

Farmhouse has links

IN A FOLD OF THE HILL....



unruly. By the 14th century it was a practice to "farm out" the land, or have the work done by hired servants.

Then came the fearful upset of the Dissolution, when Henry VIII stripped the monasteries of their material power.

When Lodge Hall was appropriated from the monks of Furness it was worth £6 6s. 8d., which would do little more than cover the cost of a half-bred lamb today!

Servants and tenants of the Abbeys benefited from the Dissolution in the long run, for they had the chance to own their own land.

Soon the Weatherhead family, who were once numerous in the Skipton district and also in Upper Wharfedale, were dominating the history of Lodge Hall.

FACE LIFT

In the 17th century they gave the old farmhouse an important face-lift.

The restoration was completed in 1687, and family initials were carved over an elaborate canopied porch. Two large battle axes were cut in stone on the sides of the doorway, though they are now half obliterated.

Lodge Hall is scheduled for preservation as a building of high architectural interest. It is not often that such a large and

LODGE HALL, a 17th century North Ribblesdale farmhouse which few people see... it is in a fold of a hill, yet is only a few yards from a main road.

richly-decorated farmhouse is encountered within a few miles of the head of a Yorkshire dale. There are three storeys. The rooms are large and well illuminated. Wide-arched fireplaces are found on the bottom storey and also in the attics, where years ago the farm servants doubtless lived. On the second floor is a powder closet, and the light which streams in comes from a window shaped like a lozenge.

DATED 1651

The Weatherheads were here at the middle of the 17th century, for among wills proved at York is one of Elizabeth Weatherhead, and it is

dated 1651. Later in the century the Moores were influential residents; they were Quakers (hence the burial ground) and John Moore was prosecuted because he would not pay tithes in 1696. He was imprisoned in the castle at York.

There is richness and variety in the Dales, but they do not reveal all their attractions to casual visitors, especially those who are travelling by car and are insulated from the world by panes of glass.

Only a handful of visitors to Ribblesdale are aware that in a fold of the hill just off the tarmacway is a building which has links with monastic times.

No one appears to know the origin of the red stains on the bedroom floor. And least concerned are the Masons; present occupants of Lodge Hall.

They are much too busy and realistic to worry about them.

PAR CONTRACTS AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING

SEVERAL readers have asked me to explain more fully what I meant when, in discussing last week's hand, I said that the "par" contract was 6 Spades by E-W.

On any hand the par contract is that in which, with correct bidding by both sides

must now fail, as South will be in (after East has played the