



Which way should the Cow face ?

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**The
Cowbridge Story**

by JOHN RICHARDS

History and Anecdotes of the
Ancient Borough of Cowbridge

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'Ssh, don't disturb,' say the people of Cowbridge Town

WE natives of the Ancient Borough of Cowbridge do not wish our town to become a chromium-plated Manhattan. The answer to "Sad Old Boy" can be found in "The Cowbridge Story," which says, "It might be more fitting to regard the town as the Peter Pan of Glamorgan boroughs.

"Industrial prosperity has neither been sought nor gained; the ancient charter rights have been retained together with the borough's air of individuality and pedigree, so admired by visitors today."

The policeman referred to by your correspondent was apparently attempting to sort out the traffic chaos caused by the county council.

After much paper work certain authorities managed to condemn a perfectly sound river bridge at Cowbridge. In February, 1957, the council commenced to remove half of the bridge. Now in June it has still not been replaced. Much leisurely week day work has taken place near the bridge but the part that matters has hardly been touched.

A civil engineer tells me that today bridges are renovated without interrupting traffic by using temporary Bailey bridges. Haven't the county engineers heard of this? Or even of working 24 hours a day?

BOMIUM

Cowbridge champion

In reply to "Sad Old Boy" (Postbag, June 17), my husband and I, as so called foreigners to Cowbridge, would like to know when the photograph of the main street was taken. It must have been on a Sunday morning because the road is never so free of traffic during the rest of the week.

True we have no big entertainment places or noisy dance halls but let me tell "Sad Old Boy," we do have a very good dramatic society. Also if he had been in this "decaying" town last Sunday he would have seen a sight to gladden his "sad old heart" — the Mayor and his councillors, along with a good half of the town, going in procession to church.

If he had slept with a gun under his pillow because of Mau-Mau as we had to then he would thank God for a quiet place like Cowbridge.

WELL TRAVELLED MOTHER.
Cowbridge.

The photograph was taken
at 3.30 p.m. on Friday, June
14.

PRIVATE VENTURE

The Cowbridge Story, by John Richards. Published by the author; 18s.

ONE of the few ways in which books which are not "commercial" can be published is for a private individual to undertake their publication. This is what Mr. Richards has done in his history of Cowbridge.

He has done still more, though. He has also written the book.

For his endeavours he deserves the greatest praise. A book such as this can have only a limited circulation, and yet such is the interest which he has put into it that no home in Cowbridge will be complete without a copy of this slim volume.

The early chapters, in particular, fascinated me. Dealing with the rise of the town and the variations in its spelling, I was surprised to see the number of ways in which it has been spelt. And there is an old map showing the inns and courts of the town. Besides the brewery there have been 29 inns at one time or another, along its main street.

These are just a few facts out of a most interesting book. Mr. Richards is to be congratulated.

A.J.M.

Limited Edition

IF you want to know anything about the historical aspect of Cowbridge, go to the chemist.

The chemist shop in Pencroft run by 39-year-old Mr. John Richards, to be exact. For Mr. Richards, besides dispensing medicines delves into history and has done so for a great many years.

His first book, "The Cowbridge Story," has just been published, the result of a Cowbridge councillor complaining to Mr. Richards that no good history of the borough existed.

The book is published by the author in a limited edition of 500 copies and printed by The Bridgend Printing Company.

Incidentally, it is the first time that company has produced a book.