

Bramham Park is backcloth for new Dickens TV serial

By Ronald Wilkinson

"This is my second home and I'm glad to be back again," said actor John Carson, who cut his professional teeth in repertory at Sheffield.

He was standing on the terrace at Bramham Park, near Wetherby, gazing across a misty autumnal setting which is to form part of the background of B.B.C.-1's new teatime classic serial "Dombey and Son."

An elegant landau and pair followed by a brougham (both from a Bradford collection of antique carriages) were poised ready for action under the direction of Joan Craft, who has already contributed notably to the field of Dickens on the small screen.

"I've got twins like my friend Norman Yardley," said John Carson in a brisk aside before resuming the shooting of the serial. "They were born in Sheffield and are eligible to play cricket for Yorkshire, which I hope they'll do."

VILLAINOUS

John Carson has played in a Dickens B.B.C. TV serial before—"Oliver Twist."

"It's good to get back to Dickens after some of the modern series I've done recently," he said.

"Dickens is so rich. He gives one a chance to step out." He admits to getting a lot of villainous parts. "I share a vocal affinity with James Mason," he said. "It's the voice which always sounds sinister."

Bramham Park, one of Yorkshire's classic Queen Anne Mansions, was today seething with extras from Harrogate amateur groups. The Bramham setting is meant to represent the elegant surroundings at Leamington.

Other Yorkshire locations to be used are Clifford, with its Norman church, which will represent a French village and Newby, another French village.

Soon the action will move to

Studley Royal, Ridding Park and Oakworth Station, near Keighley. The Worth Valley Railway, later in the serial, will stage a spectacular crash.

Today's episode depicted the meeting of Dombey (John Carson) and Edith Granger, played by Sally Home.

BATHCHAIR

One of the principals, Marian Spencer, who plays Mrs. Skewton, was being continually wheeled around in a bathchair to "take the waters."

Dickens began to write Dombey and Son in 1846 while on holiday in Switzerland. It is the story of a father who wanted a son more than anything in the world, and forgot that he had a daughter who loved him.

The novel has been dramatised by Hugh Leonard, one of the television's most talented writers, who is also accomplished in the film and theatre world.

This is his third Dickens serial, following "Great Expectations" and "Nicholas Nickleby." Producer is Campbell Logan, who is in charge of all classic serials on BBC-1.

Janet Baker to sing for the Minster

One of Yorkshire's loveliest stately homes, Bramham Park, will be the scene of a glittering concert on the evening of Friday, May 24.

Col. and the Hon. Mrs. Lane Fox are arranging the concert in the long gallery of their home to aid the York Minster Appeal.

Janet Baker, one of the most sought-after singers of the day, is returning to her native Yorkshire to give the concert.

"I was delighted, indeed thrilled, to extend my aid for the cathedral I hold so dear," she said. Miss Baker was educated in York.

EARL MAY ATTEND

Her audience will probably include the Earl and Countess of Scarborough, Viscountess Bridgeman, Viscount and Viscountess Ingleby, Lady de Vesci, Lady Patricia Milns-Coates, Lt.-Col. Sir John Dunnington-Jefferson, Lord Savile, Sir Roger and Lady Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Burton and Brig. Kenneth Hargreaves.

A feature of the evening will be the supper prepared by distinguished Yorkshire cooks, the Hon. Mrs. C. Packe, the Hon. Mrs. M. Roper-Curzon, the Hon. Mrs. Richard Lane Fox, Mrs. C. Thompson-Royds, Mrs. John Dent, Mrs. E. Lapish and Mrs. M. Avison.

The menu will include salmon, turkey, risottos, souffles, mousses and compote of fresh fruit.

Tickets for the concert are going very well indeed, says Committee Secretary Mrs. Joan Grant.



THE Last Post is sounded by Chris Shaw as the standards are lowered at the village war memorial in Bramham. (I.M.)

Arhus Tindall & Leslie Young in white cassocks.
Elizabeth Sanderson lowers a flag.