

amateurs, to school concerts and occasionally to a visiting theatrical company. Sometimes a magic lantern show was held in the Mechanics Hall (where the Cheltenham Hall now stands) or the Protestant, now the Memorial Hall. For variety the words of a song would be thrown on the screen and the audience enjoyed singing it. People must often have felt starved of music; when Clarrie Judd who owned one of the first phonographs and lived on the Highway played records on his verandah on Sundays as many as thirty lads sat on the post and rail fence opposite enjoying the music.

In 1908 when he was eighteen Jack McCarthy was put in charge of the new Chelsea station and sold the first ticket there. He served in the railways for fifty-one years; he now lives retired at Chelsea and is an active member of our society.

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How do you feel about accepting a government pension? "Why not?" you say. "It's my right, isn't it?". But here's what we found in an undated cutting in the Brighton Library - "Charles Willmott, the gate-keeper at Mentone station retired on a small pension and died at the age of 81. His pension died with him and his widow is left totally unprovided for. An effort has been made to induce her to apply for the State pension for the aged but without avail".

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