

# EARLY FAMILY TRANSPORT

I knew very little of my grandfathers, they both died before I was born. I know that my mother's father was a blacksmith by trade, and responsible for five blacksmiths' workshops for London Tramways. My father's father was a coachman in London before buying and running a Sweetshop, Tobacconist and Toyshop in Hanworth, Middlesex.

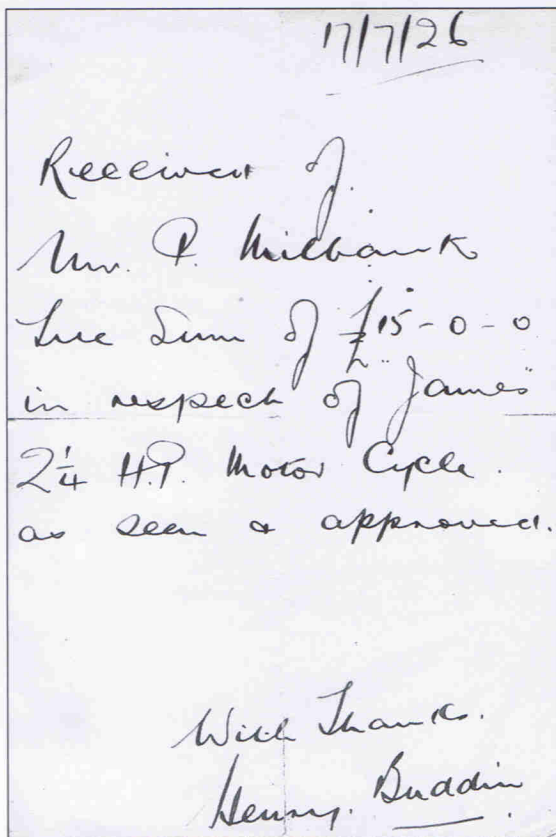
I decided to write down, for my grandchildren's interest, how my work and leisure life proceeded. I have recorded events as I remember them whilst being aware that in many cases several decades have passed.

I have recorded vehicle details to the best of my memory from notes on backs of photos etc. In particular, I have tried to record Rolls-Royce and Bentley registrations and chassis numbers as I feel that a lot of the vehicles I have owned or been connected with may well be of interest to other old vehicle enthusiasts who read this book.

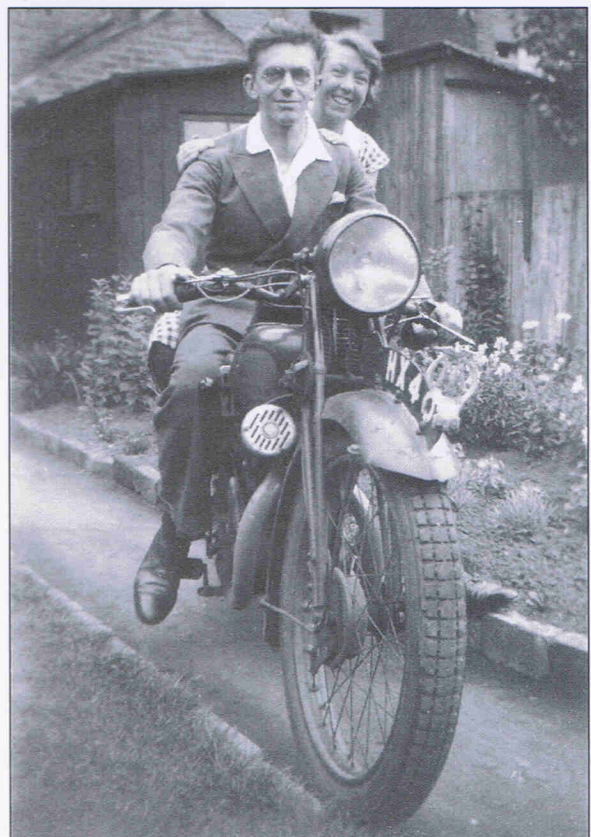
I have named friends, work colleagues and people, some internationally known, that I have met during my lifetime with motor vehicles.

I realise my career and achievements, if I can call them that, are very modest by most people's standards, but hope the reader can connect with at least some of my experiences and rekindle their own memories of motoring and the motor trade in my era.

Firstly, let me mention my parents association with motoring. My mother (born in 1896) told me of her first journey in a motorcar when still at school, so one could guess about 1905-1910. The car was a Singer and the journey was from Twickenham, Middlesex, to Friday Street, the Surrey beauty spot near Dorking. My father (born 1908) bought a second-hand Douglas motorcycle in 1924, then a 225cc James in 1926 for £15 (Reg. No. XXA 770). He also owned a Beardmore Precision which was 250cc, with a sleeve valve engine. My parents married in 1935 at St Mary's Twickenham, my father having changed the Beardmore for a Royal Enfield 350cc, (Reg. No. HX 40). My mother spoke fondly of this bike always referring to it by its registration number.



Receipt dated 1926 for the James Motorcycle purchased by my father



My parents on their Royal Enfield c.1934 affectionately referred to as HX 40