

Jan' 93

The *LINK*



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Happy New Year

WITH THE WISH THAT IT MAY BE HAPPIER FOR THOSE
IN LESS FORTUNATE COUNTRIES THAN OURS



STANSTED R.A.P.

[Regular Aid for the Poor]

has moved to the Front Page

Get ready for the leaflet which will drop through
many (if not all) doors before Easter -
it's not so far off!

Think how you might share regularly in help for
the world's poor.

Why not join STANSTED R.A.P. this year?

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Cost is 25p a month; £2.50 for the year. To order your copy please contact:
Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.
Advertising Manager: Mrs L Everitt, 12 Meadowcroft. Tel: 813504.
All other enquiries to the Editor, Mrs Phyllis Harrison. Tel: 813535.

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represent those of CTS, its member churches,
village organisations or advertisers.

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
14th January for February issue
11th February for March issue

Methodist

Society of Friends

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Michael Hayman
2 South Road
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 654475

Clerk: Katharine Hurford
2 Matching Lane
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 654945

Secretary: Mrs Marion Dyer
7 Blythwood Gardens
Stansted, Essex CM24 8HG

**Meeting for
worship:** 11am

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

SOME QUAKER HYMN WRITERS

Many of the things that Methodists get up to go back to the days of John Wesley. In Puritan and Anglican circles individual Christians entered into personal covenants with God (a bit like Jacob in Genesis 32), and the Independent churches were formed by a 'collective' covenant. John Wesley saw all this, indeed he 'strongly urged the wholly giving up ourselves to God, and renewing in every point our covenant that the Lord our God should be our God' in 1748. He was particularly struck with the words used by a Puritan, Richard Alleine (who had been ejected as a dissenter in 1662): 'Put me to what thou wilt ... put me to doing, put me to suffering ... In some things we may please God and please ourselves, in other things we can only please God by denying ourselves.'

Every year, usually at the beginning of the Calendar year, Methodists the world over renew their covenant with God, using those very same words. Here in Stansted, our Methodist Service at 9.30 a.m. on 3rd January will be our Covenant Service. Why not join us?

Covenants have moved on a bit. We bind ourselves to God but we also bind ourselves to one another; the minister taking the marriage service for my wife and me made us say it as one of our vows.

Nowadays, our Church leaders at every level are entering into covenants and so are groups of churches in Local Ecumenical Projects.

Perhaps as we begin a new year in Stansted we ought to bind ourselves to one another and bind ourselves to God so that through our various churches and through us His will may be done and His kingdom come in 1993.

God bless us all.

Michael A. Hayman
(Methodist Minister)

Methodist Notes:

Our Covenant Service will be on Sunday 3rd January at 9.30 a.m. and be led by the Revd. Ronald Rawlings.

Tim Richards and Kathleen Allen, two of our Circuit lay preachers, are going forward as candidates for the Methodist ordained ministry. This month it is the District Candidates Committee (on 16th January): please pray for them.

Although hymns are not a part of the Quaker Meeting for Worship, until they were recently turned out as no longer of use, Stansted Meeting possessed a number of copies of the Fellowship Hymn Book, published early this century for the National Adult School Union and the Brotherhood Movement. I acquired a copy, and from the biographical notes included I have learnt that Whittier was not the only notable Quaker who could produce a hymn worth remembering.

William Charles Braithwaite (1862-1922) bears an important name in Quaker history. One of his hymns would surely be worth a place in any modern hymn book:

'Blow, wind of God, and set us free
From hate and want of charity;
Strip off the trappings of our pride
And drive us to our brothers' side.'

Edward Grubb (1854-1939) described in John Purshon's history of the Quakers as 'one of the leaders of his generation', again speaks forcibly to today:

'There are human hearts in bondage, where Thy sunbeams may not shine,
Where the flowers of love are blasted, well-nigh quenched the spark divine;
Where the men that use Thy name are waging war's unholy strife,
And the greed of man, unheeding, crucifies the Lord of life.'

