

1921-25 SOME SORT OF A DRAFT PROOF CONTAINER SURROUNDED WITH COTTON WOOL FOR A LONG TIME, AFTER WHICH I SUFFERED FROM 'CROUP' WHICH USED TO ATTACK ME A NUMBER OF TIMES EACH WINTER RIGHT UP TO MY 14<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY. (SEE BACK OF PAGE ONE) \*

1925-35 WHEN I WAS ABOUT 4 YEARS OLD WE MOVED FROM CHECK RIDGE TO THE VILLAGE OF WINSHAM WHICH IS NEAR CHARD IN SOMERSET WHERE WE LIVED IN THE 'MANOR FARM HOUSE' A MUCH MORE ELEGANT PLACE THAN 'CHECKRIDGE'. WE LIVED WITH MY GRANDFATHER & HIS 2<sup>ND</sup> WIFE 'LOUSIE' WHO OWNED MANOR FARM, WHICH WAS A LOT BIGGER THAN CHECKRIDGE, ABOUT 125 ACRES. MY GRANDFATHER GEORGE, WAS (THE BROTHER OF EMMA & MARY ABOVE MENTIONED) & HIS HOUSE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE, WHICH HAD 5 BEDROOMS, WHICH WERE ENTERED BY 3 STAIRWAYS, HE USED TWO BEDROOMS, SO DID DAD MUM MY SISTER & MYSELF, I ALWAYS HAD MY OWN BEDROOM IN THIS HOUSE, THE 5<sup>TH</sup> BED ROOM WAS ABOVE THE DAIRY IN WHICH FRUIT & VEGETABLES WERE STORED IN WINTER TIME, PLUS CHEESES THAT DAD USED TO MAKE. AGAIN THIS WAS A VERY COLD HOUSE IN WINTER WITH A FLAGSTONE FLOORS IN THE DAIRY THE KITCHEN & PASSAGEWAY TO THE SITTING ROOM & STAIRWAY. THE KITCHEN HAD A LARGE CHIMNEY CORNER, THE LARGE KITCHEN TABLE ENCIRCLED ON ONE SIDE BY A CURVED SETTLE IN WHICH WE SAT FOR MEALS. ALONG SIDE OF THE FIRE PLACE WAS A SINK SET ABOUT 6 OR 7 INCHES IN THE GROUND WITH ABOUT A 2 FOOT SQUARE RECESS INTO WHICH WOODEN SIDE PANEL COULD BE FITTED ON 3 SIDES ABOUT 3 FT TALL, INTO WHICH BUTCHERED PIGS WERE PLACED WHEN BOILING WATER FROM ~~THE~~ <sup>SEVERAL</sup> ABOUT 4 GALLON BOILERS HANGING IN THE CHIMNEY CORNER, WAS POURED TO ENABLE THE HAIRS ON THE PIG TO BE SCRAPPED OFF, BEFORE IT WAS CUT UP, THE HAMS COVERED WITH ~~SACKING~~ <sup>MUSLIN</sup> & HUNG IN THE CHIMNEY TO BE SMOKED & THE SIDES OF THE PIG WERE PLACED IN LEAD TRAYS, FILLED WITH SALT IN THE DAIRY, FROM WHICH PORK WAS CUT AS REQUIRED, THESE TRAYS WERE ABOUT 6 FT LONG BY 2 FT WIDE BY ABOUT 6 INCHES DEEP, THE LEAD BEING ABOUT  $\frac{3}{4}$  INCH THICK. THERE WAS A COLD WATER TAP ABOVE THIS SINK WHICH WAS SUPPLIED FROM A TANK, WHICH

