

Chapter 68: Bits and Bobs

Music

During this period, grandad continued his interest in music and musical instruments but perhaps to a lesser degree than previously. In June 1955, he went to Mansfield to see an exhibition of old musical instruments at the Art Gallery.¹

In March 1956, he gave John Attwood a clarinet. In January 1958, grandad went to Nottingham to buy an accordion but he could not find what he wanted. So, the next day, he sent to London for one. A few days later, it arrived but it was not the one he wanted so he returned it. It was only in February that the one he had originally ordered came. In February 1959, John Attwood came to show grandad the B \flat saxophone he had bought for £10. In October 1959, grandad noted that Reg Edwards brought him a [Hohner "Melodica"](#).² Later that year, he went to see Reg Edwards to see a piano that Reg wanted to give him. Grandad asked Kath Evans if she wanted it.³



Hohner Melodica

In June 1956, when Mr Pinchbeck came to show him his reel-to-reel tape recorder, grandad recorded "*Diamond*"⁴ hymn tune on it. The next month, after grandad had bought his own tape recorder, grandma took it to Ken Hodges to help him with his piano practice.

Pets

I am not sure that the family had pets during this period. Jim had a dog as, in May 1958, grandad noted that he had to get home to see to his dog. It may have been called Gyp as on 29 December 1958, mum noted taking Auntie Bertha, Uncle Frank, Renie and Gyp home.

In March 1957, after dad had finished his period of study in Norwich, he bought a budgie for Annie in Grantham for 10/-. Dad's mother may also have kept budgies at this time. I recall her doing so later. In October 1958, mum noted that they had Billy the budgie for the weekend as "*Mrs D went to Blackpool and Mr D to Newark*".

Sport

During this period, dad took part in, and mum watched, a number of cricket matches organised through chapel.⁵ In July 1955, dad played in a circuit cricket match with singles against married. Singles won by two runs. That same month, mum went to Huthwaite to see Huthwaite play Bourne. Huthwaite won. In July 1956, there was a rematch between the singles and married involving Bourne,

¹ I am not sure exactly where he was referring to. Perhaps part of [Mansfield Museum](#).

² Grandad commented that he had ordered this three months previously. The price was £3 1 6d but grandad noted that he paid fifty shillings, i.e. £2 10s. I am not sure if he sent it back but, in November, he noted that he got it back from Hohner's in London.

³ I don't know if Kath took the piano but unwanted pianos, that people are willing to give to someone willing to take them away, were, and are, a [common problem](#). There was an upsurge in piano smashing in the 1950s and 60s including a Guinness World Record. I recall this being part of the TV programme "*It's a Knockout*".

⁴ I think this is what it says but I have not been able to locate this tune. I did find one called "*Diamond Bar*" and there is a famous one called "*Crimond*" but it definitely seems to end "*amond*".

⁵ See also Chapter 69.

Diamond Avenue and Hill churches. Mum did not record the result. She went to visit a friend during the match. In June 1958, she noted going to watch cricket on the park.

Mum sometimes watched major sporting events on television. In 1957 and 1959, she noted watching the boat race with Cambridge winning in [1957](#) and Oxford in [1959](#). In May 1958, grandad watched part of the FA Cup Final and noted that Bolton Wanderers beat Manchester United 2-0. That final is noteworthy because it happened just a few months after the [Munich air disaster](#)⁶ and, as a result, Manchester United fielded a weakened side. Also, for the second Nat Lofthouse goal, he bundled the Manchester United goalkeeper over the line and the [debate](#) that followed led to greater protection of goalkeepers as seen today. In May [1959](#), grandad noted watching part of the FA Cup Final in which Nottingham Forest beat Luton Town 2-1.⁷ I am not sure if mum watched it but she did note that Nottingham Forest won the FA Cup.

1958 FA Cup Final programme extracts
Right – an article about Manchester United seeking to recover after the Munich Air Disaster
Below – Manchester United’s squad for the final



MANCHESTER UNITED F.C. 1957-58



[Photo courtesy Manchester Evening Chronicle]

Standing (left to right): J. CROMPTON (Trainer), D. VIOLETT, A. SCANLON, F. GOODWIN, R. COPE, H. GREGG, A. DAWSON, S. CROWTHER, I. GREAVES, R. HARROP, W. INGLIS (Asst. Trainer)

Seated (left to right): M. PEARSON, S. BRENNAN, C. WEBSTER, W. FOULKES (Capt.), R. CHARLTON, K. MORGANS, E. TAYLOR

Insets: (Left) Mr. MATT BUSBY (Manager) (Right) Mr. JIMMY MURPHY (Assistant Manager)

⁶ Neither grandad nor mum recorded this in their diaries.

⁷ That year's FA Cup was an important one in Norwich City's history as they achieved their best ever performance that year, reaching the semi-finals where they lost to Luton. At the time, they were in Division 3 South. They beat both Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur on their way to the semi-finals.

In 1958, the [World Cup](#) was held in Sweden from 8 June but it did not feature particularly strongly in either diary. On the 19th, mum noted that dad went to watch football at Edna Bust's. This was the day of the quarter finals with all four games being played at the same time. Because UK coverage was determined by Eurovision, the match shown live featured the host nation against the Soviet Union⁸ despite the fact that two home nations, Wales⁹ and Northern Ireland¹⁰ were playing. It seems that parts of the game were shown on both ITV and BBC.¹¹ For the semi-finals, on the 24th, mum noted going to watch the [match](#) at Edna's and that it featured France and Brazil. She did not note the score but [Brazil won](#) 5-2 with a 17-year-old Pele scoring a hat-trick. Neither mum nor grandad mentioned the World Cup Final on 29 June, between Brazil and Sweden, which Brazil won 5-2. Perhaps this was because it was on a Sunday and clashed with the Bourne Primary Sunday School Anniversary!

Dad occasionally played football. In April 1959, mum noted that he played for work at "Ashpley".¹² In November 1959, dad went to watch a Youth Club football match in the morning.



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Pele at the 1958 World Cup

⁸ Which Sweden won 2-0.

⁹ They lost 1-0 to Brazil with Pele scoring the only goal.

¹⁰ They lost 4-0 to France.

¹¹ Apparently, in the Midlands region of ITV, they showed the full second half live. The BBC had most of the game live but they [interrupted](#) it to show Starr and Company for thirty minutes. Apparently, [Starr and Company](#) was a TV drama series in 1958. Although there were 77 episodes, these were broadcast live and not systematically recorded. So, only episode 1 survives. The [Guardian](#) has an interesting article on TV and football in the 1950s.

¹² Perhaps [Aspley](#).