

The Book you have all been waiting for !
"ALL MY LIFE.....A SHOWMAN"

By Freddy Bailey-British Coin Machine Historian

FEATURING A large Collection of Antique Coin Machines



The life and times of a Traveling Showman-Coin Machine Operator



"The Fancy Cars"



"The Gangsters"



"The Awards"



"The Characters"



"The Creations"

From an humble background with no education, To associating with gangsters and celebrities from the "World of Entertainment"; Freddy Bailey has tasted the "Good Life" The fast car's, The Gambling, The Money, The Woman. He has done it all. Now at age 66 he lives a quite life with his beautiful new Wife and three year old daughter Rachelle. He has truly had the "Sweet Smell Of Success".

"It's A Barnam & Bailey World"

In The Begining

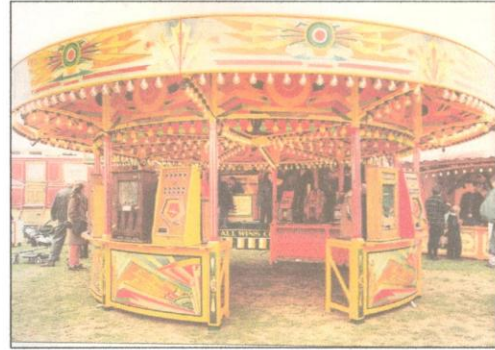


*The
CLASSICS*

The World of Classic Coin Machines



Freddy Bailey now lives in New Jersey, his backdrop is New York's Manhattan Skyline, he is 66 years old and has operated, designed and manufactured coin operated machines for over 40 years. He is an award winning designer, and his coin operated machine operating background gives him an insight to what is needed when designing a new machine.



"All My Life.....A Showman"

The Life and Times of a Traveling Showman.

By Freddy Bailey

The Author Freddy Bailey as spent the last 50 years of his life in the Coin Machine Industry, prior to that he and his family were Traveling Showmen on the Fairs of England and members of the London Section of :

The Showman's Guild of Great Britain.

He is now recognized as an authority and a leading historian on the history of the coin operated amusement machine.

Published By Freddy Bailey

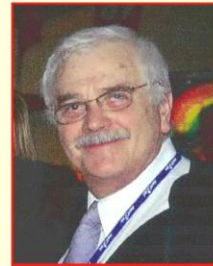
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PROLOGUE

The Prologue written below by David Snook the World renowned coin machine journalist and partner in the leading coin machine magazine InterGame, is an honest and unbiased opinion of Freddy Bailey a man he knows intimately both socially and through the course of his illustrious career. As the leading Journalist in his field, David Snook is the most qualified man to write a prologue on this larger than life character.



David Snook ATEI 2005

Freddy is a true showman. Now lot's of people think they are showmen, but in reality it is something you have to be born into. Showmen are a unique type of traveller, moving from place to place in all kinds of weather with their caravans, heavy locomotives and fairground equipment. They are very much a slowly dying breed these days which is a great pity. Because they travel from place to place they are often confused with what they scathingly refer to as 'donkey-wallopers', when in reality they are hugely respectable, scrupulously conscious of the environment they leave behind them when they move on and deeply committed to their fraternity.

It was into this unique society that Freddy Bailey was born. Throughout his long and colourful career he has exhibited all of the facets of the travelling showman's characteristics, a deep sense of fun, an entrepreneurial instinct for a good deal and an unrelenting ability to be working 24 hours a day. The reader should not confuse this with a kind of a latterday Arthur Daly or Delboy (A British TV satire) - certainly he has the attributes of a 'lovable rogue' - but Fred has also made his own contribution to the development of the coin machine industry.

He has an amazing ability in retrospect, to forecast what would happen in that amusement and 'light' gambling industry in Great Britain and globally and often now refers to his own quotes from many years ago, using back copies of the trade press. It was through the trade press that I first met Fred, as Editor of Coin Slot, and subsequently through my own international publication, InterGame.

The early days of the 1970s, just following a catastrophic change in the British coin machine industry brought about by draconian new gambling legislation (which actually cleaned up our act if the truth were to be told), were wonderful days of creation. When an industry's ability to work is impaired, it will find other ways to do it. That brought in a whole welter of folk of the Freddy Bailey type, keen to find ways to continue to amuse the public be within the bounds of new legislation.....and of course earn a few quid/dollars. Their creativity was amazing, Fred was one of the leading lights throughout that period.

He has never lost his showmanship, even though he was working with 'suits' (in the regular business world), nor his ability to 'blag the punter' (sell a product to a customer). He made good games; he made bad games. He made enemies; he made friends. But the fact that he can e-mail his cronies and get 50 responses from all over the world from some of the business's biggest names, says much.

All those years in the industry, in the pre-legitimate days and after, brought Fred into contact with people from all walks of life, including some from the shadier side of society, a fact in which Fred rightly shows no shame. He has done his bit for the industry, undoubtedly left a mark ("even if it's in someone's groin," he might say), and is in some respects the personification of the industry as it was in those formative and reformatory years before and following the British 1968 Betting and Gaming Act. Those who remember those days will be eager to read this, whether to laugh, reminisce or curse Fred! There will be many from outside of our world who will also read it with equal fascination, because it opens up a little piece of social history which has hitherto gone unrecognised and unrecorded.

'Respectability'-in Fred's case meaning settling down or even growing up - came late in life for him. Now like all of us old men from those days, he tends to live on memories. But oh, what memories they were.

David Snook
Editor Coin Slot (World's Fair) 1969-1990
Co-Owner InterGame 1994-present

**We
Salute The
U. S. A.**



**We
Salute The
U. K.**

"Pioneers of the Coin Machine Industry" **A Dedication**

Dedication

"All the World's a Stage and the Men and Women in it, are merely the Players".
So the playwright William Shakespeare once said.

"If the same was said about the Coin Machine Industry, and the players that were
in it, then the following people would have been the leading players on that stage".

"I dedicate the following chapters of this book to their memory for without them
there would not be the industry as we know it today, for they were the true
Pioneers of the coin machine industry".

