he calls Lainstone that can be applied in plastic form and fashioned when set rock hard.

Working with this he has sculpted a curious seven-foot figure to stand outside the shop he and his wife, May, are opening on Saturday under the name of Walking Man Antiques.

They will specialise in porcelain, collected over the years and small pieces of furniture. Although this is a new venture for Mr. Lain, he has a brother, Harry, in the antique business in Hampshire.

In setting up the shop, Mr. and Mrs. Lain have been helped by their son, Malcolm, who is a carpenter but better known as a Reepham footballer and by their daughter, Mrs. Wendy Shreeve and her husband, who is a builder. Another daughter, Sally is 17.

The Walking Man was in a back room when first I saw it. After Mr. Lain had told me about his working methods I asked whether he remembered Sunny Jim. I was glad to hear he had never heard of him, for the sculpture had reminded me of the figure that strode across my packet of corn flakes when I was very young with a little rhyme that ended, "Force made him Sunny Jim." It was a comical "Johnnie Walker" sort of picture.

The Walking Man, like all Mr. Lain's sculpture, is strictly original. It is only his cherubic faces and some other garden ornaments that are moulded in one pattern.

As a corporal in the Royal Army Service Corps during the war Mr. Lain was in the Middle East, including the Canal Zone and Palestine. Returning to England he became ill and by chance was sent to the War Hospital at Salle, which was so near that eventually he was told to go home and report by telephone.

Clement Court

MARATHON: NEW BID AT 72

Many people would shrink at the idea of walking from Norwich to Yarmouth and back, but not 72-year-old Mrs. Florence Clarke, of 24, Park Lane, Norwich.

Mrs. Clarke, who has been a widow for 20 years, made the attempt in October last year. She got as far as Yarmouth, but on the return trip had to give up at Acle. Now she is to try again.

"I feel confident I can do it this time. I have had a satisfactory medical check-up and



Mr. William Lain, of Reepham, with his sculptured Walking Man.

Season of promise

ON THE last day of January we published an "Ode to Winter," written by Barbara Chambers, of Norcamb, Church Road, Walsoken. Today, on the eve of a bright and early Spring, it seems fitting to give a short poem by Violet Gomer, of 43, King Street, Thetford, who also turns the seasons into verse.

She says, "It seems to me that this beautiful time — although there is beauty all the time — in our Norfolk countryside, is like waiting for the opening bars of some great musical work. Each year it happens and loses nothing."

Perhaps because I was born a child of Spring I, too, love this season of promise, despite the East wind that too often comes with it.

Here then is "The Beautiful Waiting."  
"Brown furrows gleaming in strengthening sun,  
Small trees and tall trees still dark and bare,  
White gulls that have sheltered from winter's rough seas  
And the river full flood to the weir,  
Are waiting.  
Snowdrop and crocus their warming have given,  
The catkins dance winter away,  
Blackbird and robin are waiting to sing  
Waiting for Spring!  
Wonderful Spring!"

CLERGYMAN WRITER RETIRING

AFTER 23 years in Norfolk, the last five as Vicar of Brooke and Rector of Kirstead, the Rev. G. H. Hurst is retiring in June. He and Mrs. Hurst will be living in North Norfolk.

After being ordained in Blackburn Cathedral by the late Dr. P. M. Herbert when he was Bishop of that diocese, Mr. Hurst held livings in Preston and Blackpool besides being Chaplain of the Diocesan Elmslie School and chairman of the Diocesan Sunday Religious Education Committee. During this time Mrs. Hurst became Diocesan Secretary of the Young Wives, a movement then being organised nationally.

In 1949, the Hurst family moved to Norfolk and received an encouraging welcome, with congregations at Hockering with Mattishall Burgh which grew to a regular 60 and more each Sunday from a population of 350.

Six years later they moved to Reepham and Hackford with Whitwell and Kerdiston and in 1956 the office of Rural Dean of Sparham was added, to be held for 11 years. Reepham churches were restored at this time at a cost of over £7000.

Under the pen name of H. de Conte, Mr. Hurst wrote one of the "1000 best juvenile books of the year" with "The Mystery of the Hollow Farm" — and besides contributing to the "Eastern Daily Press" he produced booklets for Reepham Church and for the Housing Trust.

Mr. Hurst has from March 1971, served as Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Norfolk, Mr. Eric D. Mackintosh, being in fact the last chaplain under the old system of Assizes.

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# COMEBACK FOR GIANT



The Walking Man — out for the count, but he'll be back on his feet. Planning his comeback: Mr. William Lain, his creator.

## Shop stops sales of 'adult' books

A DISS newsagent has withdrawn "glamour and adult" magazines from his shop because, he said yesterday, of a complaint by a local solicitor.

Mr. Reg Peggy, who with his wife Peggy took over a newsagent's shop in St. Nicholas' Street earlier this year, said that on Sunday Mr. R. A. Burne had complained about a type of magazine on general sale.

