

Chapter 68


Stirling – June 1964 to August 1965

Evan's birth in late June, 1964 changed our daily routine somewhat, especially with feeds needed at regular intervals over each 24 hours. So life at 29 Springwood Avenue, especially for Olive, revolved almost completely round loving care of our boy, who, it must be said, was a very contented bairn.



Evan - July 1964

For getting out and about, we had various means of transport ... 'Shanks' Pony as we wheeled the pram, and later a 'push-chair', public service buses, and occasional use of my mum and dad's Hillman Minx car, for example, to ease trips to Glasgow to visit Olive's mum and dad, Betty and Robbie, in Glasgow. My personal 'wheels' were still only on the Reg Harris Raleigh Lenton green racing bicycle that I had been given by my parents in 1956 for gaining creditable Higher Leaving School Certificate passes in English, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.



REG HARRIS. Four times World Professional Sprint Champion, uses a Lenton for his road training.

MODEL 28

Raleigh LENTON SPORTS

Basic Net Cash Price: **£20. 17. 0** Tax Paid.

EXTRA

Sturmey-Archer 'Dynamo' hub lighting **£2. 16. 4**

Also available with single speed, less lighting equipment **£17. 19. 11**

1956

SPECIFICATION

FRAME	21" and 23". Reynolds '531' tubing. Special cut-away lugs and thin taper backstays.
ANGLES	Head 73°. Seat 71°.
FORK	'D' blades with solid ends.
WHEELS	26" x 1 1/2" Endrick rims.
GEAR	Sturmey-Archer medium ratio 4-speed, patent 'Flick' trigger control. Brazed-on pulley box.
CHAINWHEEL	3-star arm, 46T detachable ring.
CRANKS	6 1/2" fluted.
HANDLEBAR	Lacost Continental pattern, 2 1/2" extension, adjustable. R.L. Silver Grey sleeve grips. Alternatively, 'All-Rounder', Tan rubber grips with finger recesses.
BRAKES	Raleigh calliper with specially designed Hooded Levers.
MUDGUARDS	Narrow section celluloid with twin detachable stays. White on Green and Carmine models, Red on Blue models. Mudflap.
PEDALS	Raleigh Quill.
TYRES	Dunlop Speed with 'Airsual' tubes and 'Easypump' valves.
CHAIN	Renold 'Elite'.
SADDLE	Brooks' B15 with chromium plated under-carriage.
FINISH	Special Super-chromatic Lenton Green. Flamboyant Royal Carmine or Electric Blue on Spa-Bonded rustproof surface. Decorative transfers and lining. Usual bright parts Raleigh-chromium plated.
FITTINGS	Kitbag, tools, reflector, Fork lamp bracket, White inflator on Green and Carmine models, Red on Blue models.

We had no central heating in the house, but relied on a coal fire in the lounge, and two portable electric heaters – a 1 Kw Bar heater and a 2Kw Convector heater - for elsewhere as required and they were a necessity in our long cold and wet Scottish winters thus coal and electric heat/light became our major expense, apart from regular outlays on food and, of course, our house mortgage payments of £26 per month.

So these first years of family life proved to be financially challenging on one basic salary of £60 per month. However, we managed somehow ... probably mainly due to Olive's careful management of our budget and the previous generosity of our family and friends in giving us so many useful gifts on our marriage in 1963 ... cheques, furnishings, fittings and equipment.

As usual, I was a busy lad professionally and recreationally away from the house. I enjoyed my Mathematics/PE job and Extra-Curricular Rugby administration at the High School, as well as the necessary chore of earning more by taking Youth/Adult Further Education classes on two evenings each week in term time 4 hours of swimming lessons on a Wednesday and 2 hours of Arithmetic on Thursdays for policemen studying for their Inspector's Examination.

Friday evenings were reserved for my acting as an officer at the meetings of the 8th Stirling, Boys' Brigade Company in the hall of our church – St. Ninians Old ... while on Sunday mornings prior to worship, Duncan McCallum, my PE colleague at the High School, and I, shared BB Bible Class duties.

My only committee type commitments during this period comprised serving as Membership Secretary for The High School of Stirling FP Association, and, mainly in the Spring and Summer, being Match Secretary for Stirling County Cricket Club.

Again, rather selfishly I suppose, I kept pursuing my first-class rugby football career on September to March Saturdays ... which left Olive at home with Evan ... when before his birth she had enjoyed coming with me as one of the many 1st Team Jordanhill players' fiancées or wives 'camp followers'. Then, apart from Tuesday SCCC cricket practices and Saturday matches from May until August, I also continued playing third couple with school colleague Andy Miller for the Livilands Lawn Tennis Club team in the Stirling and District Second Division League on Thursday evenings!

Socially, apart from visits from friends to play Contract Bridge around the fireside (Evan in arms) we managed to get out together to various functions mainly because of Aunt Neta Henderson's enjoyment of baby-sitting and her staying the night with us in Torbrex.



Janet 'Neta' Richardson Nicoll Henderson (1910-1982)

This in a sense was really good for her too, as much of her home-life at 11 Abbotsford Place, Riverside, Stirling, *after the long hours she spent at her onerous job at Viewforth as Chief Salaries Clerk for Stirlingshire Teachers*, was spent at home caring for her ‘Mam’, my Grandma Jessie (Kerr) Henderson, paralysed and bed-ridden since about 1960. My sister Elizabeth, and brother-in-law Cameron, also benefitted from Aunt Neta’s baby-sitting loving care for their infants, Ewen, Rhona, Niall and Scott.

Grandma, as I fondly remember her, was a bravely patient and smiley invalid ... and my dad and I had the privilege of at least once a week going down to Abbotsford Place, Riverside, Stirling to lift her, *and her not inconsiderable weight*, higher in her bed that lay beside the upstairs lounge window, and thus try to minimise the consequences of bed-sores. In early summer 1965, when things got beyond home-nursing, she was admitted to Kildean Geriatric Hospital, where, mercifully, she passed away peacefully on the 21st of August, aged 79 years.



Janet ‘Jessie’ (Kerr) Henderson (1886-1965)