

Jonah Deakin Jr. 1906 - 1980

Grocer/Real Estate Agent/Politician

Jonah will best be remembered by all who knew him well for the three things he enjoyed most in life - a good chat, a spicy joke and a hearty sing. March 29th 1906¹ was the date on which Jonah was born at the Norris Buildings on Watling Street, Brownhills the second and youngest son of dedicated Methodist parents, Jonah and Jane Deakin. Story has it that he was to have been baptised John [probably after his grandfather, John Henry Deakin, or his great grandfather, John Shingler] but at the font his father made a hasty change, much to his mother's surprise, and Jonah was named after his father.²

Jonah did not come quietly into the world and we have to wonder whether the series of natural disasters* that devastated the world³ within six months of his birth was any indication of the effect he was later to have on his world! He was born in the early, exciting days of modern aviation. Less than six months before his birth, after modifications made by Orville and Wilbur Wright to improve the stability and control of their Wright Flyer, Wilbur piloted the Wright Flyer III in a flight of 24 miles in 39 minutes, a world record that stood until 1908. And only 11 days before his birth a Romanian flew the first European self-propelled "heavier than air" aircraft for twelve metres one metre above the ground near Paris, France. King "Bertie", the popular "playboy king" often called the Peacemaker, was halfway through his reign and England ruled one fifth of the world.⁴

Jonah began his education at Watling Street Board School in 1911 under the watchful eye of Miss Taylor the Infant's School mistress. He passed his standards without too much effort eventually moving up to the Junior School headed by Charles Atkins and his wife Emily⁵ on April 1st 1913.⁶ This was the same school that his father and mother and many other family members had attended.

The Coronation of King George V took place on June 22nd 1911 with a committee being formed in Brownhills to coordinate the celebrations. While in London the temperature soared to an unprecedented 100° Fahrenheit in August in Brownhills the Coronation Committee was reporting that they had a surplus of nineteen pounds five shillings and five pence following the celebrations. A proposal was put forward that a Public Clock should be purchased and everyone helped out with the fund raising events including schoolchildren like Jonah. Eventually enough money was raised and the clock - a beautiful thing made of copper and porcelain with gold trim - was purchased for ninety-five pounds.⁷

Growing up at Central Stores, the family's grocery store situated in the Norris Buildings, was a lot of fun for a small boy looking for excitement. There were many outhouses behind the store just ideal for playing "hide and go seek". There were pigs in the pigsty, a pony in the stable and a slaughterhouse where all the butchering was done each Monday. Mr. Robinson ran the butchers shop and a lucky child might even get the pig's bladder from him to use as a balloon after he had finished his butchering. Jonah was usually on the front line for this hand-out!

* An eruption of Mt. Vesuvius April 7th; an earthquake in San Francisco April 18th and a typhoon and tsunami in Hong Kong September 18th that killed 10,000 people

"Sticker" Russell often used to help with the butchering and he also went round to people's houses to kill their pigs when needed.

The pigs at the Stores fed on grain from the Lichfield Brewery along with "swill" made from boiled potatoes. On Mondays, the boiler went on two hours before the butchering started and the boiling water was used to wash down the special bench on which the pig's throat was cut after the pig had been "stuck" by the person doing that job. The pig's blood was collected in a pan and more boiling water was constantly poured over the pig while it was being scraped. The back of the scraper had a hook on it that was used to pull the nails off the pig after the feet had been put in a bucket of boiling water.

With his Uncle Bill only four years older than he and his brother Charles six years older there was always someone to get into mischief with and Jonah knew how to do that without any difficulty. Additionally, his mother's widowed sister, Esther, with her two daughters, Ethel and Jennie lived in premises at the back of the store so there were always playmates around.⁸

There was much excitement among the children of the area in July of 1913 when the Railway Company purchased three plum and cream coloured buses and began a bus service in Brownhills connecting it with Hednesford, Chasetown and Chaseterrace. Unfortunately the service did not last long as it was discontinued when the war broke out in 1914.⁹ Jonah was 8 years old when the "War to end all Wars" began but being a child he was shielded from most of the horrific details by his parents. As he had no near relatives involved in fighting in the war and limited media coverage this was not such a difficult thing to do.

When Jonah was about eleven, he was sent to stay on a farm in the Rugeley area, much to his delight. It was his first holiday and with it came his first introduction to matters concerned with "the birds and the bees". He was able to watch the breech birth of a calf and was fascinated. His delight in the holiday was short lived however, when he returned home and found out that his sojourn on the farm was so that his parents could go on holiday to Blackpool without him!