But it is a much earlier one which - as a poem perhaps, rather than a singable hymn - I find most deeply moving. It is by Thomas Ellwood (1639-1713), '... the friend of George Fox, Isaac Penington and John Milton, a man loyal in friendship and of sterling heart. He edited Fox's Journal, was a copious author, and "dallied with poesy".'

'O that mine eyes might closed be
To what concerns me not to see;

That deafness might possess mine ear
To what concerns me not to hear;

That truth my tongue might closely tie
From ever speaking foolishly;

That no vain thought might ever rest
Or be conceived in my breast;

That by each deed, each word, each thought,
Glory may to my God be brought.'

Set that against the screaming of "The Media"!

Church of England

St. John's Church, St. John's Road

Clergy: The Rev'd Bob Wallace
The Rev'd Brenda Wallace
The Vicarage, St. John's Road
Tel: 812203

Services: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.
Parish Communion 9.30 a.m.
(Creche, Children's
Church and Lazer Group)
Holy Communion (1662) 12.15 p.m.
(1st Sun excl. August)
Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Holy Communion is also celebrated on:

Monday 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 10.00 a.m.
Friday 9.00 a.m.

DIARY FOR JANUARY

5 10.30 Service at Norman Court
8.15 Prayer Group at 15 Bentfield
Causeway
6 Epiphany of our Lord
10.00 Holy Communion
7.30 Holy Communion
11 8.00 P.C.C.
12 10.30 Service at Mead Court
2.00 Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
2.15 Tiny Tots
7.30 Confirmation meeting in the Vicarage
24 6.30 United Service
26 2.15 Tiny Tots

REGISTERS FOR NOVEMBER

BAPTISMS

28th November Kathryn May Shipman
29th November Ross Michael Armorgie
Samuel Thomas Jiggins
Emily Grace Stocking

FUNERALS

23rd November Leonard Glasscock, aged 74
27th November Beryl Patricia Hammond, aged 76

CONFIRMATION - The Confirmation Service this year is on Sunday 9th May, and preparation will begin in February. There will be a preliminary meeting for anyone who would like to consider confirmation on Tuesday 12th January at 7.30 p.m. in the Vicarage. Confirmation is open to all adults and young people in their final year at primary school (Year 6) or older. If you would like more details but cannot attend the meeting, please contact the Vicar as soon as possible.



Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd John Meehan
The Presbytery, 12 Millside.
Tel: 814349

Services: Sunday Masses - 8am and 10.30am
and at Henham - 9.15am.

Holy Days - 9.15am and 8pm
and at Henham - 7pm.

HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD

A meeting was held quite far from earth
"It's time again for another birth",
Said the angels to the Lord above
"This special child will need much love."

His progress may seem very slow,
Accomplishment he may not show,
And he'll require much extra care
from the folks he'll meet down there.

He may not run or laugh or play
His thoughts may seem far away.
In many ways he wont adapt
And he'll be known as handicapped.

O let's be careful where he's sent,
We want his life to be content.
Please Lord find the parents who
Will do a special job for you.

They will not realise right away
The leading role they are asked to play.
But with the child sent from above
Comes stronger faith, and richer love.

And soon they'll know the privilege given
In caring for the gift from heaven.
Their precious charge, so meek and mild,
IS HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD.

Unknown



Shalom Group

Monday 11th January 8 p.m.
Prayer and Praise led by Derek Honour
at the home of Jim Collins,
20 Bentfield Green.

Monday 25th January 8 p.m.
Scott Sanderson, Vicar of Newport on
"The Church in the 21st Century" at the
home of Judy Goddard, 23 Burnells Way.



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Margaret McKay MA BD
1 Howe Hall Cottages
Littlebury Green
Saffron Walden Essex
Tel: (95) 528155

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St. John's Close
Saffron Walden Essex
Tel: (95) 523296

Group Secretary:
Miss Muriel Dalley
145 Cherry Garden Lane
Newport Essex
Tel: (95) 41210

Stansted Contact:
Mrs Janet Townsend
59 Chapel Hill
Tel: 812593

Services: 11 a.m. each Sunday

For details of services at Clavering and
Newport please ring the Group Secretary.

