

Enfield lock, nearly two miles south of the town, designed for the production of 225,360 gun barrels annually.

Other industries included pin making, calico printing, silk manufacture and printing, and the manufacture of percussion caps. A pottery was in use until about 1960, making flowerpots for the extensive nursery glasshouse industry. Two pipe-makers living in Waltham Abbey were Joseph How c.1749 and William Shadwick c.1800; no pipes can definitely be attributed but bowls of Atkinson and Oswald type 25, 1700-1770 with "IH" on the spur were found¹⁵ in 1970 following dredging of the Lea, they were poor specimens and may be local "seconds."

The town. One town house was excavated¹⁶ in 1966 and its history was traced through humble beginning as a shoemaker's cottage, built after 1540, to an enlargement in 1639 for the family of a well-

15. Collected by R. C. Gray and Jonathon Gray who suggest the pipes were discarded by workmen before entering the gunpowder factory.
16. P. J. Huggins "Excavations at Sewardstone Street, Waltham Abbey 1966," *Post Medieval Archaeol.* 3 includes documentary study by K. N. Bascombe (1969); TL 382 004.

to-do London mercer, Thomas Winspear. The contents of a brick-lined latrine pit were likened to the tableware and food remains of a single meal in a prosperous mid-17th century household.

The town still retains much of the character of a small Essex market town. Many townsfolk and local societies, in 1968, successfully opposed an extensive redevelopment of the town centre. The northern relief road is being built to divert the heavy traffic which at present chokes the town centre and it is hoped the narrow streets will eventually become pedestrian precincts.

Waltham Abbey is seen as the historic keystone of the Lee Valley Regional Park. The Park Authority has plans for a museum just north of the monastic precinct and is at present engaged on opening up a large area of the monastic site to the public for the first time.

The excavations in the town have been carried out by the Waltham Abbey Historical Society with the help of the West Essex Archaeological Group, rescue work being supported by the Department of Environment. The excavations at Ambersbury Banks were carried out by London University Extra-mural Department.

Wandsworth Mud Larking

IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL circles mudlarking often has a connotation not far removed from antiquarianism, chiefly due to the "loner" element involved in the past-time. Further, no serious attempt ever seems to have been made to establish a relationship between foreshore finds and settlement areas.

In an effort to assess the potential of mudlarking, about two years ago Wandsworth Historical Society began a systematic approach to foreshore material. The stretch of the Thames from the Beverley Brook to Nine Elms was divided into 16 sectors, each of which was allocated a code and members, singularly or more often in groups, began an intensive search in various areas. Their efforts tend to be spasmodic being closely governed by tides, dry-land excavations and other activities.

If material of particular interest is discovered, a special effort is made to explore its possible implications. For example, when part of a stoneware sagger was found, a careful search was made for further pieces. A dozen or so were discovered closeby but nowhere else, suggesting the possibility that they could have been dumped there from a nearby kiln, for which documentary research is now in progress. Interestingly enough, the reverse has also worked: there are documentary records indicating a delftware pottery at Putney and now a piece of kiln furniture and some biscuit ware have been found in the same area on the foreshore. (Further details appear in No. 2 of *The Wandsworth Historian*, copies of which are kept, *inter alia*, by the Central Library, West Hill, S.W.18 and the Minet Library).

The photograph shows the recording at very low water near Putney Railway Bridge of a large number of stakes (in the middle distance) and of some wadding (in the foreground). Because of the time element a frame was used to record details while they were still covered with water; in fact some of the stakes were never uncovered.

