

Letter to the Editor

from Mrs May Bradley

Madam

I was very interested in the picture of the Promenade Pier in *Newsletter* No. 17. It brought back many happy memories of long ago. Built in 1892 it was opened to the public in the following year. The Admiralty took possession at the outbreak of World War I and continued to use it as a naval pier until 1918 when it was returned to public use. The pavilion at the end housed a skating rink where Mr Percy Sherrell was the manager; occasional dances were also held there and paddle steamers plying between Hastings and Thanet made regular calls at the berth on the western side.

I remember that there were lots of automatic machines – on one you could print your name on a strip of metal – and there were at one time some monkeys in cages, which my mother loved and I hated.

* ED: Before the last war the R.C.P.Y.C. was sited approximately in the centre of the lawns in front of the Gateway.

I enclose a snap of my mother (in the centre) sitting on the pier with two of my aunts.

A ship called *The Nora* smashed into the pier in a gale one night in 1927 and the pier was very badly damaged.

Near the Yacht Club on Marine Parade* there was a stand for two bath-chairs which could be hired. They were not of basket-work which was more usual but were of leather with a leather apron and they were drawn by a man with a long metal pole attached to the front wheel. In the second snap my father is in one of these with a trained nurse, from the Institute of Trained Nurses at 8 Godwyne Road in charge.

My father was recovering from a burst appendix operation at the old RV. Hospital; I always remember that while visiting him, his meal of a boiled egg arrived with a dessert spoon to eat it with!

I do so enjoy the *Newsletter* and I think you make an excellent job of editing it.

All good wishes,

May Bradley

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