## IN THE CEILING

1925-35 WAS SITUATED, IN A RECESS IN THE CORNER OF THE KITCHEN ABOVE A 'COPPER' IN WHICH WATER WAS FORCED & ~~THE~~ CLOTHES WERE WASHED, THE KITCHEN WAS ALWAYS FULL OF STEAM ON WASH DAYS. THIS TANK HELD ABOUT 100 GALLONS OF WATER WAS FILLED FROM TIME TO TIME FROM A PUMP THAT WAS SITUATED OVER A WELL OUTSIDE THE ~~WALL~~ <sup>KITCHEN</sup> IN A LITTLE YARD COME GARDEN, THAT DAD & I, WHEN I WAS ABOUT 9 YEARS OLD & UPWARDS HAD TO GO & PUMP FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR TO FILL THIS TANK UP, THIS PUMP USED TO FREEZE UP IN WINTER WHICH WAS ALWAYS A NUISANCE. THIS KITCHEN WAS UNUSUAL IN THAT THERE WERE NO ROOMS ABOVE IT, THE CEILING BEING ABOUT 14 FOOT HIGH, THE WINDOWS ON THE ROAD SIDE WERE ABOUT 6 FOOT FROM THE GROUND, HENCE NO ONE COULD LOOK IN, OR OUT FOR THAT MATTER. AT THE BACK OF OUR KITCHEN WAS A SIZEABLE 'YARD' IN THE CORNER OF WHICH WAS OUR FRONT DOOR, SELDOM USED EXCEPT TO GO TO THE TOILET WHICH WAS SITUATED IN THE CORNER OF THE FARM KITCHEN GARDEN AT THE TOP END OF THIS YARD, SOME 14 OR 15 YARDS AWAY, THIS TOILET WAS ONE OF THOSE THAT HAD TO BE EMPTIED EVERY YEAR OR SO, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH WAS BURIED IN THE GARDEN, OR TAKEN AWAY IN A 'POT' TO BE SPREAD IN THE FIELDS. WE GREW LOTS OF FRUIT APPLES PLUMS, GOOSEBERRIES, LOGANBERRIES ETC IN THIS GARDEN AS WELL AS ALL OUR ROOT VEGETABLES EXCEPT POTATOES WHICH WERE GROWN ON THE FARM. MY GRANDFATHER KEPT A LOT OF BEES IN THIS GARDEN THAT USED TO 'SWARM' EVERY SUMMER, BY WHICH I GOT STUNG A NUMBER OF TIMES

OUR GRAND PARENTS HAD A MODERN FLUSH TOILET, BUT THAT WAS IN THE CORNER OF THEIR YARD OPPOSITE OUR PUMP, & OF COURSE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE. WE ALL WENT TO THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL IN FORE STREET, USING GRAND-DAD'S FRONT DOOR THAT OPENED INTO THAT STREET, WHICH WAS ONLY ABOUT 150 YARDS UP FORE STREET FROM THAT DOOR. WE VISITED THE CHAPEL 3 OR 4 TIMES EVERY SUNDAY, MOST OF MY FRIENDS ALSO WENT THERE.

1925-35 THE GREAT HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR WAS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING, WHICH WAS ALWAYS A DAY TO WEYMOUTH, THERE USED TO BE USUALLY TWO COACHES (WE CALLED THEM CHAR-A-BANGS) & IN LATER YEARS A CAR OR TWO, WE WENT SEVERAL TIMES IN MY DAD'S MUSTIN SEVEN, WHICH AT ONE TIME WAS THE ONLY OTHER CAR IN THE VILLAGE, THE HUSBAND OF ONE OF MY DAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, MR BOIAT, HAD THE OTHER WHICH HE OFTEN USED AS A TAXI. THESE CARS & COACHES OFTEN BROKE DOWN & SOMETIMES WE ALL HAD TO WALK UP A HILL AS THE ENGINES WOULD BOIL OVER WITH CLOUDS OF STEAM. SOMETIMES WE HAD CONCERTS & ALL THE ANNUAL FESTIVALS AT THE CHAPEL, THERE BEING NO RADIO & IN MY EARLY YEARS NO ELECTRICITY IN THE VILLAGE, SO WE DID WHAT WE COULD TO ENTERTAIN OURSELVES, DAD EVENTUALLY GOT A RADIO BUT IT WAS SELDOM USED THE MINISTER (MR WAY) USED TO VISIT MY GRAND FATHER MOST SUNDAY NIGHTS & WE USED TO ASSEMBLE IN HIS DRAWING ROOM THE FIRE WAS LIT, AUNT LOUIE AS WE ALWAYS CALLED HER PLAYED THE HARMONIUM & WE USED TO SING HYMNS TOGETHER, SOMETIMES I HAD TO SING A SOLO. WE HAD A PIANO IN OUR SITING ROOM THAT MUM COULD PLAY A BIT, I WAS TAUGHT FOR 4 YEARS BUT I NEVER MASTERED IT, I THINK IT COST MUM 6 PENCE A LESSON FOR ME, SO I DON'T SUPPOSE SHE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH ME, NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW DID SHE EVER COMPLAIN ABOUT IT.

