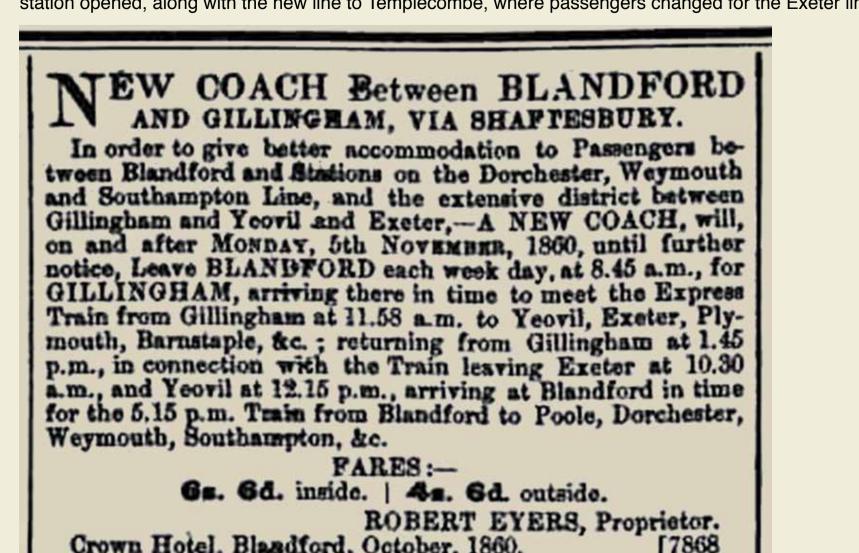
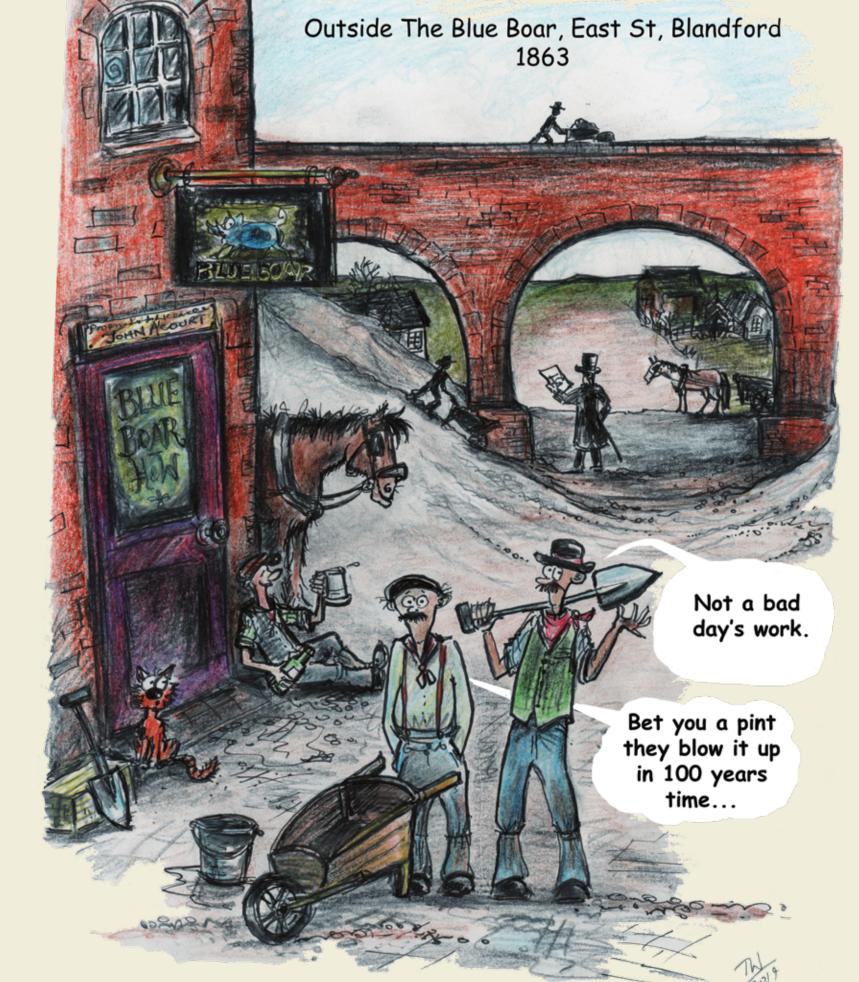
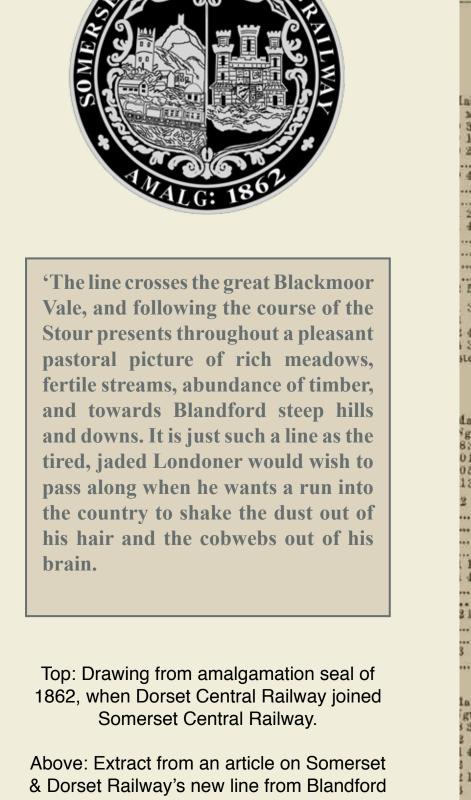


