

My Life Since Brymore June 2014



Roy P. Masson

Brymore 1955-1958

I was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1942. In the winter of 1947 my family moved to Silverton Mills, near Exeter in Devon, with my father getting a job of Head of Construction for the Reed & Smith Group of paper mills. Silverton Mills is where I fell in love with

farming, especially animals. At the age of 8 or 9 I started to 'work' at a local farm milking, feeding pigs, and everything else!

In 1953 we moved to Williton in Somerset as there was a lot of construction going on at the paper mill in Watchet. I attended Williton School and while there I sat the thirteen plus exam and passed. My choice was Brymore. I had my interview with the Headmaster, Mr. Day, and was accepted as a day boy. When I started in the fall there was a new Headmaster, Reg Adcock.

My years at Brymore were very good with many memories to look back on -- - detentions, picking stones in the field practical, and digging ponds --- hoping my name wasn't called out at assembly in the morning! One time my whole class had to line up outside Reg's office because the day before we had messed around in music class with the local choirmaster from Spaxton Church and as no one owned up to it, we all got 3 strokes of the cane! Reg stated that way he got all the right ones! I did a lot of work in the library with Mr. Hemming.

My favourite subject was geography with Taffy Taylor and I was a member of Walker House. In 1957 we had a wonderful school trip to Holland with extensive touring to farms, flower auctions and windmills.

There were a couple of things about the hotel I remember, one was the wall on the right hand side in the reception area was covered with signatures of all the allied soldiers who passed through that hotel during the liberation of Holland, and we were also allowed to sign the wall. Another thing we encountered was a Bidet which was something unfamiliar to us young British boys!! we did encounter a few wet behinds and a lot of laughs.

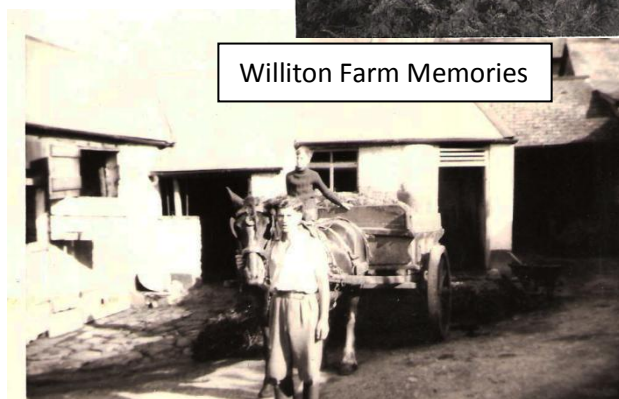
Rush hour in Amsterdam was something to behold , you had to be careful not to get run over by a bicycle I have never seen so many I my life, men with their girlfriends on the crossbar or sitting sideways on the rear carrier ringing their bells and peddling like mad!

I worked all my spare time at a local farm owned by Arthur Jones in Williton and I did not realize until much later how lucky I was as I worked with horses and shires. I think we were the last ones in the county still working horses.

I used to subscribe to two magazines, *Farmers Weekly* and *Farmer and Stockbreeder*. It was in one of them that I saw an ad for someone to work on a plantation in Nyassaland, South Africa.



Williton Farm Memories



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This appealed to me, so I applied. I received a nice letter back stating that due to the fact that I was under 18 years of age, I could not immigrate but to contact them again when I was 18 years old as my education at Brymore was suitable for what they required. At this point and I must admit I was a bit stubborn, I decided what the heck, and I will go to Australia. So I wrote to the Embassy in London – same reply. New Zealand – same reply. By now I did not care where I went, I was just going!! Canada was the only country I could immigrate to without a sponsor. The United Church of Canada had a deal where they would keep an eye on young lads until they reached the age of 18 years. So off I went to the Canadian Embassy in Bristol and signed all the papers to immigrate at the age of 16 years and 6 months.

On April 16th, 1959, I set sail from Liverpool aboard the Canadian Pacific ship “Empress of England” and landed in Montreal on April 23rd, 1959. I must admit that after one week at sea I was wondering what have I done?? I got the train from Montreal to Toronto where a representative of the United Church met me and handed me an envelope with a ticket to Orillia, ON and the name of the farmer who was going to pick me up at the station. I arrived at about 1 p.m., the farmer was waiting, took me straight to his farm and put me to work. I was never even offered a cup of tea, not very British! I got fed at supper time after the chores were done.

I think I was the first English speaking man he had hired. Others on the farm were Eastern European. Seems to me he was looking for cheap labour! It was a dairy farm and I worked from 5:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., 7 days a week. I was fed, had a room above the kitchen and got paid \$60.00 per month. Needless to say I was not too happy. I did have a cousin in Canada who was 30 years older than me, whom I had never met; but, I decided to contact him and asked if I could come to his place in Acton. He agreed and I left the farm.

After I left the farm I got a job at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, ON in the small animal division working with dogs and cats, etc., assisted in surgery and treating the animals and earning \$45.00 per week. I stayed there for a while and then moved to Toronto where I worked in an animal hospital which, by the way, is still in the same location today.

I was boarding with a French Canadian family who treated me very well. The man worked on construction and he felt sorry for me (poor young immigrant boy) and through his contacts got me a job on steel rigging if I wanted it! I had the opportunity to attend the veterinary college for 3 years (they accepted my Brymore education for entry). The vet I was working for wanted to pay my first year tuition and I would work for him. The other side of the coin was I was making some decent money on construction. I chose construction. I should have gone the other way!

I was determined to give Canada a good try before I went home. I didn't want anyone saying “I told you so”. I moved around several jobs and got married, just before I was 19 years old, became a father at 20 and again at 21. We had two daughters.

Unfortunately, our youngest daughter was killed in a car accident many years ago. By 1969 I was working for a road building company where I learned to operate heavy equipment. I joined an excavating company as a superintendent and then in 1980 took a job in the waste management industry as operations manager, then general manager here in Toronto. In 1995 I resigned and took a position for another multi-national waste company as the district manager for the province of New Brunswick. It was a busy time travelling as I lived in Ontario. I had to fly to work about 1100 miles on Mondays and fly home Fridays. I also did extensive travelling on business in the United States. I did this for



Terry Simpkins and were best pals at Brymore in the photo of the school 1956 Terry is in the second last row 6th from the left and I am 7th from the left.

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6 years ending my working career as Vice-President of Operations and Development. The last two years I spent travelling the province of New Brunswick buying companies.

Me in 1956 with Terry Simpkins to my right in the Official School Photo at the front of the school.



I made many visits back to England and also to Brymore. Met with Reg Adcock many times and also visited last year with my wife (same one – 52 years!) and sister and was given a tour by two of the seniors. I have tried to keep my story short. I think I could write a book on all my exploits in this country. My friend and I

bought an industrial building 25 years ago. It is 2700 square feet. This is where we keep all our toys – antique cars and auto memorabilia. I still own 4 collector cars and 3 late model autos. Our friends call it the ‘museum’.

I never lost my love for the farm. I give my parents and Brymore all the credit for guiding me and giving me the fortitude to achieve whatever I wanted to with my life.

Other Photos of interest

Postcards from Brymore:



Memorabilia:

SCHOOL OF ART TECHNICAL INSTITUTE EVENING INSTITUTE		No. B. 10226	BY CASH PO or MO £ s. d.	BY CHEQUE £ s. d.
Received of	Taunton R. Masson	21.10 1958		
the sum of	— pounds five shillings — pence			
being fees for ART/TECHNICAL CLASSES, 1958/9 Session as follows:—				
Details of classes & separate charges	Agriculture I			
	V.M. Chandler (for) Secretary.			

MEMBERSHIP CARD		Member's Registration
1958		1959
THE SOMERSET COUNTY CRICKET CLUB SUPPORTERS' AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION No. 1 Northfield Road, French Weir, Taunton		168/107
NAME AND INITIALS... R.P. Masson Jun		
ADDRESS... 14 Tawton Hill, Wiltshire		
Member's Selection ...		
A	B	C
04	32	40

5 Shillings for a training course...

Ahhh Cricket...

