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# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

## LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



Twelve months ago during the pandemic we started our newsletter and had no idea how it would be received. We are pleased to announce that our first year has been a success with lots of positive feedback and an increase in circulation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the success with the articles they have provided. For any new readers we have regular features from Rosemary with 'Famous People of Oldham', Jean with her Recipes and you are always guaranteed a laugh with Sue's poems.

In our newsletter we particularly aim to help bring back memories for people living in the Oldham and surrounding districts whilst providing something for everyone to enjoy.

Anything you would like to share:

**Your working life:** Did you have an interesting job or travelled to interesting places, met anyone famous, any funny stories from your working life?

**Have you lived abroad:** Where you born abroad, did you emigrate and then return home, are you still living abroad? Did you live abroad because of your job?

**Pets you would like to share with us:** Send us a photo and tell us a bit about them. You can do it in your own words or as if your pet is telling the story.

**War time memories:** Any memories you have, were you in the forces, evacuated or after the war did you do National Service?

**Your Garden or Craft Projects:** Send us photos of your garden or anything you have made and tell us a bit about it.

We would welcome your stories and pictures. The only thing we must stress is that we don't publish anything that could be controversial, cause offence to others or of a political nature. We want to keep our newsletter interesting but also light hearted with short and varied articles.

If you are submitting something for a friend or relative please obtain their consent.

**CONTACT: 0161 633 0213.**

*Joan Holmes, Editor*

# Henry Taylor - Oldham's Olympic Swimmer

Henry Taylor was born on Maple Street in Hollinwood on 17th March 1885. His parents were James and Elizabeth Taylor who both died while he was young. He was then brought up by 3 older siblings, his brother Bill and 2 sisters.

Hollinwood Branch Canal

Henry learned to swim in the Hollinwood Canal and he practised wherever he could:- baths, canals, lakes, etc. including the Hollinwood Canal and Alexandra Park boating lake.



Aged 7 years he swam in his first race at Oldham Baths, where he beat boys 2 years older than himself. His brother Bill became his coach and Henry trained at Oldham Baths. From 1894 his training shifted to the newly opened Chadderton Baths, often on "dirty water days" because of cheaper admission. During this time he also continued to train in the canal, and when he got a job at a cotton mill he spent his lunch times swimming in the canal.

Alexandra Park Boating Lake and Boat House

At 5' 5" and weighing 10st 6lb he wore a hand-woven silk swimming costume weighing about an ounce.



He came to attention after success with Chadderton Swimming Club. He was selected for the 1906

Intercalated Games in Athens where he was

not expected to win any medals. However he won gold in the 1 mile freestyle, silver in the 400m freestyle and bronze in the 4x250m freestyle. Later that year he broke the world record for 880yds. He was an automatic selection for the 1908 Summer Olympics.



Henry Taylor

During the 1908 Summer Olympics in London, he won gold medals in the 3 events in which he took part, the 400m freestyle, the 1500m freestyle and the 4×200m freestyle. The British press hailed him as “Britain’s greatest amateur swimmer”. He was the first man to hold the world record for the 1500m freestyle in a time of 22.48.4 on 25th July 1908 in London.

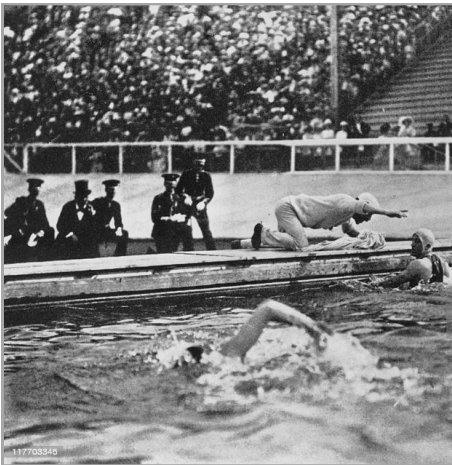


His haul of 3 gold medals was the most gold medals won by any Briton at the Olympics. This record was held for a century until it was equalled by Chris Hoy, who won 3 gold medals in cycling events at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

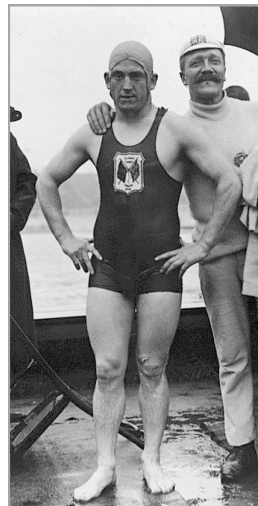
Henry’s Olympic gold medals of 1908 were of solid gold. After WW1 to the present day, Olympic gold medals, albeit larger, are made mainly of silver with a minimum of 6 grams of gold.