The Author: Freddy Bailey 2008

Great Britain

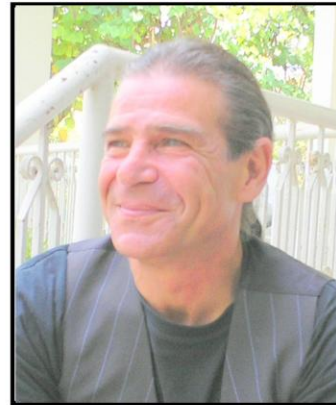
Ralph Horwitz:.....Chicago Automatic Machine Supply.....1901-1987
Bill Ruffler:.....Ruffler & Walker Limited.....1911-2006
Fred Walker:.....Ruffler & Walker Limited.....1906-1985
Solomon Shefras:.....Shefras Automatics Limited.....1882-1954
Jack Holloway:.....Samson Novelty Company.....1874-1937
Charles Ahrens:.....Ahrens Limited.....1869-1946
Freddy Bolland:.....Bollands Amusement Machine Supply Co.....1897-196?
William Bryan:.....Bryan's Automatics Works.....1894-1984
Mark Kraft:.....Krafts Automatics Limite.....1900-1967
Walter Streets:.....Streets Automatic Machine Company.....1901-1981
Frank Hawtins:.....Hawtins Machine Company.....Unknown
Tom Boland:.....Tom Boland & Company.....1900-1981

United States of America

Charles Fey:.....Charles Fey Manufacturing Co.....1962-1944
Herbert Mills:.....The Mills Novelty Company.....1870-1929
Jack Watling:.....The Watling Scale Company.....1873-1943
Ed Pace:.....Pace Manufacturing Company.....1879-1954
Arthur Caille:.....The Caille Brothers Company.....1868-1916
Ray Molony:.....Bally Manufacturing Company.....1900-1957
J.P. Seeburg:.....J. P. Seeburg & Company.....1871-1958
O. D. Jennings:.....O. D. Jennings & Company.....1874-19??

Nic Costa

When Nic Costa author of the best selling book "Automatic Pleasures" The History Of The Coin Machine, was approached by fellow British Coin Machine Historian Freddy Bailey to write the introduction for a book that he was writing about his life in the coin machine industry, he asked himself "Why me". Freddy said that after reading Nic's book "Automatic Pleasures" and the many articles about the pioneers of the coin machine industry, in various magazines, he said to himself that if ever he decided to write a book he would ask Nic to write the introduction. Freddy was so impressed with the depth of the research that Nic had done for his articles that he knew this was the man he wanted to write the introduction, for his book.



Introduction: Freddy Bailey- "All My Life.....A Showman"

If we look around us at the world today we find that technology is all pervasive- it intrudes upon every area of our lives. We have machines and gadgets for everything. Not only are they ubiquitous, but year on year they reduce in size and accomplish more and more. For instance, what once started off as a concept of a wireless telephone now encompasses many other functions so that in the shape of a small rectangular box we can now do innumerable things unrelated to actually making a phone call. Not only does it give us information but we in exchange provide the central server with information about ourselves each time we use it.

The long term goal it would seem would be to create and market a device that would be implanted within us that would ultimately enable us to access and interact with the world without ever leaving our seats. In the end we will have no need to move or communicate in the real world but, if we have the money, will be able to live in a parallel cyber world of our own choosing and need not interact with real people but merely with their avatars, and everything we say or do will be relayed and stored at some unknown location. As scary as this future is it had a relatively humble beginning.

Its seeds were planted way back in the early 1800's by Richard Carlisle in London who to circumvent state censorship devised a way that purchasers of his 'seditious' literature could buy it anonymously by inserting a coin in a slot in order to receive the desired book.

Whilst the original device was no more than a pseudo machine, it fulfilled its purpose and the seeds grew into the radical new developments at the end of the nineteenth century. This period of time saw the advent and implementation of many new and astounding technologies that man had dreamt of for millennia but which we now take very much for granted.

For the common man, the first introduction to many of these new technologies was by means of the humble coin operated machine. Now much despised because of its chequered history, it was the leading means for introducing and making the new technologies financially viable. The fact that coin machines in effect spearheaded the technological revolution is all but forgotten. Few people now know that even the great computer giant IBM had its humble origin in the production of coin operated devices.

However this process of introducing new technologies by means of coin operated machines did not

Introduction: Freddy Bailey - 'All My Life.....A Showman

stop in the late 1900's, but carried on full steam well into the latter half of the 20th century with the advent of videos, and computer generated imagery.

For most people their first encounter with the new computer age was as in the past by means of a coin operated device. The income and interest generated by these devices in turn gave inventors and manufacturers the incentive to research, develop, and invest still further.

Every field has its pioneers, most of them unsung. Many thousands have come and gone over the last two centuries, lived their lives, spread their influence upon their world and disappeared into the mists of time. We are now at the dawn of a new age which, if it does not collapse, will lead to even more radical changes as yet undreamt of.

Throughout all of this there is a chain, one generation passes on its knowledge to the next who take and transform it into something else. Freddy Bailey's life is no exception. In the latter years of his career he was instrumental in marketing and manufacturing the first wave of computer generated games which were to take the world by storm during the 1980's. However, as a young boy, in 1950, he had begun in the industry by purchasing a simple mechanical fortune telling machine named Heaven and Hell.

It had been made by one of the great names of the British coin machine industry of the inter war years- Freddie Bolland. The technology it used had been introduced in the late 1880's and was still going strong in the early 1950's. However this was a period of transition, for, starting in the late 1920's purely mechanical devices were gradually being eased out by electro-mechanical technology so that by the 1960's mechanical devices were all but dead.

Freddie Bolland had himself as a young man started in the industry way back in 1913. He was a man of the mechanical age, and in his latter years had little truck with the new fangled inventions which he disparagingly dubbed "Vie-doe-s". The man Freddie Bolland worked for had himself started in the industry when he was a young boy way back in 1851 when he took part in the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace exhibiting mechanical singing birds!

Thus whilst the technological leap is huge, the generational one is not, and somebody who sang the National Anthem as a young man whilst Queen Victoria was alive, could just as easily have been found as an old man zapping little rows of aliens on a TV screen who were threatening to invade the earth!

Freddie Bailey has led a colourful and full life and was, in his most active years, one of the most prominent figures in the British Amusement Industry. It was hard at one point to open the trade papers without finding some reference to him. He is one of those larger than life characters. Many people think of pioneers as people who lived a long time ago somewhere in the Wild West who spent their time round campfires, shooting Indians and rustling cattle. Nothing could be further from the truth, there are many pioneers alive today, men and women with vision, with a larger take on life than the average, and without doubt, as the following pages will attest, Freddy Bailey is one of them.

Nic Costa 2008

"All My Life.....A Showman"



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Chapter One

In the beginning -The Fairground

I was born in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire in England on April 8th, 1942, both my Mother and Father were from travelling families, my Mother's maiden name was Whiting, her family was from Sheffield, and were members of the Yorkshire Section of the Showman's Guild of Great Britain. My Father's family were also members of the Yorkshire Section of the Showman's Guild. The Guild is made up of 10 sections representing the whole of the British Isles. (See "The role of the guild") founded in 1895 as The Van Dwellers Association-to protect the interests of its members-travelling showmen who earned their living by attending funfairs. It does this in two ways, by its code of rules for members, and through the constitutional processes of the land.

THE ROLE OF THE GUILD

The principal object of the Showmen's Guild has remained the same since its inception as the Van Dweller Association: to protect the interests of its members – travelling showmen who gain their livelihoods by attending funfairs. It does this in two ways; by its code of rules for members, and through the legal and constitutional processes of the land.

