

# THE GRAND OLD MAN OF THE SAWMILL

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*Mr. Neddie Pauling has worked there for more than 60 years and is still going strong*

## Faringdon Y.C.s face problem

The problem of keeping a Young Conservative branch going in Faringdon is to be the subject of a discussion in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st February, between officers of the Abingdon area and Faringdon Young Conservatives. There have been several attempts to start a branch in the past, but absence of leadership and enthusiasm have apparently been largely responsible for their lack of success.

## SILVER THREADS

The chairman, Mrs. P. Combe, presided at the social held by the Faringdon Silver Threads on Friday. Games were played, and tea was served by Mrs. F. Rogers, assisted by Mesdames Stepp, Fuller, Luker, Hulance and Miss King.

On Thursday of last week 25 members went by coach to the local theatre at the invitation of Mrs. Hodgkinson. They were given tea before they went. On the afternoon of January 18th the club gave a concert to

Faringdon has had a sawmill since 1897 and the sawmill has had Neddie Pauling, on and off, since that date. Seventy-six year old Mr. Pauling recalls the day he started work at the mill at the age of thirteen, a few weeks after the mill had opened. His starting wage was 7/6 a week—a little different from the wages paid today!

The late Mr. Elliott senior bought the original site of the mill, on the opposite side of the railway station from the present position, for £100.

Mr. Pauling was away on three years Army service when the mill moved to its present position, in 1905. On his return he rejoined the staff at a weekly wage of 10s. At this time sawyers were earning 18/- per week.

Just after the first World War, in which Mr. Pauling served, a man thought he had bought the mill, but could not raise the money, so Mr. Hill took it over. Mr. Hill's reign lasted for 2½ years, after which Mr. Elliott took over again. Then in 1942 he sold out to the present owners, Montague L. Meyer Limited.

In his early years Mr. Elliott had nine men and four boys, who used to deal with seven trees per day. The present staff is 32.

For the first ten years power was supplied to the mill from a boiler and engine bought second-hand after service in a brick kiln. In 1907 Mr. Elliott bought a new engine for £250. This chugged away for half a century - until 1957 in fact - when the equipment was elec-

trified. In the early days, the main trade was elm for coffin boards and boxes to hold tinplate which used to be exported from Wales. Neddie Pauling was, in fact, the champion boxmaker of the British Isles. When a boxmaking machine was brought on the market, Mr. Elliott claimed that he had a man who could work faster than the machine. The challenge was taken up by the manufacturers and Mr. Pauling did beat the machine, by knocking nails in at the rate of 22 per minute.

Mr. Pauling had seven ribs, hip and collarbone broken in a recent accident. Three separate tribunals of doctors said that he would never work again, but any time you care to drop in to Faringdon Sawmills, you will find its stout-hearted oldest employee still hard at work.

Faringdon is proud of Mr. Pauling, and will join him in his sorrow at the passing of this important Faringdon industry.

M.J.D.

## Death of Mr. E. Rogers

Mr. Ernest Rogers, aged 75 of Bromsgrove, Faringdon, died at his home on Sunday after a 12 month illness. He leaves a widow and two sons.

Mr. Rogers, a Faringdon man by birth, had a partnership with his brother in the painting and decorating firm of Messrs. Rogers Bros., for many years.

During the 1914-18 war Mr. Rogers served in the Royal Berks. Regiment in France.

His funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at the Baptist Chapel.

## Littleworth

The Buckland and Littleworth Mothers' Union had their New Year's party at the Vicarage on Thursday afternoon of last week. Tea was provided, games and records were played. Prize winners were Mrs. Puzey and Mrs. O'lett. The hostess was Mrs. Hardy.