AS I GOT OLDER MY FRIEND & I TOM LOARING, HE WAS THE SON OF THE VILLAGE CARPENTER, USED TO SPEND ALL OUR TIME TOGETHER WORKING ON THE FARM, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES WE TRIMMED EVERY HEDGE & THERE WERE MILES OF THEM, IT BEING ABOUT 125 ACRE FARM, WITH 3 ORCHARDS & ABOUT 12 FIELDS, SOME PLOUGHED WHERE CORN, MANGOLDS OR COW CABBAGE WAS GROWN. WE USED TO PLANT A ROW OR TWO OF POTATOES ON GOOD FRIDAYS, WHICH WOULD LAST US TO NEXT YEAR, & SO DID SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE THAT WORKED FOR GRAND-DAD. IT WAS ALWAYS NICE AT HAYMAKING & HARVEST TIME OUT IN THE FIELDS, I REMEMBER MANY TIMES

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## IN SUMMER TIME

LYING IN THE LONG GRASS IN THE MEADOWS LISTENING TO THE BEE'S & WATCHING THE SKYLARKS SOARING ABOVE. I USED TO HAVE TO PICK UP ALL THE STONES IN THESE MEADOWS, I DIDN'T LIKE THAT JOB MUCH. IN WINTER WE WOULD GO OUT & CATCH RABBITS WITH FERRETS & NETS, I ALSO USED TO CATCH ALL THE MOLES FOR MY GRANDFATHER, WHO USED TO GIVE ME 2 PENNIES A TAIL FOR EACH ONE I CAUGHT, HE ONCE FOUND A MOLE IN ONE OF MY TRAPS & CUT OFF ITS TAIL, & THEN TRIED TO TELL ME HE WAS NOT GOING TO PAY FOR ANY MOLE WITHOUT A TAIL BUT I MUST HAVE CAUGHT 100'S OF THESE MOLES, & LATER I CAUGHT A LOT FOR MY UNCLE JACK WHO HAD A FARM AT TATWORTH ABOUT 4 MILES FROM WINSHAM. I HAD LEARNT TO RIDE MY MOTHER'S BICYCLE BY WHICH I COULD GET AROUND A BIT, I REMEMBER FALLING OFF IT ON ONE OCCASION & BROKE TWO OF MY BOTTOM TEETH THE <sup>BROKEN</sup> REMAINS OF WHICH I STILL HAVE.

IN OUR EARLY YEARS AT WINSHAM MY DAD USED TO MAKE CHEESE WHICH WAS MADE IN TWO VERY LARGE VATS (ABOUT 4 FT DIAMETER) THAT WERE KEPT ON ONE SIDE OF OUR KITCHEN, HE USED TO PUT MOST OF MILK FOR SEVERAL DAYS (SOME WAS SOLD AT THE DOOR TO VIWAGERS WHO WOULD COME WITH JUGS TO BUY IT, SOME WAS MADE INTO CREAM VIA A HAND OPERATED SEPERATOR) INTO THESE VATS THEN ADD 'RENNET' WHICH CAUSED THE CURDS OF CHEESE TO FORM, THE 'WHEY' WAS THEN DRAWN OFF & FED TO THE PIGS, THE CURDS WERE COMPRESSED INTO VATS HAVING BEEN WRAPPED IN MUSLIN UNTIL ALL MOISTURE WAS REMOVED & THE SOLID CHEESES WERE PRODUCED, IT WAS LOVELY CHEESE NOT THAT WE EVER HAD MUCH, THEY WERE ALWAYS SOLD. ANOTHER GREAT WINTER ACTIVITY WAS THE TRESHING TIME, WHEN IT USED TO TAKE SEVERAL HOURS FOR THE STEAM ENGINE TO GET THE TRESHER INTO OUR 'RICK BARKEN' HAVING CHURNED UP GREAT MUDDY ROTS ACROSS THE Paddock, USING PULLEYS & STEEL CABLES TO HAUL EVERYTHING INTO POSISTION. DUST & SKIVINGS BLEW EVERYWHERE ONCE THEY STARTED, & PEOPLE WOULD COME FROM THE VILLAGE WITH THERE TERRIER DOGS TO CATCH THE RATS

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THAT WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE FROM UNDER THE CORN RICKS AS THEY WERE TAKEN DOWN & THRASHED. THIS USED TO BE GREAT FUN AS WE RUSHED ABOUT AFTER RATS WITH CLUB LIKE STICKS TO KILL THEM. LOOKING BACK I THINK MY CHILDHOOD YEARS ON THE FARM WERE SOME OF THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE.