The Guild's rule book ensures that all members have equal status within the Guild, regardless of the scope of their operations as individual businessmen. The rules, which are enforced by the Guild's own disciplinary tribunals, cover such matters as the orderly running of fairs and the conduct of members, both on and off fairgrounds.

The Guild is accepted at both national and local levels as the negotiating body for travelling showmen. Through its parliamentary agent, the Guild contests any proposed legislation that discriminates against its members; or seeks concessions when legislation threatens their ability to make a living. In matters involving local authorities a delegation of officers will usually be called upon to represent members' interests.

The administration and operation of the Guild is democratically determined by its 4,700 members. (The actual total of persons involved in the business is considerably higher as the membership lists only heads of families.) Forming the base of the Guild's structure is a system of ten regional sections covering the whole of Great Britain.



SECTIONS

1. Northern
2. Lancashire
3. Yorkshire
4. Midland
5. Norwich and Eastern Counties
6. London and Home Counties
7. Western
8. Derby, Notts, Mid and South Lincs.
9. South Wales
10. Scottish

During World War II, there were no traveling fairs that were operational so the showmen that were not serving in the armed forces made a living by working for the War Department. My Uncle Freddy who I was named after was serving in the Army he was stationed in Burma, where he died of wounds while serving as a prisoner of war, he is buried there. My Father David worked as a haulage contractor delivering munitions to various military installations from the Ammunitions Factory at Chilwell in Nottingham. I remember has a boy my Father telling me that he was once going through Sheffield with a military tank on the back of his lorry, he hit a tram and when the tram driver asked him "who does this belong to" my Father replied "George" the tram driver said "George Who" my Father said "George Royal" and

carried on his way, at that time the king of England was King George IV, my Father only knew him as the Royal family so called him "George Royal".

After World War II my earliest recollections of fairground life was traveling with the London Section of the Guild, my Father was a member of the London Section although his Mother Annie Bailey was a member of the Yorkshire section of the guild like her family the Avyard's who were from Leeds in Yorkshire. It was the Winter of 1947 we were at the fairground winter quarters at Stockwell, just next to "Lords" the famous cricket grounds, a suburb of London, my Father was delivering parcels for the GPO-General Post Office (a lot of traveling people use their lorries to deliver parcels for the Government during November and December each year). He was also getting our traveling stalls and equipment ready for the 1948 summer season, at that time just after the war there was still a great shortage of virtually everything, we were still using ration books to buy food and essential goods. Me and my Sister Sylvia who was six years older than me was going into the bombed out houses in the area looking for scrap metals and anything we could turn into money, the scrap yards were buying all kinds of materials such as Cotton, Wool, Lead, Copper and any metals items. I had a four-wheel barrow that I pulled around the streets looking for scrap. I remember that outside of every underground station (subway) there was a Findlay's cigarette and tobacco shop, (Findlay's was owned by the John Menzies Group) these little hole in the wall shops were no bigger than one room with a serving window onto the street, these little shop's were my best source for giving me the thick cardboard boxes that their cigarettes came in. I would go there around 9 a.m every morning and the man who had just got his delivery of cigarettes and tobacco would be putting the large cardboard boxes outside ready for the garbage collector, my sister would ask the man in the shop if we could please have the cardboard boxes, and he would say "Sure take them away". Later on in years, the Chrome cigarette vending machines that were stood outside of those very same stores would be sold to traveling showmen who would convert them into Auto-Gift prize machines to use on the fairgrounds.



Stockwell Station 1950's



Cigarette Machine



Living Wagon 1940's

In 1949 things were beginning to improve for Great Britain in general, the War was behind us and people were starting to go out and spend money on leisure. They would go to the fair or to the picture house (movie Theatre) they would buy fish and chips or pie and mash at the local café's, people were getting delivery of new car's that had been on order for over four years, they were going to the seaside on a Sunday to visit the Pier or one of the sports arcades in those seaside resorts. I remember my family used to open

with the fair at a place called Chalkwell Park in Southend-On-Sea, we would build up the Fair the day before it opened we would all then go into the Kursall a famous amusement park in Southend and go on the big rides or play the machines in their arcades, we would then do the same thing on the next Sunday after the fair closed on the Saturday Night. The Chalkwell Park Carnival Fair went on for several days and because it was a beautiful park, our living van's were not allowed to be parked in the park itself, so we would park them on pieces of spare land as close as we could get to the park.

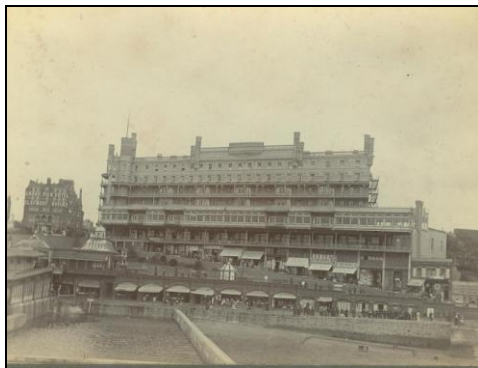


Kursall Amusement Park Southend



Penfold's Coconut Joint 1990's

I remember we used to park with several other living wagon's on a piece of land about a quarter of a mile from the park, Stanley Parkin was the "Riding Master"-the person who had the rights to the concessions, each evening after the fair closed we used to walk back to where the living wagon's were parked, there was several show land families: Harry North, Stanley Parkin, Bill Lodge (Who collected the Rent for Stanley), Arthur Sedgwick Billy Kayes and Arthur Crick all had their living wagon's parked in the same place, on the way from the park to the living area we would pass a milk bar where we would all go to eat supper, I remember we would have Sausage, Egg and Chips or a Mixed Grill, my Mother always bought us kid's a Peach Melba for after's (desert).



Southend-On-Sea, Seafront 1950's



Bill Lodge & Wife



Stanley Parkin 1940's

In the winter of 1949, we had our winter quarters at the "Welsh Harp" in Hendon, the Harp as the traveling showmen called it was a lorry park next to the railway tracks. It was walled in and very secure with a night watchman who charged Lorries that wanted to park overnight, it was good for the showmen who could park there during the winter

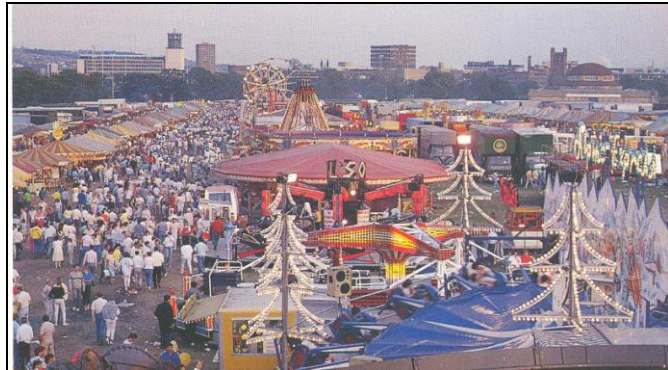
months. I remember there were Johnny and Joey Guest, Charlie Groom, Billy Kayes, Billy Woods, John Cogger and several more travelers who wintered there.

