

STAR
3/4/76

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Blow for Worksop drinkers

By a staff reporter

THE ROYAL Hotel in Bridge Street, Worksop, closes today. And next month another blow faces the town's drinkers when it will be "last orders" for the regulars of the Lion Hotel, only yards away.

The Lion was built in 1691 as a coaching house and the vaults were once used by drivers who were not allowed to drink with gentry.

"There is a lot of history attached to a place like this," says licensee Mr. William Vernon. "But there is nothing eerie about it. It has always been a friendly place and the atmosphere is good."

A maze of cellars where ale has been stored for hundreds of years and which are now almost empty, underlie the building.

Mr. Vernon and his wife, Eileen, have no definite plans for the future but hope to stay in Worksop. "This is a popular rendezvous and the regulars are wondering where they will go for a drink. I will be very sorry to see it go," he said.

SUBJECT

SOURCE

CLASS

LION HOTEL
- ghostly sightings
of Alice.

WORKSOP GUARDIAN

5TH DEC. 2000.

P10

L 6403

Readers report more sightings of ghostly Alice

by Lois Astley

ALICE, the Lion Hotel's resident ghost, was a wronged woman who took her own life, says a former owner of the hotel.

And the lonely ghost is a sorrowful spirit who shuns male company, preferring only to appear before female staff.

The spooky tale in last week's Worksop Guardian prompted numerous phone calls from readers.

It was reported that current building work to expand the Worksop hotel may have disturbed the restless ghost and could lead to more sightings of her in the future.

Retford man Robert Callan, 55, who owned the hotel in the early 1980s, said Alice was "very much in evidence" during that time.

He said: "Staff described Alice as being in her late 20s, about 5'4" with a slim build."

"She had a friendly presence and no one was afraid of her. It was just accepted and regarded as perfectly normal."

"Apparently Alice used to be a servant at the hotel and it was almost as if she was still working there."

"One of the cleaners used to chat

quite merrily to her every morning!"

Mr Callan added: "Most of us had heard Alice's footsteps walking across the old oak floorboards of the first floor room but when it came to sightings, she preferred appearing to women."

"When men were around she hurried off, so many of us only got a fleeting glimpse of her as she fled round corners or through doors."

"It is said that poor Alice had been unlucky in love and this had driven her to suicide."

"Some people have reported hearing her sobbing."

However, Alice hasn't always made herself known to folk.

The Guardian was also contacted by Eileen Vernon of Carlton-in-Lindrick who was a proprietor at the hotel with her husband William from 1960-1976.

Eileen said they were never aware of any ghostly goings on and the only inhabitants of the mysterious attic were pigeons!

4/13

Wheatsheaf, the Plumbers' Arms and the Red Lion. The latter was certainly in existence in 1745 for a meeting was held there on the 27th June to find out how many townsmen, "of no lawful calling," were eligible to be levied into the army.

Later, in 1789, it was scathingly condemned by Colonel John Byng, "where we soon enter'd the Red Lion, a paltry looking inn, taking possession of a poor parlour, and ordinary supper, Nothing can have been nastier than our inn at Worksop: with ill cooking, stinking feather beds, and a conceited fool of a landlady:....."⁴

Obviously there were more public houses than these few and a list published in 1822⁵ which names four inns and seventeen taverns and public houses, though still incomplete, presents a truer picture. At that date the differences between inns and other types of hostelries was still marked. The former were usually larger and offered travellers both accommodation and posting facilities: the others were often more modest establishments and while some provided similar services to the inn, they did not have to. Many were simply beer houses. By the 1870's some of these distinctions had begun to blur and the word hotel was replacing the older title of inn. Thus in Worksop the infamous Red Lion Inn of 1789 became the much praised Lion Hotel and the Bull Inn became the Royal Hotel. Of the other two inns mentioned in the 1822 list, the Crown was demolished to make way for the building of the Town Hall and the George was in decline, soon, in 1909, to be declared redundant and closed. This was sad because early in the century the George was considered by many to be the principal inn of the town. Between 1802 and 1804 it was repaired throughout, its stock of post horses was doubled and its landlord, Mr. Jeremiah Mallatratt, boasted of, "A good Larder, choice Wines and good Beds."⁶

