

**“The Stroller” Reporting in a Newspaper,
Visited North Rode Station in 1965 and Reported:**

The people of North Rode are seething with indignation at the proposal of British Transport Commission to close the village station for both passenger and freight traffic and they are determined to put up a big fight for its retention, writes “The Stroller”.

Coming so quickly after the closure of the Churnet Valley line to passenger traffic the villagers say they will be greatly inconvenienced if the station is closed.

The first stationmaster was Mr. Francis Alison, who was exceedingly popular with the people. Of course, the pay of stationmasters in those days was such that many had to follow other occupations. Mr. Alison’s was violin making and he had his violins on show at the station for prospective customers. It was believed that he made between 40 and 50 violins, some of which are still in the district.

When he retired is not stated in the records, but he was still stationmaster in 1896 and was then the oldest employee of the North Stafford Railway.

I met Mr. Tom Cooper, of Messrs. S. Cooper and Sons, the North Rode firm of coal merchants and haulage contractors. He was loading coal in the sidings. “We have worked this siding for 32 years and I just do not know what we shall do if it is closed. My coal is delivered here.

“The closure of the station to passenger and freight traffic will cause considerable inconvenience to the people here. Farmers, who have cattle delivered by train, are very annoyed.

“Personally I cannot see why they cannot keep the station open. It may not be as busy as it used to be, but surely the people in the country should not be cut off in this way.”

Used trains for shopping.

As I was there a train drew in from Macclesfield and a number of women, who had been into the town to do their shopping, got off. Mrs. Dorothy Bowyer, of North Rode, said: “We use the train for shopping. It is said that if the trains stop there will be extra buses, but this can be very difficult in winter.

“There are, of course, those who use the train to go to their work in Macclesfield. More and more people have their own cars these days, but not everyone and we feel that British Railways should give us some consideration.”

Mr. T. Biddulph, the representative for the Parish on the Macclesfield Rural District Council, and a member of the National Farmers’ Union, said: “We are fighting this proposal as strong as we can for we feel that a grave injustice would be done if the station was closed. There is quite a lot of agricultural traffic on the line and figures were provided for the Rural District Council, who have decided to support us.”