Although traveling people make their living during the summer months, most of them like or even need to make extra money doing various things during the Winter Months. My Father used to sell all kinds of stuff that he bought that was either fire damage or flood related items. He bought job lots from Gamages and Hellisdon's two big retail outlets, I remember we used to stand on Church St market in Edgware Road. We had a load of Cherry Blossom shoe polish, there was more can's of brown polish than there were black, so he sold them 3 for 6d he gave them two brown can's and one black can. We also operated our feed the clowns roll down game in the Olympia with Bertram Mills Circus, where they had an indoor fair for the winter months. I recall that the manager of the Olympia was a man called Mr. Stumcke; he later became the manager of the "Kursall" Amusement Park in Southend-On-Sea.



Charlotte, Amy, Maude, Phoebe, Elsie and Polly at Olympia in London in the 1950s.

The Stewarts Girls Olympia 1950

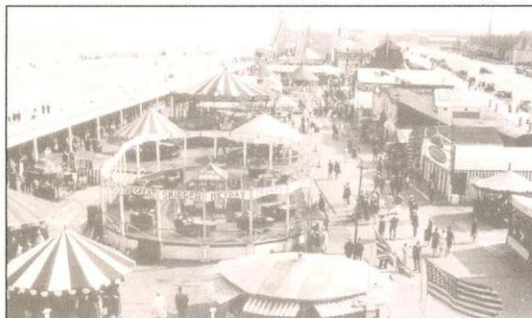


Newcastle "Town Moor" Traveling Fair

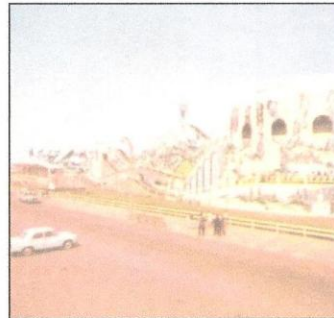
It was now 1950 and we were doing very well with the London and Home Counties Section of the Showman's Guild. We traveled with Harry Gray, John Biddell, Traylin's and Botton Brothers-Albert and Jimmy, we started the season at Wanstead Flats for Easter, then we went on to several LCC (London County Council) fairs such as Clapham Common, Tooting Bec, Putney Common, and Michum Fair. We also operated at Beaconsfield and Pinner Street fairs. We opened at Barnet Horse Fair and Caserbury Park in Watford. We then would travel to Newcastle for the largest traveling fair in the World, which was held on the Town Moore, which was a two-day trip from London. Towards the end of the season we would venture to several fairs that came under the Notts & Derby section of the Showman's Guild, we went to Nottingham "Goose Fair" the oldest charter fair in existence, then Ilkeston, Loughborough and Belper Fairs. After Belper Fair that was a guild ground, many of the Notts & Derby travelers would winter on the same ground-"The Coppice", in 1951 my Father started to winter on the Belper Winter site, by this time we had a bingo stall, an arcade and a hot dog trailer. Throughout 1952-3 we traveled mostly around the London section with Botton Brothers at Putney that year Albert Botton announced that he was taking over Pleasure Beach at Great Yarmouth, and asked if any of the travelers would like to come and rent side stalls there, Botton Brother already had concessions in Battersea Park and liked the idea of having their own Amusement Park. My Father decided that it would be a good move, there was beginning to be a lot of fights and

problems with local Teddy boy gangs and these gangs that were using the Fairgrounds as their battlegrounds. We operated on the Pleasure Beach for two seasons only. I remember my Father telling us at the Nottingham "Goose Fair", that he was buying an arcade at Mundesley on Sea and that we were not going back to Great Yarmouth, after Goose Fair we went to Ikeston Fair, then to Belper fair, that was the last Fair before we turned in for the winter.

I remember when we first went to Gt. Yarmouth, Albert and Jimmy Botton had just bought the lease to The Pleasure Beach from Pat Collins. I think it was 1953-4, there were several traveling showmen that rented positions on the Pleasure Beach, there was Jimmy and Russell Jones (22. Shooter), Arthur Crick Sn (Arcade), Arthur Crick Jr (Dart Stall), Alfa Whittle (Side Stall), Edward Stunning, (Juveniles), Rubin Wilson Sn (Speedway Track), Frank Wilson (Side Stalls), Jimmy Wilson (Kelly's), Joe Pont Sn (Whip), David Bailey (Set of feed Clowns) Freddy Bailey (Junior Swing boats). There was also Hymie Ganze (Arcade), Sammy Ganze (Bingo Stall), John Hamilton (Pick-A- Duck), Dickie Kimberley (Kentucky Derby), Lou Aylot (Side Stall), Coles (Helter Skelter & Mirror Maze) and I think it was one of the Barron's that had the (Live Ammunition Stall) next to the Kentucky Derby. I remember that we opened from 10 a.m till 11 p.m Monday through Saturday and 2 p.m till 9 p.m on a Sunday, in the early part of the season we had to stay open even though there was no punters to be seen, in those day's Albert Botton was a bit of a Tyrant to his tenants, he used to sit in his office over the top of the Pleasure Beach entrance and watch the whole of the Pleasure Beach.



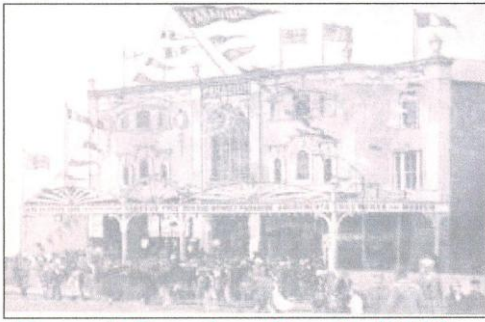
Gt.Yarmouth "Pleasure Beach" 1940's



Botton Brother's "Pleasure Beach" 1950's



If he was walking through the Pleasure Beach and saw that some of the side stalls had their shutters lined up ready for closing he would push them down on the ground and say "We close at 11 o'clock, not before", there was a record played over the Tannoy system called "Good Night Sweetheart" a song by Vera Lynn that was the signal that we could close for the night.