However, seventy years later, the Lion was unquestionably the principal house in the town. Behind its neat and pleasing Georgian facade were three private sitting rooms, twenty two bedrooms, two large rooms used as market and dining rooms, commercial and coffee rooms, a bar, a tap room, a billiard room, kitchens, pantries and cellars. Facing the yard at the back was stabling for thirty six horses, coach houses, wash houses and other outbuildings. With such a range of accommodation and amenities it is unlikely that any other establishment in the district could rival it. That it deserved its pre-eminence can be judged from the testimony of a visitor. "For instance, I am writing these lines in a cosy sitting room of that most comfortable of inns or hotels, the Lion." Largely responsible for this reputation was Mr. R.M. Morris who began the 1870's as a yearly tenant paying £125 rent but who, in 1875, bought the hotel for £3,600. After increasing the accommodation to what has just been mentioned he was unfortunately forced to sell it three years later. At this second sale the price was £4,500 plus extra for furniture and fittings. The new owner was the firm of Smith and Nephew, one of the town's breweries soon, in 1881, to amalgamate with the Priorwell Brewery to form the Worksop and Retford Brewery Company. No one can doubt the soundness of the purchase. The Lion continued to be the venue for the cream of the town's

WORKSOP GUARDIAN

PUBLIC HOUSES

FRI 31st Aug 2001

L64 3

NEW PUB THE INN
PLACE

PAGE 13.



● A view from the market place towards the Lion, showing the newly-built 114 bar on the left of the hotel entrance (WG0074/1)

Lion's new bar

TRADERS have welcomed a plush new café bar set to open at the top of Bridge Street in Worksop.

The 114 – dubbed The Inn Place – is the long-awaited extension from the Lion Hotel.

And fellow businesses hope it will bring a roaring trade to Worksop's main street.

"The European type of cafes are good because they do bring all sorts of visitors as well as regulars," said T.P. Woods manager Peter Parker. "I hope it will bring trade up this end of town and attract more people."

"I think we need more life up here rather than at the centre down at Yates."

Bob Murphy, owner of Poppy's above Eyre's, said the new café was a positive move for the town as a whole.

"Competition is good for everyone – it makes everyone behave themselves and keep in line," he said.

by **Gavin Havery**

gavin.havery@worksop-guardian.co.uk

"I am here for the sake of Worksop and we need more business at the top end of town."

Owner of nearby Mr Straw's Café Barry Hodges said he did not think his trade would be affected by the new eatery.

"People recognise my place for what it is – it is tranquil and we have a very nice standard of people with gentle music," said Mr Hodges.

"The new Lion bar will probably be very tastefully done but there will be a bit more noise. It will be the opposite of this place."

The 114 is part of a £600,000 extension to the Lion Hotel created by knocking through the lounge bar into a new building.

Earmarked to open at the end of September, it will serve hot and cold food

and drinks as well as alcoholic beverages.

"We hope to enhance the facility for Worksop and benefit the town as a whole," said William McIlroy, director of Cooplands, who own the hotel.

"We have changed the furniture and the ambience and expect to serve different people at different times of the day."

"We hope to serve people who work and shop in Worksop in the day and a slightly younger market at weekends."

The expansion has created 12 new suites, including themed rooms – one with a water bed – and a meeting room for conferences.

But the development has posed problems for Jayne Otter of Interior Elegance, who lives above her shop next door.

"They have taken a one-storey building and turned it into a three storey one taking all our light and privacy," said Mrs Otter.

"We have a toilet that is immediately opposite the bedrooms, which we can't use because there is clear glass in it."

"Everyone has a right to light, but to fight it in court could have cost me my business."

MANY Workorp people will have noticed with pleasure the re-opening of the Lion Hotel as a place of hospitality and refreshment. Thus, after six years of neglect following its closure in 1976, it now resumes its place as one of the town's principal and interesting buildings.

No one can say when it was first built, though an inventory of 1601 indicated a change of ownership in that year. Perhaps it was built in the previous century in the timber frame style of that period which is still apparent today, though much restored, in the Old Ship Inn.

Its present appearance dates from the 18th century when it was substantially rebuilt, though some of the old beams and timbers were still retained. Two clues suggest that this took place in the second half of the century, probably even in the last decade. The first was on the building next to it. High on its curved Dutch gable was a sundial, completely obscured when the Lion was rebuilt and so obviously pre-dating it. This building has the year 1747 moulded onto a fall pipe, so presumably at that time the Lion still retained its rather squat Tudor outline.

