

OTHER CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS

Part 1

ORTON PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, WESTMORLAND

The Programme
Arranged and Written by
BERTHA LONSDALE

Presented by
CONRAD E. BEALE, The Headmaster
and
MARK H. WHARTON, Veterinary Surgeon
A Former Pupil

Produced by

TREVOR HILL.

NORTHERN CHILDREN'S HOUR:

Transmission:

Saturday, 25th July 1953. Between 5.00-5.55 p.m.

Recording:

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Tuesday, 30th June 1953. All day.

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ORTON PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, WESTMORLAND

Taking part:-

MISS MAKIN

MRS WILLIAMS

Shirley Currah.

Dorothy Atkinson

Mary Atkinson

Jean Parkin

Marjorie Allen

Sheila Coates

Irene Cox

Marion Bainbridge

Billy Pattinson

Norman Watson

Billy Ratcliffe

Geoffrey Smith

Winston Bainbridge

Bryan Wharton

All the remaining Senior children.

The Infants.

The Junior School.

OTHER CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS

(No. 7)

Part 1

ORTON PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, WESTMORLAND

1 MUSIC:

LIGHT THEME

(mix with:-)

2 INSERT:

SOUND PICTURE - CHILDREN PLAYING ON

"THE GREEN" OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL.

WHISTLE IS BLOWN. CHILDREN RUN INTO

SCHOOL AND RUN UP FROM THE SCHOOL FIELD, ETC.

(cross fade to the Headmaster, Mr. Beale,
speaking)

(suggest that these introductory narrations be
recorded out of doors - at the school door)

3 MR. BEALE:

That was the whistle which brings the boys and girls into this village school at Orton.

Our village is situated right in the heart of North Westmorland - between Appleby and Kendal. A mile or two to the west, lies the highway over Shap Fell - to the south is the beautiful valley of the Upper Lune.

Our school is quite an old one. When it was first founded by the Church in 1730, it was known as a Grammar School - and the building we use today dates back to 1840.

1 MR. BEALE:
(continued)

It's an all-age school, with seventy-six children on the roll, and two teachers - Miss Makin and Mrs. Williams - besides myself. This means that many of the boys and girls spend the whole of their school lives here. Some, of course, gain entrance to the Grammar Schools - and Westmorland has a proud record insomuch that approximately fifty per cent of the children eligible are offered places at Grammar Schools. For those who stay on in our own school, the education authority has done much to provide facilities for village schools similar to those enjoyed by children who live in towns. The older boys and girls travel on one day a week to special centres for subjects which require more elaborate equipment than we possess; we have a visiting Physical Education Organiser, and the County Travelling Library comes regularly to the school. Besides these, supervised by teachers in their spare time, bodies like the East Lakeland Schools Football Association and the North Westmorland Primary Schools Athletic Association give opportunities to our children to take part in organised competitions with other schools.

This afternoon then, we are going to tell you a little about our school life. To help us to do this, one of the first scholars whom I taught when I became Headmaster at Orton twenty-two years ago, has come back to visit the school. He is Mark Wharton who is now a Veterinary Surgeon of Carlisle.

1 MR. WHARTON: Those of you who have never been to Orton would, I think, be charmed with it if you could see it now - in high summer. It lies in a deep valley and is so placed that from whichever direction you approach, you come upon the village by surprise. The grey limestone farms and cottages - with trees behind them and little gardens, now full of flowers - are ranged along what is quite a network of winding roads and lanes. They are a network because little streams meander between delightful grassy banks through the village. There are, of course, a number of little bridges over the streams and across these the children run or jump every morning on their way to the central point of the village where the school is.....

From the door of this grey stone building where we now are, I can see sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century houses - a shop or two, the Post Office and the Schoolhouse - while a little further off the Church Tower mounts guard in the background.

But now let's go look inside the school and meet the children.

(during Mr. Wharton's lines, creep in the children singing inside the school.

Fade up slowly after he finishes speaking and hold to end of the song - probably "The Cuckoo.")

1 MR. WHARTON: Inside the building are two classrooms, a storeroom and a cloakroom....

2 MR. BEALE: Ah yes, but since your day, Mark, we've spread our wings a little. We now have the use of the Temperance Hall - that's across the school field.

