

Golden Wedding 1936

DOUBLE GOLDEN WEDDING

Honeymoon Trip Repeated by Coleford Couple

Fifty years ago the Rev. J. W. Thomas, then curate of Coleford, officiated at a double wedding at St. John's Church, Coleford, after which the two young couples celebrated the occasion by taking the train for Monmouth to attend the "mop" fair.

There in the crowd the brides soon lost their husbands, who were eventually discovered enjoying a game of skittles.

On Monday both couples celebrated their golden weddings. Mr. Harry Baldwin and his wife (nee' Annie James) were not able to repeat their honeymoon trip as they now reside at Llanharan, South Wales, but Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, of Lord's Hill Coleford, revisited Monmouth "mop"—although not by train as the service was discontinued during the war.



Mr. and Mrs. John Brown

Mrs. Brown, who is the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. Ireland, formerly of Clearwell and Coleford, was one of 14 children, her husband being a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. Brown, of Bream. He was one of six children, of whom three sisters are still living. Of her family Mrs. Brown has three sisters and two brothers surviving. The three sisters - Mrs. Florence Howells, Mrs. Gertrude Jones and Mrs. Chris Halford - are in Australia, and her two brothers, Fred and Frank Ireland, live at Llanharan.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have brought up a large family themselves - five sons and five daughters. Two of the sons are dead, and of the other three sons two are in New Zealand. William lives at Wellington, while Sidney, a policeman is stationed at Auckland. The latter often acted as guard to Lord Bledisloe when he was Governor-General of New Zealand. The other children are Mr. Alfred Brown, Staunton Road, Coleford; Mrs. Kate Hewlett, London; Mrs. Jack Roberts, Gloucester Road, Coleford; Mrs. J. Shaw, Huntly, New Zealand; Mrs. Della Williams, Gorseinon, South Wales; and Mrs. D. Adams, Lord's Hill, Coleford. There are 35 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"It has been no easy matter to bring up 10 children" remarked Mrs. Brown, "and when I look back I often wonder we are alive to-day. We have had our struggles, like most people, but we never missed a Sunday sending our children to school and we managed somehow to always send them nice and clean. It meant going out to work myself at times, but with all the struggles I would not be without one of them".

The whole of their married life has been spent in the Coleford district. Mr. Brown began work when a lad of 11 at Lydney Mine Park. Since then he has worked continuously underground. Although in his 73rd. year, he still carries on at Cannop Colliery where he has been employed for the past 20 years.

Sixty-three years underground with a break is an amazing record. Fortunately he has escaped any serious accident and only once has ill-health prevented him from following his usual employment and then only for a week. It was then that he had the only bottle of medicine a doctor has ever had to prescribe for him and only part of that he consumed.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown received many congratulatory messages from their relatives and friends and their only regret was that it was not possible to have all their children with them to join in the golden wedding celebrations.

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