### The 1908 London Olympics



Winning his race



With his coach



With the rest of his relay team

Four years later Henry was selected for the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm. In the 4×200m freestyle relay he helped his team win bronze. In 1916 the Olympics were cancelled due to WW1. Henry joined the Royal Navy in 1914 and was present at the Battle of Jutland.

After the war he returned to swimming. He took part in the Morecambe Bay Race, winning 8 times over a period of 20 years and at one point held the record.

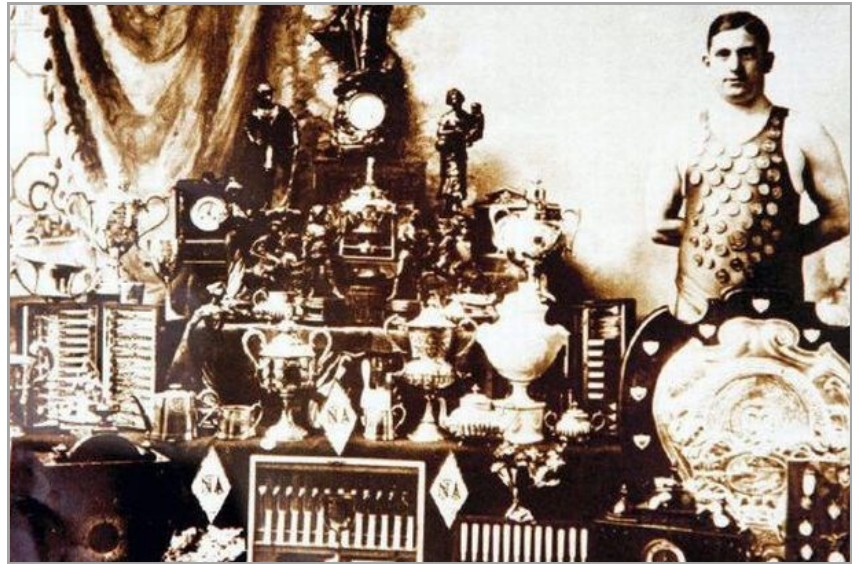
Each year he swam in the River Thames and the River Seine taking on the French champion and winning on every occasion.

His last appearance in the Olympic Games was in 1920 when he again helped the 4×200m freestyle relay team to win bronze.

He continued swimming competitively into his 40's, until he retired in 1926. He also played water polo for England. During his career he won over 35 trophies and 300 medals.

From his Olympic highs, Henry's life after his retirement took a sad turn. Never a business man, he found himself in financial

Henry with less than a third of his medals and trophies



Henry Taylor

difficulties when the pub he owned, The Nudger Inn, in Dobcross went bust. His lack of money forced him to sell the majority of his prizes.

In later life he was offered a job as Senior Attendant at Chadderton Baths.

He never married and died at his lodgings on Brierley Street, Chadderton in February 1951. He left only £259.



Chadderton Baths

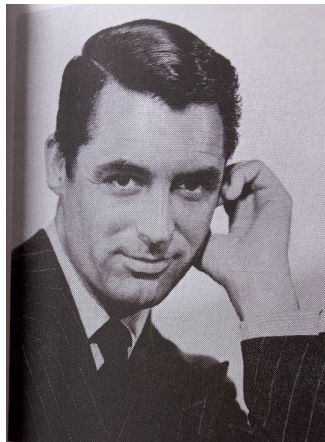
After his death some of his trophies were brought together and displayed in a glass cabinet at Chadderton Baths. I remember seeing them there as a child, along with a large framed photo of Henry, when I used to go with my school for swimming lessons.

In 1969 he was posthumously inducted into the International Hall of Fame, and in 2002 his achievements were commemorated with a blue plaque on the side of Chadderton Baths, a small acknowledgement for the man who, until recently, could claim the title of Britain's greatest Olympic swimmer. It was only this year that he was surpassed by Adam Peaty, who now has 3 gold medals and 2 silver, gained over 2 Olympics, Rio in 2016 and Tokyo this year., as opposed to Henry's 3 gold and 2 bronze.