PILOTS AND THE BROOK PROJECT - SESSION II

Saturday, 7 a.m. Rise and shine. Wash, dress, pack: first aid and tissues, 4 pairs of wellies, 4 sets of waterproofs. Outside it's sparkly white with frost, marginally better than twelve hours of rain. Cut sandwiches, find plastic cups, squash, put washing on, set tonight's casserole on time control, breakfast, family making moves, get newspapers. Nearly time. Wonder if we'll need pick axes to break the ground to plant the trees. Will any Pilots come after the last time!

We're off.

5.00 p.m. Well we've had a great day. Cold but at least the weather was dry. Most of us absorbed a fair quantity of river water one way or another. Just as we arrived one lad spotted a kingfisher. In the morning we tackled two stretches of the brook and cleared weed and debris from the bed. We formed human chains to pass the soggy debris up to the road and also searched the banks for litter. By 11.30 a.m. we had cleared as much as we could reach. The river was running quite high and I heard one comment and reply: what's worse than getting water in your wellies? Answer - getting water down your waders! Time for a tea break and the scouts kindly gave us the use of their hut and tea making facilities. Afterwards we planted about 40 trees behind Ernest Doe's and in front of the Scout Hut. We finished work about an hour early, tidying the rubbish away to the allotments and to the skip by about 3.00 p.m. Besides the usual treasure trove of drink cans and crisp packets we found breeze blocks, oil cans, coathangers, carrier bags, paint cans, barbed wire, broken bottles, a frisbee and an unknown bit of a Volkswagen car.

It was good to meet old friends from the Huw Johnson Club and the Youth Club and to meet new ones from St. John's Youth Club and from the Scout Group. I'm looking forward to planting flowers in the spring.

But this isn't all we get up to in Pilots. Since the summer holidays we have been to a pig roast, a fireworks display, have visited Normans Court and Mead Court with harvest gifts, had our own Church Service on the theme of Light, taken part in the Remembrance Day Parade; we have had an American evening, a 3rd World Evening, talks on conservation and have examined bygones and treasures of times past and present. We are preparing for our entertainment crest and to take the results out to the community before Christmas.

CB

PREACHERS FOR JANUARY

3rd	11 a.m.	Family Service
10th	11 a.m.	Rev. M. McKay
17th	11 a.m.	Rev. L. Rapkin Communion
24th	11 a.m.	Rev. M. Cressey of Cambridge
31st	11 a.m.	Rev. L. Rapkin



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

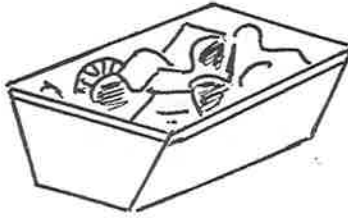
VILLAGE DIARY

January

4		Skip at Crafton Green
6	8.00	Day Centre. Mountfitchet Garden Club
7	8.00	Day Centre. Local History Society
18	7.15 for 7.45	Day Centre. Stansted WEA course starts
21	7.30	Day Centre. Royal British Legion Women's Section

February

1-4		Skip at Crafton Green
4	8.00	Day Centre. Local History Society



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 813214

Skip Date

The Civic Amenity Skip will be at Crafton Green from 1st - 4th February 1993.



(National Association for Mental Health)

UTTLESFORD BRANCH

DROP-IN CENTRES

We run informal drop-in centres where people are welcome to pop in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

They are run by volunteers who offer support and a listening ear if you have anxiety, fears or worries. Everyone is made welcome.

We also offer information providing fact sheets, advice and details of other relevant organisations.

Where we meet Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Tuesdays 2-4.00 p.m.

ONE TO ONE

Some mentally ill people feel isolated or lonely and want befriending on more of a one to one basis.

We have trained volunteers who regularly visit people, usually in their own homes, to sit and chat or share hobbies and interests.

A befriender is someone who supports and cares and is there to listen if you want to share experiences. Confidentiality will be respected at all times.

