

## Ticky Wells



*Ticky Wells' shop: the notice on the far side reads 'suits to measure from 30s 0d'*

On entering the shop you saw before you, stretching into the back, stacks of rolls of cloth materials. Here let me point out that many things such as pillow slips, sheets, etc., were not bought ready made, lengths of material were purchased and your sister, mother or friend made them up. Hundreds of yards of material were sold from these rolls.

A yearly event in the district was the Ticky Wells' July and January sales when hoards of people queued along the Market Square to buy goods at half price. Yard upon yard of ladies' dress materials were sold from that Market Square shop and the dresses in the shop were of high standard. Mrs Wells was in charge, and she herself was always well dressed.

During the last war, the sale of material for window blackouts was phenomenal, again all made to measure. He had a carpenter who made the wooden frames for any size of window. Ticky will be remembered by many, many people in gratitude for all the practical help he gave them: that van packed to the limit and those two bundles often forcing the doors open and spilling their contents out on to the road.

An elderly farmer tells me that when, as a young lad, his father died and he was anxious to carry on the tenancy of the farm, he needed security. Ticky gave him that security by putting money in the bank at no interest.

Ticky Wells' customers were intensely loyal and would have no wish to go anywhere else to shop, even Banbury. To many families he was a true Father Christmas.

*Bill Marshall*