

## JENNER'S GARAGE

I have in my possession a lot of news about this garage and also some pictures. I remember, even before I was driving, we used it on Brooksend Farm for spare parts. We had two American tractors, on what was called "Lease Lend" and these tractors needed painting, because the Boss wanted them smartened up for the Ploughing Match. The ploughs needed painting as well, so Jenner's sent a lorry with a steam cleaner fitted on the back. The young man who was operating it came soon after 9 am and the job was done in the cow yard. With the steam cleaning there was a lot of water about. The paint on the ploughs was red.

When we returned from lunch, we found the young man dead – it was a terrible sight – he was lying in the water. The reason why he was killed was because of a poor earth, as the electrics on the farm were very bad. The fact was, the cable was lying in the water and he must have climbed up onto the lorry, where there was a metal strip along its side. After that, the whole electrics on the farm had to be pulled out and a more modern system installed. That event had hit the whole farm – it was terrible.

One of our units at the Ploughing Match had a first prize. Then one day we were looking around Jenner's Garage. They had opened another showroom and there was a lovely car – an "Armstrong Siddeley". As we were a little better off, Iris and I bought it. In one of the photos that I mentioned, there were some cars on the forecourt of Jenner's that had prices on them - £100, £105 and so on! As the years have rolled by, the place has changed hands and they have done all sorts to improve it. But now it is boarded up and there is a building order on it. What a shame – it has been there so long – one of the oldest businesses in Birchington. As I say, it is a shame – especially as the plans are for flats.