HELPERS

If you would like to become a volunteer, you will be given training and matched with a person in need or to a carer.

People who have experienced problems of mental illness in their own lives can often bring particularly valuable insights to this voluntary work.

Anne
0279 726135



This being my first article for the Link, I am not quite sure what to include but I will try and keep it brief and informative.

Crime: the Dog and Duck was broken into on the night of 24th November and some £1,300 worth of cigarettes and cigars were stolen. During the night of 9/10th November a house in High Lane was broken into via a rear window and a video camera and other items to the value of £900 were stolen. Also during the evening of the 10th a house in St. John's Road was entered and cash and two pearl necklaces were stolen. Vehicle crime continues to be a problem everywhere and Stansted is no exception so please look after your car and the valuables inside it. Make sure your car is locked and valuables are kept out of sight. On the subject of festive crime our burglars are always active at this time of year so please make sure you lock up and if you are out for the day leave some lights on as it is often dark before you return home. If you are away make sure you let us and your neighbours know and we will try and keep an eye on the house for you.

For all of you out there that do not have neighbourhood watch schemes in your road (and there can't be many left) if you are interested in joining please give me a ring at the Police Station. Neighbourhood Watch in Stansted is very actively involved in the community, and does a good job.

There are two more quiz nights planned for next year in addition to other events. For all you co-ordinators reading this there will be a meeting for all co-ordinators at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 9th February 1993 at Crafton Green. There will be a guest speaker so please try and make it - it's the only one all year.

Well this has gone on far longer than I anticipated so on behalf of all the Officers at Stansted Police Station may I wish you all a very happy and a crime-free New Year.

Steve Pike
Neighbourhood Beat Officer
for Stansted





A QUIZ NIGHT

to raise funds for the visit of our
Friends from Chevetogne in May

will be held on

Saturday, 13th February

at 7.30 p.m. in
St. John's Church Hall

Tickets £3.00 each -
available from
the Churches or Vicarage
from January, or
phone 812109

Refreshments provided
(bring your own drinks!)

W.E.A.

We are looking forward to our next course
which we think will be a very popular choice:
"Georgian Furniture and Porcelain".

Mr. Braithwaite, M.A., the lecturer, will
illustrate his talks with slides and, as well
as larger, regular pieces of furniture, he will
include clocks and barometers and one session
will cover the introduction of tea into this
country and the consequent importance of
furniture for tea and tea caddies. In the
second half of the course Mr. Braithwaite will
explain the history of the major English
porcelain factories and discuss some of their
products. He will show examples from his own
collection and encourage members to bring along
their own pieces to be appraised and
appreciated.

The course consists, as usual, of ten lectures,
to be held at the Day Centre on Monday
evenings, starting January 18th. Please note
an earlier time to meetings. First evening
enrolment 7.15 p.m. to 7.45 p.m., followed by
lecture, and subsequent lectures at 7.45 p.m.

We send best wishes to all WEA members for
1993 and hope to see you all on January 18th.
Reduced rate for pensioners. New members are
always welcome. For further information ring
B/S 812214.

Jean McBride



Thankyou

We would like to say a big thankyou to all
our drivers who week by week bring our
members to Club from the surrounding area.
Without them many of our members would be
unable to attend Club evenings and events.
So with our thanks we wish all our drivers
a Happy New Year.

We are always looking for more drivers as
we have other handicapped people who would
like to come to Club, so if you want to find
out more ring Marion on 812284.

We had a lovely evening at Broome End Nursing
Home in December. The residents thoroughly
enjoyed our carol singing and we have to say
thankyou to Gina Barber and her Farnham bell
ringers for providing the music. Thankyou
too to Gordon and his staff for giving our
members such a happy evening.

Our New Year begins with our visit to
Cambridge Pantomime and our new year party.
More about these later, but we wish all our
readers a Happy New Year.

M. G. Johnson



Following our informal annual review on
8 December, Cecil was moved to pen the
following words -

"Don't dump or 'boot sale' that old tool,
Make 'TFSR it' your humanitarian rule.
A carpenter in Sierra Leone
Needs ten months' wages for a plane of his
own!"