(Above) Advertisement from the Sherborne Mercury Tuesday 11 November 1856, for the cutting of the first sod of the Dorset Central Railway at Blandford St Mary (Above, Right) Part of 1860 poster advertising the luncheon and evening ball to mark the opening of the Wimborne-Blandford St Mary railway line. (Left) Local brewers Hall & Woodhouse donated two kegs of ale for the turf-cutting occasion, to the delight of the railway navvies, who presumably got in to the enclosure free. The navvies were impressed by Lady Smith's competence with her barrow: once she'd put the turf in the wheelbarrow she nimbly turned round between the shafts and pulled it navvy-style behind her along the duck boards.

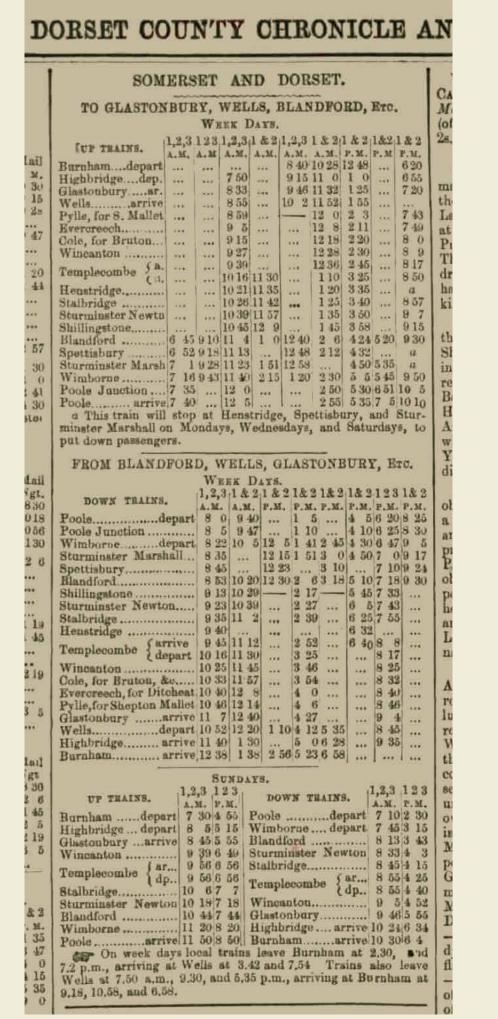


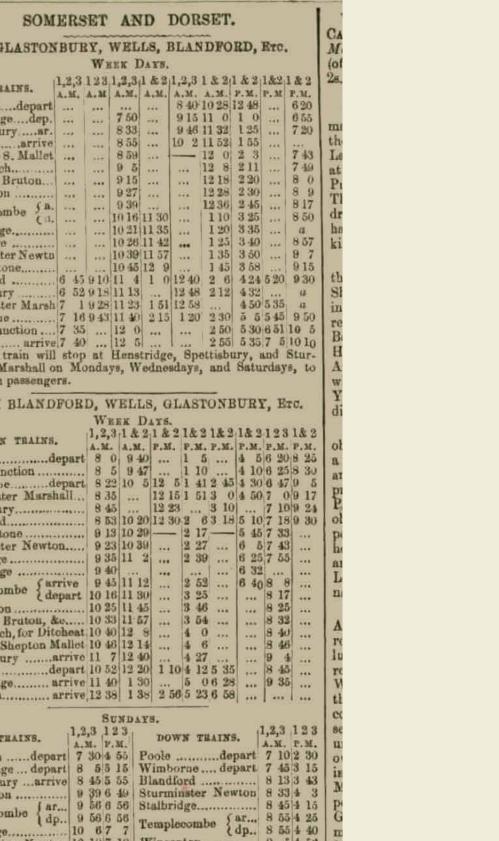


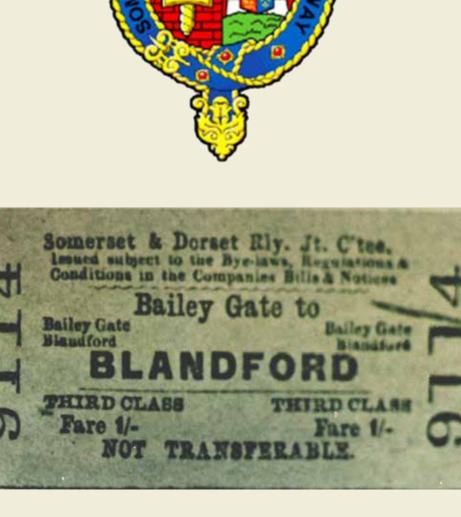


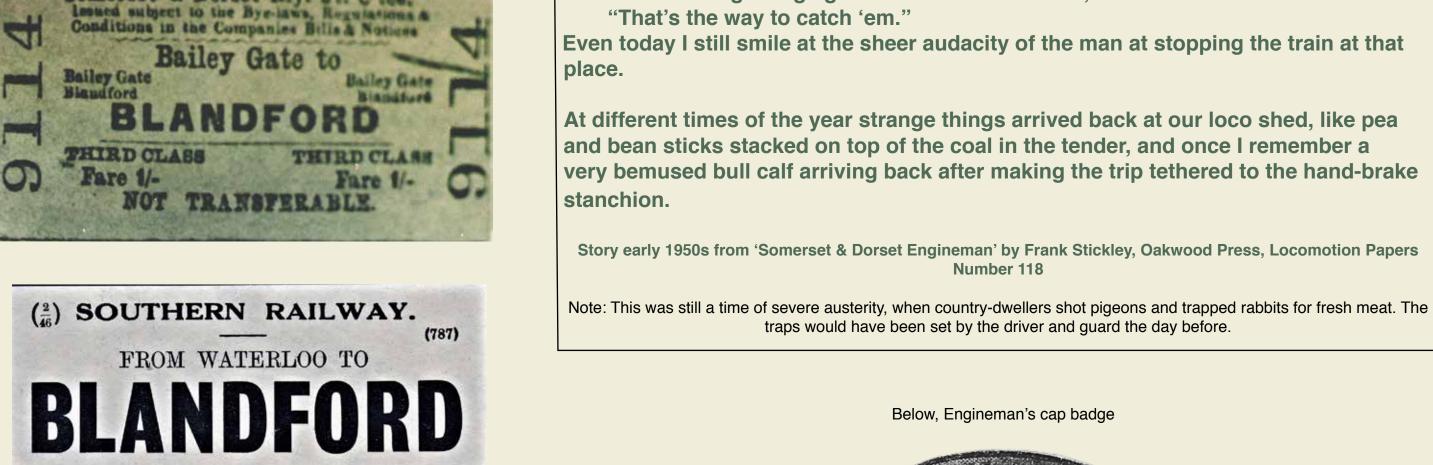
to Templecombe.
The Salisbury & Winchester Journal 5th September