*Article provided by Rosemary Bailey—Famous People of Oldham*

## FILMS STARS

Can you name the film stars from the old movies:



**TURN PAGE FOR ANSWERS:**

Row 1: Rita Hayworth, Cary Grant, Gracie Fields, Clark Gable.  
Row 2: Humphrey Bogart, Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Robert Mitchum.  
Row 3: Lee Marvin, Audrey Hepburn, Katharine Hepburn, Marlon Brando.

## GRANELLI'S ICE-CREAM

Do you remember being taken up town on a Saturday and being given pennies to buy an ice-cream on the market. You would go to the ice-cream van and stand in line, clutching the money in your hand, so you wouldn't drop it, eagerly awaiting it being your turn to ask for a small cornet and remembering you must say please and thank you.



This is the story of how the Granelli family arrived in Oldham. The article has been kindly provided by ***John Burlison (via Facebook):***

The Granelli family came to England from Genoa in Italy in the early 1880s. The family settled in Manchester but after a few years some of the family moved to Oldham where the ice-cream business of John Granelli and Sons was set up in West Street before moving to Manchester Street in the early 1900s. In January 1904 John Granelli's son David signed an oath of allegiance at a solicitor's office in Church Lane, Oldham and became a naturalised British citizen.

The Granellis took stalls at various local markets but they also used to tour the streets of Oldham with highly-decorative horse-drawn carts. To announce their arrival on a street they used to sound a loud horn, more distinctive than the jingly music modern ice-cream vans use. They used the horse-drawn vehicles for many years before reluctantly graduating to motor driven vehicles in the 1950s.

The Granellis also had their famous snack bar on the corner of Manchester Street and York Street which became a favourite place for Oldhamers to buy delicious Italian ice-cream.

An enterprising family who brought their ice-cream-making skills from the mountains of Italy to the smoky town of Oldham to the delight of the local population.

*See next page for photos...*

*Photos from previous page:*



My old man, Michael Smith  
Photo provided by Rick Smith



My Grandmother  
Photo provided by Rick Smith



The photograph shows Granelli's snack bar at 124 Manchester St. in May 1966.  
Photo provided by John Burlison

*Thanks to John & Rick for sharing this information with us.*



## **TECHNOLOGY AND ME** *(A true story)*

I'm not good with technology it really baffles me  
Kindles, lap tops, mobiles or a smart TV  
Last week my friend was 70 - a very special day  
I thought I'd send some flowers, a colourful bouquet  
I went online and chose some and they were just ideal  
They were very pretty and they really did appeal  
I tried to send the order but it seemed that it fell short  
Frustration overcame me, it took all day to sort  
I finally completed it, relieved it was the end  
Crossed my fingers hopefully and pressed the key to send  
But my friend did not receive the flowers, I couldn't make it out  
I'd definitely ordered them there wasn't any doubt  
On the day of my friend's birthday the postman rang my bell  
In his arms a great big box what it contained I couldn't tell  
The box was so attractive, all adorned in pink  
Curiously I opened it and my heart began to sink  
I don't know where it all went wrong, I'll put it down to stress  
When the flowers I'd ordered for my friend arrived at my address!  
I'm not good with technology it'll be the death of me  
But when it comes to technophobia I've got a First Class (hons) degree.



*By Sue Livesey*

## My 73rd Birthday Adventure.

My family are really good at choosing good birthday presents but as I've got older the last thing I want is more stuff, so the whole 'experience' gift has become the new thing.



This year my daughter booked the two of us on to a zip-lining day in Snowdonia, apparently it's the longest zip-line in Europe, who knew?

Years ago my son worked in summer camps in the US for a couple of years and ran the hi-wire course the second year he was there. He said I'd love it and showed me photos of happy campers riding down the wire on a sort of t-bar. "I can do this!" I thought. I should have done more research...

So on a beautiful July day Ellie and I drove down to the site of an old slate quarry near Bethesda for our adventure.

The operation was brilliantly run and it was great to be out and about after the whole covid isolation thing. It was only when we started reading all the safety instructions that reality hit me.