Those four lines may not make 'Top of the
Pops', but they say it all, so do not forget
us when you clear out your old tools to make
way for the new ones you had for Christmas!

Our rather ad hoc timetable for Tuesday
evenings has confused some people (including
me) so we are going to try for the fourth
Tuesday in the month from now on. The first
workshop of 1993 will therefore be on
26 January at 8 p.m.

Michael Dyer
814059



SAFFRON WALDEN SOROPTIMISTS

are holding a
CHARITY BREAKFAST
 on Saturday, October 24th
 between 8.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.
 at 20 Castle Street,
 the home of Mrs. Meg Reed,
 the immediate past President.

Proceeds towards
 "Uttlesford Carers" and
 "Sight Savers"



Members of the R.B.L.W.S. enjoyed a Jacket Potato Supper in November. Miss D. Wiffen organised a very clever quiz.

We do not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on 21st January 1993, 7.30 p.m. at the Day Centre. The officers, committee members and branch members wish you all a Happy New Year.

Sheila M. Parry
 814788



THE TWELFTH DAY

HAVE you recovered from Christmas yet? Actually Christmas doesn't really end until Twelfth Night, January 6th. In days gone by all the twelve days of Christmas were celebrated with feasts and parties.

January 6th is also the Feast of the Epiphany, the day when we remember the wise men who followed the star to the stable at Bethlehem. We don't know much about them, but we do know they brought very expensive gifts for Jesus. They weren't the usual gifts that you would give to a baby, but each one had a special meaning.

GOLD is for a King, FRANKINCENSE (sweet smelling incense) is for God, and MYRRH (a spice used to prepare bodies for burial) is for mortal man.

GOLDEN ANSWERS

All the answers to this quiz begin with the letters GOLD (well, I couldn't find many words that began with the letters of frankincense!). Can you say which GOLD is...

1. a small bird?
2. kept in aquarium?
3. made from sugar and used in cooking?
4. a source of wealth?
5. a tall yellow flower?
6. ate the three bears' porridge?
7. awarded to the winner of race?
8. a 50th wedding anniversary?

What colour is a lawn covered with snow?
Invisible green.

What is Indian snow?
Apache here, Apache there.

What do you get if you cross a snowman with a man-eating shark?
Frostbite.



Answers: 1. gold finch 2. gold mine 3. golden syrup 4. goldfish 5. golden rod 6. Goldilocks 7. gold medal 8. Golden wedding.



TIME FOR BELLS

Did you have a new watch for Christmas? The earliest ways of measuring time were very different; sand or water trickling through a small hole (like egg timers) or candle clocks (which measured how far the candle had burnt down). And you couldn't carry them around with you.

The earliest clocks didn't have hands or faces - the word 'clock' means a bell and all the first clocks did was chime out the hours. Most people didn't have clocks or wrist watches, they relied on the church tower clock and the church bells to tell them when it was time for the services.

Bells can tell you the time, give a warning (fire and burglar alarms) - or ring out the good news. And that's what church bells do, call us to hear the good news.

WHAT BELL?

All the answers to this quiz start with the letters BEL - can you say which BEL is ...

1. used by a blacksmith to blow air?
2. goes round your waist?
3. a bad dive that makes a splash?
4. a tower for bells
5. trust and faith in God?
6. gave a feast in the Bible? (Daniel, chapter 5)

(answers at the foot of the page)



What did the bell say when it fell in the water?
 I'm wringing wet.

'Don't you enjoy the sound of church bells?'
 'Sorry?'
 'I said, don't you like the bells?'
 'Eh?'
 'AREN'T THE BELLS WONDERFUL?'
 'It's no good - I can't hear a word you're saying for these noisy bells!'



1 bellows 2 belt 3 belly flop 4 belly 5 bell 6 Belsazzar





"HOME ALONE"

or

HOMELESSNESS?

