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COPI:

LETTER FROM: R.H. GODFREY, JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR,
CHESHIRE COUNTY CINEMAS LIMITED,
THE EMPRESS THEATRE,
RUNCORN.

7th July, 1961

TO: The Editor,
Pathé Newreel,
Warner Pathé Distributors Ltd.,
135, Wardour Street,
London, W.1.

Dear Sir,

re: Opening of the Runcorn & Widness Bridge
July 21st.

I enclose a cutting which gives you a rough idea of the programme in connection with the above.

Mr. Cockson, our Manager of the Plaza Cinema, Widness is an astute showman, he has also been in the town for more than 20 years, and we feel it would be to our mutual advantage if you regarded him as your liaison man between the Local Authorities in Widness and yourselves.

In connection with Runcorn, Mr. J.H. Darlington, Manager of the Empress Cinema, could act in the same capacity for this side of the river.

You will note that the Princess is stopping in the middle of the Bridge to unveil a plaque.

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I should emphasise that we want a minimum of 300 feet for release on the following Tuesday and for showing for two weeks, after which we have arranged with your Head Office that the copies will be presented to each of the two Local Authorities concerned.

Yours faithfully,
FOR CHESHIRE COUNTY CINEMAS LTD.

(Signed) R.H. Godfrey
Joint Managing Director.

x-075001

ASSOCIATED BRITISH-PATHE LTD.

From GRACE FIELD



To MR. J. COOK

SENIOR MANAGER

SENIOR MANAGER

Please refer to 67/22

7th July, 1961

Dear Mr. Cook,

Opening of Runcorn & Widness Bridge

In Mr. Cummins absence on holiday I am acknowledging your memo of July 6th., with enclosure from Mr. R.H. Godfrey of the Express Theatre, Runcorn, which I am now returning to you for your attention, and I confirm that we will edit this copy to a minimum of 210 feet. I understand that you will now finalise these arrangements with Fox Movietone.

Yours sincerely,

.....

GRACE FIELD

Copies to:

Mr. N. Roper.
Cameraman- *Pat.*

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COPY

MEMO FROM: MR. J. COOK

TO: MR. G.T. CUMMINS

Dear Tom,

Just to confirm our various telephone conversations concerning the opening of the Runcorn-Widness Bridge by Princess Alexasdra on July 21st.

I have informed our customer that a supplement of 200 feet will be prepared for him at a cost of £20. and that the copy will be sent by rail on Monday evening 24th July.

In accordance with your suggestion, I have asked Fox to confirm to me that their supplement will, also, be 200 feet.

Mr. Godfrey (the customer) is very anxious to give every assistance possible to your Cameraman and perhaps it would be to everyone's advantage if he contacted Mr. Godfrey either at his Office RUNCORN 2962 or at his home FRODSHAM 2269.

Yours sincerely,

JACK COOK

Copies to:

- Cameraman
- Mr. N. Roper.
- Miss Pengelly.
- Miss Caley.

X
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X



TELEPHONE:
BLACKFRIARS 2286 (4 LINES)
TELEGRAMS:
CENTROFORM MANCHESTER
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NORTH WESTERN REGION

CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

CORONATION HOUSE, NEW BROWN STREET, MANCHESTER 4

Your reference.....

Our reference

10th July 1961

To News Editor/Art Editor

Dear Sir,

Visit of H.R.H. Princess Alexandra to Lancashire - 21st July

I write to give you the programme for the above visit and the facilities for press coverage as arranged with the Police and other authorities concerned.

There will be no official rota party covering the visit and therefore no official transport. Press passes will be available for several points and application for these should be made to this office as soon as possible.

The programme for the visit is as follows: times given here are still subject to slight variations.

- Arrive Hawarden Airport, Flintshire.
- 12.05 p.m. Arrive approach road to new Runcorn-Widnes bridge at Greenway Road roundabout, Runcorn.
- 12.10 p.m. Opening ceremony when H.R.H. will cut ribbon across approach road.
- 12.15 p.m. Depart for drive to centre of bridge.
- 12.17 p.m. Arrive centre of bridge for unveiling of commemorative plaque.
- 12.20 p.m. Depart centre of bridge for Queen's Hall, Widnes.
- 12.30 p.m. Arrive Queen's Hall for reception.
- 1.00 p.m. Depart.
- 3.30 p.m. Arrive Crossens Pumping Station, Southport.
- Inspect sluices and tour pumping station.
Start pumps from dais overlooking discharge point at sea wall.
Unveil plaque in entrance to pumping station.
- 4.00 p.m. Leave Crossens.