Barron's Paradium Arcade 1920's



Barron's Paradium Arcade 1960's

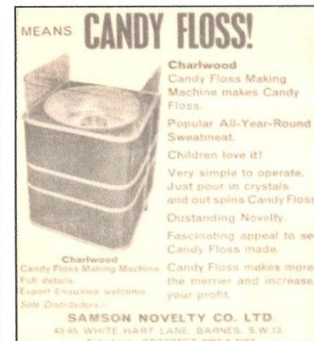
My Dad left the Pleasure Beach in 1955 after we bought our Amusement Arcade at Mundesley-On-Sea, further along the Norfolk Coast. I remember around 1958 I was walking through the Pleasure Beach with my Dad and we saw Albert Botton, he said to me "So young Bailey, what have you got at Mundesley". I said "I have Candy Floss Machine and a couple of boxes (wall machines) in the Arcade", he turned around and said, "I don't know, the kid's today, when I was your age I had nothing". I turned around and said, "Well Mr Botton you are making up for it now you have or want everything?" in those days, the tenants of the Pleasure Beach loathed Albert Botton. He was a very boisterous man, as tough as they came, his Brother Jimmy died a little while after getting a terrible beating from a gang of thieves who robbed him of the night's takings as he was leaving Battersea Park where The Botton Brothers had Amusement ride concessions. I also remember that when we first bought the Arcade at Mundesley-On-Sea, Albert Botton and Lotti his Wife came over one Sunday morning to see the place, we had just had a coach (Bus) arrive with 40 people wanting tea in the Café that we had, Lotti rolled up her sleeves and helped with the washing up, while Albert puffed on his cigar. At that time Jimmy Jones had not married Jane Botton, Albert's Daughter she is a lovely Lady and Jimmy is a gem of a person. Albert Botton built a very nice home on the seafront next to the race course at Great Yarmouth. when Jimmy Jones married Jane, they built an house next door to Albert's.



Bollands Iron Clad



My Fathers Arcade at Mundesley 1960



Candy loss Machine

When the Pleasure Beach first opened under the control of The Botton Brothers, England was just getting back on its feet after World War II. Within 100 miles of Gt. Yarmouth there were several American Military bases, such as Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Alconbury and Sculthorpe. The G.I's were flush with cash

and spent their leisure time in Gt. Yarmouth, there was an Hotel called "The Queens" on the corner of Marine Parade and Regent Road, each weekend the big American car's of the day would park outside of the hotel and the G.I's would fill the "Long Bar" where the Seeburg jukebox (belonging to Ditchburn Equipment Company and serviced by Len Ellis) would blare out Elvis Presley singing "All Shook Up", these same G.I's would also bring with them from the PX on their bases, Levi jeans, Old Spic aftershave, King Edward cigars and other items not yet seen in England. They would sell them to the local young men who wanted to be like American's, they wore "Tony Curtis" style haircut's, (we called this style the "D A") Levi jeans along with leather jacket's and loathers. They all wanted to be "James Dean" most of them were "Rebel's Without A Cause" or a job.



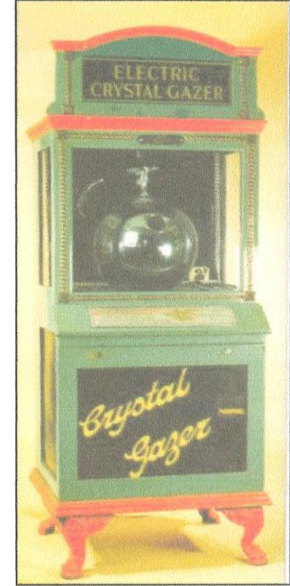
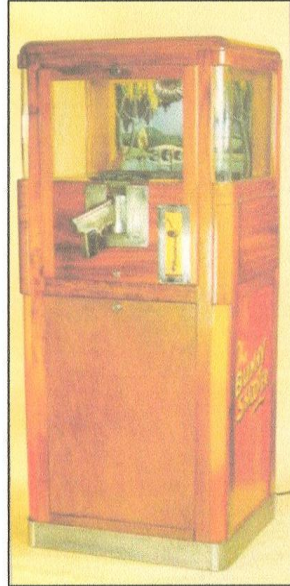
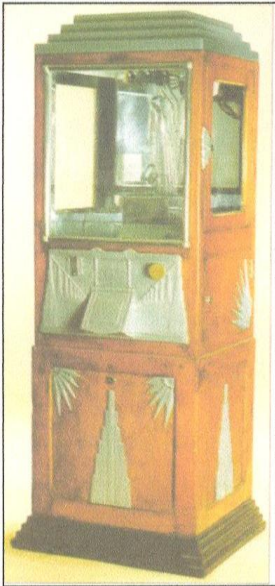
Seeburg KD 1958



Queens Hotel Great Yarmouth 1990's owned by my Sister

Most of the young travelers who's families had concessions at the Pleasure Beach did not have much time to socialize, each night after the Pleasure Beach closed we would go over to a fish and chip shop in Marine Crescent, and then walk down past the Pleasure Beach and the Roller Coaster to our trailers (living van's) that were parked on the South Deans Caravan Park. If we had not gone to the fish and chip shop, Mum would make supper while my Dad and his friends sat out and talked into the night, it was only on a Sunday Morning that we had a little time to do anything or on Sunday Evening after the Pleasure Beach closed, there was a man who had a stall on the Pleasure Beach called Lou Aylot who had a Son called Chris, they had an home on the Norfolk Broads at Acle, about 15 miles from Gt. Yarmouth, sometimes I would go home with them on a Saturday Night and Chris and I would get up on Sunday morning at around 7 am and go fishing on the Norfolk Broads, we would fish till around 11 am and then Mrs. Aylot would make an early lunch and we would go to the Pleasure Beach to open at 2 p.m. On a Sunday Evening all of the traveling kid's would go further up the Sea Front where there was several Arcades with prize bingo in them, there was Billy Russell's Arcade in front of their Circus, then there was British American "Sports Land" next to that was Dennis Hazel's Arcade (Now Stanley Thurston's) further along was Barron's "Paradium" then a little further up and the last Arcade on the

Sea front belonged to Bill Gigi, all of the traveling kid's would play a few games of bingo, or play the arcade games such as Williams Ten Strike, Exhibit Cranes, Mutoscope Merchandisers, and a lot of Pinball "Bumper" games and the Wurlitzer 1015.



The "Paradium was the biggest Arcade on the Sea front; it was also the first purpose built Amusement Arcade to be built in Gt. Yarmouth, it belonged to the Barron family (who I would and have had a lifetime relationship with), they had a Dodgem Track and several side stalls, as well as all kinds of Arcade Games going back to the early 1920's, they had ten Rock-Ola "Jigsaw" games where you could win prizes for completing a puzzle, they had a lot of the old John Dennison "Working Models" there was a B.A.N Co Ltd (British American Novelty Company) Pussy Shooters, Stevenson's and Lovet "Steer-A-Ball", Shefras "Punchball", Bradley "Challengers", Brenner's "Fun Machine", Hawtin's Allwins, "Peerless Pictures" by Peerless Products, Boland's "Film Stars", and a whole bevy of "End of the Pier" machines. Stanley Barron had a "22 Live Ammunition Stall", Georgie "Maggots" Barron had a "Waltzing Kelly's Stall", Terry Barron had a "Dart Stall and Can-Can Stall", Clarence had the "Dodgems" and Dudley had the "Bingo", there was a small Snack Bar that was run by a couple called John and Joyce, and I ran a "Roll-Up Stall" for my Father who had become very close to Dudley and Georgie "Maggots" Barron, I was 14 years old at the time.