The Churches National Housing Coalition Lobby
of Parliament December 1992

The Diocese of Chelmsford, organisers of the Essex and East London CNHC Lobby must have been looking for a token Free Church lay-person in Saffron Walden Parliamentary Constituency to attend the Church Leaders' Meeting with M.P.s on December 1st as, after a friendly phone call from a local Quaker, the agreeable lot fell to me (perhaps the only lay-person "free" to queue at 3.30 for a 4.30 meeting in the Jubilee Room).

Our own M.P. was unable to meet lobbyists except in the morning, but M.P.s from Barking, Ilford and N. Colchester responded to the invitation to answer questions and take note of the requests put to them by church representatives for the relief of homelessness.

The Bishop of Brentwood (Roman Catholic) in the Chair, with the Bishops of Barking, Chelmsford and Colchester, the U.R.C. Provincial Moderator, a member of the Society of Friends, the District Chairman of the Methodist Church and some 30 supporting clergy and lay people were joined by Springboard Housing Association, S.H.A.C. (formerly SHELTER) and Local Authority Housing Officers in presenting these requests:

1) Affordable Housing. 100,000 new homes per annum, through the 1990s (N.B. This assessment agreed by the Institute of Housing, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Association of District Councils, the House Builders' Federation and the free market Think-tank).

2) Improvement in council and private rented properties, including bed-sits, hostels and houses in multiple occupation - often very poorly maintained and unsafe ... a tenant's charter? Right to repair?

3) Measures to tackle growing homelessness i.e. outside London. Concern expressed for those on very low pay but outside the Housing Benefit "net". Concern for single young people ineligible for Local Authority housing and the youngest ones ineligible for Social Security Benefit.

4) Reform of Housing Subsidies to prioritise
a) The presently homeless, b) the inadequately houses, c) those unable to form an independent household (i.e. people in poverty).

Noted also was a particular shame: homeless persons from Essex country areas being actually sent to London hostels (e.g. SHAC), this increasing London's problem and further disorientating homeless "country dwellers".

I had the impression that the Church leaders were far better briefed than the M.P.s, but the latter (only 1 Tory and 1 Labour could stay the hour) did "take on board" these requests and it was good to see the outcome of the meeting as a determination by all - Churches, Housing Associations, Local Authorities and M.P.S to co-operate in their efforts to relieve this crying problem: in our midst.

I may have come "home alone" - but at least I have a house to come home to.

Phyllis Harrison

MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB



The Club's final meeting of 1992 took the form of a light-hearted quiz, arranged after much hard work by Janet and Brian Townsend. This was on Wednesday 2nd December at the Day Centre.

Our first meeting of 1993 is on Wednesday 6th January when we will view a gardening video. The members' competition is "Three Sprigs of Heather". Visitors welcome, refreshments and raffle available. Our meetings start at 8 p.m.

Best wishes to all for 1993 and happy gardening.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Thursday 7th January.
Local Timber Framed Buildings - Adrian Gibson
8 p.m. at the Day Centre, Stansted.

Thursday 4th February.
Hassobury and the Gosling Family - Toby Lyons.
Please note that this meeting will be held
at Hassobury at 8 p.m.

For further details please contact
Peggy Honour, B/S 813160.

BROOME END

NURSING HOME

Pines Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex CM24 8EX
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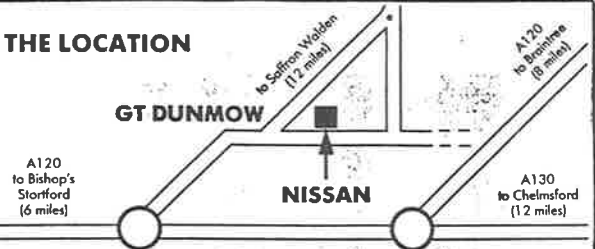
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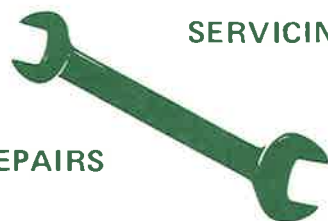
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