

ROMANY ROW:

The little Kentish village of Penhurst - an ordinary English village where the church bells ring every Sunday - but Penhurst practices what the Rector preaches. For proof, of that, meet Tom Jones, a gypsy. Tom, with his wife, and nine children, brought his caravan here for the hop-picking. They liked the place, and stayed - caravan and all. Tom decided to look for a job - so he applied to Farmer Dooharty's, and got one. The farmer found he was a fine worker. But Tom wanted a real home for his family - and that's where the Rector, the Rev. William Pears, came in. He talked with the farmer - and decided next Sunday's sermon would be on the good Samaritan. The sermon enlisted the support of the Squire - Viscount de L'Isle V.C.

The next step - a visit to the Council, with an application backed by public opinion in the village. And the Council turned up trumps. Not only did they allot the Joneses a council house - they sent home help Mrs. Martin to teach Mrs. Jones the strange art of living indoors. And the villagers gave most of the furniture. Of course, there's always someone to object - but a petition complaining against the Council's help to a gypsy family only gained 13 signatures, out of a population of 1,500. Good for you, Penhurst!