

EMBLETON – A PICTORIAL HISTORY

1921 – 1930

The Embleton Co-op (opened 1918) was a branch of the Howick Co-op Society which was founded in 1895 by Lord Grey of Howick primarily to provide a service for the estate workers. Mr Ninian (Ned) Glendinning joined the Embleton Co-op in 1923 as Grocery Traveller and continued in this job for 21 years until he became Grocery Manager in 1944. The area covered by Embleton Co-op was roughly from Spitalford to Seahouses and inland taking in Ellingham, South Charlton and as far as Eglington. As Traveller, Mr Glendinning covered his area by bicycle throughout this time, on a fortnightly round. In most cases, orders taken one day, were delivered next day by horse and cart, until a van was introduced about 1930. As a Traveller, Mr Glendinning worked a five and a half day week, and he estimated that he called on about 800 customers on his fortnightly round. In addition to normal grocery supplies he also took orders for hardware, carpets and furniture from a catalogue.



A postcard published by Alex Pitt Central Supply Stores Embleton sent to Miss L Winnington in Gateshead postmarked Embleton 1923. Message :- 'My Dears. 12.15 Just getting ready for the charabang the first time I've been in one so I won't be going down to the sands today. If you don't come I'll throw away the ham. I'm A1 Lily'.

An early 1920s picture of the side entrance to the storage area of Pitt's shop. It is interesting to note that he dealt in BP motor spirit even at this date.



An unused Monarch (R.Johnson & Son Gateshead) postcard No. 5414. The photograph is from about 1923. This links course was founded in 1900 by the Dunstanburgh Castle Estate. The Estate was purchased by Mr (later Sir) Arthur Munro Sutherland and a redesign of the course was carried out in 1920 by James Brand. In September 1900 The Alnwick & County Gazette carried the following notice 'The Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel – Mr & Mrs Wood of Harrogate the newly appointed host and hostess have now entered upon their duties. A golf course in connection with the hotel, is in the course of formation and when finished, and in playing order, it will prove a great inducement to visitors to come to this rising health resort.



A picture of Reed's garage, which was on the site of the current Grieves garage, taken about 1924. The 'bus' was operated by William (Willy) Reed in opposition to those of Bolton Brothers. Both firms also offered car hire plus petrol and tyre sales. By 1930 Boltons were operating eight buses and offered three cars for hire. In the picture, from left to right, are Jack Wade, George Jeffery, Theodore Humble, Willie Reed and Madeleine Paul who was the then vicar's daughter.



Dunstan Steads Cottages, Embleton. 5417

An unused Monarch (R.Johnson and Sons Gateshead) series postcard No. 5417. A 1924 photograph looking east towards the sea. The cottages, being in a bad state of repair, were demolished in 1945 and replaced by semi detached houses. At this time wood was in short supply for building so several kipper sheds at Craster were demolished and the wood recycled into these houses.



A Monarch R.Johnson & Son Gateshead) series postcard No. 7866 sent to Cyril Horrocks Esq. In London N.W.11 postmarked Embleton August 1928. Message :- ‘Wednesday night, no Thursday. I’m even forgetting the day of the week in this place. We leave here Saturday or Sunday and will be home on Tuesday. Expect you will have the I’m sending on the morning before this however. Thanks for your letter, I really have absolutely no news whatsoever. I have seen nothing and nobody. I am compelled to remain Lots of love I’ll write again tomorrow’.

Two cottages on Station Road next door to Falloden Cottage about 1925. The cottages, described by a former resident as ‘hovels’, were demolished about 1950 but only the right hand one has been replaced by a house. One of the village blacksmiths, G.Short, lived in the left hand cottage at one time.



An unused Monarch (R.Johnson & Sons Gateshead) series postcard No. 6531 showing the rear of the school. This photograph was taken in about 1927 from North Heugh, above Quakes Row. The garage of William Reed can be seen next to the North Villas (Store Houses) that were built by the Co-op Society for their employees. The houses on Merton Cottages had not yet been started. The van in the photograph is about 15 years old being registered around 1912.



One of Bolton's charabancs parked outside the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel in 1925/26. The Ducros charabanc, with solid tyres and a fabric roof, would take about 25 passengers and offered full and half day tours within Northumberland to places such as Holy Island plus trips into Scotland. This was only for the well to do as a day out would cost 5 shillings or more per person which was more than a week's rent for many families.



An unused Monarch (R.Johnson & Son Gateshead) series postcard No. 7292 from 1927. The Co-op opened its Embleton branch in 1918 firstly by taking over Thompson's butchers shop (opposite the current village shop) and then expanded soon after by adding adjacent premises. The two shop windows and the doors to the storage area can be seen at the top left. The shop sold groceries and provisions, greengrocery, bakery products, meat, hardware, furniture, drapery, outfitting, boots and shoes. Its total staff, including a traveller and van drivers, was 15. The branch closed in 1968.



An unused Monarch (R. Johnson & Son Gateshead) series postcard No. 7288. Stephenson's delivery van (TY 677) was registered in 1926 and this photograph was taken in 1927. It shows a good view of part of the Co-op stores – there being a second shop front just off picture to the right. The picture was probably taken on the same day as the one on the previous page when Mr Johnson, who used to holiday at Warkworth, was out and about taking a series of photographs in the area.



A Monarch (R.Johnson & Sons Gateshead Works) series postcard No. 7873 sent to Mr & Mrs Matthewson in Newcastle postmarked Embleton July 1930. Message :- 'Having a grand time here weather good and dig tip top. Kiddies looking well hope you are all A!. Mr & Mrs P'.

Taken after the building of the houses on Merton Cottages had commenced, but had not been completed, this photograph must have been taken about 1928. The houses were built starting at the school end of the road and finishing at Station Road.



Due to the considerable amount of handling involved with the quarry products when delivered by rail this method became uneconomical with the advent of mechanised road transport. During the 1920s two coal fired chain driven Sentinel road steam wagons were purchased and delivered stone as far as Newcastle. These were eventually replaced by four petrol driven Bedford lorries. This picture was taken near the Sentinel works in Shrewsbury when the second wagon (a DG6?) was being delivered about 1928.