More positive evidence comes from the diary of Colonel John Byng who visited Workorp in 1789. He wrote scathingly of his accommodation at the Red Lion "a patty looking inn; taking possession of a poor parlour and ordinary supper... Nothing can have been nastier than our inn at Workorp, with ill cooking, stinking feather beds, and a concerted fool of a landlady... Colonel Byng was surely referring to the original building. Even the most jaundiced of travellers could never have described the present one a "patty looking inn."

This suggests that the Lion was rebuilt some time during the 1790s in its present form. Almost, but not quite, for there was one striking difference. The upper storeys projected outwards from the line of the ground floor and were supported by a row of

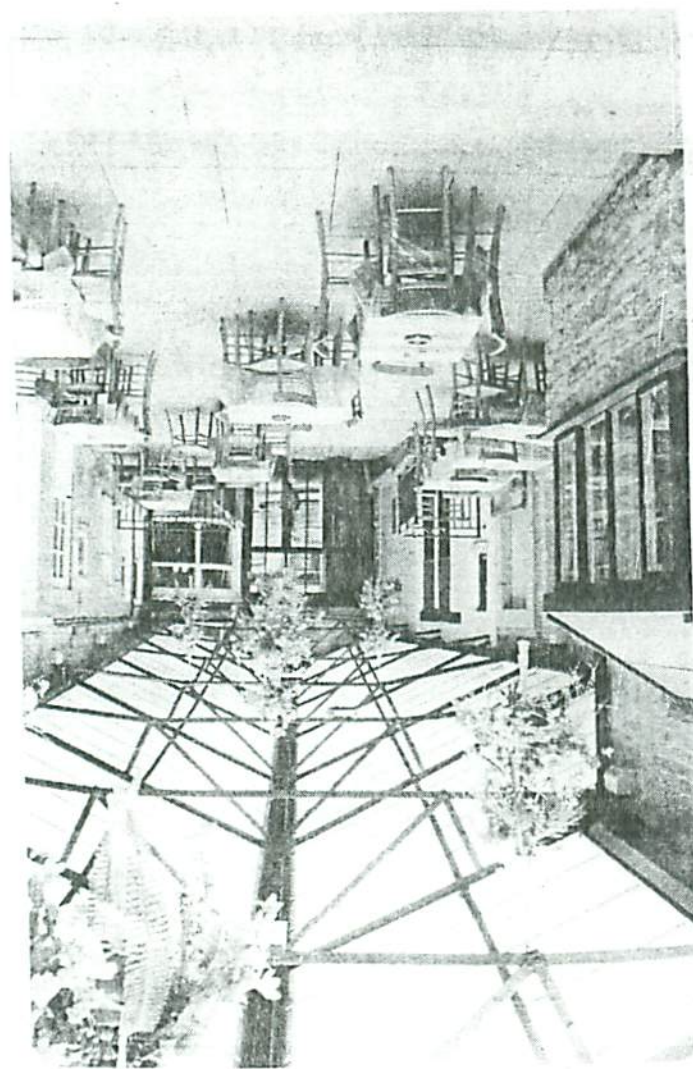


SUBJECT

SOURCE

MAY 1982

LION HOTEL



by Michael Jackson

Lion Resturgent

pillars. These can still be seen, though now all save one are built into the outer wall.

The sequence of pillars continued southwards as a feature of the adjoining properties and another two still stand as part of a shop's premises. They provided a sheltered, colonnaded walk, a piazza in the terminology of the day, doubtless much appreciated during inclement weather and when the bustle of the market filled the roadway.

Hardly anything is known of the Lion's early years. One of the oldest references is for 1745 when a meeting was held there to find out how many townsmen there were "of no lawful calling" against the Jacobite invasion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie. Little more of the Lion's story from the 18th century has filtered through to the present. The situation was soon to change.

Entering the 19th century with a look of newness about its clean stone frontage, it was soon to become the principal inn of the town. Not that it had the field to itself. At first the George was a strong rival, its landlord in 1802 boasting of "a good Larder, choice Wines and good Beds."

By 1850, however, Mr. R. A. Pearce, proprietor of the Lion, now

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CLASS

MAY 1952



Setting out the buffet on opening day.

