

Hi John,

It seems that like many others I have come across your site by accident. When you're getting on in years it's not so easy to use computers, like the young ones do. But when I started reading the emails etc I was young again, I was back at school being evacuated, reaching the dizzy heights of fourteen and having to go to work.

I'm digressing a little, our family moved from Leyton to Walthamstow in the mid thirties to Sutherland Road, the Wells and Britians toy factories close by. My first school was St Andrews infants from where my sister and myself were evacuated to Rushden, Northamptonshire at the beginning of the war 1939. Where we stayed was nothing special, most people seemed to be more interested in the money than worrying about us kids. Anyway, we weren't away too long. We came back to live through the Blitz before being sent away again. This time to Flore, Northants again, this place I loved, surrounded by fields and animals, this was the time of my life I really enjoyed.

Back we came again, this time our school was Blackhorse Road Juniors. There used to be a barrage balloon in the field next to the school.

My next, and last school was William Elliot Whittingham in Higham Hill Road, until we left in 1945.

When I started reading the emails on your site, the one from John Denton in Winns Avenue, now I know the off licence where he lived next to my wife who lived at 183 Winns Avenue but she didn't recognise John's name although she can still remember a lot of local names. She also went to Winns Avenue school and Mcguffie. Her maiden name was Phyllis Asprey, next door was the Myers family and we went to see Eileen Myers and her husband Peter, also from Walthamstow in Canada last year (2006) to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. I expect most of you have still kept your school photographs, my one is enlarged and framed so I can see it regularly, I see old friends and I am always wondering how many of you are still out there and wouldn't it be great to see them again after all these years - 'am I getting old and silly'? But I can still recall Fred Smith, John Smith, Billy Hull, Ron Sinfield and Teddy Burnthall and many others, we often played football together and generally enjoyed ourselves in times of hardship – lets not forget that!

Anyway, work was calling so off to Harris Lebus I went. No gap years for us kids, leave school Friday start work Monday and don't be late! I hadn't been there more than a few weeks when a neighbour said he could do with a young lad to work with him in his upholstery business that he ran from home. It was on the doorstep and I wasn't going to be stuck on a machine so this was my first change of job. The following year my new governors two brothers came out of the forces so more work turned out and we moved to Higham Street, some old damaged houses good enough for work. Had the great experience of driving a horse and cart a local chap used to deliver the suites to Bell Chambers in Palmerston Road, also had a go in the firms van – don't tell anybody! It seems that early in those teen days your mates always had better jobs. I found myself working for Holmes Brothers in Billet Road, this lasted a few months and somebody else suggested that engineering was much more rewarding than making radio cabinets. This time we were E N Bray at the top of Wood Street on

the Whipps Cross roundabout. This was interesting working on different types of machines, Capstans, Lathes, Drillers, Tappers etc... I hadn't been there too long when the same mate, Terry Playle (if he's still around) also had an evening job at the Walthamstow Palace, working the limes at the back of the circle. Somebody had left and they wanted another body, as usual I said "I'll give it a try" – what you have to remember here is you have a couple of sixteen year olds operating the lighting to the stage and you have people like Max Miller, Max Wall, Jane, Pantomimes at Christmas, Circuses and various bands, Ivy Benson, Dagenham Girl Pipers, this was a VERY enjoyable time even though we worked from 07.30 – 5.30 it was fly home, have some dinner, a quick wash and get to the Place for a 6.30 show! I kept going until Easter of 1949 I've got to leave as I shall be called up to National Service this year so I'd like some enjoyment – cant keep working!

Eventually the letter came and I went into the RAF in October 1949 and came out in October 1951.

Back to work at E N Brays, there was a good crowd of blokes there and quite a few were members of the Leecroft sports and social club. We played local league football and table tennis, a good social side as well. We had our annual dance and presentation nights and the Chestnuts in Lea bridge Road. Always wondering is Eddie Dorrington, Reggie Loomes or any other members still around?.....
After a few years came 1956 Phyllis and myself were married at the Baptist church in Greenleaf Road one of my ex service mates was my best man, sadly he has been dead a few years now. Shortly after E N Bray moved to another factory at Waltham Cross they used to bus us in each day but 1957 meant change again.

This time to associated fire alarms in Claremont Road. In 1960 I had six months at Fords in Blackhorse Road week about shifts soon became tiring so I went back to A F A. Later that year a shuffle in personnel meant a change in my work load. I was asked to run the section that made the fire alarm units that went to hospitals, colleges and other various sites around the country. This I did until 1965, our son was born and we had already planned to move to Tonbridge in Kent. That was the end of my living in good old Walthamstow. My name is Eddie Wybrow – not a common name so could ring a few bells and I might be in touch with some old friends again.....

Cheers

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