**Memoirs of Ronald Swan (BGS 1936-41)**

**Part 3**

I suspect you would like to know about my running. I tried to keep my running going from 1941, but this proved to be virtually impossible. Unlike today, there were few athletic clubs outside the main cities, which meant that I would have to travel to or near London. This was virtually impossible for me so although I ran alone on local routes, which I have previously talked about, my competitive runs were over.

While rummaging for confirmative information for these notes, I came across the medal I had won in the pre-war Kent Championships. It was silver, probably Indian silver un-assayed. So perhaps I was second not third as I had thought; it is not important, sufficient to know I was of county class at that time.

With my running over, I turned to the tennis courts for my exercise; fortunately, most towns have tennis courts and also clubs, which have the added attraction of female members!

What follows is a potted history of my career after leaving BGS:

1941-46 Electrical engineering apprenticeship with the Admiralty

1941-44 Upper School, HM Dockyard, Sheerness

1945-46 Sheerness Technical Institute (Higher National Certificate in Electrical

Engineering and Mathematics)

1943-45 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (aircrew on deferred service)

1947-49 Junior Engineer, East Anglian Electric Supply Co. Ltd. (nationalised as

Eastern Electricity Board in 1948)

1949 Graduate member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers

1949-52 Engineer, British Insulated Callender's Construction Co. Ltd.

1950 System Protection part-time course, Borough Polytechnic

1952 Associate Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (chartered engineer)

1952-55 Engineer in Kennedy and Donkin; consulting engineer in Scotland

1955-61 Senior Engineer, General Electric Company, Birmingham

1956 System Analysis part-time course, Aston Technical College

1961-82 Central Electricity Generating Board, Transmission Project Division:

 1961-62 Assistant engineer

 1962/63 Chartered Engineer, Member of the Institute of Electrical

Engineers

 1972-74 Top grade senior engineer

 1974-82 Principal engineer

 1977 Commenced work on Hong Kong supergrid scheme

 1978 Two major visits (totalling approx. 8 months) for detailed

discussions with client (China Light & Power Ltd.)

 1979-82 Secondment to China Light & Power Ltd., embedded in their

organisation

 1982 Returned to UK and retired

Retirement

In retirement my wife and I turned our casual interest in genealogy into a ‘full-time’ hobby which gave us many happy days out in London and Kent searching for our roots.

Having travelled widely in South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, etc. we returned to Europe with holidays in Italy and Austria in particular, but also Portugal, Spain and Madeira.

We also followed our sporting interests of cricket, rugby and tennis.

These were the happiest of years in retirement before my wife was seriously ill and died three years later.

Recognising that I had to find a way of coming to terms with my changed life, I went travelling, initially to the Canadian Rockies Railway and then cruising the coast of British Columbia and Alaska, This whetted my appetite for unusual trips like Russia, Patagonia, Boston USA, with a cruise to Bermuda, crossing the USA (Chicago to San Francisco) by rail and a tour of the railways of Switzerland to see how they had coped with railways in such a small mountainous country.

In addition, I was encouraged to pick up our genealogical interests again. This was interesting because no longer did you handle old documents (dustry a they were!) they had all been filmed - now of course it is all online and one has lost that ‘touching history’ feeling, the price of progress! But people do not realise the errors that have crept in by transcription and fail to check back to original sources; sad to say many archives inevitably are no longer freely available to the public to preserve the originals. Hence, you could say these notes are all modern history.

In conclusion, I send my best wishes to all Old Bordenians, may they all enjoy a long and happy life such as I have been fortunate to experience.

*Ron Swan*

*Drafted by Ron, written up by his son, Nick*

*27 September 2020*