Business was so bad I used to sit in the stall and make models of World War II battle Scenes, I think Barron's gave my Father a break on his rent. Dudley Barron Sr became Lifelong friends with my Father, him and his wife Dolly went to all of the Great Yarmouth social functions with my Mother and Father Dudley's youngest Son Louie Was a friend of mine for many years until we lost touch when I went to Ireland, Louie Died at a young age in the 1980's. Dudley's other Son Dudley Jr was a bit of a scoundrel.

At the end of the season on the coast we would head back to the Nottingham area and open on some of the backend fairs, such as Nottingham goose fair, lkeston street fair, Loughborough street fair Ripley street fair and finally on The coppice at Belper where we would finally stay for the rest of the winter months.

The winter of 1955 was a very cold one, my Mother who made artificial flowers to sell at the market on Cockpit Hill in Derby she would make the flowers out of crepe paper and then dip them in candle wax, she would then make the stems out of green crepe paper by wrapping it around some wire, she would place them in long cardboard boxes ready to sell at the market on the following Saturday. While my Mum and Dad sold their wares on the market. I would help a man called Ray Noone, Ray had a big stall on the market selling cut price groceries, he used to sell these big jars of pickle onions, pickle cabbage and mixed pickles, they were very large jars and I had the job of bringing them from the lorry on to the stall, I used to carry one in each arm to the stall, I once tripped and dropped two jars, they hit the ground and went everywhere around the stall, the smell of vinegar lingered for hours. Ray was a good guy and paid me a pound cash for the day, he also used to give my Mother tins of Nescafe coffee and jars of pickles. Also on Cockpit Hill there was a person who called himself "Mad Harry" he used to sell all kinds of merchandise, his specialty was bone china 24 piece Dinner services, he could spread a set of bone chine like a juggler, he was an artist,. Also on cockpit Hill was a café called "The Derwent Fish Bar" that served Fish & Chips with mushy peas with bread and butter and a cup of tea for two bob (two shillings) there was a sports arcade as we called amusement arcades in those days, owned by a couple of friends of my Father Harry Witnal and Wilf Mynett (I understand that their grand children still have an Amusement Arcade in Derby called "Harry's Place"). Cockpit hill was a hive of activity, there was a long narrow passage that led to the "Cheshire Cheese" a popular Pub owned by Ian and Andrew Taylor on the corner of "The Spot" this was the center of Derby. A couple of years later Barry Hall had a Seeburg Q-160 in this pub and Ian and Andrew were social friends of Barry and his wife Enid.



Ahrans Steer-A-Ball



Cockpit Hill Derby 1950's



Seeburg Q-160

In the arcade on cockpit hill they had a row of bumper pin ball machines, some Bryans Allwins, a Ahrans Steer-A-Ball, Exhibit Crane, a Waltonian, and a Ice Hockey, a

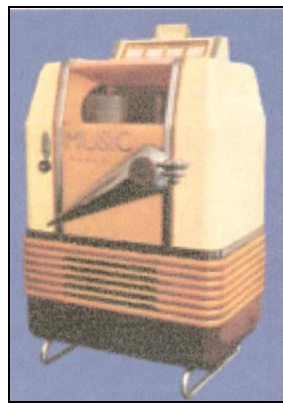
Prospector and a Grip Test. Later I know they bought some German wall machines from my Father. Also on cockpit hill with a small stall was Violet Tunnercliff who's son Warrick used to come and help me in my shop in Derby a few years later. I remember being on the cockpit hill market on February 6th, 1958 when word came that there had been a plane crash in Germany involving a British flight BEA 609 carrying the Manchester United soccer Team and several of the team had been killed, Duncan Edwards a young and expiring soccer star died from his injuries two weeks later, Matt Busby the teams manager survived but was given his last rights twice. In the 1957-8 soccer season Manchester United had been one of the favorites to win the European cup but finished the season with a very weak side, ironically ten years later in 1968 they would go on to win that trophy with plane crash survivor Bobby Charlton in the team.



Music Maker "200"



Watlings "Rol-A-Top"



Music Maker MKII



Mills "Century"

After spending the 1957 summer season at Mundesley-On-sea my Mother was having a hard time with her health, the local tap water did not seem to agree with her and my Father and I would go to a local farm and pump out the water from the ground. Charlie Paine a friend of my Father who had a café on the beach also owned the farm where we got the water. Being traveling showmen this was the kind of water we were used to, It turned out that she was just going through her change of life period. At the end of that season at Mundesley-On-Sea, my Father bought a new Hillman Husky car. In October that year while we were at Goose Fair, my sister Sylvia announced she was going to marry Billy Burrows. My Father and Mother then decided they would give Sylvia and Billy the Mundesley Arcade for a wedding present, there was only 1,500 pounds owing on the arcade He had bought it for 5,000 and paid Mr. Smith the man he bought it from 2,500 Deposit and 500 a year for five years. He had paid the payments for two seasons, he told them to take over the remainder of the payments and it was theirs.

My Father said he was going to go back to Belper and do the markets as well as travel in the summer. When he got back to Belper, he took a trip to Germany, prior to leaving Mundesley, he had bought a German wall machine called Rotomat he decided he was going to try and buy them direct and start a business doing conversions.

The Coin Machine Business

After arriving back in Belper my Father rented a small room in a disused cotton Mill, the building was made of solid Derbyshire stone, even the stairs that led to the little lock up room on the second floor was made of stone. My Father was a great tinkerer, he would work on something for hours to get it right, he started buying old Mills and Jennings slot machines from Wally Enticknap and his son John, John Enticknap was bringing in small shipments of American Slots, his company was called C. O. I. N Ltd short for Coin Operated Instruments and Novelties. I remember that Bill Ruffler had financed Wally to buy his first shipment, the story goes that Bill Ruffler would get paid back by Wally Enticknap within 48 hours of the machines arriving at C. O. I. N Ltd that was located at 58 York Road, Battersea. Amongst those machines were some Mills Deuces Wild machines that were the first time I had ever seen one of these machines with their bright yellow cabinet.



