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● IT'S pure coincidence, I suppose, but Merthyr have travelled to two football grounds within the space of eight days which will be no more at the end of this season.

● There was Wycombe Wanderers, of course, and Yeovil. The High Wycombe ground of Loakes Park has become an institution since its building in the early part of the century and the club has gained much respect during that time. Yeovil's Huish - the ground made famous by its sloping pitch - is full of tradition.

● The clubs will live on but there will be something lacking for a long time to come.

● Both clubs will be moving into super new stadia which, coincidentally, will only be a mile or so away from the old ground.

● I will certainly miss the "big time" feeling at The Huish but I will miss, more, the friendly atmosphere at Loakes Park, especially the welcoming nature of Bob and Edith Hart who look after the socialising affairs of their exclusive 30 Club.

● On my last two visits I have been made to feel very much at home there. I understand that a similar club will be in existence at their new ground. "But," Mr Hart said, "it will be bigger."

● I will be looking forward to looking them up next season and hope, despite the uprooting of the original club, the friendly approach will be retained.

● I was surprised - even a little frightened - at the end of Merthyr's last muddy confrontation at Yeovil. A policeman warned the Merthyr team coach driver; "There are about 20 youths out on the normal exit road. They have been known to stone visiting coaches as they leave and throw things down from a parapet." He advised another round-the-houses route.

● I began to feel sorry for Tai the driver. How would he negotiate the back roads, I thought. But, indeed, the police waited to escort the coach away. It did seem that the huge police force there was not to ward off any danger from Merthyr supporters but to safeguard them.

● That could have been the reason for such a comprehensive police interest when Merthyr played there last season.

● A coach load of Swansea supporters were allowed into Penydarren Park to watch the Merthyr v Altrincham game. They were part of a three coach convoy making to Reading for the game against the Swans. Two coaches were turned back. A good, safe, decision, no doubt. But such a sad indictment on football "supporters".

● I was saddened to hear that Ray Davies, the former chairman of the executive directors at Penydarren Park, has been taken into hospital. I understand that his condition is not as serious as it was first thought.

● A most cheerful character, Ray has been one of the main forces behind raising much money for the club. I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery.