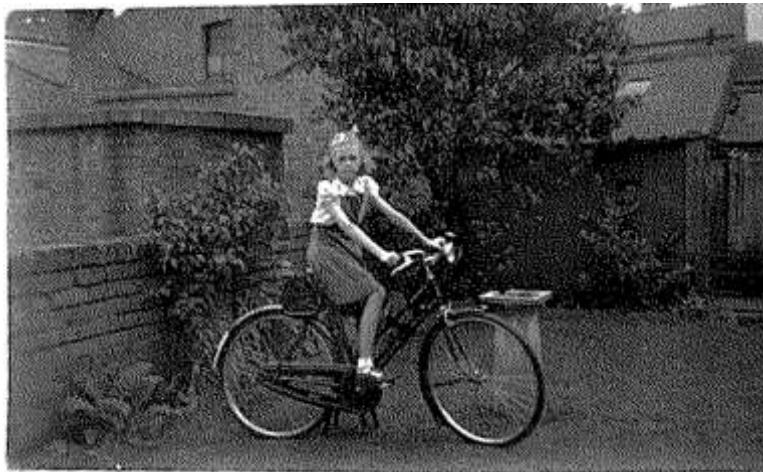


Chapter 44: Travelling Around

After the war, the Parkins were able to travel around more than they had been during the war years. However, as they did not have a car, they were still fairly limited in terms of where they could travel and relied a great deal on walking and cycling. Places they walked included the 44 Steps, the forest and the Quarries.¹ In May 1948, mum noted walking home from Newstead after anniversary practice.



Mum with her bike in 1948

However, most journeys of any distance were by bike. Places mum and grandad went on their bikes² included Alfreton, Bestwood, Blackwell, Calverton, Clipstone, Edwinstowe, Epperstone, Gibbet Dale, Huthwaite, Jubilee Hill³, Linby⁴, Longdale, Mansfield (including Mansfield Reservoir), Mansfield Woodhouse, Mill Lane, Moorgreen, Newstead, Ollerton, Oxton, Papplewick, Pinxton, Pleasley, Pleasley Vale, Pye Bridge, Selston, Sutton, Teversal and Underwood. Most of these places are within a radius of around eight miles. Some of the places they cycled to were further than this, e.g. Epperstone, Ollerton, Calverton and Oxton.⁵



Mum with her bike in 1948

Mum usually went to her music lesson on her bike, although she occasionally walked. She often went places with her friends on their bikes. These friends included Margaret Bird, Barbara Coupe and Hazel and Joy Munns. On one occasion, in 1947, mum and Barbara went to Gibbet Dale. Mum had been there with grandad a couple of days earlier.

¹ The location of these places is discussed in Chapter 31.

² Sometimes together and sometimes separately.

³ This appears to be a hill in the area of Selston and Jacksdale. Mum refers to it in relation to a ride to Pinxton. It is mentioned in Chapter 36 in relation to the different perspectives in the different diaries.

⁴ One of mum's favoured routes was to Linby and Papplewick. It was 11.3 miles and merited its own abbreviation (L&P) in mum's list of abbreviations.

⁵ Grandad often recorded the distance of particular rides. So, one through Moorgreen, Hucknall, Papplewick and Mansfield was 22½ miles. Another one to Ollerton and Edwinstowe via Longdale was 37 miles. The fact that mum could now cycle further reflected that mum was bigger and older but also that she had a better (three-gear) bike. This was a green Raleigh that she got in 1947 and for which grandad paid £20. Grandma did also have a bike although I am not sure how much she used it.

When mum and grandma went places together, it was often by train, including to and from Nottingham. When grandma and mum went to visit the Lofthouses in April 1949, they went by train. When the Parkins went to Skegness in August 1949, they went by train. In September 1949, mum, grandma, Eileen and John (Fawthrop) all went to Trent Bridge on the train. They went to the Pleasure Park and the next day, they went to Mansfield Meadows.⁶



*Top left – Mum and John Fawthrop in Mansfield Meadows
Left – Mum and John Fawthrop at Trent Bridge
Above – John Fawthrop at Trent Bridge*

Grandad also noted that sometimes he went into Nottingham by bus, e.g. to meet mum after a party or to buy some tool or other! Mum and grandma also sometimes went into Nottingham by bus. Other places the Parkins visited by bus included Chesterfield and Matlock. Chapel outings were often by bus. In June 1949, when mum went with a ladies' trip to Chester, she managed to trap her arm in the bus! The family also had occasional boat trips, e.g. on the River Trent. In May 1948, on a trip to Derby, mum noted rowing on the River Derwent with Hazel Munns.

Also, with the relaxation of restrictions on using petrol for private motoring, particularly from June 1948, the family were able to travel more widely by car with those who had access to one, including Bert, Frank and Len. Places they travelled included Bolsover Castle, Doncaster, Grantham⁷, Hardwick Hall, Mablethorpe⁸, Nottingham⁹ and Trusthorpe.¹⁰

⁶ [Titchfield Park](#).

⁷ In September 1946, grandad noted going to Grantham in Bert's car so that grandma could go on to Hartlepool to collect mum from visiting the Lofthouses.

⁸ I have assumed this is by car although it is not explicitly stated.

⁹ In August 1949, mum noted going into Nottingham with Lynne and Kath in a car.

¹⁰ See Chapter 40