

May 28.

Just a few reminiscences of my time at Prices. It started in 1939 when I arrived in 3A having been transferred from Gosport Grammar School who were being evacuated to Eastleigh. 3A was based at the left hand end of the corridor leading to the Chemistry Lab and you probably remember that the rooms on the left had a partition which could be folded back to make one large room for exams or talks etc. This room was later to become the Lecture Theatre with the Language laboratory underneath. The black boards were on pulleys and you could have lined or squares if the teacher so desired. I went from 3A to 4A avoiding the dreaded Remove whose room housed the Detention List which was in great demand in those Wartime Days. There was a great schemozzle once the list was stolen and ended up in the incinerator in GOSPORT.

Remember the air raid shelters on spare ground over the wall, to which we would have to go when the siren sounded. The great happiness which erupted when the prefects came into the classroom to announce "There will be no prep tonight".. The Tin room where we used to eat cold lunches and it was shelter for wet lunch times. Ollie Johnston always called it "The Iron Room" which was a bit grandiose a name for it. The outdoor toilets at the rear of the woodwork room. Tom Hilton used to say that he thought it was a retrograde step to put the toilets inside. While they were outdoors boys who made use of them during lessons were visible on entry and on their exit by Staff usually Thacker or Boggy Marsh who would be teaching in the rooms looking on to the playground. Remember the .22 rifle range at the rear of the buildings. To the rear of that was the Physics lab where all the experiments went wrong because the floor was very shaky when people moved about. When we queued up to wait to go in we could always see Shad coming from the staff room with his little case. I never liked teaching in the room opposite the staff room, you could be in the middle of an erudite Maths lesson on Pythagoras to 4c when the door would burst open and George would appear, cane in hand. "Step this way Mr. Cole would you? And you would have to witness a caning in the staff room. When the remaining Masters came in for break they always knew when a caning had taken place as the table was pushed up to one end to give George room for his swing.

During the war years staff were very difficult to get and we had several strange characters especially on the French Staff. Comte de Guiche was one such who used to conduct his lessons by going up to each of us individually and instructing us in one aspect of the language. Then we had Mr. Lundy who claimed that Lundy Island was named after him. Apparently he was quite a keen fisherman and came in to teach us one day and said "I caught a very fine trout in the Meon on Sunday" Rubbish "came the reply from 4A "Don't you believe me?" "NO" "Well here it is" And he pulled it out of his jacket pocket wrapped in a handkerchief. To a round of applause.

Woodwork Masters were a rare breed, before the war Norton Palmer held sway in the old green Woodwork room. At one Staff meeting there was a great discussion about a boy named Chambers who apparently was a great trouble maker and everyone was wondering what to do about him, Norton Palmer spoke up "I never have a bit of bother with him, When 3B come in to the woodwork room I sets him on turning the grindstone in the corner and if he stops I whacks him with a bit of 2 by 1. During the war we had Pincher Martin who spent hours talking to us trying to convert us to Socialism, there was not very much wood about during the war. And so it seems was true when Cyril Briscoe took over and was heard to say to one class "Be careful with

that wood, it doesn't grow on trees!!". All our Derby day draws in the staff run by Ron Garton seemed to be won by Cyril, so much so that it was known as Briscoe's Benefit!!">

I remember George's old car, a blue Morris DAX 42 which used to be stored in the garages next to the woodwork shed, and when a sick boy needed to be taken home or some other emergency, it would emerge from the garage, with engine racing and brake just before it hit Thack's room. We always declared that when George wanted to sell it he could advertise it as, ONE CAREFUL OWNER <<TOP GEAR AS NEW>>!!.

WE all remember dear old Shad, who gamely ran the Cadet Corps throughout the war. At one staff meeting a long discussion had been held about the ability of one particular boy who was not performing academically very well. It was a question of whether he should be promoted or not. One member of staff said "No promotion < He doesn't learn anything" Shad made the profound observation "If he doesn't learn anything it doesn't matter where he doesn't learn it!!!"

I always like to have a little guessing competition "Who Would have said this" Y\_y\_yOU b-b-b-blistering lot of i-i-i-diots" Yes OLLIE of course. You remember that one Prefect had to be on late duty at the gate at the end of the drive at lunchtimes, Well it was my turn on this particular day and I was returning to the old Sixth Form room and was just coming through the outside doors when Ollie appeared from the direction of the hall, And being a polite young man I stood aside to let him enter the Sixth form room ahead of me. Unfortunately a reception had been planned for me consisting of a set of books being carefully balanced on top of the door, which cascaded down upon poor old Ollie as he pushed the door open. And caused him to utter the aforesaid phrase, and the whole sixth form were kept in a private detention.