3 MR. WHARTON: Oh yes, I remember it.

4 MR. BEALE: We use it as a classroom for the Junior School and we have the school kitchen and the canteen there, too. Most of the children stay for school dinner.

5 MR. WHARTON: So you only have the infants and the senior scholars here?

6 MR. BEALE: That's right. We all assemble in this big classroom for morning prayers and afterwards the juniors go across two of those bridges and through the School Field to their own room.

(there should be just a little activity and a few murmurs from the senior children as background, before and during the ensuing conversation)

(a little general agreement where it is suitable)

7 MR. WHARTON: I see. Well, here, at the moment, the group of oldest children seems to be involved with some leaves and a.....well, it looks rather like a map of the village. Am I right, Billy?

8 *Norman W.*
BILLY
PATTINSON: Yes, sir. It's the map we made for our Tree Survey.

1 MR. WHARTON: Tree Survey? What's that?

2 ^{Norman W.}
~~BILLY F.~~ Well, Shirley Currah and Dorothy Atkinson did most of the field work for it. Shirley, you'd better tell Mr. Wharton about it.

3 SHIRLEY: It's a survey that we're gradually making of all the trees which grow within a quarter of a mile of this building.

4 MR. WHARTON: Oh, and how are you doing that, Shirley?

5 SHIRLEY: ~~Dorothy and I - sometimes Billy Pattinson goes too -~~ ^{one of the boys} We visit a piece of land - a ^{field} garden or a stretch of lane - and we write down the names of the trees we find growing there, and exactly where they are.

6 MR. WHARTON: I see! And now, as you girls bring in your notes, you complete it bit by bit.

7 SHIRLEY: That's right. Each tree is marked with a coloured circle or cross. Here's the key that Mr. Beale made for us - in this corner. A blue circle represents a ... ^{lime} tree, an ^{orange} yellow cross represents an ... ^{Oak} tree and so on. Besides the map, we make rubbings of the different leaves and Mrs. Williams has ^{caught us to make.} even made some plaster casts of leaf markings.

8 MR. WHARTON: Well, that's very interesting. You haven't finished the map yet, have you?

9 SHIRLEY: No, sir. We have the ^{Vicary} Rectory Garden and this bit here to do yet.

1 MR. WHARTON: Then I wonder if Mr. Beale would let us go out and do a little more of it, so that I could watch how it's done.

2 MR. BEALE: Oh yes, of course,. You see, Mark, we apply our lessons to our own locality. When the children have finished the map, we shall be able to work out all kinds of things from it. Things like percentages of the various species,...

3 MR. WHARTON: (laughs) Arithmetic without tears, eh?

4 MR. BEALE: Exactly. Then we can study the types of soil and situation of the different trees - what habitat suits them best - and so on ... Anyway, off you go and see how it's done.

5 CHILDREN: Thank you, sir.

(fade)

(fade up to:-)

6 INSERT: SHORT FLASH OF TREE SURVEY BEING CARRIED
OUT BY SHIRLEY, DOROTHY AND BILLY. *Norman W.*

7 MR. WHARTON: Now we're back in school - and before we leave Nature Study, may I ask what the Flora is which Dorothy mentioned?

(this will be mentionedⁱⁿ the Survey flash)

8 MR. BEALE: Oh yes. Well now, Irene and Marion - you know about that. You've collected some of the flowers for it, haven't you?

1 IRENE }
MARION }

Yes, sir.

2 IRENE:

It's a collection of all the wild flowers in this district which we're making bit by bit.

3 MARION:

If any of us sees a wild flower that we think we haven't already got, we bring it to school. If we don't know what it is, we look it up.

4 MR. WHARTON:

You have books on wild flowers in school then?

5 IRENE:

Yes, sir. Then Mr. Beale writes its name and where we found it in a kind of register. One of us draws and paints it and writes some notes about it.

6 MR. WHARTON:

Don't you press it?

7 IRENE:

Oh yes, sir. Then we mount the pressed flower and the painting and the notes in a big book...

8 MARION:

We have one book for yellow flowers, one for red flowers, one for blue flowers...

9 MR. BEALE:

(bringing up the books and putting them on a table)

Here are the books for you to see, Mark. We classify by colour because that makes it easier for younger children to find them.