SOON AFTER WE CAME TO LIVE IN WINSTHAM ON MY 5<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, I STARTED SCHOOL, I NEVER DID LIKE IT MUCH, HAVING A WEAK CHEST, WITH MANY BOUTS OF CROUP PLUS ALL THE OTHER CHILDRENS AILMENTS LIKE CHICKEN POX, MEASLES, & SCARLET FEVER, WHEN WE LIVED IN ISOLATION FOR ABOUT 6 WEEKS, SO I COULD NEVER KEEP UP WITH MY CLASS. I REMEMBER I GOT ON QUITE WELL WITH MY FIRST TEACHER IN THE INFANT CLASSES, A MRS PERHAM WHO LIVED AT A PLACE CALLED 'STREET' ABOUT TWO MILES FROM THE VILLAGE. MY SECOND TEACHER, PROBABLY MY BEST, WAS VERY STRICT, MISS JORDAN, WHO LIVED IN THE VILLAGE & WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE RETIRED MINISTER OF OUR CHAPEL, MUM & DAD KNEW HER VERY WELL, BUT I CANNOT SAY I EVER ENJOYED BEING IN HER CLASS. MY 3<sup>RD</sup> TEACHER WAS A VERY MOTHERLY LADY, HER DAUGHTER MONICA WAS IN THE SAME CLASS WITH ME, MRS BOYAT WHO'S HUSBAND HAD THE TAXI. MY LAST TEACHER IN THAT VILLAGE SCHOOL WAS MR LOMAX THE HEAD TEACHER, I DIDN'T GET ON TOO WELL WITH HIM EITHER, EXCEPT IN MUSIC, I WAS ONE OF FOUR WHO HAD TO STAND BEHIND AS HE PLAYED THE PIANO & SING THE DESCANTS AS I HAD A QUITE STRONG SINGING VOICE AS A BOY, MY VOICE HAVING NOT YET BROKEN. WHEN I WAS 12 YEARS OLD A NEW LAW WITH RESPECT TO SCHOOLS CAME INTO EFFECT, WHEN ALL ELEVEN YEAR OLD & OLDER CHILDREN HAD TO ATTEND A SECONDARY SCHOOL, SO WE WERE ALL TAKEN BY BUS EVERY DAY TO CHARD HOLY ROOD BOYS SCHOOL. THIS WAS A NEW ADVENTURE AS UP TO THEN SCHOOL CHILDREN SELDOM LEFT THE VILLAGE, I HAD BEEN TO CHARD A FEW TIMES, ONCE TO A CIRCUS THAT WE ATTENDED

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AT NIGHT, WHEN A CAMEL PUT HIS HEAD OVER AN AWNING THAT WE WERE QUEUING AGAINST TO GET IN, & I WAS SITTING ON MY DADS SHOULDERS, AS I LOOKED UP & SAW IT, I WAS SO FRIGHTENED & I SCREAMED SO LOUDLY, WE ALL HAD TO GO HOME SO WE NEVER GOT INTO THE CIRCUS.

AT THIS NEW SCHOOL MY FIRST TEACHER WAS MR CANDY, I THINK I WAS SOMEWHERE ABOUT AVERAGE IN HIS CLASS, & FINALLY AT 13 YEARS OF AGE I MOVED INTO THE ASSISTANT HEAD MASTERS CLASS, WHO TAUGHT ART & GENERAL SUBJECTS.

ART WAS MY BEST SUBJECT, I FINISHED TOP OF THE SCHOOL IN THAT SUBJECT, MY DRAWINGS MAINLY OF ANIMALS WERE STUCK ALL AROUND THE CLASS ROOM WALLS, BUT AGAIN A VERY STRICT MAN WHO I THINK GAVE EVERYBODY THE CANE, CERTAINLY ME SEVERAL TIMES MOST WEEKS.