At the Lion Hotel opening

Pictures by
John Dixon



Mrs. Carol Callan, Mrs. Jean Bishop, Mr. Richard Clark and Mrs. Dorothy Clark.



Early customers at the bar on opening day.



Former landlord Bill Vernon draws the first pint for Mr. Robert Callan as Mrs. Carol Callan looks on.

Lion Resurgent

style a hotel, could extol his house in less basic though more genteel terms of his day. "The above Old Established Tavern and Hotel, is replete with every convenience to visitors to this delightful neighbourhood, and with comfort to Commercial Gentlemen."

Keeping up with the times he also advertised that omnibuses from the hotel would meet every train, this within a year of the coming of the railway to the town. It was a service that obviously filled a need and continued into the present century. There may well be some elderly townspeople who still have childhood memories of the town bus as it was known.

As the century progressed the Lion became one of the local buildings of the town. Meetings of all descriptions were held in its rooms; social, business, professional, political and sporting. In 1875 a group of shopkeepers gathered to form the Workshop Tradesmen's Association, now known as the Chamber of Trade. Its catering was renowned. After a day's drill on the Plain Piece, the Clumber Troop of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry Cavalry met at the Lion, "to discuss one of Mr. and Mrs. Morris's excellent dinners."

Visitors called in season, commercial travellers took their ease there after a day of peddling their wares, while farmers thronged its bars and ate their fill on market days. Auction sales were held, the Magistrates' Court met there for a while and one room was even pressed into service as a hospital ward when Mr. Whitehead, a traveller, was thrown from his trap and injured. He was "at once removed to the Lion Hotel, where he was attended by Dr. Lloyd, assisted by Mr. O'Connor."

Perhaps the most remarkable event in the Lion's history

occurred in 1876 when it was the main target of a riotous assault. The occasion was a parliamentary by-election when the hotel was used by the local conservatives as their headquarters. A large crowd of liberal supporters, between 700 and 1,000, gathered outside. At first they were merely noisy, but, after some provocative act from within, a group of about 100 rushed into the yard, attacking all who were there.

Later all the windows were broken and with the heavily outnumbered police unable to restore order, the rioters spread out damaging many buildings between the Catholic Church and the Town Dyke Bridge. It was not until a detachment of troops with fixed bayonets that the rioters went home, leaving the Lion with its windows shattered and the main street littered with the debris of their unruliness.

In 1878 the Lion was up for sale. It was described as having three private sitting rooms, 22 bedrooms, two large rooms used as market and dining rooms, commercial and coffee rooms, a bar, a tap room, a billiard room, kitchens, pantries and cellars. At the back was stabling for 36 horses, coach houses, wash houses and other outbuildings.

Even with such accommodation and facilities the reserve price was not reached at the sale and the hotel was later sold privately for £4,500, plus extra for the furniture and fittings. The purchaser was the firm of Smith and Nephew, brewers at Creswell Holme on the canal side.

In 1881 this brewery amalgamated with the Prior's Well Brewery to form the Workshop and Retford Brewery Company, the Lion thus coming under the ownership with which it is mainly associated and whose pride it long was.

Now it has re-opened under private ownership. All will hope that the new venture is successful and that many will enjoy its special atmosphere, redolent of its past and yet incorporating the comforts and amenities of the present.

In 1878 a satisfied customer jotted in his note book: "I am writing these lines in a cosy sitting room in that most comfortable of inns or hotels, The Lion."

May many continue to endorse the spirit of his comments for a long time to come.

SUBJECT

SOURCE

CLASS

Apparition at
Lion Hotel.

WORKSOP GUARDIAN

1ST DEC 2000

P 5

L64.3

'I saw the ghostly figure of Alice'

Builders come across historic ghost

BUILDERS working on Worksoy's Lion Hotel may have disturbed its oldest guest - a restless spook called Alice.

The lonely ghost is rumoured to wander the corridors of the Bridge Street hotel clad in black with her head bowed.

And according to a former hotel worker who saw the apparition, the £600,000 project to expand the 15th century listed hotel could have unleashed Alice's sorrowful spirit.

The employee, who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "Alice favoured the confines of the dark attic but since building work began on the old Kiplings building next door, she has come out of her hiding place."