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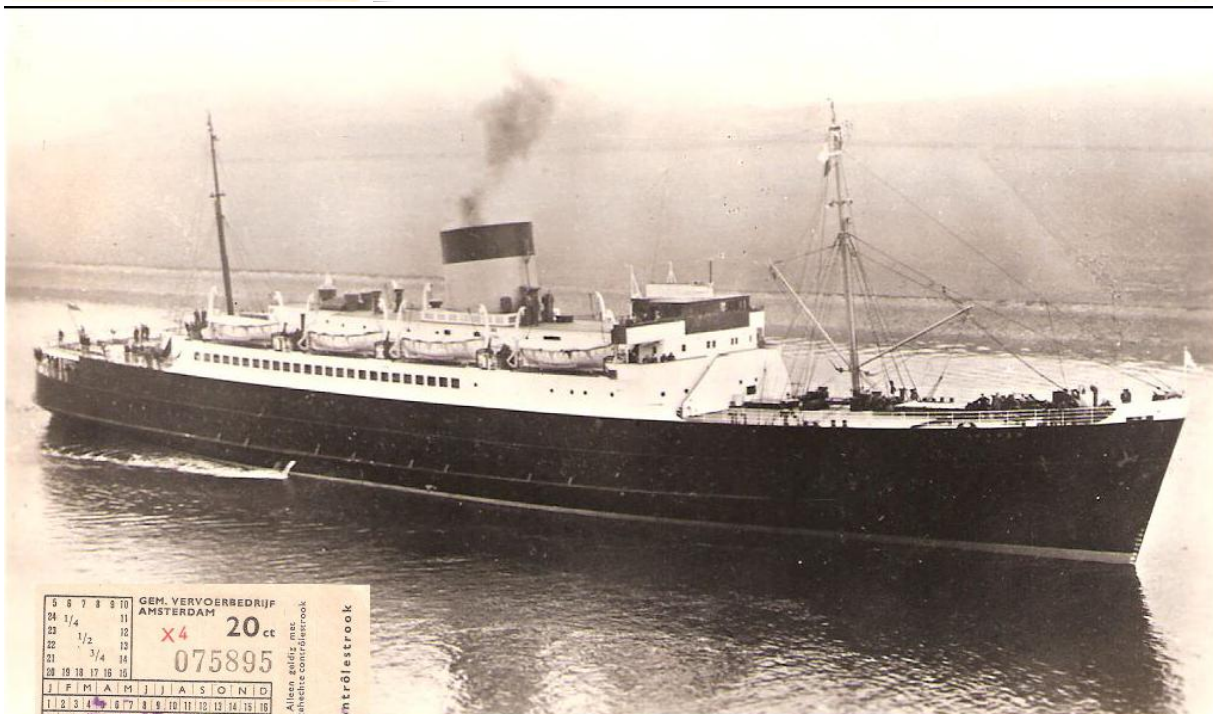
School trip to Holland 1957:

Reederij Plas — Amsterdam

Rondvaart Volwassene

ATTENTIE! De passagiers zijn verplicht de plaatsbewijzen op verlangen te tonen en deze tot het verlaten van het terrein te bewaren. Alle vervoer geschiedt uitsluitend op de Algem. en Personenvervoercondities, ged. ter griffie.

B78154



GEM. VERVOERBEDRIJF AMSTERDAM

20 ct

075895

Alleen geldig met: aangewezen controlestrook

Contrôlestrook

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J F M A M J J A S O N D
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BRITISH RAILWAYS, S. S. "ARNHEM."



GEM. VERVOERBEDRIJF AMSTERDAM

20 ct

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Alleen geldig met: aangewezen controlestrook

Contrôlestrook

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J F M A M J J A S O N D
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N.V. DIAMANT INDUSTRIE
A. VAN MOPPE & ZOON
ALBERT CUYPSTRAAT 2-6
AMSTERDAM

The Management cordially invites
P. J. M. van Moppe & Zoon
to visit the Diamond Polishing Works

Courtesy of:

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Official school photo 1956 now in Photos Archive on OBA Website.