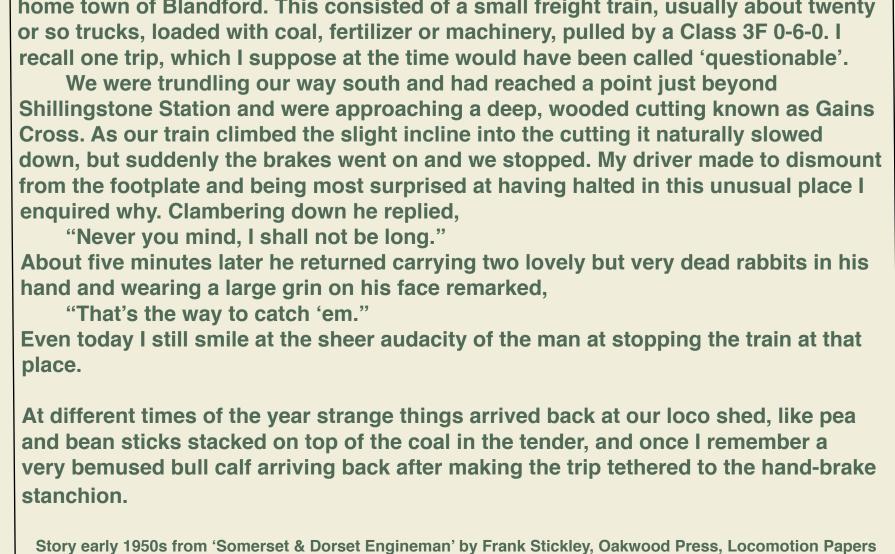
Right: 1863 Railway timetable published





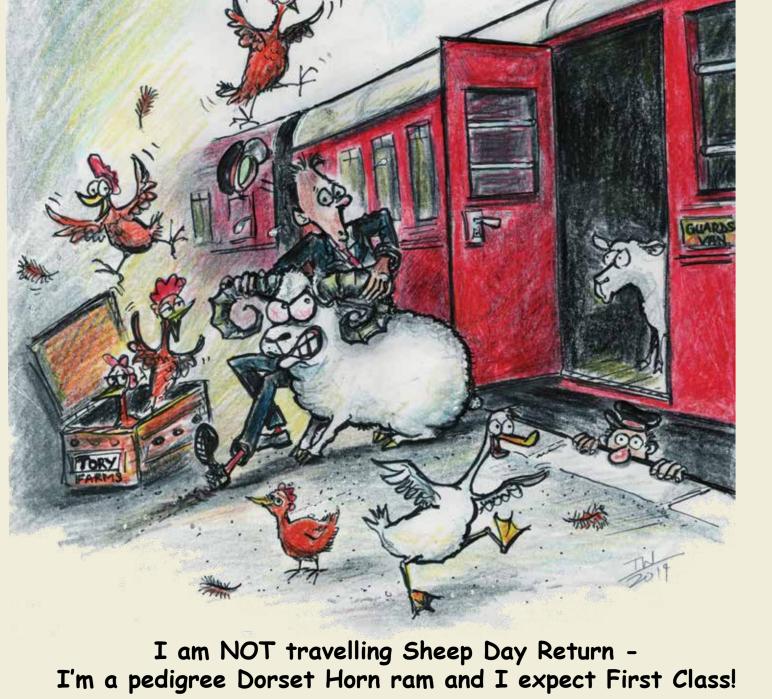






Story early 1950s from 'Somerset & Dorset Engineman' by Frank Stickley, Oakwood Press, Locomotion Paper Number 118

Below, Engineman's cap badge



Bob Downes' first job was as a porter at Shillingstone Station. He often had to load Farmer Tory's rams into the guard's van to be sent to other sheep farmers along the line.

