

## Activity 12 - Who was Reg Paine?

Activity: Reginald Paine was Worthing Pier Master from 1909 to 1944. Research and write a short biography about his life.



MR REG PAINE

*Worthing Herald.  
December 1944.*

### MR REG PAINE TO RETIRE

WHEN, at the end of the war, Worthing's pier again reports business at usual, there will be one great difference.

Mr "Reg" Paine, Piermaster for the last thirty-five years, will not be there. He is due to retire early in March.

Mr Paine's greatest disappointment, he told a "Herald" reporter, is the fact that he has been unable to spend his last years in the town's service in the job he knew and loved so well. Since the early days of the war, Mr Paine has been working in the Town Clerk's department.

Mr Paine's absence from the Pier will be keenly felt by visitors and residents alike when the town's normal business as a holiday resort is resumed. He was everybody's pal; if you wanted to know where a spell of angling was likely to produce the best results, if you wanted to know when the next steamer sailed, or if you wanted to know your chances of a fine day to-

morrow—Mr Paine was the man who would tell you.

He is a son of the late Mr Walter Paine, who once ran a printing and newspaper business in Worthing. After his education at Worthing Collegiate School (it is now known as Grafton House) and at Mr Jemmett's school in Liverpool-terrace, Mr Paine started his business career as a newspaperman with his father. He did not specialise—"I did any job that came along, mechanical or otherwise," he said.

Another of Mr Walter Paine's interests was the then Worthing Pier Company, of which he was managing director. When the Continued back page, column 4.

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position of Piermaster became vacant, Mr Reg Paine took over. That was in 1909, and, with the exception of years of military service during the last war—when his brother, the late Mr E. D. Paine carried on his duties—he has held the post ever since.

#### Two Calamities

Two major calamities have befallen the Pier during Mr Paine's term of office. One occurred in 1913, at Easter, at a time when a shore-end pavilion was about to be erected. A holiday crowd was waiting to be admitted to a concert at the Southern Pavillon, when a bad gale sprang up.

"I didn't like the look of it at all" said Mr Paine, "and I insisted that the Pier should be cleared of everybody.

"It was just as well that I did," he added, "because later that night the whole Pier was washed away except the extreme southern tip. It was a wicked night—the sea simply poured up South-street."

In more recent times, in 1933 to be precise, the only survivor of the previous disaster, the Southern Pavilion, came in for trouble of its own. It was burned out.

Mr Paine, who is 65 years of age, has no definite plans for the future. He is, however, looking forward to spending more time than he has previously been able to with his twelve-months old daughter, Rosemary Vivienne.

"I expect I shall go on the Pier, too," he said, with a chuckle,—"but as a visitor!"