Jennings Victory



Jennings Star Chief



Mills High Top Bonus



Mills Deuces Wild

Wally Enticknap was married to John Holloway's Daughter Louisa who he had married in 1921, John Holloway was The Mills Novelty Company's European distributor all through the 1930's through his company Samson Novelty Company Ltd, Wally had been both an operator and an arcade owner, he had an arcade at Worthing, on the Sussex Coast.



rs. Enticknap, Mr. Enticknap, Mrs. Jack Holloway, Mr. Jack Holloway, Mrs. Ralph Mills, Mr. Mills, Mrs. John Holloway, Mr. John Holloway

The picture above is from the Mills Novelty Company's in-house magazine "Spinning Reels" of February 1931 it was taken during a reception held by the Holloway family for Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mills who were visiting London during their honeymoon in Europe. Wally Enticknap and his wife Louisa are on the left in the picture. Wally and Louisa had

one Son John born in 1928 and two Daughter Betty born in 1922 and Maria born in 1924. My Father bought several Jennings Victory Chief machines from the Enticknap's to convert, he preferred those models because the cabinets were made of wood, because they were made during World War II the shortage of raw materials had forced the U. S. manufacturers to replace their metal cabinets with wood. Wurlitzer did the same thing with their model 950 jukebox (the 950 is now the most collectable jukebox in the World). My Father wanted the wooden cabinet type of machine because he was selling machines to his fellow traveling showmen who had to move around from place to place each week, and would have to carry their machines from their lorries (trucks) to their stalls that were sometimes quite a way from each other. My Father also bought several Jennings "Little Duke" machines from the Smith Brothers who were also coin machine dealers, they too were in York Road Battersea. My Father had some teak wood cabinets made and removed the mechanisms from the cast iron cases of the "Little Duke" machines and fitted them into the wooden cabinets, this made them considerable lighter.



Wurlitzer 950 Wooden Case 1942



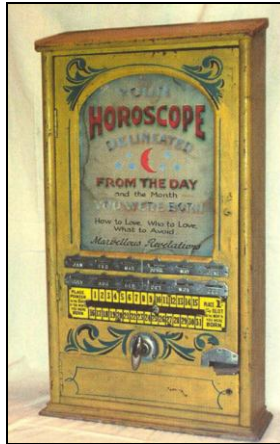
Jennings "Little Duke" English 1d

The Enticknap's had very good contacts in the coin machine industry, mainly because of the Holloway Family, Wally, John and Jimmy Costello who worked for C.O.I.N also got involved with a veteran coin machine dealer an American named Tommy Rolfson in the manufacture of an American slot machine for England in the 1960's, this venture would force their company into liquidation and cost Wally a considerable amount of money.

In later years I would do a lot of business with Wally's Son John who was selling Bingo games and other various American coin machine imports, Jack Charles who was a great coin machine technician and worked on Bingo games for John, joined me in Ireland in the early 1970's. John Enticknap himself would also venture to Ireland in later years and make a large amount of money from pub's and operating, until his death in the early 1990'.



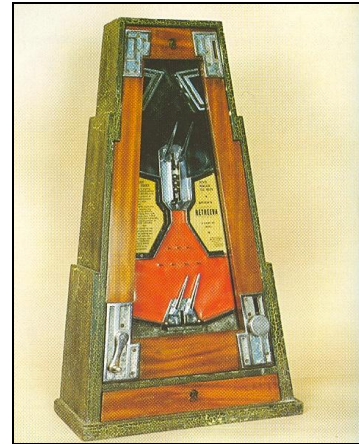
Exhibit Crane



Horoscope



Wonders "Pools"



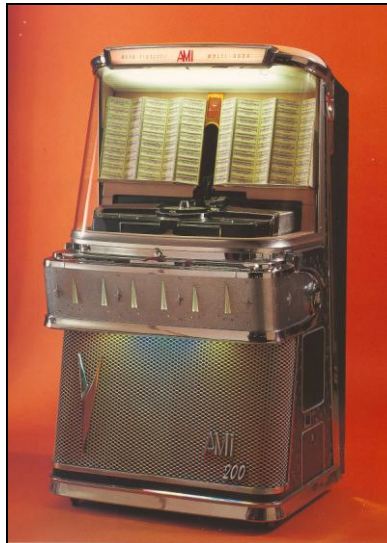
Bryans Payramid

Around the same time as my Father was buying and selling old slot machines, there was another company that he was dealing with called World Wide Amusements located at 40 Duke Street in London, this company was run by a guy called Warner Fox, who was new to the coin machine business but was bringing in used slot machines from the States also. I went there a couple of times with my Dad to buy machines from Warner Fox. Fast forwarding to 1997. I was in Atlanta, Georgia in the United States at a trade show for Phone Card machines, I was there with a new pre-paid phone card machine that I had designed, any way I was on the stand and this little guy walked up and started asking about the machines, he said that he had been involved in the slot machine business in England back in the late 1950's, he said he had a company in London called World Wide Amusements, I looked at this little man who looked like an older version of Ringo Starr of the Beatles pop group, I said to him "Were they located at 40 Duke St, in London?" he looked back in amazement and said "Yes how did you know that?", I said "I used to go there with my Father nearly forty years ago-did you know a man called Warner Fox who owned that company?" he stepped back in amazement and said "I am Warner Fox, since that incredible chance meeting Warner and I have stayed in contact and visited each other several times, I recently spoke with him and told him about my book, I asked him how he started in the coin machine business because he was mainly in the restaurant business, he told me he had met up with an American guy in Poland St, who ran Las Vegas Coin Ltd his name was David "Gabe" Forman, he was in Grahams Fish Restaurant one day and on the next table was this loud and very flamboyant character who was surrounded by people that looked like they were all extra's from a George Raft movie, one of those people was a local gangster named Albert dimes, Warner said he got talking to the American guy who said he should buy some of his fruit machines and put them in his restaurant.

Warner went on to tell me that after that meeting, he thought about getting into that business, he went back to Las Vegas Coin Ltd at 9 Poland Street only to find that they had closed up shop. He decided to make enquiries in the States about buying these types of machines. His enquiries brought him to New Jersey where he would meet Abe Green and Barney Sugerman of The Runyon Sales Company, Warner told me they told him to get a train up to Westchester County where they would meet him to talk business, he was told during dinner with Abe and Barney that Barney's young Son Myron would visit him on his next trip to England, they also told him that their close friend David "Gabe" Forman who Warner had met in London was a close friend of their "Family" and that he had been deported back to the States from the U. K. Warner said and that was how he got in to the coin machine business. During the time that I was renewing my relationship in Atlanta with Warner, I told him that I was now involved with his one time meeting friend from the restaurant in London David "Gabe" Forman, was that not an incredible story



Tonmaster 60 Sel. 1958



AMI i200M 200 Sel. 1958

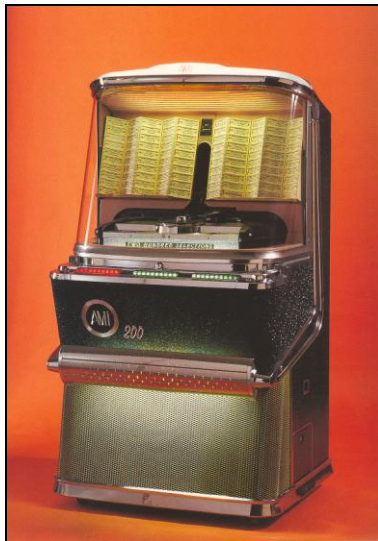


Rock-Ola 1455 1957

In early 1958, my Father bought six Tonmaster jukeboxes from a man in Sheffield his name was Taylor and he was the area representative for a company called Autmaten in Llandudno, in Wales. We put the is first one of these machines in a cafe at the bus station in Ashby-de-La-Zouch, we put another one in The Railway Hotel at Matlock, we also had one in the Waterloo Café in Waterloo St in Leicester. Our best location was Addams Coffee Bar in Kirkby-In-Ashfield, this was a real top location where the local teenagers would go in the evening and just play the jukebox, on the other side of the street there was another Coffee Bar where George Coughtry who owned Trentway Automatics had a brand new Rock-Ola that played 120 selections. Although we had a good relationship with the location owner, he was complaining that the location across from him having a better and bigger jukebox and he wanted one like it. We went and bought a brand new AMI i200M and he was delighted, until we started having problems with the machine, remember in those day's we were only used to very simple machines, this machine was a nightmare to us, we just could not keep it going and we lost the location.

