

M. Flatley

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The First Aged Couple to be selected from the thousands of applications for the Southend Carnival Old Folks Bungalow Estate at Eastwood will be moving into their new modern accommodation on Friday, August, 22nd.

The lucky and most deserving couple are Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ernest Smith of 17, The Grove, Southend-on-Sea. They will be moving from two very small upstairs rooms in which they lacked sanitary and washing amenities into a spacious modern Bungalow fully equipped with the latest labour saving devices which is being provided for them by the Southend Carnival Association for a rental of approximately 4/- per week.

Although this first couple will be installed next week, the Carnival Estate itself will not be officially opened until the Coronation year.

The Estate, when completed, will comprise 10 bungalows suitable for Married Couples and accommodation for single elderly people. The Estate as at present will cost £13,000 for the ten bungalows, part of this money has been raised from previous Carnival Weeks, and the Association look for support in future Carnivals so that they can complete their objective.

Mrs. Ellen Sarah Smith celebrated her 79th. Birthday on Tuesday, August, 12th. and of course this Bungalow is the best Birthday present she has ever had. Their present two rooms measure 8'x8' each.

There was in fact no room for them to erect a double bed and this old couple have been forced to use a bed slightly larger than single size.

All their cooking had to be carried out in one room which also saw service as their dining room, lounge and sitting room. Every drop of water had to be carried in buckets up a flight of 14 stairs. From these deplorable conditions to a Modern Carnival Bungalow seems like a miracle to the Smiths, who have been married 40 years, and have lived in the County Borough of Southend 32 years. Mr. Smith who is 78 years of age is a former Gas Fitter, and lost an eye in an accident some years ago. The problem facing this couple which has to be solved before they move in, is the lack of furniture which they hope to solve possibly with the aid of friends.

Naturally Mr. & Mrs. Smith despite their age are going to play a large part in this year's Carnival which is being held between 23rd - 30th. August. "We must play our part so that other old folk in this Borough can be made as happy as we are" said Mrs. Smith.

The Target of this year's Carnival is to raise £3,000 towards the completion of the Estate and establishing a Maintenance Fund.

With the compliments of
D.C. Flatley,
Hon. Press Officer,
SOUTHEND CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION.