

More memories of Cotterells Siding

Tim:

I can remember, the steam train pulling coal trucks along .. the side of Cotterells there cos there was a big big barn there. And they used to deliver coal, and and then lorries would come and take the coal and and deliver it around Hemel Hempstead. but also the the train would go the other way. So, over the halt, over station road, over Corner Hall Road, and then, round to the gas works cos you used to take coal to the gas works, and then it used to bring the ash back. um and I think, as as it got close to the Nicky line closing the ash was actually delivered to Hemelite. Cos Hemelite used to use it to make their breeze blocks.

Dave:

My other recollection of Heath Park is that the Halt was a passenger halt because some of the children who went to what was then the Grammar School, used to come down from Redbourn and Harpenden on the train and get off at Heath Park halt and walk across to the Grammar School, which is now Hemel Hempstead School. And the Halt was actually up high, so you went up wooden steps and there was two sets of wooden steps. one from each side

Tim:

Actually if I remember rightly David the halt was between the two bridges, wasn't it

Dave:

Yep

Tim:

It was station road bridge and corner hall bridge (yep)and the halt was the little embankment in between (Yep)

Chris:

My grandfather was the superintendent of the Churchill Swimming Pool. And one of the jobs he used to do was to set up the magistrate's court in St John's ha.. I think it's St John's Hall isn;t it?

Dave: and Chris:

No, Boxmoor Hall,

Next door to the pub. Heath Park? That Hall's still there..

Chris:

And I used to go down there with my parents. And my father would help my grandfather set up the magistrates court and I would be taken to the swings, which were in the playing fields but I can remember those, And as I also said I can remember some air raid shelters, on the same radius as the Nicky Line. And also I can remember what I've

always called the marshalling yards up along Cotterells. I certainly can remember a railway line there, and, you've reminded me it probably was a coal yard that I can remember (Tim: Yes Yes) and the only reason I can remember that is because my parents' friend lived in Cotterells and we used to be taken along there. But I always doubted my memory of that because, again, because the railway, the Nicky line, was on an embankment, and I always thought it would have been a steep incline down to Cotterells, but it must have been er acceptable.

Tim:

I don't think that was the steepest incline. The steepest incline was going back towards, round the back of the hospital wasn't it?

Dave:

Well I think it was the other side of the station up towards Redbourn, up towards Godwins halt.

Tim:

But the in the incline along Cotterells um it was, I would say, from the, from the coalyard, probably halfway along Cotterells going towards Heath Park, was reasonably level and and then the incline would go up to the height of um, the road bridge, which would be what, about 15, 15 feet?

Dave:

Something like that s,...

Tim:

And then, and then the embankment was level right round to the gas works but then there was an incline obviously going um along the the section towards the the viaduct (Dave: viaduct). Over over Marlowes. And that that was very high. I probably shouldn't say this as it's being recorded but.. I can remember probably when I was about 13, I had a friend who had an older brother. and we set up a, an old yacht starting cannon, bolted to the sleepers which were wooden. it was a cast iron one. And we we filled it with um, the contents of penny bangers, put a ball bearing in it and shot it up, up towards the Bury Mill. We could hear it crashing through the trees. And quickly removed it and.. disappeared! (laugh)

[END]