Little is known about tragic Alice other than she was a serving wench who committed suicide.

The employee added: "The one occasion I bumped into her was when I'd been sent to a cupboard to get some tablecloths."

"The landing was dark and the light switch to the corridor was broken. The only stream of light was coming from the car park outside that shone through the window, casting an eerie shadow of a yucca plant upon the adjacent wall."

"As I turned to go, I saw the short black-clad, ghostly figure of a woman walk straight past me with her head down. I just froze in astonishment."

Another member of staff has reported hearing Alice singing and humming in

the hallways of the hotel.

Work on the hotel includes demolishing the rear of the new building and creating a three-storey extension, 12 new en-suite bedrooms and a meeting room, all in keeping with the original style.

Workmen said they had stumbled across many old bottles, a reed and mortar wall and even a previously undiscovered cellar, but they had yet to meet the mysterious Alice.

A spokesman for the builders G. Wilkinson Construction Ltd said: "There is a room at the top of the hotel which hasn't been used in years, which we have yet

to open up."

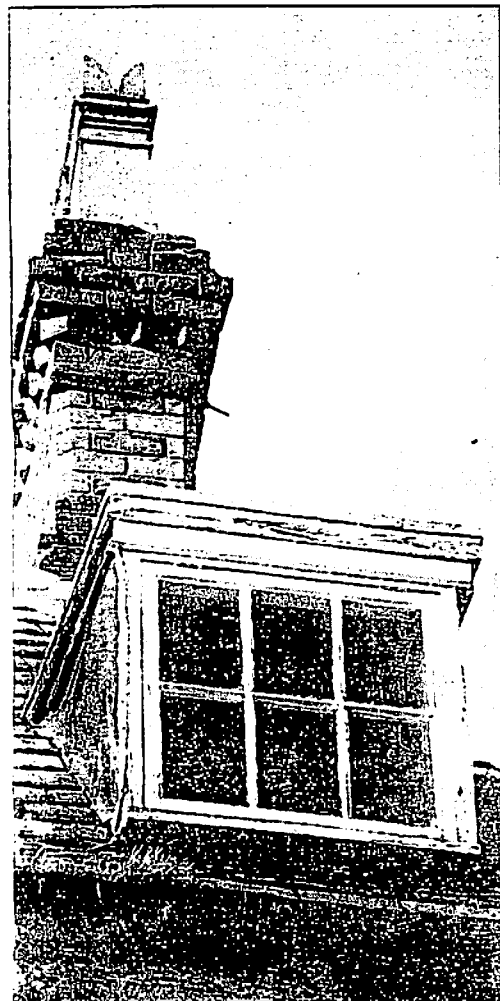
Current hotel staff said they were aware of the story of Alice but hadn't encountered her.

As the festive season approaches, Christmas shoppers on Bridge Street may even catch a glimpse of her.

According to the former employee: "Passers by can only see her on a cold, frosty morning, staring blankly out of the front attic window..."

Can any Worksoy Guardian readers shed some light on the life and death of the mysterious Alice?

If you can, contact Lois on 01909 500500.



● The mysterious attic window where Alice often lurks.



A History of the Best Western Lion Hotel, Worksop

Very little is actually known of the early history of The Lion Hotel. It was thought to have been built in the early 17th Century with much debate on the actual date, although records show an inventory dated 1601 that indicated a change of ownership that year. Throughout the years there have been numerous refurbishments and substantial rebuilds with its present appearance dating from the late 18th Century.

Previously named 'The Red Lion', the inn had a dubious reputation during these early years, as an extract from the diary of Colonel John Byng dated 1789 reads;

'it was a paltry looking inn; taking possession of a poor parlour and ordinary supper....Nothing could have been nastier than our inn at Worksop; with ill cooking, stinking feather beds and a conceited fool of a landlady.'

One of the next earliest existing records is of a meeting held at The Red Lion on the 27th June 1745. This was to find out how many townsmen of Worksop were of 'no unlawful calling' and thus eligible to be levied into the army.

By 1870 the infamous Red Lion had changed its name to The Lion Hotel and had turned its reputation around. It had become the principle house in the town with a large range of amenities that no other establishment in the district could rival. Behind the Georgian façade were three private sitting rooms, twenty two bedrooms, two large rooms used as market and dining rooms, commercial and coffee rooms, a bar, a taproom, a billiard room, kitchens, pantries and cellars. Facing the yard at the rear of the hotel was stabling for up to thirty six horses, coach houses, wash houses and other outbuildings. A most impressive range and standard for that certain period of history.