Moving on to post war days I came back in 1956 appointed by George and with great trepidation entered the Holy of Holies the Staff Room. There were all the masters who had done their best to teach me, Tim Foster, Bert Shaw, HR Thacker, Tom Hilton, Ron Garton, Howard - Jones, Royds - Jones and they all seemed pleased to see me and made me very welcome. Strange to be on Christian name terms with those awe-inspiring figures. Bert Shaw was Deputy Head and as I was Head Of The Maths Department (George had decided to hand over) I found that dear old Ron Garton was in my department as he now taught almost entirely Maths, but we got on extremely well and his exam results were always pretty good. Not like the member of staff who once said at a staff meeting when the maths department urgently needed someone to fill in during the war "I'm no mathematician, but if a quadratic equation has got a root, I'll find it!!!"

Just a few unscripted sayings to finish with.

Dear Eric Poyner, on Empire Day In Assembly, Reading the Queen's Message and ending up with "signed ELIZABETH REX".. And on another celebrated occasion "In order to distinguish between the WHITBY twins, announced, Mrs. Pemberton would like to see WHITBY P in her office>!!!> During GCSE exams which I was in charge of, on one occasion a boy came rushing in very late and as I took him to his place I whispered "Missed the bus" No He replied "Mr. Daysh's Group" On another occasion one boy was completing the cover of his answer paper, and under the heading Centre Name he had written JAMES obvious really He WAS Michael James Brown. In 1974 - 8th Form College. Pavilion x Smoking

Well I hope I haven't bored you too much with my personal memories, I always think that William Price's Family symbol "The LION" is something which we can all take a great deal of pride in for its educational achievements in Fareham which alas vanished because of the blinkered Education Department in Gosport.

A woman commissioned a well-known artist to paint her portrait for a fee of £300. He agreed and she immediately wrote out a cheque and gave it to him.

Artist "I thought we had agreed a fee of £300 but you have made your cheque out for £400.

Woman "Yes I know but I find it a bit embarrassing. Would you mind painting me in the nude.?"

Artist "Not at all provided I can keep my socks on as I need somewhere to keep my brushes.!!

\*\*\*\*\*

"I've got an infallible betting system for the races" said SMITHERS "I just think of something that has happened to me recently and then I look for a horse that fits. I'll give you an example. A couple of weeks ago I dropped a teapot- so I backed BROKEN CHINA and it romped home at ten to one.. Then the day after I had been playing Roulette at the casino so I backed WHEEL of FORTUNE and it won at five to one. Last Christmas we went to the pantomime so I backed CINDERELLA at a hundred to eight and it came in second so I netted £250. Sounds good to me" said Brown "I'll try it

When they met in the Village Home a week later, "Smithers said "How did you get on with my betting system?" "Didn't work for me" said Brown "I was walking to work yesterday and my hat blew off. The nearest horse I could find was WINDS OF CHANGE" "And did it win" SAID Smithers "Came in last" Said BROWN "The winner was", some French horse called MON CHAPEAU">

\*\*\*\*\*

A young girl whose job it was to sell cosmetics by telephone called one number and when a male voice answered she asked to speak to his wife, "I am afraid my wife can't speak to anyone at the moment as she is dying" said the man sadly, "Oh I am sorry" said the girl, "So am I" said the man "I wanted her to stay BRUNETTE".

*An Old Pricean Patrick // You had stamps on Approval the checkout for 10, you left your mobile watched on a Prom Concert.*

Charlie Smithers died and went to Heaven. The pearly gates are closed and so Charlie has to ring the chimes. St.Peter appears. "Well Charlie, it is good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. Your earthly life was a bit dodgy in places. So you will have to take the entrance test before you can get into heaven."

"Nobody warned me about entrance exams" said Charlie "But if that's the rule I'll do my best"

"YOUR test has four questions" said St. Peter "and you are allowed time and a calculator to answer the questions"

Question 1 What days of the week begin with the letter T?

Question 2. What are 1 and 1 together?

Question 3. How many seconds are there in a year?

Question 4. What is God's proper name?

So Charlie takes away the paper and the calculator, and after a little while he returns,

St.Peter goes to him and says "Well Charlie, what are your answers

Charlie" What days of the week begin with the letter T, WELL TODAY and TOMORROW.

St. Peter's eyes open wide and he exclaims "Well Charlie, that's not the answer I expected but I guess I didn't set the question correctly so I give you credit for that answer!". So what about Question 2, What are 1 and 1 together, *Two Guston*

"Well" says Charlie "I make the answer ELEVEN" Again St.Peter did not get the answer he expected but had to give Charlie credit.

Question 3 then said St.Peter, "How many seconds in a year?"

Well said Charlie "This was a tough one *But* I used the calculator and I make the answer 12"

"12" said St.Peter how in heaven's name did you make it 12"

Well" said Charlie" There can only be 12, January second, February second, March second ...."

Hold it" says St.Peter" I see where you're going with it. That was n'n quite what I had in mind but I have to give you credit for that one too. Now how about the final question, What is God's proper name?

Well" says Charlie" I know that one. It's HAROLD. *M was Harcourt*

"HAROLD" says Peter Why HAROLD

"WELL it's in the LORD's prayer, Our father which art in heaven, HAROLD be thy name!!!"

\*\*\*\*\*