I WRITE A FEW MORE THINGS ABOUT THE VILLAGE OF WINSHAM & THE SURROUNDS OF WHAT WAS THE MOST REMARKABLE HOUSE I HAVE EVER LIVED IN. THE VILLAGE HAD NO ELECTRICITY WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED IN 1925, I THINK IT ARRIVED ABOUT 1930, ~~IT~~ IT WAS SOON AFTER THIS WE HAD IT INSTALLED ONLY FOR LIGHTS ~~AND~~ SUCH ~~AS~~ <sup>THAT</sup> RADIOS, EXISTED RAN ON BATTERIES, COOKING WAS DONE MAINLY IN OUR HOUSE ON A CALOR OIL STOVE, ~~THAT~~ <sup>THAT</sup> ALSO HAD AN OVEN, LIGHTING WAS BY OIL LAMPS OR CANDLES THAT WE TOOK TO BED WITH, <sup>US</sup> ALL HOT WATER WAS BOILED IN THE BOILERS OVER THE CHIMNEY CORNER FIRE, WHICH WAS NEARLY ALWAYS BURNING, FED BY LOGS & TREE TRUNKS THAT WERE STACKED OUTSIDE THE FRONT DOOR IN THE YARD OR WOODHOUSE, WHERE 'FAGOTS' WERE KEPT DRY FOR LIGHTING THE FIRE WHEN NEEDED BE.

ALSO IN THIS YARD WAS TWO STABLES WHERE THE FARM HORSES SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME IN WINTER & BETWEEN THE STABLE & THE BOUNDARY WALL WAS A TILLED SIZED USED FOR CHICKENS & IN WHICH FOR SOME TIME I KEPT A PET FOX. IN ANOTHER CORNER WAS A MUCH LARGER SIZED IN WHICH THE FARM CALVES WERE REARED IN WINTER, &

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A TERRIBLE STENCH IT WAS WHEN THEY WERE TAKEN OUT & THEN <sup>THE</sup> SHED CLEANED OUT, WHICH WAS DONE ONCE A YEAR, MEANWHILE WHILE THE CALVES LIVED THERE THEY HAD FRESH STRAW ADDED ABOUT ONCE A WEEK SUCH THAT THEIR BED BECAME ABOUT 2 FT THICK BY SPRINGTIME. NEXT TO THE STABLES WAS A GARAGE IN WHICH MY GRAND-DAD KEPT HIS LORRY, HE HAD A DRIVER AS HE NEVER LEANT TO DRIVE HIMSELF, WHICH WAS USED TO TAKE HIM TO MARKETS WITH SHEEP ETC., BUT MOST OF THE TIME THE LORRY WAS HIRED OUT TO THE COUNCIL FOR ROAD WORK.

ON ANOTHER SIDE OF THIS YARD WAS A SMALLER GARAGE IN WHICH DAD KEPT HIS JUSTIN SEVEN, QUITE A SIZEABLE YARD. THE LOWER HALF OF THIS YARD HAD A BOBBLED STONE SURFACE, & MUM USED TO MAKE ME DIG OUT THE WEEDS FROM BETWEEN THESE STONES, A JOB I DID NOT MUCH LIKE DOING & ONE YEAR, HAVING GOT A PILE OF THESE DRY WEEDS IN A PILE AGAINST THE LORRY GARAGE <sup>WALL</sup>, I TRIED TO BURN THEM, & I WAS SENT TO BED WITH THE STICK & NO SUPPER ON THAT DAY.

SCENES/STUBS IN 1934 MY GRAND FATHER DIED AGED 68 YEARS, WHICH CAUSED ALL KINDS OF CHANGES TO TAKE PLACE, THE FARM WAS SOLD & BOUGHT BY MY FATHERS BROTHER UNCLE CHARLES, IT WAS SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS, ONE PART OF WHICH MY FATHER TOOK & RENTED IT FROM HIS BROTHER, SO WE ALL MOVED FROM THE VILLAGE TO HAZLEWOOD, THE NAME OF THE HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT PART OF THE NOW SMALL FARM WHERE FOR A TIME WE LIVED, I CANNOT REMEMBER NOW MUCH ABOUT THIS, MY FATHER BEGAN TO REAR PIGS, WE HAD ALWAYS HAD A FEW, & A FEW BEEF CATTLE, AS THERE WAS AN ORCHARD & 3 OR 4 FIELDS ABOUT 40 ACRES I WOULD GUESS, WITH A SMALL RIVER ON THE LOWER BOUNDARY, BUT I CAN ONLY PRESUME THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE A VERY GOOD LIVING, BECAUSE HE MOVED WITH MUM & MY SISTER TO BRIDPORT, TO TAKE