For zip-lining you wear a body suit with hooks at the back. These are then attached to the zip wire with you lying face down on a board, the board is then removed and you are launched off and out in to the wild blue yonder. It's nothing like the zip-wire my son had worked on.

The first go is only at 750 feet and there is a short zoom down in to the landing area. So far so fabulous.

For the second attempt we were driven up to the top of the quarry where we could see right across to the other side and down into the water a long, long way below. It was stunningly beautiful but very high!

As we got on to the waiting boards and hooked on to the zip wire I started practising the breathing I'd been taught in ante-natal classes 40 odd years earlier, I never thought I'd be doing those again!

Once the boards were removed there we were face down over a vast expanse of nothing, then whoosh! off we went. Once airborne all sense of danger left me and the sheer delight and beauty of my surroundings came to the fore, it was brilliant and the nearest thing to actually flying. Landing came all too quickly and if I could have done it all again I would.

My beloved husband Chris Ambrose died very suddenly seventeen days after he retired at 64 so we never got to do all the things we'd planned. Now if I get the opportunity to do something new, go on an adventure or just have fun I grab it with both hands. I think he would be proud of me. Feel the fear and do it anyway folks, life is short.

*Thank you to Dee Johnson, one of our Life Story volunteers, for sharing her adventure with us.*

## OUR HISTORY—THE MARKET & MARKET HALL

Oldham has had four markets over the years and the first was founded in 1788. In later years, open markets were held on land owned by Thomas Whittaker, near Albion Street. The land soon became known as Tommyfield. Oldham's first, purpose-built indoor market opened in 1856. New laws were introduced in 1865, allowing local councils to collect rent from traders and markets expanded and flourished. The council still collects rent from traders and maintains the hall.



Looking up Curzon Street across the top of the picture you can see the original Market Hall built in 1856 by a private company. The company showed no profit and sold it to the corporation in 1865 for £10,654.10s. It was closed in September 1904 to make way for a more solid building.



Again, looking up Curzon street across the top of the picture is the new market hall which was opened on 6 April 1906 by Councillor Henshaw, who unlocked the Henshaw doors with a golden key and declared it open.



Tommyfield Market 1900



One of the best Markets in the country.  
Tommyfield 1960's

Continued...

Continued...

It was a sad day for Oldham on the 5th October 1974 when the old Victorian Market Hall burned down. The blaze could be seen for miles around and damaged surrounding premises. The hall was replaced by a temporary market building, before construction work began on the new hall in the early 1990s.



The market hall today

## PEOPLE AT WORK

This month's article is taken from the Women at Work project carried out by Age UK Oldham and tells the working life of one of our former Life Story volunteer visitors.



# People at Work

Did anyone famous visit your place of work, did you play a part in the visit?

Did you go to any interesting places relating to your job?

Did you work at a famous place?

Do you remember any funny stories from your working life?

If you have a short story that you would like to share with us

**CONTACT: 0161 633 0213.**

## **Olwen Fish 1952 – 1992**

I left school when I was still 14 and started work on my 15th birthday. I worked at Supercraft Garments Ltd. I was a sewing machinist. We made men's overalls, industrial aprons and doctor's white coats. It was team work. I put the pockets on including a rule pocket using a twin needle machine. It was boring but we had fun.

I was very happy there. There were a lot of young people and I made many friends. My friends on the team were Marlene Morley, Rita Cunliffe, Joyce Fletcher, Betty Kennedy and Judith Hilditch. My best friend was Doreen Wild. The company looked after us well. We used to play table tennis during our lunch break. We also had parties at Christmas and a trip to the Empire theatre each year all paid for by the company.

After I left Supercraft Garments to have my first child I was glad that I had become a machinist as there was such a lot of work about. When Stephen was six months old I got a job sewing raincoats at Dannimac. I went on the Evening Shift and Laurence looked after Stephen. I worked 6pm until 10pm and I loved it and the pay was very good.

I left Dannimac when I was six months pregnant with Janet but went back again when she was four months old. I finally left to have Peter in 1964. I did not go back there again. Laurence was getting good money so I stayed at home for a while but I knew there was plenty of work if I needed it.

