

SCHOOL DRIVING

Sir—I was very interested in your article advocating driving as a school subject (Feb. 16).

I am acquainted with a school in Norfolk where not only are senior boys taught to drive, but their driving is essential to the running of the school, whose buildings are situated at Hunstanton and two villages some miles distant, between which frequent travel is necessary every day.

The qualified drivers are conversant with a wide range of vehicles, from a Mini-Minor to a one-ton van, and the practical application of their skill, with its attendant responsibility, produces a cool-headed and intelligent approach to driving.

This contrasts strongly with the pseudo-sportsmanship which I feel is a fundamental cause of many of the accidents which involve the private motorist.

(Mrs.) Antoinette M. Y. Green, Preston.

Observer, 23.2.64.

It was largely due to this letter that Anglia Television approached the headmaster to make a feature film of the school.

R. A. NAIRN. VA
(Head of Transport)

Expedition to the West Country

Early on Saturday, April 4th of this year, we set out for an excursion to the West Country. In the party were Sara Lee, Penny Nairn, Ian Henderson-Begg, Martin Coats and Peter Coe. Once again the party was under the leadership of Miss Hayes-Williams, our 'A' Level Geography teacher. The object of the expedition was to cover as much as possible of Somerset, Devonshire and Cornwall in the eight days, including the journeys to and from Norfolk. Before I give an account of our travels I should like, on behalf of the party to thank the Headmaster for allowing us the use of the Mini-'bus; and Miss Hayes-Williams for organizing the whole venture.

We crossed England passing through Bedford, Bletchley and Oxford, where we visited Christchurch Cathedral, Fairford and Cirencester, an old Roman encampment, and thence to our first halt at Melksham.

On Sunday morning, after attending church, we set out for the Mendips via the ancient spa city of Bath, set in one of the most attractive vales of Somerset. This terraced city with its Roman baths and fine cathedral set on the banks of the Avon was one of the most beautiful places we encountered on our journey. On arriving at the Mendips we visited Cheddar Gorge, perhaps the finest example of limestone mountain scenery. Passing through the gorge we stopped at Gough's Cave, which although claimed to be untouched by human hands had an abundance of concrete flooring and electric lights, proved very interesting.

From Cheddar we descended down past Axbridge and onto Sedgemoor, scene of the famous battle during Monmouth's Rebellion in the 17th century. Leaving the lowlands and Bridgewater behind us we went round the wooded Quantocks along the coast to Dunster and Minehead. Travelling inland we arrived at the little village of Winsford, with its tiny streams, fords and bridges, which was our second night's stop.

The next day saw us on Exmoor, but the mist had descended and so obscured the view, however we visited Tarr Steps and crossed the river by a deep ford. We then went on to Lynmouth, a most attractive fishing town. Following the inland road past Watersmeet we passed through Barnstaple and Clovelly, both greatly overestimated and commercialized. From Clovelly we went on to Hartland Point, and then to Hartland Quay where some of us rock climbed. From Hartland we drove down a very narrow, twisty road to Bude.

On Tuesday we drove along the coast to Boscastle which was extremely pleasant, then we went on to Tintagel, with its rugged cliffs, caves, arches and waterfall cascading onto the beach. From Trevoze Head we skirted Watergate Bay through Newquay to Perranporth.