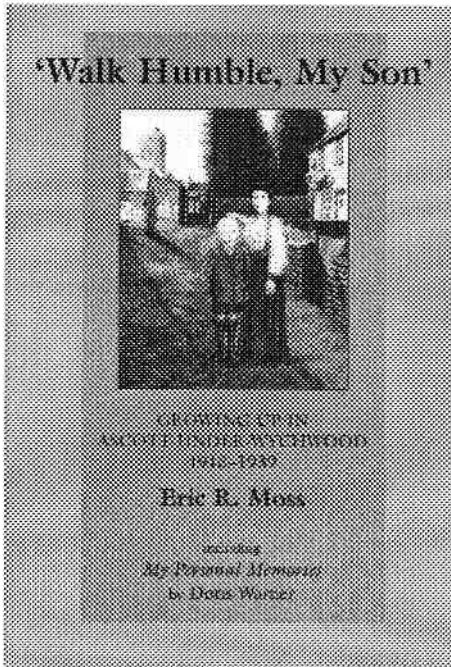


'Walk Humble, My Son'



If there were a village Booker Prize, local author Eric R. Moss would surely have won it this year. Volume 1 of Eric's autobiography, *'Walk Humble, My Son'* was published by Charlbury's Wychwood Press in September, and has already sold over 300 copies in the Wychwoods alone.

Mosses have lived in Ascott-under-Wychwood for at least 300 years, and Eric is now the oldest surviving local man in the village. *'Walk Humble, My Son'* recounts his childhood and youth, from birth in 1918 to the outbreak of war in 1939. It is full of fascinating detail of village life between the Wars – childhood games, ferreting, bird-trapping, raising (and slaughtering) the family pig, helping the village blacksmith, and working on the family allotment; Eric's father's job on the

railway, and the struggle of his children, and all the village children, against economic and social odds, which ends in the dashing of Eric's hopes of becoming a schoolteacher, when his family cannot afford the college fees.

Added to Eric's story are the memories of Doris Warner, grand-daughter of one of the Ascott Martyrs, and for many years Ascott postmistress. Together, these two honest and moving memoirs describe a hard but rewarding way of life which has all but disappeared in the great social changes since the Second World War. At the end of this Millennium there is no better way for everyone in the Wychwoods, local families and incomers alike, to look back on our history, and to ponder what we have gained, and lost.

With the help of a local history charity, it has been possible to reduce the price of *'Walk Humble, My Son'* from £8 to £5, for residents of the Wychwoods only. Get it for Christmas, and for long after, from

Milton Post Office and the Wychwood Library in Milton;

Shipton House Stores (Costcutter) in Shipton;

The Swan, Shipton Road;

Eric R. Moss, 5 Maple Way (Tel. 831878);

and Carole Angier, 13 High Street (Tel. 830414) in Ascott.