

The Crossley Lodges

South Lodge

David Metcalfe, from Buckinghamshire, sent in a query about an ancestor who had lived in the South Lodge; he wondered if the building was still standing. Information from the archives and the photo below, which we were able to supply, helped him with the compiling of an article for a family history magazine and he has allowed us to use part of that here.

Maria, husband John and their son, Roy Metcalf Fawthrop, were living at 7 Ingram Street, Halifax in the 1911 Census. This street still exists today. John is described in the Census as a 'Warehousemán' in the grocery trade. However, he was later to work as a caretaker at the school. As part of his employment he had the distinct privilege of occupying the South Lodge on the school premises.



South Lodge in 1899

Sadly, Roy was only to live to the age of 25 – he died on 16th September 1931 at their home at South Lodge, Crossley and Porter School, Halifax. His parents put a notice in the Halifax Courier newspaper describing how he had 'bravely and patiently borne a long illness'. He is buried in the King Cross Wesleyan Cemetery, Skircoat Moor Road. His younger brother Louis was 16 years of age at the time.

Louis was a scholar at the Crossley and Porter School – he is listed in the school archives as a past student. His father, and uncle Edmond are also listed in the archived 'former staff' lists. After he left school Louis trained to be a pharmacist and soon passed his Final MPS exams.

The Fawthrops were still at South Lodge in 1939, with John continuing to work as School Porter. Around the same time Louis was courting a girl from Norfolk called Florence Marion Hall, who he would later marry. However, World War 2 was to intervene a little, and Louis decided in August 1941 to volunteer for the Navy – Fleet Air Arm. Louis was soon training to be a pilot.

His postings took him to various places around the world, including Canada, Scotland, India, Ceylon, Orkneys and Northern Ireland. From his time in India he contracted rheumatic fever, and was ill for some three months ... and so was posted to the Orkneys for some good wholesome Scottish fresh air! In the last year of the war he became a full Lieutenant, and then finally in 1946 he was de-mobilised.

Returning to Halifax, Louis was appointed Manager of the CWS Chemist shop in King Cross, Halifax. He died in 1991 aged 76.

The death of John Fawthrop was reported in The Crossleyan of May 1948.

The South Lodge is still standing, of course, and is still used as a family

home by the Site Manager (new title for caretaker). At the present time the building is being extended and refurbished to today's standards.



South Lodge in 2017



Top Lodge in 2017

I thought that 'The Lodges' seemed like a good subject for inclusion in the magazine, especially when I discovered another connection. Margaret Walton, who taught Textiles and History at Crossley Heath until her retirement in 2010, had a distant relation whose family had lived in the North (or Top) Lodge. Margaret asked David Sands for his memories of the Top Lodge and he sent the following piece.

Top Lodge, The Orphanage

At a time of which I am not certain but around 1920, John and Beatrice Hoyle, my grandparents, and family moved to the Top Lodge at Crossley and Porter School (Crossley Heath today) but when they moved in it was called The Orphanage. My grandfather's job at the school was engineer, i.e. responsible for heating etc. to the building. His first big job was to be responsible for the conversion of the Orphanage from gas lighting to electricity – what a job that must have been!

My mother, Edith, and my uncles, Lewis, Joe and John, all married from the Lodge. My memories of being in the Lodge are few and far between. I was born in July 1939, the Second World War only weeks away and dad was called up into the RAF. The cycle shop he had in Sowerby Bridge was kept open by mum and I spent some time in a playpen in the shop window there! My sister Sylvia (now Brill) was born in 1942 and from then I spent more time during the week at the Top Lodge with my grandparents.

I remember going with grandad into the boiler house, watching him shovel coal into the boiler and smelling the steam and heat from the boiler. This was in the basement; we also went down there when the sirens went, when

German planes were near; this was the safest place for us as a family. Little did I know that I would be going down there as a Boy Scout in the future!