When Tracey was born in 1969 I knew I would not be having any more children so I decided that I wanted to do something useful and less boring when I finally went back to work. When Tracey was three years old in 1972, I 'phoned Social Services to see if they had any vacancies in Home Care and was invited for an interview. I was so glad I did as I loved the job. I went on a twelve month course to Moston College for one day a week for clients and staff.

There were lots of problems in the children's homes at that time so they asked me to help out and see if I enjoyed it. It was for a lot more money. It was a children's home on Oldham Edge.

I worked for about 12 months and the children were very nice, but they didn't get treated very well. The woman who ran it used to order the food and take a lot of the food home with her. I enjoyed working with the children but I couldn't stand by and watch what was going on. My kids were a similar age and I used to take in their cast-offs because she never bought them any clothes. I left and went back to work in Home Care.

*Continued...*

Continued...

I had to leave because of my health problems in 1992.

I am still in contact with my ex-work mates Doreen, Rita and Ann.

I met Doreen when I was 15. She had started work just before me – she worked in the cutting room. She was my Chief Bridesmaid. Rita and Ann were machinists. We speak on the phone every now and then and send Christmas cards.



Me and my workmates from Supercraft on a day out to Daisy Nook

*Written by Olwen Fish*

### **'SUPERCRAFT' AND WHAT THEY MADE**



In the 1950/60s a lot of girls on leaving school at 15 went to work at 'Supercraft'. It was based at the Alliance Mill, Willow Street, Oldham. When the photo on the left was taken on the white wall the name 'Supercraft' was still visible, faded but still readable.

A reminder to all the people who worked there so many years ago!

Supercraft (Garments) Ltd of Oldham has a number of garments in its range, among them the 100 per cent polypropylene coverall which resists most acids, alkalis and solvents, and is available in green or navy. The coverall has stud fastening.

The company's polyester cotton suit has two breast pockets with flaps, stud fastening and pleated back for easy movement. The modern-styled trousers have three pockets and belt loops.

Supercraft's executive warehouse coat is also made of polyester cotton and is fitted with contrast collar and cuffs for "staff grading". The coat has a concealed stud fastening. The company also provides its own embroidery service for customers who wish their garments to carry their own logo.

# OLDHAM & DISTRICTS - THROUGH THE YEARS

## THE GARDEN DISPLAYS

**North West in Bloom** is the voluntary regional organisation that administers the Britain in Bloom competition in the North West, as part of Britain in Bloom. In 2019 Oldham won it for the 10th year in a row. The gardeners that have made this possible have certainly done a fantastic job and put Oldham on the map for all the right reasons.



The Swan Inn, Delph



Districts of Oldham are now being transformed with beautiful wild flower meadows.

**When it comes to gardens**

**Oldham's got talent**

In 2014 Saddleworth villages helped Oldham to scoop gold and the title of Best City at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom competition.

The judges were wowed by their entry and awarded the borough the top prize at an awards ceremony held in Bristol that was attended by community gardening champions from across the country.

Oldham also received the RHS Britain in Bloom Horticulture Award for demonstrating the best horticultural practice throughout the entry.

This is the second time the borough has won Best City – in 2012 it triumphed at the first attempt.



ROYTON



GROTON



## MATCH THE DISPLAYS

Some of the wonderful award winning displays that have been in the town centre over the years. Each one with a different theme. The ten themes are:

**Oldham by the sea. Past, Present & Future. Diamond Jubilee. Jack and the Beanstalk. Golden Thread. Driving Change. Health and Wellbeing. Bug Hotel. Celebrating 200 years of Circus. Celebrating 50 years since the moon landing in 1969.**



**TURN PAGE FOR ANSWERS**

1. Past, Present & Future. 2. Golden Thread. 3. Diamond Jubilee. 4. Bug Hotel. 5. Celebrating 200 years of Circus. 6. Driving Change. 7. Health & Wellbeing. 8. Oldham by the Sea. 9. Celebrating 50 years since the moon landing. 10. Jack & the Beanstalk.

## MORE GREENERY IN THE PARKS



Alexandra Park



Coalshaw Green Park, Chadderton



Dunwood Park, Shaw



Chadderton Hall Park



High Crompton Park



Tandle Hill Country Park, Royton

*Jean's recipes from around the world*

*Starting with America and Austria*



**American Fish Chowder**

Serves 4

**Ingredients:**

2ozs fat, salt pork

1 medium onion

1 cup of water

2 cups chopped potato

1 lb cod or haddock

1 pint milk

Salt and Pepper

Pinch of paprika



**Method:**

Peel and chop onion and fry in pork fat until lightly browned.

