

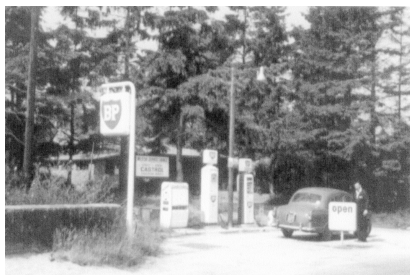
Milton Service Station - 40 Years On

Opportunity Knocks

In August 1965 I answered a knock at the door to Mr Ken Earley, local builder (father of Gordon). He knew that I worked at Morris Motors, Oxford as a mechanic and had called to tell me that Mr. Scott, the proprietor of Milton Service Station was about to retire. He asked if I would be interested in taking over the garage business. I paid Mr. and Mrs. Scott a visit and after a very short time we were shaking hands and having a toast – a deal had been done. My mind was made up – I would have a go!

The Original Garage

The old tin garage was very different to the working conditions I was used to; there was no running water or sewage disposal on site. I collected a bucket of water from the brook to detect punctures in car tyres. On occasions when nature



called I locked the garage door and chased off home! I started selling petrol from a very old pump, which sat between two trees. In a very short time I found that water was getting into the underground petrol storage tank. BP Petrol Co. agreed to supply a new storage tank, with a repayment of re-directed profit for five years. The next problem was installing it; Gordon Earley had just purchased a Massey digger and agreed to dig a large hole. After a lorry load of

ballast and twenty bags of cement; the tank, filled with water to stop it floating out of the ground, was lowered into the hole. I borrowed a mixer from my life-long friend Nick Reynolds and after nine hours of hard slog the job was done. The old tin workshop was falling down; no windows, no waterproofing, no heating and very poor lighting – a dreadful place to work in! We needed a new workshop! Once we got approval we worked on cars from 8am until 6pm and then from 6pm to 9pm we built the workshop.

Expanding Business



As business grew; my sons and now my grandson have joined me. Our staff of eight is of mixed ages, very experienced and with a lot to offer. Our premises are modern, clean and well equipped. My wife has had a lot to put up with over the years; she has been a star. We have been married for 52 years. I have had major heart surgery but my clock ticks like a new one. I have just reached 77 years old and still report for duty 7 days a week. My hobbies are metal work, which I find more pleasing than washing up and Hoovering! I also hope to finish writing my book; it certainly will be interesting! May God bless you all and keep the wheels turning.

Jack Prew