

## **Alfred Harry Joyce**

**Isle of Wight County Press 18 August 1956**

**NEWPORT MAN SEES HIS FIRST "TALKIE"**

**WHEELCHAIR CRIPPLE ENTERS "A NEW WORLD"**

At the age of 79, Mr. Alfred Harry Joyce, of 8 Prospect Road, Newport, went to the Odeon Cinema on Monday to see his first talking picture. The last film he saw, longer ago than he cares to remember, had been little more than a glorified magic lantern performance, and the contrast was such that in the cinema's darkness he thought he was in a new world. "It was a wonderful experience," he commented. "I had already seen television, but there is no comparison. The cinema is just like life." Mr. Joyce entered his wonderful new world in a wheelchair, because over the years he has become increasingly crippled with rheumatism. He was taken by his daughter, Mrs. I. Deacon, in whose house he has been living since May and who suggested the cinema trip. Under the wing of the manager (Mr. A. T. Ward) and usherettes, Mr. Joyce's chair was wheeled to the back of the stalls.

Mr. Joyce is a native of Morden, near Wareham, Dorset. His education, which cost his parents 2d. a week, was literally elementary, and he started work at the age of eight. He was ambitious, if not learned. In the face of adult scepticism, he answered an advertisement of the local Post Office-cum-general stores, who wanted a letter deliverer --- and he got the job, although he could not read the addresses ! He would be guided to the first addressee, then ask that person to direct him to the next, and so on throughout the round. Popular with his employers, he was invited to live in, being taught reading and writing in the evenings by the postmaster's wife. For eight years he tramped a five-miles country round, and, being out in all weathers, rheumatism set in at this early stage. He next took over a more local round, by bicycle, which afforded time to learn bakery for the provisions side of the business.

Mr. Joyce sought his second situation shortly after his marriage, at the age of 20. Branching out in the bakery line, he went to work for a Mr. Bull, of the Dolphin Hotel, Cowes, but after three years failing health compelled his return to Dorset. He undertook light jobs, one being to act as a beater for the shooting gentry. His remuneration was 2s. 6d a day, two rabbits, and a "jolly good lunch !" After three years he returned to the Island and to bakery at the Dolphin. Some six years later (about 1909) he bought The Bungalow, Pallance Road, Northwood, and five acres of land, to start a market garden business. At first he made deliveries with a cart drawn by a white pony; then, finding difficulty in climbing on to the cart, he obtained a hand-drawn cart. He retired two years ago, and, with decreased activity, he became permanently bound to armchair and wheelchair. After his wife died last

October, he went to live with a daughter, Mrs. V. Blake, at Northwood, before coming to Newport.

Apart from the cinema visit, Mrs. Deacon has opened up other horizons for her father. She encouraged Mr. Joyce to correspond with his sisters, one of whom lives in the thatched cottage in Morden which he vacated long years since. That sister and her husband, both in their late seventies, visited Newport with other relatives on Saturday, a brother has called, and another sister has arranged to come. Mr. Joyce hopes for a weekly visit to the cinema, so impressed was he, and he is particularly gratified that old-age pensioners can obtain matinee admission for 9d. He stated that if ever the cinema was in financial straits and he were a man of means he would sponsor such a venture.

### **Isle of Wight County Press 25 May 1968**

#### **East Cowes**

**Former Market Gardener.**----The funeral service took place at Northwood Parish Church on Tuesday for Mr. Alfred Harry Joyce, aged 91, of 15 Arco Estate, who died the previous Thursday at St. Mary's Hospital. Born in Dorset, Mr. Joyce came to the Island when he was 19 and worked for Messrs. Bull, bakers, of High Street, Cowes (now Island Bakeries). He returned to Dorset for three years but later became well known in the Cowes area, as a market gardener, operating a regular delivery round. He worshipped at the Methodist Church, Pallance Road, Northwood. Mr. Joyce retired at the age of 65 and has since been an invalid. He had resided here with his daughter since the death of his wife, 13 years ago. The service, conducted by the Rev. E. F. K. Dana, preceded interment in Fairlee Cemetery, Newport. The mourners were Mrs. I. Beacon, Mrs. V. Drake and Mrs. M. Burton (daughters), Mr. and Mrs. B. Drake, Mrs. M. Hall, and Mr. and Mrs. D. Burton (grandchildren) and Mr. and Mrs. Pearce.

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