Add water and potatoes and bring to boil for 5 mins.

Bone & flake the fish.

Add to potatoes etc.

Cover & simmer for 15 mins.

Bring milk to boil and stir into chowder.

Season to taste with salt, pepper and paprika.



*See Austrian recipe on next page...*

# AUSTRIAN APPLE STRUDEL

Serves 4.



## Ingredients:

### Pastry:

8ozs plain flour

Pinch of salt

2 ozs Marg

1 egg and water to mix

Melted margarine (extra)

### Filling:

1 lb thinly sliced apples

2 tbsps breadcrumbs fried till crisp

2ozs sultanas or raisins

3 ozs sugar

Mixed spice

## Method:

### Make pastry

Mix flour and salt together.

Rub in fat to bind to a firm dough with beaten egg and water.

Work till smooth & pliable.

### Leave for an hour.

Now place pastry on a floured cloth and stretch, pull and roll it till it is paper-thin and oblong in shape.

Brush with melted marg and spread with the filling.

Mix well together.

Form into a roll (like Swiss roll), then bend into a horseshoe shape.

Place on a greased baking sheet.

Bake in hot oven 450 F for 20mins then 20min at 350F.

Dredge with sugar before serving.



## REMEMBER WHEN



Rubbish was burnt on an open fire or went into a dust bin like the one shown. A communal bin for potato peelings and scrap food, known as the 'pig bin' was collected for animal food.



Recently we have all been receiving our covid injections but does anyone that grew up in the 1950's remember queuing for their polio jabs outside the old health offices near the old Town Hall? It was a white building in desperate need of a coat of paint.



If you were born during WWII do you remember your first banana?



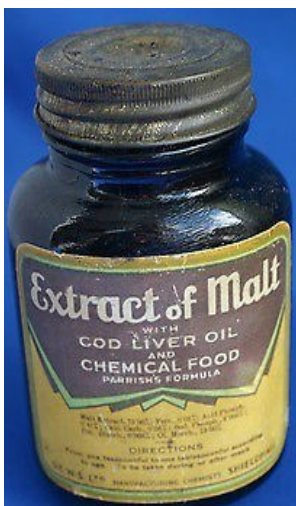
Do you remember wearing either a bonnet or a balaclava or knitting one for your family? The vintage knitting pattern above shows how they used be.



1940's curling pins



Cigarette Cards  
*It would never happen now!*



Remember being given a spoonful a day as a child?



Did you ever collect cards from boxes of tea and put them in an album?



Do you remember collecting toys out of cereal boxes?

# ANIMAL CORNER

## CHAMPION THE WONDER HORSE

There were three official Champions that appeared in Gene Autry films. The original Champion was a dark sorrel with a blaze face and white stockings on all his legs except the right front. The original Champion first appeared on screen with Autry in *Melody Trail* (1935) and went on to co-star in 51 additional Autry films.

Autry's second screen horse was Champion Jr., a lighter sorrel with four stockings and a narrow blaze ending in an arrow tip. This horse appeared in Autry's films from 1946 to 1950. For his Republic Pictures film appearances he was credited as the "Wonder Horse of the West"; for his Columbia Pictures film appearances he was credited as the "World's Wonder Horse". He appeared with Autry at Madison Square Garden in 1946. Champion Jr. was over 30 years old when he died in August 1977. In the late 1940s, a well-trained trick pony named Little Champ, with a blaze face and four stockings, joined Gene's stable and appeared in three Autry films and joined him in various personal appearances.

Autry's third screen horse was Television Champion, also a light sorrel with four white stockings, but with a wide blaze that covered his nose. Owned by Autry's wife Ina, he resembled Champion Jr., but had his mane and tail bleached. Television Champion appeared in Autry's later films from 1950 to 1953 and in all 91 television episodes of *The Gene Autry Show* and all 26 episodes of *The Adventures of Champion* during the 1950s.



The Adventures of Champion.  
Starring Rebel, Barry Curtis,  
Champion and Jim Bannon.



