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Obituary

We regret to announce the deaths of the following personalities in the trade and industry, and express condolences to relatives and business associates.

WILLIAM RATHBONE PASHLEY, who was killed in a road accident while in the USA, was until recently head of the carrier-cycle firm of W. R. Pashley, Ltd., now of Stratford-on-Avon. He was 70 years of age.

"Rath" Pashley was another of those thorough gentlemen who flourish among the independent cycle-makers (writes H.B.). He founded his business 40 years ago and at the outset he produced a carrier-cycle which was much more robust than other contemporary models.

In the 1930's, when the firm had become established (it had works in Digbeth and Chester Street, Aston, Birmigham), the advanced designs of his lines were noteworthy. He fitted 5/16in balls in the bottom-brackets, ¼in balls in the heads and generally gave to his carrier bicycles a most necessary strength. He was a pioneer in a neglected field—and because af the ingenuity of his thinking and the straightness of his dealing he made progress. The Pashley business is now conducted by R. C. L. (Dick) Pashley, who is secretary of the Centenary Club.

The funeral was at Sutton Parish Church on June 3.

Noel Brealey, president of the Centenary Club, writes:

But for the formation of the Centenary Club, I doubt very much whether I would have known Rath Pashley; certainly I shouldn't have known him as a real friend, as well as a fellow club-member, for 25 years. Rathbone Pashley (Rath to practically everyone who knew him, I think) was elected a member in 1940, only the fifth new member, apart from that select and now, alas, diminishing band of founder-members.

He very quickly became "one of us" in every sense of the term, rarely missing one of our two annual runs or the dinner. I don't really recall when we first decided on a "kitty" for drinks during our rides, but by unanimous consent Rath became the first holder of the "unofficial office" of Kittymaster, and cheerfully handled the "liquid accounts" for many years, eventually handing over to his son Dick, now our secretary.

At the annual dinner, Rath proposed the toast

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of the Club on one or two occasions in his own quietly humorous style, including one never-to-be-forgotten crack in the early post-war years about "the effects of meat rationing on saddle production". Always ready to help fellow-members, on one Sunday morning in the wilds of Wales, when for some reason he was unable to ride his bicycle, Rath thoughtfully loaded his car boot at the hotel bar and met the remainder of the party miles from anywhere with very welcome elevenses.

A month ago he was with us at Shillingford and at the AGM he seconded my nomination as treasurer. It is not easy to believe that this was his last Centenary Club week-end—it is not easy to explain how much we shall miss him.

R. GEOFFREY DE HAVILLAND

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