10 MR. WHARTON:

Yes, of course. (flapping the pages) Well, they're very beautifully done, I must say.

11 MARION:

The boys make the covers for the books in book-binding lessons.

12 MR. WHARTON:

And a very good job they've made of them, too.

- 1 MR. BEALE: Well, we want to build this collection up over a period of years as a permanent one for future use in the school. So only our best work goes into it.
- 2 MR. WHARTON: Looking at these excellent flower paintings reminds me that I ought to tell listeners that round the walls of this room is a collection of beautifully coloured heraldic shields and coats of arms which, I imagine, the children have painted.
- 3 IRENE: We girls did those, sir.
- 4 MARION: And the boys made a lovely golden coach for the Coronation.
- 5 MR. WHARTON: Besides all those, there are imaginative paintings and pattern designs decorating the walls, so that this big class room is not only light but very gay. However, what about games and sports. Did I hear you say something about a School field a minute or two ago, Mr. Beale?
- 6 MR. BEALE: Yes. We're very fortunate to have our own field - it's the one between here and the Temperance Hall. (or any local identification, if there is one)
- 7 MR. WHARTON: There was nothing like that when I was at school. All we had was the stretch of asphalt outside the door.
- 8 MR. BEALE: Oh, the children can play on the field at break or at lunch-time besides having games lessons there.

- 1 MR. WHARTON: And what games do you play? Who's the champion boy at games?
- 2 SENIOR BOYS: ~~Norman~~ ^{Billy Pott} Watson, sir.
- 3 MR. WHARTON: Well, Norman, what do you play?
- 4 ~~NORMAN:~~ ^{Billy P.} Cricket - and Soccer in winter, sir.
- 5 MR. WHARTON: Do you play matches?
- 6 ~~NORMAN:~~ ^{Billy P.} There aren't enough of us for a team, sir. So we join with Tebay School...
- 7 MR. WHARTON: That's the next village.
- 8 ~~NORMAN:~~ ^{Billy P.} Our joint soccer team won the East Lakeland Schools Trophy for two years in succession.
- 9 MR. WHARTON: Well done.
- 10 ~~NORMAN:~~ ^{Billy P.} We also join to form a cricket team.
- 11 MARJORIE ALLEN: Hey! Don't forget tennis, Norman.
- 12 ~~NORMAN:~~ ^{Billy P.} (rather indignantly) I wasn't going to.
- 13 MR. WHARTON: There speaks Marjorie Allen for the girls.
- 14 ~~NORMAN:~~ ^{Billy P.} We use the court just by the field during school hours.
- 15 MARJORIE: We girls have proper coaching from Mrs. Brennan. She comes to school every Monday.
- 16 SHEILA: And the girls also play rounders.
- 17 MR. WHARTON: (if this statement is true) Do you know, I haven't seen rounders played properly for a long time.

- 1 MR. BEALE: Then if you come down to the field, we'll put on a rounders match between two mixed teams of juniors and seniors for you.
- 2 MR. WHARTON: Alright - let's go.
- 3 INSERT: RECORDING OF ROUNDERS MATCH WITH EXCITED SPECTATORS

(fade as required)
- 4 MR. WHARTON: That was a short flash from the rounders match which was very well played and caused a great deal of excitement, as no doubt our listeners heard. And as today happens to be Monday - Mrs. Brennan's day for tennis coaching - let's eavesdrop at the Court for a minute.
- 5 INSERT: FLASH FROM RECORDED TENNIS COACHING SESSION
- 6 MR. WHARTON: Now, back in school again, I want to ask you about those special subjects which the children go out of School for - the ones you mentioned in your introduction.
- 7 MR. BEALE: Oh yes - Domestic Science and Woodwork. You see, many village schools can only take these on very simple lines, but our "eleven plus" children go one day a week to Tebay for them. The girls take cookery on Wednesdays and the boys woodwork on Fridays.

