

10-28

No police action over Knowl View

OBITUARY

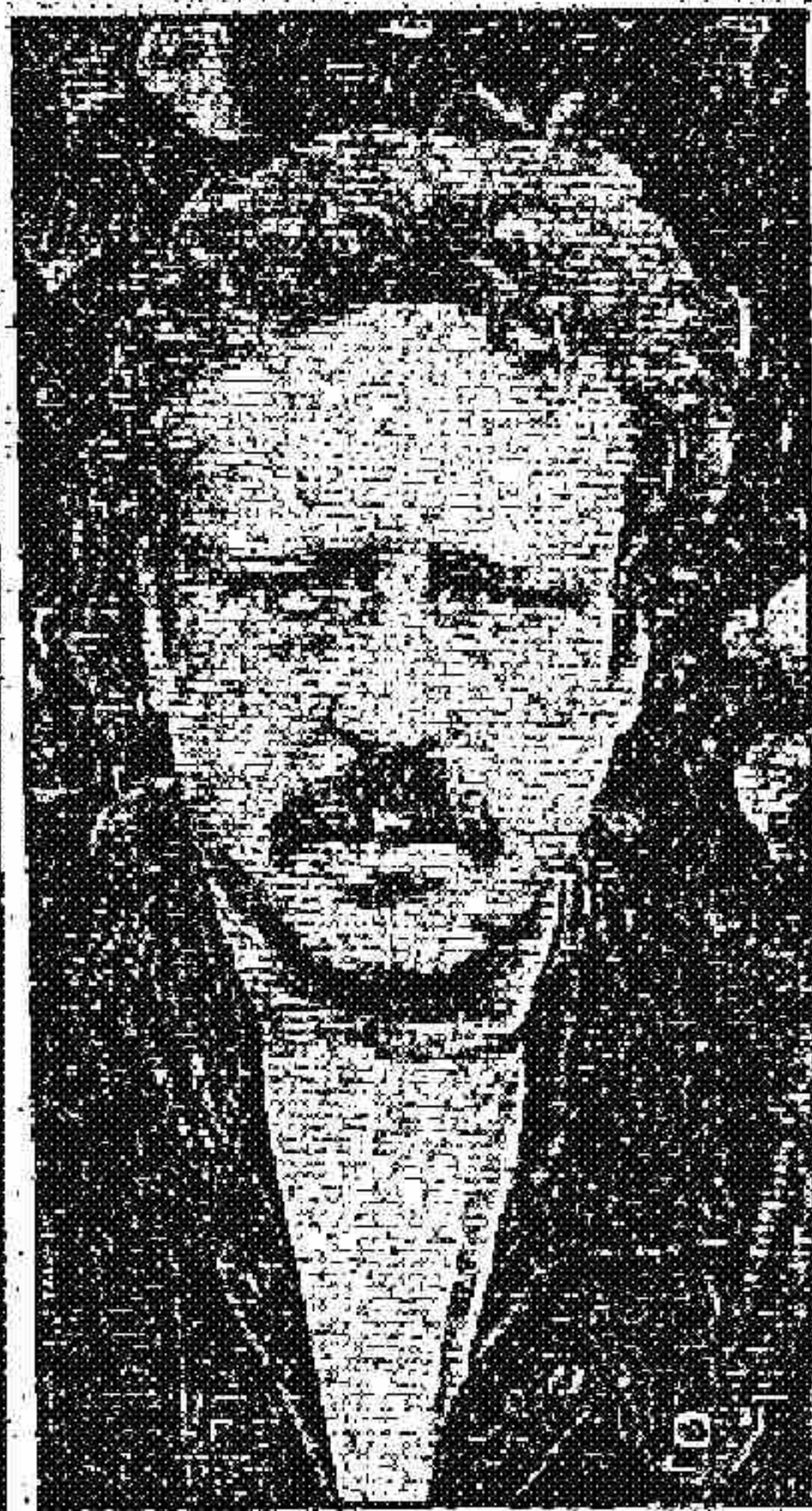
WITHNELL. — On 17 July in Park House Residential Home, Queens Road, Oldham, formerly of Smith Hill, Millrow, BEATRICE, aged 95 years, the dearly beloved wife of the late Charles William, loving mother of Allan, also a dear mother-in-law and devoted gran and great gran. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if desired may be sent to St Thomas Church, Newhey, c/o The Vicarage, Church Street, Newhey. — Inquiries: Co-Op Funeral Service, Oldham. Tel 0161-634 2807.

IN MEMORIAM

EARNshaw (CHRISTINE). — My friend remembered. Always in my heart. Love Wendy.

(IVY). — Died 18 1991. We could build a stairway. Up to heaven we would go. To tell our mum we love her. And how we miss her so. Love you always from your loving family.

NYLAND (formally Fitton) (MARIE ANN). — Died 23 July 1995. Dear mother and grandmother. Loved and remembered everyday. Love Andrea, Jo and Families.



MR Martin Digan (N5680)

POLICE are to take no further action on allegations of sexual abuse at Knowl View School, Rochdale, before it closed at the end of last year.

But a former pupil describes the decision as "totally unbelievable" and is lodging a complaint with the Police Complaints Authority.

He gave the police a signed statement of his allegations at Knowl View. They were also given a dossier of alleged incidents at the school by Mr Martin Digan, former head of care.

It included a confidential report by an independent specialist detailing the involvement of pupils in sexual activities both at the school and at venues in Rochdale and Manchester.

Detective Superintendent Jim Henderson, head of Rochdale CID, said: "I have examined the issues raised in connection with the school and nothing in the documents or the information requires further investigation by the police."

"All the issues involved at the school were discussed and investigated at the time by a number of agencies and necessary action was taken then."

"I do not believe there has been any cover up at the school and nothing in the documents indicates that."

Mr Henderson said he had investigated the dossier together with Rochdale Family Support Unit which deals with physical and sexual abuse cases.

The former pupil, who did not wish to be named, said: "I find it totally unbelievable that the police

will not investigate the new allegations."

"How can they say the matter is closed when they have not even interviewed me? I have not even been interviewed by the Child Protection Unit."

"I am being treated by a psychologist and this is bringing out some of the events which happened at Knowl View — events which I have tried to keep hidden in my mind."

"I shall be making a complaint to the Police Complaints Authority because as far as I am concerned the activities at Knowl View have certainly not been investigated properly, either by the police or the council."

Mr Digan also said he could not understand why the police were taking no further action.

He said: "Why is it that most people in authority seem to want this matter swept under the carpet?"

The Department For Education has confirmed it is studying the dossier sent to them by Mr Digan.

A similar dossier is being investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman following claims by Mr Digan that the council was guilty of maladministration by not informing parents of some Knowl View pupils about their sons' sexual activities, and offering them counselling.

Rochdale MP Liz Lynne is also studying the case and will be meeting Mr Ian Davey, Director of Social Services, and Council Leader Paul Rowen before deciding what further action to take.

She said: "I have spoken at length to Mr Digan, and been given certain documents by him."

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