

## **SEPTEMBER 2005.**

### **Do you remember NANCE AND FRED FLYOD OR BERT CLOKE?**

26/09/05 Susan Kelsall on 0114 28633261 is asking whether anyone remembers Martha Ann, known as Nance, and Fred, Floyd. Nance was living at East View Terrace when she died in 1966 but earlier they had both lived in a cottage called "Dickiebusch" described as "on the main road through Kent Street", which had a small shop attached at the side. Susan is their niece and would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers her Auntie Nance or a lodger Mr Bertram Cloke. Mr Cloke is described as working as a gardener/handyman at a large house not far from Dickiebusch.

Answer from Sedlescombe resident: Bert Cloke had served in the Indian Army and was a widower when he came to Sedlescombe. His young Indian wife and baby son had died in India. He would often play cribbage in the top pub and worked as a postman.

A local resident remembers the shop in the 1930s in Kent Street which was no more than 2 feet from the road, was very small and sold all sorts of bits and pieces. Mrs Floyd (Nance) had to come out of her cottage to open up each time someone wanted the shop. Although it was small, about six teenagers would go there in an evening to play shove halfpenny on the counter. Jack Taylor was one of these. About twenty children lived in Kent Street at that time. The name "Dickiebusch" can be explained as the shop was originally set up for a Mr Reg Sellens by the Royal British Legion because he had lost a leg in World War I and, on his return from the Front, couldn't work. Reg lost a second leg later and went about in a motorized 3-wheel wheelchair. Dickiebusch is a place in Ypres, Belgium, where our troops had been in WWI. Reg Sellens was the Sedlescombe Royal British Legion Branch Secretary for years and played the last post and reveille at the Armistice Sunday services in Sedlescombe Church.

The Floyds moved to 3 East View Terrace in 1959 and Nance brought her shop with her and used it as a garden shed in her garden.