

PART 5: THE EARLY FIFTIES (1950-1954)

Chapter 46: The Parkins Move House

Although both mum and grandad kept diaries for this period, the books they used differed greatly. Grandad used the same "John White Footwear" diary each year although the one for 1953 was marked on the front "1953 Coronation Year". Presumably, he was given these diaries as a form of product promotion each year. By way of contrast, mum used a different type of diary most years. In 1950, she used an Enid Blyton diary that appears to have been a gift from Marilyn. In both 1951 and 52, she used an Heiress Diary. In 1953, she had a Film Star Diary and, in 1954, The International Film Diary.



Mum's (back) and grandad's diaries (front) 1950-1954



96 and 98 Welbeck Street

For mum, this was a time of transition. She left school in 1950 and worked in various roles during this period. She first mentions dad in October 1952 and, by September 1954, they were engaged.

In September 1951, the Parkin family moved from the back of the shop in Station Street to the property at 96 Welbeck Street, where grandma's parents had lived previously¹ and which was called "Elstow" by the family. It was a semi-detached house with the attached house (No. 98) being owned by family friend Annie Holmes. Her husband, Tom, had worked on the railways with grandma's father. He died suddenly in the garden in April 1943.²

I don't know why the Parkins did not move into this house earlier after grandma's parents died.³ However, it seems that other people may have been living there including a Mr Smith.⁴ Anyway, in July 1951, mum noted that Mr Smith had bought a bungalow which meant that the Parkins would be moving to Welbeck Street that year. Grandad noted similar saying that Mr Smith had visited him in

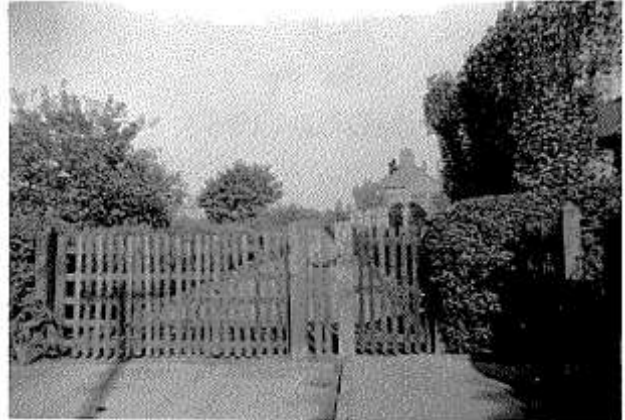
¹ See Chapter 24.

² See Chapter 29.

³ In the 1930s – see Chapter 23

⁴ While I initially thought he may have been a Methodist Minister, the 1939 Register records him as a colliery undermanager.

the shop to tell him that he had bought a bungalow in Trusthorpe⁵ and they would be leaving the house in Welbeck Street.⁶ The Smiths moved out of 96 Welbeck Street on 22 August 1951.



*Top left – 96 Welbeck Street
 Top – Welbeck Street circa 1951 – this road was opened up in June 1952 and tarmacked in January 1953
 Above – gardens in preparation at 96 Welbeck Street
 Left – grandad's "cabin" which included a coalhouse and a workshop*

There were intensive preparations for the Parkins to move and these started as soon as the Smiths announced they were leaving. New purchases included a bath, carpets and curtains, an electric cooker, a sink, a lavatory and a bedroom suite. Once the property was empty, there was a flurry of cleaning, whitewashing, laying carpets and lino etc. It appears that the property may not have had electricity at this point as grandad noted hiring Meggitt⁷ of Mansfield to put electricity in. The Parkins moved into the house on 25 September 1951 when mum had just turned 17.

In January 1952, around four months after they moved, the back boiler burst in the kitchen and they had to have a new boiler fitted. They also bought various items for the house once they were living there including a thermometer for the bathroom. In April 1952, they had the bathroom painted and, in March 1953, they had a telephone installed although it took a few days before it was working. In April 1953, they had the houses painted.

⁵ Sadly, in February 1953, the Smiths' bungalow in Trusthorpe was badly flooded and they "had to leave everything".

⁶ Mr Smith asked grandad if he needed written notice from him. Grandad replied that his word was good enough.

⁷ See Chapter 53



The Parkins were not the only ones who moved house during that period. In January 1950, their friends Arthur and Irene Hill moved to a house in Annesley Woodhouse. Grandma helped them with jobs at the new house and, soon after they moved, grandad cycled there to see the new house. In early February, mum and grandma went there for tea. However, just over a year later, mum noted that Mrs Hill (and her son David) had moved to 98 Kingsway. She does not mention Mr Hill so it is unclear if the whole family had moved.

Also in January 1950, other friends, Jack and Phyllis Attwood bought a bungalow in Beulah Road for £1,850.⁹ Grandad lent them £100 to pay off their mortgage. A few days later, grandad noted that he received the money back when Jack sold his bungalow. Phyllis got the keys ready to move in at the end of February 1950.

During this period, grandad continued to own other properties which he rented out and, on occasions, mum collected the rents. It seems he was also renting the Station Street shop and living accommodation from Cliff Green. In February 1953, Cliff Green agreed that they could sub-let the house if they paid another 3/- per week. The new rent was fixed at £78 per year. In April 1953, Ken and Pearl Hodges (nee Marshall) came to live at the back of the shop having been married for just over eighteen months.

⁸ I am grateful to the current owner, Timothy Curtis, for this photograph.

⁹ Worth around [£44,000](#) today. The £100 that grandad lent the Attwoods would be worth around £2,400 today.