The Lion Hotel continued this standard of service well up until the late 19th Century with numerous owners and landlords until 1975 when it was threatened with demolition by Whitbread breweries. The Brewery had presented outline plans for the redevelopment of the site as a modern shopping arcade and office block. However the council stepped in and announced that The Lion Hotel would be placed on a statutory list of buildings of historic and architectural interest complied by the secretary of state, thus saving the building.

The Lion was closed for a brief spell in 1976 before being reopened in 1982 with a new owner. The hotel changed hands a few times more before finally being purchased by its present owners 'Cooplunds of Doncaster'. Now a well renowned forty six bed roomed hotel with excellent modern amenities, it still retains all of its charm and character of the past and has even kept a few of its old residents. One ghostly resident in particular likes to make headlines in the local paper, namely Alice, a spurned serving wench who was said to have committed suicide in the building in the 18th Century. Said to have once favoured the dark attic Alice may have been disturbed by building work and has since been reported to have given several employees and residents a shock by appearing in bedrooms, humming, singing and even crying along empty corridors. Her favourite haunt, room 201 with its exposed beams and quaint dressing room, has an air of mystery with only the bravest of guests daring to spend the night alone.

**Best Western Lion Hotel
112 – 114 Bridge Street
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Notts S80 1HT
T 01909 477925 www.thelionworksop.co.uk**

SUBJECT	SOURCE	CLASS
HOTELS - THE LION	WORKSHOP GUARDIAN 11.7.75	L64-3

P23
11.7.75 HOTELS + INNS

Workshop Guard

'LION' MAY KEEP ITS ROAR

ONE of the two Workshop hotels doomed for closure may yet be saved.

The Lion, with its near neighbour, the Royal, both in prominent positions in the market and town hall area of Bridge Street, had both been announced by the owners, Whitbread (East Pennines), as scheduled for closure next May or June.

The respective licensees, Mr. William Vernon of the Lion and Mr. William Lockwood of the Royal, had been issued with formal notice of the firm's intention. And it was then learned that the brewery giant's estates division was presenting outline plans for the redevelopment of the combined site as a modern shopping arcade and office block.

But the Department of the Environment has now announced that the Lion Hotel is included in a statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest compiled by the Secretary of State.

Copies of the list would shortly be sent to the local

authority, which would be asked to consent to the formal notification of the listing.

