

Two places for a telegram boy to avoid

When Michael Petty, of Blaby, was a Telegram Boy in the late 1950s, a delivery to be avoided was to Rolleston House the men's hostel in Britannia Street. Leicester.

Michael says: "I had a reply paid telegram for an Irish gentleman who was in the front ground floor room with several other men who after removing Wellington boots, were drying their socks on the pot bellied stove in the centre of the room.

" The smell was overpowering and holding my breath I waited for the Manager to read the contents to the man, fortunately he wanted to send the reply later and I told him to take it to Abbey Park Road telegram

T.S.O. when he was ready.

" Outside I was sick in the road and when I returned to Bishop Street the other lads hoped there would not be another one to take.

"The Blinking Owl in Foundry Square was another address to avoid if possible.

It was filled with very elderly ladies who were still trying to ply their trade. I had a telegram for one of the residents and, on arriving outside, a young and pretty Police Constable asked me if I was going inside and, if so, would I go in and wait for her while she made her enquiries?

" Her colleagues at Charles Street Police Station had warned her that the ladies could be a handful if she was on her own.

" After delivering my telegram I waited for the W.P.C. and as we reached the pavement she said 'thank you' and gave me a kiss on the cheek!

This was one time when a delivery to the Blinking Owl was a welcome one!