- 1 MR. WHARTON: The cookery sounds interesting. What do the girls make?
- 2 MR. BEALE: Now that I wouldn't know. They never bring me anything back.
- 3 MR. WHARTON: Perhaps they think Headmasters don't eat!
- (a little general laughter from the girls)
- 4 MR. BEALE: Anyway, Mary and Jean should be able to tell you all about it.
- 5 MR. WHARTON: Well, Jean, where do you have your cookery lessons? In the school at Tebay?
- 6 JEAN: At the Domestic Science centre, sir. We go by bus in the morning and stay all day until about half-past three.
- 7 MR. WHARTON: And where do you have your dinner that day?
- 8 JEAN: At the centre, sir. We cook it ourselves.
- 9 MARY: Yes, that's our morning's lesson - making our own dinners.
- 10 MR. WHARTON: Then you've nobody but yourselves to blame if they're not good, have you? (general laughter) What about cakes and things, Mary?
- 11 MARY: We bake them in the afternoon, also pastry, sponge cakes... *and! Tarts! Birthday cake.*
Jean
Mary
- 12 JEAN: Then we have all the washing up, to do!
- 13 MR. WHARTON: Well, none of you look any worse for the hard work and I imagine you enjoy your housecraft lessons.

- 1 GIRLS: Oh, we do, sir.
- 2 MR. WHARTON: Now let's hear from the boys about their
woodwork.
- 3 MR. BEALE: Well, they've brought some of their things
along to school to show you, Mark. (moving
away a little) They're here - on this side
of the room.
- 4 MR. WHARTON: That's a very impressive array of carpentry.
It ranges from - what?models of ships
and racing cars to pieces of very useful
furniture. I suppose the beginners make the
model toys.
- (All the boys of the woodwork class
should react suitably to the
conversation in this scene.)
- 5 BILLY RATCLIFFE: Yes, sir. First of all, Mr. Dawe shows us
how to use tools - like a saw and a plane and
a chisel.....
- 6 WINSTON: Mr. Dawe's the teacher at the Handicraft Centre
at Tebay.
- 7 BILLY RATCLIFFE: Then we make the boats and racing cars.
- 8 MR. WHARTON: And what else, Billy - this is another Billy,
isn't it....Billy Ratcliffe?
- 9 BILLY RATCLIFFE: Yes, sir. Then we make things like this match
box stand, and this letter-rack.
- 10 WINSTON: Most of us are making photo-stands now. Here's
one that's finished, sir.

1 MR. WHARTON: That's a very nice modern style of photo-frame,
Winston. And who's made these professional
looking things here.

(The things are handled and moved
about during the next lines)

2 BRYAN: Well, I made the tray, for my mother, sir.

3 MR. WHARTON: I bet she was pleased with it, Bryan.

4 BILLY R: Geoffrey Smith made the coffee-table and the
mirror.

5 MR. WHARTON: Oh, which is Geoffrey?

6 GEOFFREY: That's me, sir.

7 MR. WHARTON: This is a beautifully made little table, Geoffrey.
And it doesn't look to have a single nail or
screw in it anywhere.

8 GEOFFREY: There are some screws in it, sir - to fasten
the top to the legs.

9 MR. WHARTON: Ah, I see. And the circular top is actually
in four pieces when I look very closely.....
are you going to be a joiner, Geoffrey?

10 GEOFFREY: No, sir. I'm going to work on a farm - but
I'm very interested in woodwork.

11 MR. WHARTON: You must be, to turn out things like these.

Now, all this time, the little children - we
used to call them the Infants.....

12 MR. BEALE: We still do, for that matter.

1 MR. WHARTON:

Well, they've been going on with lessons and play in the other classroom which is also very gay with pictures on the walls. I think it's time we brought them into the programme, Mr. Beale.

2 MR. BEALE:

As a matter of fact, they're just going to change rooms with us for their Music and Movement lesson. Their own room's too small to dance about in. So if you wait until we've cleared these desks aside, you can watch them play some of their musical games, with Mrs. Williams.

(Fade up)

3 INSERT:

YOUNG ONES PLAYING AND SINGING THEIR GAME.

4 MR. WHARTON:

(As soon as the music stops - in the same room)
Judging from the way they played that game, it must be a favourite. Is it one you like very much?

5 INFANTS:

Yes, Mr. Wharton. (Or other enthusiastic spontaneous remarks)

6 MR. WHARTON:

And listeners would notice that they weren't dancing to piano music, Mrs. Williams.