One day of the week I looked forward to was Cattle Market day. This was held on Queens Road and I would stand on a chair in the window of the Lodge, looking towards Wainhouse Tower and watch what seemed like hundreds of sheep being walked across from Walker Street, Spring Edge and down Delph Hill; where they went to I do not know.

Grandad and grandma retired from the Lodge in approximately 1946 and moved to Green Terrace Square, Savile Park, across the road from the school, having lived in places as far away as Australia. Our family have had many years' connections with the school since that time. I was a pupil there from 1950 to 1955, my nephew Guy Brill was also a pupil there from 1983 to 1990 and now my grandson Jacob Whitehead is in his last few months there (2010-2017).

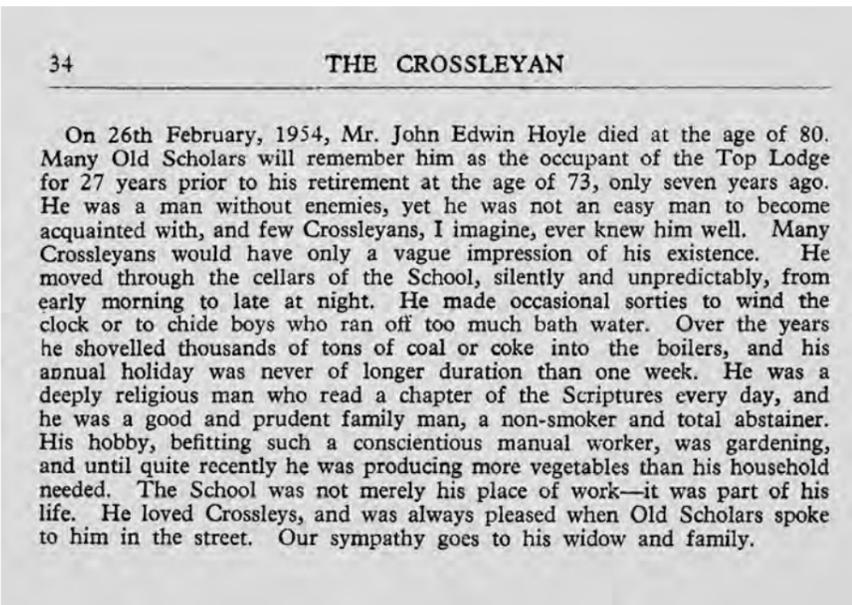
If anyone can add anything to this, my address is: sands26@btinternet.com

DAVID SANDS

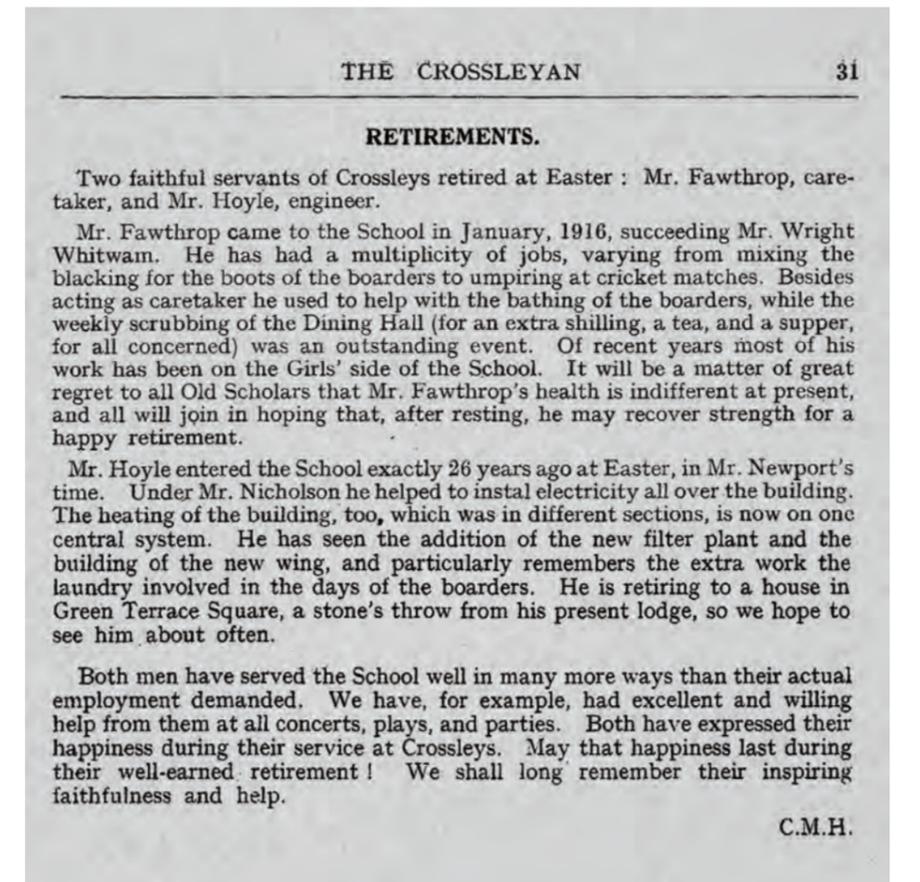
John Hoyle's death was reported in The Crossleyan of September 1954.

