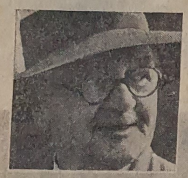
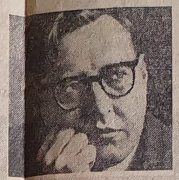
BOYCOTT BY CANDLELIGHT


SAM LEIGHTON

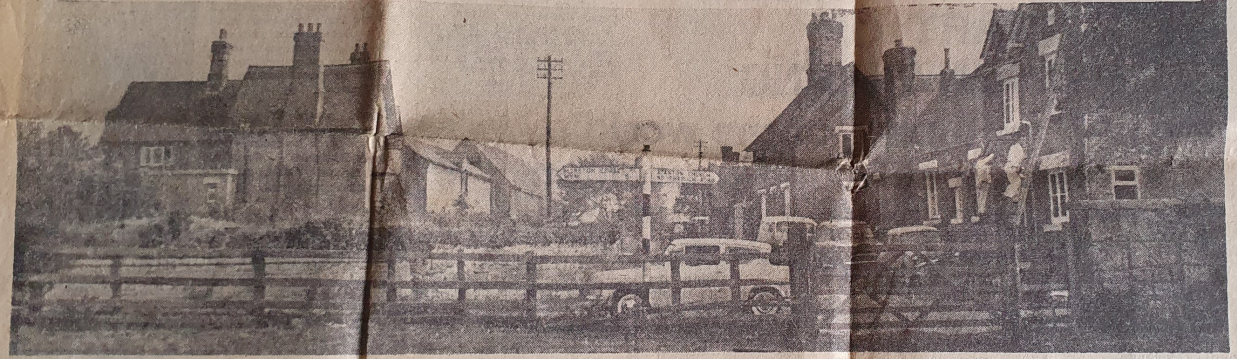

FRED BLACKHURST


JOHN GRIFFITHS


REG SPENCER


ALEC DIXON


GEORGE CARTWRIGHT





No electricity yet—so no vote

Express Staff Reporter

VILLAGERS at Stanton, near Shrewsbury, are planning to boycott the General Election — because they cannot get electricity in their homes.

School master Alec Dixon said yesterday: "We are treated as if we are a Saxon village. We are just a number to those who have to spend money on us—not flesh and blood. I back every villager who refuses to vote."

The people of Stanton (pop. 280), in the Oswestry Division, have been told by the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board: "You can't have electricity before 1963—and it may be even later."

Seventy-year-old undertaker George Cartwright, who is planning the boycott, says:—

"We have tried everything to get electricity for Stanton. Letters have gone to M.P.s—the parish council has used yards of paper writing all over the place.

The answer

"We have even sent a letter to the Queen, though we have not had a reply yet.

"So this is our answer to the politicians—no electricity, no votes.

"Why should we vote when nobody's doing anything for us? Our action might make somebody sit up and take notice.

"My place was wired 11 years ago, but that's as far as we've got."

School master Dixon pointed across the fields to Shawbury R.A.F. station, and said: "That is the only light in the village at nights. They had a special line laid by the Electricity Board to light their runways."

When he came to the village school two years ago he brought his £100 television set, a new washing-machine, and a radiogram. A week later he had to sell them. They wouldn't run off candle power.

And the business men of Stanton?

Farmer Sam Leighton, the parish council chairman, has to generate his own electricity.

Blacksmith Reg Spencer loses money because he cannot fit an electric welder in his shop.

"I hope nobody votes," he says. "I'll fight with the rest of them to see some light in this place."

Smallholder Fred Blackhurst leaned on the Post Office door and said:

"What do they think we are? A shower of animals? I won't vote because I can see no point in it."

And as a jet from the air base roared overhead, he shouted: "They can get electricity at the R.A.F. station. So why not the village."

Said an Electricity Board spokesman: "Stanton is not the only village without electricity. It must wait its turn.

"The air base? If you are dealing with supplies for defence measures it has got to be done. That is why there is electricity at the airfield—but not in the village."

What is life like in a village without electricity?

The parish hall is lit by bottled gas. The men play billiards by it.

No films

But the youngsters have no film shows, no record player for dances.

NOW ALL THE CANDIDATES RUSH IN TO SPEAK . . .



ON the council estate there is wiring for electricity—but no power. Mrs Mabel Davies (above) is one of 14 families to whom the end of summer time means reading by oil-lamp, bed by candlelights. Will she vote? "Certainly not. We must do something—anything. Oil-lamps are unhealthy, I think." And in the village post office Mrs Gladys Moore, the postmistress (right), counts her stamps by oil-lamp. "Bad, so bad, for my eyes," she says. "And it takes me an hour longer every night to check up in semi-darkness."

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The shop can't keep no frozen foods, and bakery work has to be done by hand.

Major Frederick Hayes, the village squire, has an inch-thick file of correspondence with the electricity board, which wanted £1,000 to take a single-phase main across five poles to light his house.

And farmer Sam Leighton, the churchwarden, has to keep leaving his pew on Sundays to make sure the lighting engine at the church does not break down.

In other ways it is a contented village. The people have a church, a school, a blacksmith, a carpenter, an undertaker, a public-house, a recreation-room, a shop, a baker, a mill recorded in the Domesday Book, three fair-sized farms.

A good place to live, they tell each other in the New Inn. Except for one thing. And faces set stubbornly at the thought.

Who are the politicians affected by the "no-vote village"?

Tory **David Ormsby-Gore**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, has held the seat since 1950 and fights this time with a 10,000 majority behind him.

On Friday he had a question about Stanton at a public meeting. His answer: He had done his best and was powerless.

They're coming

But last night he said: "This is all very serious. I shall try to fit in a meeting there tomorrow to see what I can do.

"I hope the 'no vote' decision can be changed before Thursday."

Labour's **Glyn Thomas** visited Stanton yesterday. He said: "I spoke only to women. I must say I got no wind of the problem. I saw some wiring in the village and thought they had electricity."

"I have a meeting tonight but I hope to get to Stanton tomorrow as a matter of urgency to meet the men—and, incidentally, to persuade them to vote."

Liberal candidate **Dai Rees** said: "It looks very bad indeed and could be serious. I will definitely go to Stanton to try to smooth this over."

Two days to voting—and the swing is to Stanton!



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I can't tell Stork from butter

So this is Stork. I thought it was butter. In fact, I'd defy anyone to tell 'em apart once they're on the table. Stork tastes just as creamy—nicer if anything. I certainly can't tell.