7 MRS. WILLIAMS:

No, we use the sound equipment which Mr. Beale has installed in the school. We have a microphone, amplifier, loud-speaker, a turn-table, and a radio set combined.

8 MR. WHARTON:

So you can take the broadcasts to schools?

9 MRS. WILLIAMS:

Yes - or make our own music.

1 MR. WHARTON: But you don't ever use one of these little ones, do you?

2 MRS. WILLIAMS: Oh yes - the children love speaking and singing into it. If you go into the other room, Anne will sing for you through the microphone in here.

(Change over to record - if successful and possible - Anne's song, through the loudspeaker in large room.)

3 MR. WHARTON: (softly, as she sings) And here we are, in the other room, listening to Anne over the School's loudspeaker. And through the glass panes of both the doors I can see her, singing quite composedly before the microphone.

(Finish song to end of verse. Fade)

4 MR. BEALE: Now, as you've seen, Mark, we try to use what is best in modern educational practice.....

5 MR. WHARTON: Yes.

6 MR. BEALE: But at the same time we don't lose sight of the necessity to have the highest possible standards in the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic - and other groundwork subjects. Our junior school children have to work hardest at those, naturally. Let's go across and see them at work, shall we?

7 MR. WHARTON: By all means. Let's go to the Temperance Hall.

(Fade up inside the junior school-room)

1 MR. WHARTON: And having walked across the school field to this room, we've interrupted Miss Makin's arithmetic lesson.

2 MISS MAKIN: You haven't really interrupted a lesson, because the twenty-eight children here are in three classes, and they're all doing individual arithmetic work just now. Perhaps you'd like to hear what they're doing.

(Questions to some of the children,
and answers)

(Fade as required)

3 MR. BEALE: One thing I know all the children particularly want you to see, Mark, is their country dancing. My wife teaches them, and we use the Market Hall for dancing in.....

4 MR. WHARTON: My word! You do spread yourselves around the village.

5 MR. BEALE: Yes, we use everything we can get. We're practising very keenly just ~~now~~ because very soon we shall be giving an open air display to parents and friends.

6 MR. WHARTON: Then let's go to the Market Hall and see what they can do.

7 MR. BEALE: We'll start them with.....(probably "We won't go home till Morning".) It's good fun.

8 INSERT: (Fade up)
COUNTRY DANCING.

(Hold as required. Fade)

9 MR. WHARTON: This sound equipment must be very useful in school, I noticed you had it in the Market Hall for the

1 MR. BEALE: Oh yes - we introduce it in many different ways - especially in English lessons. There was a marked improvement in the children's reading when we started using it. It puts them on their toes to read before the microphone. But now, Mark, I'd like you to hear the children rehearsing a One-act play "Safe Custody", by F. Austin Hyde.....

2 MR. WHARTON: Good.

3 MR. BEALE: It will be part of our public dramatic performance which we hope to give in the autumn. Some of the parts are in dialect. We don't try to suppress our local dialect. Anyway, here are Dorothy Atkinson and Norman Watson acting the beginning of the play. The village postmistress is talking to the village constable, who is taking his ease in a chair in her shop.

4 INSERT: (Fade up) Extract from the Play.
(Hold, then fade:)

5 MR. WHARTON: And that, I'm afraid is all we have time to tell you about Orton Village School, this afternoon. There are, of course, many things we haven't mentioned - the school garden - the Savings movement - the Coronation celebrations, when one of the school girls formally opened a new Bus Shelter in the village - and so on.

(Final remarks of Mr. Wharton follow here, leading to Mr. Beale's closing remarks.)

1 MR. BEALE: Well, there you are. We hope that you've obtained from this brief radio picture some idea of what our school is like. We try to give our children a chance to live a full school life and an education which is in touch with their environment and which will satisfy their needs when they grow up. We endeavour to minimise the disadvantages of living in a rather remote district, whilst, at the same time, using the advantages of our very lovely countryside. Perhaps the deeper significance of our education here is summed up in the words of the prayer which our children use every morning at Assembly.

2 INSERT: (Children repeating the prayer
"Teach us, Good Lord.")

3 MR. BEALE: And now we'll say 'Goodbye' from Orton School in Westmorland.

4 MUSIC: SHORT LINK.

CUE

5 TREVOR: (Continuity link to second part of programme)

(End)