There was a plan to create a community café in the North Lodge at the same time as the new sixth form centre was built but the finances were not available. The building seems to have been used mainly for storage over the years.

By coincidence, both the men we heard about worked at school during the same period and their retirements were both reported in The Crossleyan of May 1946.



On 26th February, 1954, Mr. John Edwin Hoyle died at the age of 80. Many Old Scholars will remember him as the occupant of the Top Lodge for 27 years prior to his retirement at the age of 73, only seven years ago. He was a man without enemies, yet he was not an easy man to become acquainted with, and few Crossleyans, I imagine, ever knew him well. Many Crossleyans would have only a vague impression of his existence. He moved through the cellars of the School, silently and unpredictably, from early morning to late at night. He made occasional sorties to wind the clock or to chide boys who ran off too much bath water. Over the years he shovelled thousands of tons of coal or coke into the boilers, and his annual holiday was never of longer duration than one week. He was a deeply religious man who read a chapter of the Scriptures every day, and he was a good and prudent family man, a non-smoker and total abstainer. His hobby, befitting such a conscientious manual worker, was gardening, and until quite recently he was producing more vegetables than his household needed. The School was not merely his place of work—it was part of his life. He loved Crossleys, and was always pleased when Old Scholars spoke to him in the street. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.



RETIREMENTS.

Two faithful servants of Crossleys retired at Easter : Mr. Fawthrop, caretaker, and Mr. Hoyle, engineer.

Mr. Fawthrop came to the School in January, 1916, succeeding Mr. Wright Whitwan. He has had a multiplicity of jobs, varying from mixing the blacking for the boots of the boarders to umpiring at cricket matches. Besides acting as caretaker he used to help with the bathing of the boarders, while the weekly scrubbing of the Dining Hall (for an extra shilling, a tea, and a supper, for all concerned) was an outstanding event. Of recent years most of his work has been on the Girls' side of the School. It will be a matter of great regret to all Old Scholars that Mr. Fawthrop's health is indifferent at present, and all will join in hoping that, after resting, he may recover strength for a happy retirement.

Mr. Hoyle entered the School exactly 26 years ago at Easter, in Mr. Newport's time. Under Mr. Nicholson he helped to instal electricity all over the building. The heating of the building, too, which was in different sections, is now on one central system. He has seen the addition of the new filter plant and the building of the new wing, and particularly remembers the extra work the laundry involved in the days of the boarders. He is retiring to a house in Green Terrace Square, a stone's throw from his present lodge, so we hope to see him about often.

Both men have served the School well in many more ways than their actual employment demanded. We have, for example, had excellent and willing help from them at all concerts, plays, and parties. Both have expressed their happiness during their service at Crossleys. May that happiness last during their well-earned retirement! We shall long remember their inspiring faithfulness and help.

C.M.H.