



● Comical tales – singer Steve Travis has recorded a humorous view of rural life on Mersea Island with his book *As I Recall It*
Picture: NIGEL BROWN

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Steve's book takes earthy look at life

by LESLEY HEUER

AFTER 30 years as a singer, Mersea based Steve Travis decided it was time to write his autobiography.

Having toured the country and performed with many top acts including Showaddywaddy, Mud, Billie Jo Spear and Dr Hook, Steve was confident that he had plenty of material to work with,

regaling readers with tales from the dressing room.

But it was a case of easier said than done. Steve explains: "I got to about 200 pages and then got stuck. But at about the same time I began jotting down short funny stories which have grown into this little book."

As *I Recall It* is set on Mersea Island in about the 1930's and is written in the style of a young lad's diary, best described as earthy with some

strong humour similar to the Carry On films.

Steve says: "There is bad language in the book; it is all innuendo."

Having lived in West Mersea for the past 15 years, he believes there is no better place to live. "I have used real locations and old photos from Mersea to illustrate it. There are references to Mersea in most of the stories. But it is all pure fiction, conjured up in my mind."

"It is the sort of book

you could take on holiday or give as a Christmas present. It is on sale at W H Smith's in Colchester and apparently the staff keep picking it up, reading a bit, giggle to themselves and put it back on the shelf. It is that sort of book."

● The book costs £4.99 and is available from Blue Water Music Publication, at PO Box 5191, West Mersea, and is also available at Red Lion Books and various shops on Mersea.