At the same time the location in Ashby was being canvassed by another operating company called Electro-Machines (Tamworth) Ltd this company was owned by the Ashworth Brothers and the Cooper Brothers, there was Peter Ashworth who was the site finder for the company, his Brother Roy (who later would become chairman of Phonographic Equipment Company in the early 1970's) who was the finance man and George and Brian Cooper who were good service people. They installed a new AMI H200 in our location and turned our machine off. My Father called Electro-Machines and set up a meeting to go and see them, Roy Ashworth at first said he would come and see us, but my Father made an excuse saying that we would be in their area, and we would go to them, he did not want them to see that we still lived in our living wagon on The Coppice at Belper, when we arrived at Roy Ashworth's house it was a mansion.

The Ashworth family were very wealthy Roy's Father was a judge and the family business was Ashworth Stuffing an old company that made food products, Roy's mansion was an old coach house dating back to the 17th Century, we sat at a long table that was longer than our living wagon, my father told Roy that we should not compete for locations and that if that was the case the only people that would benefit would be the location owners, Roy Ashworth had obviously done his home work and knew that we were very small operators. By the end of the meeting, Roy and my Father had agreed not to canvass each other's locations but Roy would not relinquish the location in Ashby.



Ami H-200E 1957



Chantal Meteor 200



Rennotte 30 Sel. 1959

Shortly after that, my Father sold his jukeboxes to Charlie Waller another operator who was strong in the fruit machine business and was starting to operate jukeboxes for his Son Eric. After that every time I saw a jukebox belonging to Electro-Machines I would either jam up the coin mech or stick a piece of wire through the speaker grill and destroy the speaker, Peter Ashworth was a real idiot who obviously had never worked a day in his life, he would dress like a country squire, he drove a Bright Red Jaguar XK 150 the jukebox business was just a game to him.

In 1958, I left my Father and opened a shop in Derby; I was making parts for Slot machines and operating a few machines in Locations. I was living in the apartment behind

my shop in Derby, but I still stored several fruit machines that I was converting at my girlfriend Cheryl's house, Cheryl and I had gotten in to an argument and I had driven off and left her at her Father's house, later in the evening when I had cooled down, I went back to Cheryl's house, when I got there I saw a motorbike parked outside, I went storming in and as I walked in to the kitchen this young guy came out of the hallway with Cheryl, I dived on him and continued to beat the crap out of him, until Mr. East Cheryl's Father came out and pulled me off, and told me to leave his house. It turned out that the person was just a friend of the family and was just visiting. Prior to going to Cheryl's house, I had met a girl who worked in Boot's chemist in Derby, and I had arranged to take her to the pictures on the next night. After I had fought with this guy, and then found out the situation, I said I was sorry, he told me that he had fallen out with his girlfriend the day before and would I go with him to try and get her to talk to him, I asked him where we had to go, he said she work's in Boot's Chemist in Derby, I quickly said I had to go somewhere and I was Sorry, later I called the girl and told her what had happened and that I had got back with my girl friend and suggested she did the same. Cheryl's Father was still mad at me so Cheryl came back with me to my apartment. That night my Father and Mother came to my shop/apartment in Peartree road, I did not know they were coming and my girlfriend and I were going at it like a pair of rabbit's, all of a sudden the back door opened and my Mother and Father walked in Cheryl and I were totally naked my Dad just looked at me in disgust and said to my Mother, "I'm going home", later I learned that they had come to tell me they were going to move back to the Gt. Yarmouth area, and wanted me to go with them.



Peter Ashworths Jaguar XK 150 1958



My Fathers Hillman Husky 1959

I was doing O.K. making parts for fruit machines and operating a few machines, Mr. Taylor the Tonmaster Distributer from Sheffield was now handling a new jukebox that had just come out with a lot of publicity, it was Called Chantel Meteor 200 it looked like a space ship, it played 100 records on both sides making it 200 selections. Each record was mounted on to an individual metal and rubber drive pulley, after making a selection from the selection holders that was under a dome and could be seen all around the machine. a motor mounted in the center of the machine with the tone arm assembly attached to it would turn until it was in front of the selection and a lever came up and pushed the metal and rubber pulley on to another wheel that was on the motor and the tone arm would then come across and play the record vertically. Taylor told me if I

could get locations for these Chantal jukeboxes he had a customer in Preston called Auto Disc who rented out television sets and they wanted to buy 100 of these jukeboxes, but would only buy them if they were on location and would I go around and find locations for them in their area. I put about 20 of these machines out on location, we installed them in any location that would take one, we installed them in grocery stores, barbershop's and anywhere that a location would say yes, I put one in a café down the street from my showroom in Pear tree Road Derby. They were just a load of crap, and sounded terrible. It is amazing that most of the jukebox models that on today's collectable market are the most collectable. When they were first manufactured they were a disaster, take the Seeburg V-200 they were a lot of trouble, then the Ami 200-I also trouble, the Wurlitzer 950 virtually a complete wooden monster, and then other machines like the Chantal 200.

In 1959, I got involved with Tommy Barnes a person from Derby who had just bought Smith's Transport Café on Alferton Road in Derby. Tommy also had a small tea stall in the indoor market in derby City center. He had been buying a few fruit machines that I was converting and wanted to get into the jukebox business, I took him to Koromatics in Leeds, and we bought three Ami J-200 jukeboxes and three Bally Shuffle Alleys.



Ami J-200 1959



Bally De-Luxe Shuffle alley



Bal-Ami Super Forty 1959

We put a Ami J-200 and two Shuffle Alley's in the transport drivers side of Smiths Café that belonged to Tommy, and we put a Bal-Ami Super Forty in the Restaurant side of the Place. Tommy and I did not stay together very long, Tommy had a tea stall in Derby's indoor market, he also had a Brother John who was in the wholesale swag business, he wanted to get in to the machine business and Tommy wanted to open a Night Club in Derby. So Tommy gave John the few machines we had to get him started in the operating business, Tommy Barnes would later fulfill his dream and open a terrific Night Club in Derby called the "Talk Of The Midlands" where all the top singing star's of the day would Appear, people like Matt Monroe, Cliff Richard, Jim Dale and Tommy Steel all played there.