

Mum says she's pleased with 'David Main's' court battle for her

ACTOR John Stride, who plays ace solicitor David Main in the TV series "Main Chance," was waiting anxiously this week for the result of his first performance in a real-life court—representing his parents at a Southwark rent assessment panel and contesting a rent-rise application by his parents' landlords.

His parents, Alfred and Margaret Stride, objected to their landlord's application for their rent to go up to £8.50 a week and their son said they would accept the rent officer's figure of £5.75 for their semi-basement flat at 221 Gipsy-rd., West Norwood.

Mrs. Stride (68) and Mr. Stride (71) have lived in the flat since 1938 and brought up five children there. John is the second youngest.

When they first took the flat Alfred Stride was a maintenance man with a dairy chain, earning £2 5s a week, and the rent was 14s 7d a week.

Now their pension income is £10 a week and their rent, controlled at £2.81 until last year, is to be increased as a regulated tenancy because the landlord has brought it up to standard with repairs which he claims to have cost over £1,000.

ARTICULATE

Mrs. Stride told the *South London Press* after Monday's hearing, "John understands all this and he is better educated and more articulate than us and that is why he was speaking for me at the hearing.

"If we lose the case we won't be able to afford the rent. We feel so bitter because my husband has done a lot of work on the place.

"John has offered to buy us a place but our roots are here and we have room for the family to stay with us when they visit.

"John realises we want to stay here and so he is fighting for us to be happy.

"If we do lose he has told us not to worry because he will help us out with the rent."

Her verdict on John's advocacy?—"I was pleased with the way he handled it because he is not really a legal man."



John Stride's parents

Kentish Times

OCTOBER 3, 1947

Olla Podrida

Rotary Rotates

FOR an unavoidable reason this commentary on an old people's outing organised by Eltham Rotary Club is slightly belated. "Rotary Rotates" signifies that 19 Rotarians got out their motor-cars and took 45 aged guests leisurely through some of the quietest byways of Kent, one party as far as the old-world village of Ightham and the other to the Pilgrim's Rest, Wrotham-hill.

For the guests it was a welcome breakaway from their usual daily routine and sometimes monotonous and lonely domestic exile. In fact, one of the two ladies in the car in which I travelled exclaimed quite excitedly, "I have never been away for 10 years!" At the time our cars were lined up in High-street, picking up the guests, and as the three of us sat waiting I ventured to ask the lady who spoke her name, "Fancourt," she said, and when I sought her Christian name, she replied, "Isabella Elvira."

Elvira—a writer's name which has adorned these pages for many years, first under "Tea-Time Gossip," but lately under "A Countrywoman's Notebook." Mrs. Fancourt lives at Horn Park. Yes, naturally, I wanted to know a bit more about that name Elvira (and one day perhaps "Elvira" of these columns will tell us what prompted her to adopt it?) "Elvira is Spanish," explained Mrs. Fancourt, whose mother's people were Spanish; and she went on to speak of her days when her late officer-engineer husband was alive and they attended Spanish bull fights together.

Then she added a word or two about her more recent life: 14 years working with the Cherry family when they were at the Welcome Inn, Well, Half-road, where she was known as "Fanny." Well, while holidaying in the Eltham Valley, quite recently, had I not met Mr. and Mrs. Cherry and daughters at their new home, the White Horse Inn, at Bridge, near Canterbury? This I mentioned almost elatedly to Mrs. Fancourt, who replied that every week she received a welcome letter from Miss Anne Cherry. And if she and you will turn to "News in a Few Lines," in this issue, you will see there the announcement of the engagement of Miss Anne Cherry!

I remembered as we sat talking telling her that Olla Podrida is also Spanish, a theme I can develop more readily next week.

Mr. Leo Cook opened the door of our car (really his!) and got in. He did the driving. We were the advance party; if we went wrong all the other 18 cars would go wrong!

The countryside was parched and bleached white, yet still beautiful, and the harvest was being got in, and here and there the peace was perfect.

We caught a glimpse of the ponds at Keston, near which a trickling stream is the source of the River Ravensbourne. This in its origin takes us back to Caesar and his Roman troops during the Roman occupation of Britain.

Spot of Our Salvat

I REMEMBER as we driving past the great dome at Biggin Hill Mr. saying, "Look at the Weald Here high up above the Weald a plateau in the skies, was little spot of earth which Britain. We skirted Cudham Knockholt to Westerham Here with the open country Here we began to encounter Kent cottages and the ling savours of a past age. We ham was reached, where we the statue of General Wolfe, quorer of Quebec. "He was here and won Canada for said Mr. Cook. The long line cars was trailing unbrok behind, and a few miles out Westerham we dropped to a c and then stopped for a br Edinbridge lay beyond, Leigh, Hildenborough, Shipbou and Ivy Hatch before Ighth was reached.

Leigh is a pretty little vill with peaceful-looking old ah houses. We wound in and aro and crossed the Tonbridge road

We passed through farmar We wound round and zig-zag along the country roads.

Ightham is old — some lo antique buildings; it is historica old, and part of the Rom military way crossed the par The name is curious and originally Elightham, mean eight hams (not rashes!) boroughs.

Town House, a deligat medieval structure—goodly architecture—lies on a bend i narrow village street. Here a section of the party had tea.

It was beautifully laid out what probably was the gene domestic assembly hall or pla for meals centuries ago. No di intervenes between the floor a the ancient rafters. A short case, however, leads to a galley from which, I suppose, the roo rooms or other apartments a reached. There is also a big chimney and open fireplace c structed for a wood fire on a hearth.

Mr. Cook said something abo Rebechon, living at Town Hou (originally Thrupp's Tenement but it was the residence of Jo Thrupo or Thrupp, a baker, w took part in the Rebellion in 145

Tea over, the Rotary Club president, Mr. Trevor Bairsto welcomed the guests and thank Mr. Leo Cook and his confreres f arranging what had turned out to be a perfect country outing. the party were Mrs. Sarah Russe aged 87, of 7, Blunts-road, at Mrs. M. Tarleton, aged 85, of 21 High-street.

After tea we wandered in th sun-baked gardens and up th slope to the Church of St. Pet which an old inventory tells was once whitewashed for shilling! It was erected during t Middle Ages.

In the chancel we admired fine alabaster tomb-st with recumbent effigies of the memb of the Selby family, one of Igh Inn Mole. Sir William Selby supposed to have discovered t Gunpowder Plot. More interesti still was a tomb of freestone i in an arch on the north side, a very ancient figure in armou Sir Thomas Cawne, who originat from Staffordshire.

B.J.S.