

ROAST OX WHOLE,

Ross on Wye hadn't had such a day for 72 years. That was the last time they roasted an ox whole, on Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Now a beauty of six cwt was being done to a turn in front of the old Market House, and basted with cider. It was by way of reminding the outside world that Herefordshire claims to produce the finest cattle and cider in England. Or for that matter, anywhere else. Nobody disputed the claim, so the world champion ploughman, Lealie Goodwin, began carving. No need for any pushing. There was enough beef and cider for all the 4,000 expected. And prime beef it was too.

There was a noggin of cider to wash it down. You'd have thought it was Christmas.

When everybody was satisfied, there were only bones left. But what bones; Benge's longing for the day when they get that spit out again.