School Trip to watch
Australia V Somerset in
1956



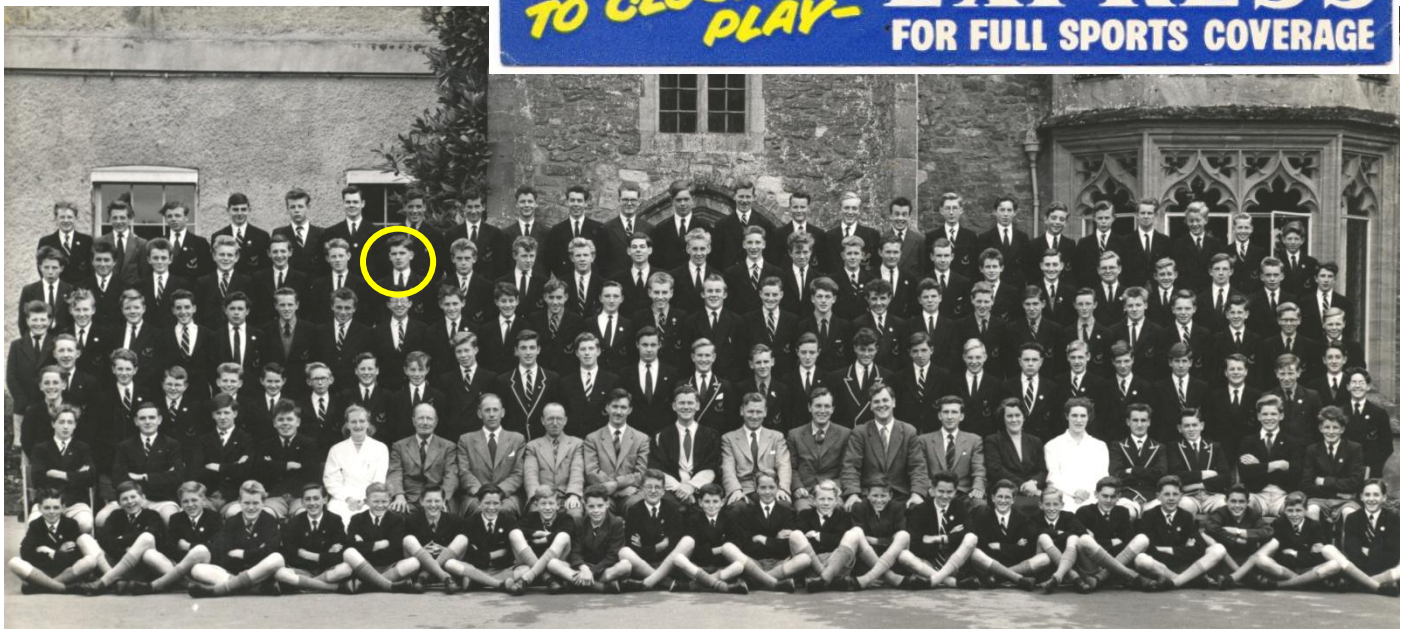
THE 1956 AUSTRALIAN TOURING SIDE

Left to right: Arthur James (masseur), W. J. Dowling (manager), Len Maddocks, Alan Davidson, Ian Craig, Ken Mackay, John Rutherford, Jim Burke, Neil Harvey, Keith Miller, Ian Johnson (capt.), Peter Burge, Ray Lindwall, Pat Crawford, Colin McDonald, Richie Benaud, Ron Archer, Jack Wilson, W. L. Rush (asst. manager), Gil Langley, N. Gorman (Scorer).

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TO CLOSE OF
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**DAILY
EXPRESS**

FOR FULL SPORTS COVERAGE



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SOMERSET EDUCATION COMMITTEE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Headmaster :

R. ADCOCK, B.Sc. (Agric.)

Telephone : Comwich 369



Brymore School,

Cannington,

Bridgwater.

13th May, 1959.

Dear Roy,

I was very pleased to hear from you and particularly interested in the job at the Veterinary College in which you are interested. I enclose a short testimonial which should help you towards getting the job.

I am very pleased to note that you are happy. I have no doubt that you were wise to move from your first employment; it seems to have been much more than hard work and the pay was hardly fair.

I hope that you are well and that your back is not troubling you now. We shall always be pleased to hear from you and I hope that you will find time one day to write something about your Canada experiences for publication in 'The Spur'.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

ROY MASSON,
C/o Mr. R. Taylor,
Box 557,
Acton,
ONTARIO,
Canada.

NOTE: All photos can be found on the OBA website in current pictures under Roy Masson

www.brymoreoldboys.co.uk