## SPORTING GREATS

### DIXIE DEAN



#### William Ralph "*Dixie*" Dean

English footballer (Centre Forward)

**Born:** 22 January 1907, Birkenhead, Liverpool.

**Died:** 1 March 1980, Goodison Park, Liverpool.

**Height:** 1.78 m. (approx. 5ft 10½ins).

**Spouse:** Ethel Fossard (m.1931-1974:

**Children:** William, Geoffrey, Ralph & Barbara.

**Clubs played for:** Tranmere Rovers, Everton, Notts County, Sligo Rovers, Hurst.

He is regarded as one of the greatest centre-forwards of all time and was inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame in 2002.

Across his career, Dean **scored 473 goals in 502 appearances for club and country**. He was twice leading scorer in the First Division, and on both occasions Everton were crowned champions (Dean stayed with the club when they were relegated in between these two victories in 1928 and 1932).

It was while at Goodison Park that Dean made his name in the game as one of the most prolific goal scorers that fans still talk about today. His exploits during the 1927/28 season, which saw him score a record 60 league goals, is one of the most incredible achievements for any striker. He has been described as 'about as classic an old fashioned centre forward as you could wish to see'. He enjoyed an exemplary disciplinary record throughout his career and was never booked even though he was often on the receiving end of some fearsome physical attention from opposition defenders.

Dean was the first Everton player to wear the iconic No.9 shirt and a statue to the great man was unveiled outside Goodison Park in 2001 to honour his achievements, but it wasn't just at club level that Dean excelled, he also scored 18 goals in 16 appearances for England to secure his place as one of the greatest strikers this country has ever produced.

William Dean was the ultimate goal scorer with machine-like consistency. In an era when football was a million miles from the game it is today he was still able to produce numbers that any modern day forward would be proud of, often in more trying and testing circumstances.

*Continued...*

## **DIXIE DEAN**

Dixie Dean was born at 313 Laird Street in Birkenhead, Cheshire, across the River Mersey from Liverpool. Dean's family on both sides hailed from Chester. He was the grandson of Ralph Brett, a train driver who drove the royal train during the reign of George V. Dean grew up as a supporter of Everton thanks to the efforts of his father, William Sr., who took him to a match during the 1914–1915 title-winning season.

Dean's childhood coincided with the First World War, and between the ages of 7 and 11 he delivered cow's milk to local families as part of the war effort, getting up at half past four in the mornings.

Dean attended Laird Street School, but felt he received no formal education. When he turned 11 he attended Albert (Memorial) Industrial School, a borstal school in Birkenhead, because of the football facilities on offer. The Dean family home had little room for him due to the family's size; Dean was happy with the arrangement, since he could play on the school's football team. Dean falsely told fellow pupils he had been caught stealing, since he wanted to be 'one of the boys'.

He left school at 14 and worked for Wirral Railway as an apprentice fitter; his father also worked there and had been working since he was 11 years old for Great Western Railway. The elder Dean later became a train driver before moving to Birkenhead to work for Wirral Railway, to be closer to his future wife (and William Jr.'s mother) Sarah. Dean's father would later retire with the company. Dean took a night job so that he could concentrate on his first love, football.

### **Dixie — nickname**

Some said that Dean and his family disliked his nickname, and preferred people to call him Bill or Billy. The popular theory regarding how Dean acquired his nickname is that he did so in his youth, perhaps due to his dark complexion and hair (which bore a resemblance to people from the Southern United States). In Dean's obituary in *The Times*, it suggested that the nickname was taken from a "Dixie" song that was popular during Dean's childhood; there was something of the Uncle Tom about his features.

Alternatively, Tranmere Rovers club historian Gilbert Upton uncovered evidence, verified by Dean's late Godmother, that the name "Dixie" was a corruption of his childhood nickname, Digsy (acquired from his approach to the children's game of tag, where Dean would dig his fist into a girl's back— hence 'Digsy'.

Dixie died at Goodison Park, watching his beloved Everton Football Club play their fiercest rivals, having earlier in the day had a stirring eulogy delivered by Liverpool's greatest ever manager, Bill Shankly - a tribute which ultimately became his obituary. Everton were playing Liverpool in the 136th Merseyside derby and while Dixie had played in 17 of these tribal conflicts he had never visited one as a spectator, until that fateful Saturday afternoon.



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LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS  
EDITOR  
JOAN HOLMES**



# Life Story

Every life has a story...