The points for which fixed point passes will be issued are as follows:

1. Greenway Road roundabout, Runcorn.
2. Centre of Runcorn-Widnes Bridge.
3. Outside Queen's Hall, Widnes.
4. Crossens Pumping Station

It will be necessary for reporters and photographers covering the visit to be in position at fixed points not less than half an hour before the arrival of the Royal party.

Because of restrictions on car parking which will be in operation on 21st July the police authorities are making special arrangements to provide space for press cars as near the bridge as possible. They have asked us to draw your attention to the following:

1. The cars to carry a label showing they are press cars so they can be easily recognised by police on duty.
2. Press cars carrying staff covering the ceremony at the Runcorn end of the bridge should be parked on the Spur Road.
3. Those carrying staff with passes for the ceremony at the centre of the bridge to be parked on the Widnes slip road leading down to West Bank Dock Estate. Reporters and photographers should allow themselves at least ten minutes to get from this point to the centre of the bridge.
4. No cars will be allowed to cross the new bridge in either direction before the ceremony.

It is emphasised that application for passes (which will be police passes) should be made to this office immediately.

We enclose with this a copy of the joint announcement by the Chief Constables of Cheshire and Lancashire of the traffic arrangements after the opening of the bridge.

Yours truly,


Press Officer

for G. Mould Chief Regional Officer

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE MONDAY, 10TH JULY

POLICE NOTICE

RUNCORN-WIDNES BRIDGE - OPENING - 21ST JULY, 1961.

The new Runcorn-Widnes Bridge will be officially opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Alexandra at 12.10 p.m. on Friday, 21st July, 1961.

After the official opening certain stands and other obstructions have to be removed from the approach roads and the bridge will not be open to the public for vehicular traffic until 6 p.m. that day.

Pedestrians may use the bridge after 12.30 p.m. on the direction of the police on duty.

Drivers of vehicles arriving at the bridge before it is open to traffic would assist the police if they parked their vehicles well away from the bridge approaches and in positions where they will not cause obstruction.

After the bridge has been opened to vehicular traffic, vehicles will not be allowed to stop on the bridge or the approach roads.

All motorists are asked to co-operate with the police in the traffic arrangements during the visit of Her Royal Highness and on the initial opening of the bridge.

G. E. BANWELL,
Chief Constable of Cheshire

T. E. St. JOHNSTON,
Chief Constable of Lancashire

NOT TO BE ISSUED BEFORE MONDAY, 10TH JULY

The River Crossens Land Drainage Scheme

The scheme has been sponsored by the Lancashire River Board, the River Crossens Drainage Board and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It has cost approximately £1,000,000 and was undertaken because silting up of the coastal area at Southport was impeding the natural drainage system.

The scheme has involved the excavation of 32 miles of channel, the erection of 35 new bridges and a pumping station which is the third largest of its kind in the country. Each of its three pumps have a daily capacity of 56,700,000 gallons.

In widening and deepening the drainage channels one million cubic yards of silt and peat were excavated. In this have been found red deer antlers some 8,000 years old and one of the largest "pebbles" to be dug up in the area - a five and a half ton piece of Dumfrieshire granite carried to Lancashire by an Ice Age glacier.

The catchment area of the scheme is 35,540 acres and has three parts: the eastern system covering Tarleton, Rufford and Burscough; the western system covering Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Hallsall and land behind Southport, and the middle system, formerly the bed of a mere which has been pumped since before 1845 when records show that steam replaced wind as the motive power.

Records also show that the first channel for draining the area was cut at the end of the seventeenth century.

Work on the present scheme was started in February 1958 and completed this month.

Consulting engineers have been C. H. Dobbie and Partners, London and Cardiff and the contractors Messrs. Norwest Construction Co., Messrs. Costelloe & Kemple, Messrs. Gwynnes Pumps and Messrs W. H. Allen.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra will officially open the station when she starts the pumps by remote control from a dais at the seawall overlooking the discharge point.