

Ron Eager 1925-2009

Written by John Eager

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Ron Eager will be best remembered among the Ledbury community as a successful entrepreneur and businessman, having established Eager Electrical with his wife, Margaret, and making the acquisition of W.J. Lacy from his father-in-law, William Lacy. However, to those that knew and loved him he will be best remembered as a caring and loving man; selfless in his devotion to family; hard-working, decent and honest.



Ron at his 80th birthday party

Born to Henry and Lilly May in 1925, Ron started life in Albion Square in Dalston, London, with his elder siblings Lil and Edward. Winston Churchill was Chancellor of the Exchequer; Malcolm

Campbell had set the new land speed record at 150 mph and John Logie Baird had transmitted the first recognizable human features by television. There were over a million and a half radio sets in Britain, but no National Grid, no electrical goods on the market and despite rising living standards the country was in a deep depression.



Ron as a young man

The political turmoil in Europe in the 1930s brought war to London and at the age of just 13 Ron had no choice but to leave school and work for his father, Henry. They dismantled the bottling

machinery at Schweppes in London and reinstalled it in Colwall, Herefordshire. Schweppes' relocation to Colwall would be the start of Ron's association with the area and of his love for Herefordshire and Ledbury in particular.



Ron in the armed forces

Cruelly the war had taken Ron's brother Edward, his wife and unborn child during the Blitz. The loss of his brother deeply affected him, but Ron was soon called up for National Service to take his own part in the war. As a corporal in the 16th Parachute Regiment Ron spent a nervous summer in 1945 camped on a runway in India awaiting the orders to invade Japan. The losses would have been tremendous and the paratroopers knew it. But the orders never came; the A bombs were dropped and Japan surrendered. Ron remained in India after the war seeing action in the bloody turmoil that led up to the independence and partition of India in 1947.

Back in England and living in Colwall Green, Ron attended Gloucester Technical College where he obtained his City and Guilds in Electrical Engineering. He worked for the MEB in Ledbury installing the first electricity supplies to many of the country areas surrounding the town. This often consisted of little more than a few electric lights and a single electric socket. During this time Ron enjoyed motorcycling and took his Norton bike over to the continent to follow the Grand Prix motor racing in Europe.

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