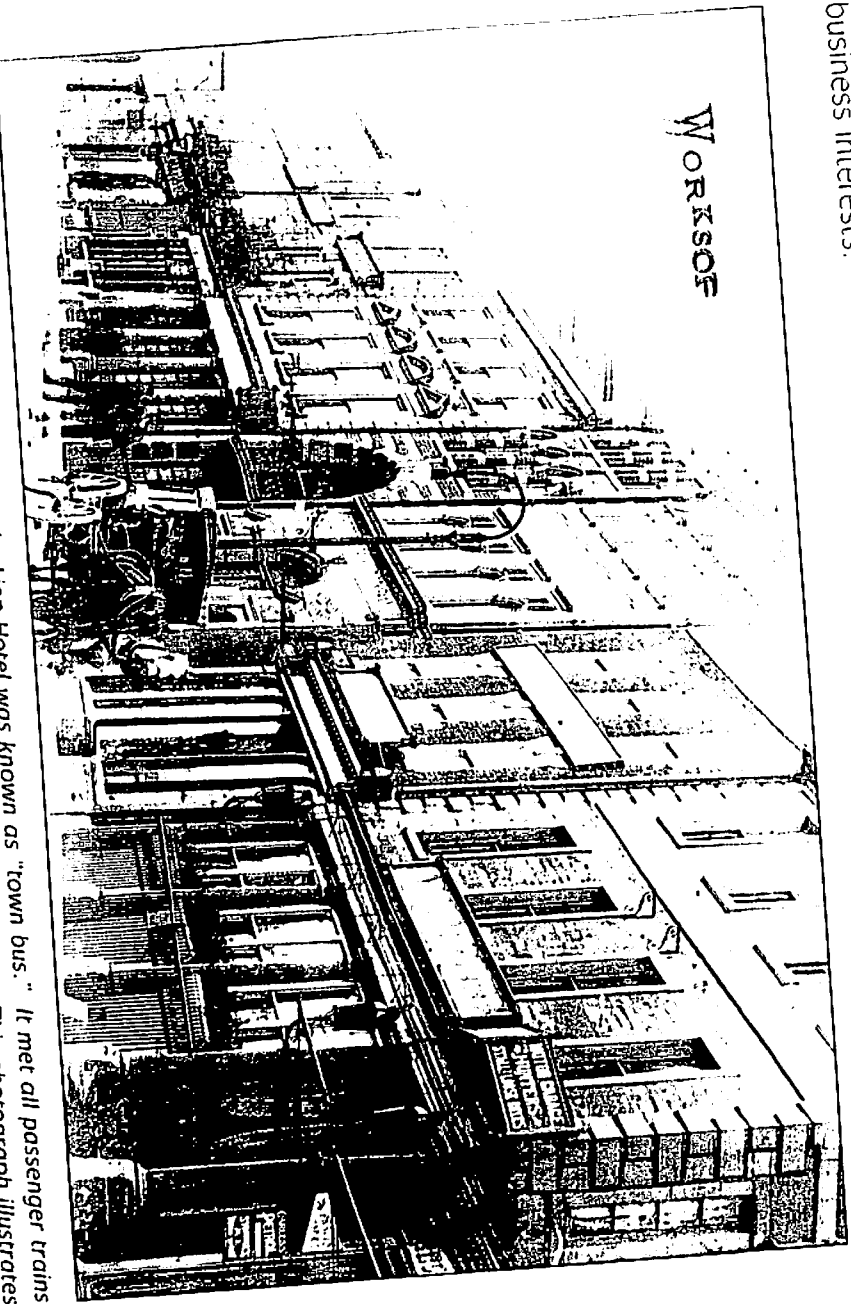
This had reached him direct from the Environment Department, Mr. Vernon said. He had been requested to pass it on to the brewery company, and this he was doing.

"Many people have told me they would like to see the building preserved, and I think the Lion should be retained as one of Workshop's outstanding landmarks," Mr. Vernon said.

By midweek, no such notice had reached Mr. Lockwood at the Royal Hotel.

A spokesman for Whitbread (East Pennines) said the Department of the Environment notification had still to reach his department. Until there had been an opportunity to study the details, it was impossible to comment on its possible effect on their future plans for the property.

before her marriage this was worked by her grandmother and mother, both widows. her younger brother and two hired men. Minnie, herself, was a dressmaker and her sister, Anne, a straw hat maker. The wedding took place on the 16th March, 1882 at the Priory Church. Their first child, a boy, was born in 1884 and was called Arthur. He became a gamekeeper and after short periods at Workstop Manor and Welbeck, spent most of his working life in Yorkshire. A year later, he had a sister, Lily, and the family was completed in 1890 with the birth of Daisy. As they grew to adulthood, all three children left Workstop but they kept in touch with their parents by letter and postcard. The latter was particularly significant in view of a later development of Amos Emblin's business interests.



The horse drawn vehicle parked outside the Lion Hotel was known as "town bus." It met all passenger trains that stopped at the station and carried intending patrons from there to the hotel. This photograph illustrates Amos Emblin's eye for a picture. He positioned his camera at exactly the right spot to emphasise the impressive lines of the buildings at "the top of the street." (Photograph by permission of Richard Allsopp).

Sometime during the 1880's he left his partnership with Henry Hodges and set up on his own. He opened a draper's shop at 13, Park Street and, a little later, expanded his range of goods and changed the description of his business to that of a "fancy repository." By 1892 he was advertising that, "The Wool, Toy and Fancy Repository is the best place in Workstop for 'Dukery' Views, useful and ornamental presents, etc." He even went as far as claiming that his shop was, "The Oldest Toy and Fancy Repository in Workstop" which was, perhaps, something of an exaggeration. A little later, in 1894, he had transferred the drapery side of the business to a second shop at 55, Bridge Street, leaving his wife to look after the fancy repository. By another ten years, soon sides of his business were again conducted from the same premises at 32, Bridge Street. As

