

Albert Arnold

Isle of Wight County Press 14 November 1970

FORMER SHOWMAN'S INTERESTING HISTORY

The funeral of Mr. Albert Arnold, aged 79, of 110 Place Road, Cowes, whose death was briefly reported in our last issue, took place on Friday week. Mr. Arnold was well-known throughout the southern counties as a travelling showman, and his fair and amusements were formerly a popular attraction at Island carnivals.

One of five brothers, he was born in Lancashire and came here in 1911. His connections with the family entertainment business dated back to the 1900's, when his father travelled the country with a horse-drawn booth, presenting conjuring and film shows on a carbide gas jet projector bought for £5 from the Chipperfield family at a Dorset fair. Later, with improved equipment and accommodation, the show became known as Arnold's Electric Bioscope and Theatre of Variety. It toured the Island in 1920 and 1921, and the final show was given at Sandown.

In 1922 the firm started in the fairground amusement business. After the death of their father the sons carried it on as Arnold Brothers, and for a period of about five years as Arnold's Amusements, Ltd., before reverting to the former title until the firm closed down in 1958.

Mr. Albert Arnold continued on his own account as a showman for a period, and was a familiar figure at carnivals and other charity events. After recuperating from an illness about six years ago, he and a close friend, Mr. Arthur Hosey, started touring Britain every summer with a caravan, giving an interesting display of photographs showing the Arnold family's history from 1889 to 1945. They visited traction engine rallies, fairground museums and fairs. Of the nine steam traction engines owned by the Arnold family at various times, four are still working and, during his 8000-mile tour in 1967, Mr. Arnold achieved his ambition to drive all four.

This summer Mr. Arnold visited the Bath and West Show, where he was made an honorary life member of the Western Counties Fair Organ Club, receiving a plaque from the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Lord Ashburton.

The funeral service at Northwood Parish Church was conducted by the Rev. E. F. K. Dana (rector) and interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The mourners were Mrs. Arnold (widow), Mr. and Mrs. D. Hatcher, Mr. and Mrs. M. Smith (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr. A. Arnold (brother), Mr. J. Dore, Mr. C. Dore and Mr. R. Colenutt (brothers-in-law), Mrs. E. Dore (sister-in-law), Mr. J. Dore, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hansford, Mr. B. Arnold and Mr. P. Arnold (nephews and niece), Mr. A. Hosey and many other friends. Representatives of the journal "World's Fair," Andover and District Engineering Club, the Western Counties Fair Organ Club, the women's section of Cowes branch of the British Legion and the Cowes Trees of Goodwill were present and sent wreaths. Mr. F. Lloyd made the arrangements.

Mrs. Arnold and family wish to thank the doctors and nursing staff at St. Mary's Hospital for their kind attention and relatives and friends for messages of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes. Please accept this as the only acknowledgment.

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