

Reminiscences about Rimington from Mr. Keith Robinson, Clitheroe.

Keith Robinson, Holme End, Rimington, 1950-1958

In April 1950 I moved with my parents Frank and Margaret and sister Margaret from Blackburn to Holme End, which was owned by Horace and Gertrude Francis. (They moved in the opposite direction.) I was encouraged to stay on at Cedar Tree Junior School in Blackburn and at the age of 10 became a railway commuter. Frank was still working at British Northrop – Loom manufacturers so we travelled together for a short while until he started wagon driving for Edgar Duckworth at Pendle Garage. This travelling daily to Blackburn by train started the love of railways and train travel which still endures today. By staying on at Cedar Street School I was able to continue playing football for the School in the Blackburn Juniors Schools League.

Next came the 11 plus examination held at Gisburn School and I was awarded a place at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and duly started there in September 1951. There was a small contingent of scholars who travelled by train to the Grammar Schools including Terry Moran and Anne Kenyon from Newsholme, Peter Welling, George Birkbeck and Gerald Rawlinson from Gisburn, Barbara Pollitt, Pat Byers, Janet Carr, Barbara Carr and myself from Rimington. Life at CRGS was quite different from Cedar Street mainly because it was all boys and there were about 350 of them, and when I started there I did not know anyone. I soon settled into the regular regime of lessons, games and homework. With the amount of homework plus all the jobs on the Holme End small holding, feeding the goats and hens, I was kept quite busy. I was still able to represent the school at football. Games were organised on a regular basis and took us all over Lancashire from Barrow-in-Furness to Poulton-le-Fylde to Manchester to play against other Grammar Schools.

There were 3 shops in the village – Bracewells, Mosleys and Dugdales. All appeared to sell most things and Mosley's at Stopper Lane was also the Post Office. I recall 3 travelling salesmen: George Holden and Henry Cosgrove sold clothing and 'Bible' Jones sold haberdashery.

There were two chapels - at Stopper Lane and Martin Top, and once a month the Rev William Lister came from St. Mary's, Gisburn to conduct a Church of England service in the Memorial Institute. There were two garages – Edgar Duckworth at Pendle Garage next to the Black Bull Hotel and Rufus Carr at Stopper Lane – both doing car repairs and selling petrol. There was a Milk Marketing Board Wagon repair garage near Bridge End farm and I recall John Bond and Robin MacDonald working there. Television arrived in the village in time for the Coronation of 1953. There was a procession of decorated “floats” to celebrate the Coronation and all the children received a book about the new Queen.

The annual village sports, afternoon for children, evening for adults, were held on the field opposite the Manor House Farm. The children's Christmas Party was held in the Institute as also was the Women's Institute Annual Produce and Craft Show with special classes for children entries. The annual Pendle Forest and Craven Hunt races were held at Sawley.

I recall day trips to Morecambe and the Christmas pantomime at the Alhambra in Bradford. I recall a weekend “cabin” in Bridge End farm field opposite Holme End being occupied by Bert Westwell, a bus driver from Nelson and his wife. They used to arrive by motor bike and sidecar.

Unfortunately Frank's health deteriorated and the decision was made to sell Holme End and move into Clitheroe Easter 1958.