

What Happened Was - 16

Unloaded the forge but setting up would have to wait, for Richard Rood from Crossmoor Farm, who I had done a few jobs for, got in touch. What happened was this:

Les Jewel the tractor dealer in Bridgwater had bought a great heap of ironwork, it had been garages at Norton Camp in Taunton. The plan was to erect this lot at their market site in town to provide workshop space. Like lots of big plans it didn't happen. Richard bought it all and thought "stock sheds", which is where I was about to get involved and what a job it turned out to be. All the doors were there so that was to be the finished height. The H section uprights had been cut off at ground level so the first job was to weld pieces on the bottoms to bring them up to length. Then there were the trusses and purlins for the roof which had to be repaired.

Finally all was ready for erecting. First the end section was setup and concreted in and left to set, then the next section was added and each day another and in no time it was up.

Then another span was added to the side giving us a building twice the width. Most of the asbestos roofing sheets were broken so some new ones were bought in.

The shed was to be used for housing sheep so it had to be divided into pens.

Butlins at Minehead were revamping the whole camp and all the old chalets were demolished, the waste system connecting all the sinks and washbasins was 2inch steel piping screwed together, a few thousand feet of it. A scrap-man friend of mine in Taunton bought the lot and it ended up in Spaxton, when welded up into panels they were just the job for Pens.

Bryco Concrete weren't the only ones into recycling.

When it came to feeding the sheep this setup was really something. Right down the centre of the shed we fixed up an old conveyor belt from Cannington Quarry. Chopped Hay-lage from the big green tower which used to stand in the farm yard, was fed into an old wooden dung spreader up in the roof, then crushed barley and nuts were added and the chain conveyer in the bottom carried it to the end where the spreading flails used to be and it went down a chute onto the belt, the ration could be varied by the amount of barley or nuts fed into the "mixer"!

As the belt was running a scraper set at an angle pulled along at half the speed of the belt pushed the feed down to the waiting sheep, when it reached the end the belt was stopped and the scraper was angled the other way and on being pulled back fed the sheep on the other side clearing the feed off the stationary belt. Twenty minutes twice a day and 5 or 6 hundred sheep were fed.

The dung spreader I bought for £30 at the Walford Cross sale. Then a chap came up to me and bought the wheels for £30, he was the other bidder and all he wanted was the wheels.

Meanwhile Shirley had fixed Janet up with a cleaning job for Mrs Sommerville at the old Rectory, now Peart Hall, which paid the milk bill. Do you remember Dennis the milkman from the Cricketer depot in Market Street?



SLB.