

Information given to Jean Butler. April 1984 for Local History of Horton.

In 1946 at the age of 20, my friend Jean Claughton who lived at Settle, was teaching at Horton primary school. German prisoners of war living at Hellifield worked in the quarries at Horton. Alderson's buses (now Whaites) picked up the prisoners from Hellifield, and also gave Jean a lift to Horton as she knew the driver. The prisoners worked at Helwith Bridge and Delaney's quarry at Horton. After school, Jean got a lift back to Settle with the prisoners. While the bus driver waited at Helwith Bridge for the men who worked at that quarry, he would call in the pub and leave Jean with the prisoners on the bus. She didn't understand German, but realised the men joked about her being on the bus with them, and one of the older prisoners sat next to her to look after her which she thought was very kind and thoughtful.

During the big snow of 1947 the train was the only means of transport to Horton. Jean collected medicine from the doctor in Settle to deliver to Horton. There were 2 trains from Settle one at 6.20 and 8.20. When the train driver left Settle junction he blew his whistle to warn Jean that he was on his way. Sometimes only the engine and snowplough were available and Jean travelled on the footplate with the prisoners, who would get off the train every now and then, to clear the snow from the track. While this was being done Jean, with one of the clerks from the quarry, would have a cup of tea in the signal box. During this bad winter hay was dropped from the air on to the school playground and as the school had the only supply of coal in the village, the Headmaster sold off the 5 tons a bucketful a time to the villagers. Children were not able to get to school, anyway, and so often there were only 3 children at school with 3 teachers and 3 domestic staff. Jean wasn't paid unless she put in an appearance even though it meant travelling back straight away so that she could get home.

There were 80 pupils, mostly from quarrying families; they were not well dressed and wore clogs. There were school dinners. There was a survey done of plants in the hedgerows along the main road to the station and these numbered 200 varieties which was written down in a book. This book may still be in the village. The school children gardened and there is a photo of them gardening. The school field was acquired in 1947.

In the village itself, there was a drapers shop, a Co-op, a butcher and 2 pubs. Mrs Quinney kept the P. st Office which was situated in Sheila Hayward's house. ^{2 greases} There was a large village Hall standing on what is now the car park. Dances and parties were held there and there was a full-sized billiard table. The building became unsafe and was pulled down. Once there was a big fire in the station waiting room.

(The speaker in the above note is Mrs Butler.)