Mr. Harvey said he had understood the magazines were within the law. But as a result of what Mr. Burne, senior partner in Lyus, Burne & Lyus, had said he had withdrawn them.

### RELUCTANT

He had done this reluctantly, he said, because he wished to avoid trouble. He had contacted his suppliers and the books would be taken from his premises this week.

Mr. Burne confirmed to an "Eastern Daily Press" reporter that he had had a conversation with Mr. Harvey on Sunday.

It was private and he had gathered that as a result of it, certain things had been withdrawn from sale. But he had no further comment to make, he said.

Mr. Harvey yesterday displayed notice in a window headed "Glamour and adult magazines, etc."

The notice said that such publications would not be sold at the premises. This action had been prompted, said the notice, by threat of private legal proceedings by Mr. Burne for their removal.

It added that the publications had been withdrawn because there was no wish to upset the

strict moral and censorship code prevailing in Diss.

The notice was later taken down at Mr. Harvey claimed Mr. Burne's insistence.

Mr. Harvey showed an "E.D.P." reporter copies of the magazines to which he said Mr. Burne had objected. All contained full frontal nude pictures. In some, the women were accompanied by nude males.

All the magazines were readily available at the majority of newsagent's shops, said Mr. Harvey. He did not deal in "under the counter" books and all the magazines in his shop were on display. He had not received any previous complaints.

The type of magazine represented only a small percentage of the shop's turnover, said Mr. Harvey. The sales probably amounted to £4-£5 a week, and certainly not more than £10.

He had not "twisted anybody's arm" to buy them and had obscured parts of the covers when he considered they were too explicit.

He had always been concerned that magazines in the shop were within the law, and felt he was being made out to be a pornographic pedlar.

"If I am a pedlar, 90 per cent. of the people in the Newsagents' Association are pedlars as well," he said.

Mr. Harvey intends contacting

the Newsagents' Association for advice.

Mr. R. Knights, another Diss newsagent, said he had many of the same titles at his shop as Mr. Harvey.

He had not received any complaints and by dealing with reputable wholesalers he had assumed that they would not contain suspect material.

Similar magazines were on sale at wholesale newsagents and most newsagents' businesses he had seen, he said.

## Private car shuttle in bus dispute

Residents of Stoke Park, one of Ipswich's newest housing estates, were running a shuttle service of private cars yesterday to get people to and from the town centre.

The estate had a public transport crisis following a decision by the municipal bus drivers to impose a ban on reversing at the Stoke Park terminus in the interest of road safety.

The residents are now seeking a meeting with Town Council officials. Volunteers will continue to operate their car ferry service in the meantime.

One suggestion for solving the deadlock is that two-man buses would be used on the Stoke Park run so that the conductor could act as a lookout man when the bus is reversing for the return journey.

## Stolen car found

The blue Hillman Hunter estate car, taken from Hardingham Hall, home of Sir Bartle Edwards, at the same time that £1400 worth

## Walking Man of Reepham toppled by vandals

Vandals caught the Walking Man of Reepham in midstride late on Saturday night and sent him crashing to the ground.

A sack of earth broke his fall but his hat and cane were damaged and it is feared that there may be some internal injury.

The seven-foot-tall giant, a familiar sight to Reepham people, was yesterday still lying where he had fallen, legs akimbo and his cape flying out behind him. He should be back on his feet before long.

### OUTSIDE SHOP

The Walking Man is the creation of Mr. William Lain, a stonemason and sculptor, of Norwich Road, Reepham. Carved in Lainstone the curious figure, which looks rather like a comical Johnnie Walker, stood outside Mr. and Mrs. Lain's antique shop.

Mr. Lain said that vandals had knocked the statue over late on Saturday evening. Police thought it might have been the work of youngsters who had attended a dance that evening.

### CHIPPED

It would have taken several people to topple the figure. It had been in place for four or five months and had never been pushed over before, but Mr. Lain said he was concerned that now it had been done once it might happen again.

The statue had fallen on to a sack of earth, which probably saved it from more serious damage. As it was, the hat and cane had been chipped.

He said there might be some damage to the inner core of the figure. Lainstone, Mr. Lain's own prepared medium, is applied in plastic form and fashioned when set rock hard.

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## Surf casting honours for Norfolk men

Norfolk men were prominent in the North Eastern Counties Surf Casting Championships at Beverley, Yorkshire.

In rain and facing wind, Sam [Name] of King's Lynn put in a [Name] of the Star at [Name]

## Timber fall kills man

A timber yard worker died yesterday when a stack of timber collapsed on him in a yard at Yarmouth.

He was Mr. Frederick Jackson, aged 63, of 157, Nelson Road Central, Yarmouth.

He was walking between two stacks of timber in the South-west yard of Jewson & Sons when one of them, of banded planks, suddenly col-

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