

SOBERTON and the 'PINKY' in RETROSPECT

by POWA 1/74

These days there are many people who never had the good fortune to serve in *Mercury* when the Wrens lived at Soberton Towers. We all remember the Towers as a welcome retreat from the everyday life of *Mercury*. Soberton is a 15-20 minute drive from *Mercury* and this created many a problem, the most common being transport — have you ever tried getting 80 Wrens into one Pusser's bus?

Soberton's isolation also gave rise to the overwhelming popularity of the 'Pinky', the nearest local pub! While not boasting any refinements the atmosphere in the 'Pinky' was unique and all newcomers to the Towers were quickly initiated. Many an enjoyable evening was spent over a glass of scrumpy or mead.

Life was not all frivolity. The Towers was manned entirely by Wrens and this meant there was always plenty of work to be done. Workship commenced at 0630 daily and included such chores as scrubbing floors and cleaning out fire grates. After supper the duty party would turn to in the galley — even the fire party was made up of Wrens! Our days were full, but there were no complaints, we were all extremely happy.

Everyone was sorry when the Wrens left the Towers for the last time in March 1971 to move into the new quarters at *Mercury*. Having since returned to *Mercury* for advancement courses we still look back to our time at Soberton with nostalgia.