Attendance at Park View Chapel and Sunday school every week was expected and Jonah learned early to love a good hearty hymn sing - the hallmark of a true Methodist! A service wasn't ranked as good if the preacher hadn't chosen some well-loved hymns that Jonah could put his whole being into. He learned to play the piano and later the organ and in his younger years he even pumped the bellows for the chapel organ. His delight in practical jokes surfaced many times during those years.

Jonah did well in Junior School and on October 28th 1918 he transferred out of Watling Street Junior School¹⁰ after having won a scholarship or free place to Lichfield Grammar School also known as King Edward VII School. The school's name comes from the Tudor boy king who reigned between 1547 and 1553 and the school crest incorporates features of the royal Tudor coat of arms. The Latin inscription beneath, "Deo, Patriae, Scholae", is broadly translated as "for God, Country and School".

A number of eminent people were educated at the school in the 18th century. These included the great scholar and compiler of the first English dictionary, Dr. Samuel Johnson, David Garrick, the actor, and Joseph

Addison, the essayist. Two of the school's four "houses" were named after Addison and Garrick while the other two were named after Bishop Clinton who founded a priory in Lichfield in the 12th century and Erasmus Darwin, who lived in the City for a number of years. The building, which was then the Grammar School, opened in 1903 and was the fourth such building. It was built a quarter mile further south on St. John's Street than the third school. The new site was much larger with plenty of room for expansion [the first set of extensions added in the 1920's to what has become known as Johnson Hall] and it boasted extensive playing fields. It was undoubtedly here that Jonah's love of soccer and cricket first began to surface.

The third Grammar School, built in 1845 in Tudor style with a fine beam roof, later became the Rural District Council House where Jonah and his father spent many hours in debate after their election to the Council years later. Photographs of both of them are still hanging there. During his years at Lichfield Grammar School Jonah was a member of the Officers in Training [later the CCF] which had been founded in 1909 but he progressed no further in the Military hierarchy.¹¹

The South Staffs Railway Company had opened their line through Brownhills in 1849 and travelling by train was still the only way to get to school during the years Jonah attended Lichfield Grammar School. His practical joking had free reign on the train with the encouragement of his friends and away from his mother's watchful eye. One day he and his friends stripped one hapless youth of his trousers, lifted him onto the luggage rack in the compartment, tied him up there and then left him to travel all the way to the end of the line in Walsall after they had disembarked in Brownhills.

Jonah never lost that sense of humour and he always loved a good joke - particularly one with a bit of spice. If he found something amusing, he would soon have everyone laughing with him - his laugh was unmistakable and very infectious. There was always a little bit of the actor in Jonah and at any given time he might burst forth into a rendition of Rudyard Kipling's famous poem "If" and give it every bit of feeling that he possessed. Perhaps he missed his calling and should have gone into the Ministry, too! He was a great tease and not even his grandfather Shingler was spared - and he was noted as being a very sombre person.¹²

In 1916, David Lloyd George became Prime Minister of the newly elected Coalition government. In 1908, as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Liberal Government under Herbert Asquith, he had brought in "The People's Budget". His name is also associated with reforms that benefited many - reforms such as the Old Age Pensions Act [1908] and the National Health Insurance Act [1911], which did a lot to aid the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Lloyd George appointed Herbert Fisher, an MP for Sheffield, as President of the Board of Education and, as part of the reconstruction legislation promised by Lloyd George during the war, Fisher fashioned a new Education Act.

Fisher's Education Act, passed in 1918 at the end of the war, made secondary education compulsory up to age 14 and gave responsibility for secondary education schools to the state as well as including the provision of additional services such as medical inspection, nursery schools and centres for pupils with special needs, etc. After the formation of an Anti-Waste League Lloyd George appointed Sir Eric Geddes as head of a

committee in August 1921 to find where economies could be found in various government departments for 1922-23. The Fisher Act suffered badly from these cuts [known as "The Geddes Axe"] and after 1922 only one in eight of those who attended elementary schools ever reached a grammar school.¹³ Jonah was luckily one of the fortunate ones and those four years allowed him to remain at the Grammar School until he left to begin training as an electrician at Chasetown Colliery Workshops. He remained there only one year before beginning an apprenticeship at Wiggins Grocers in Lichfield where he worked his way up from the bottom and then eventually began working for his Dad. He stepped into the breach left by his brother Charles who surprised the family in 1926 by deciding to go into the Methodist Ministry instead of the family business.

The grocery business was very different in those days with all the items for sale being behind the counter. During his apprenticeship, he learned to reel off a long list of assorted grocery items for the benefit of customers coming in to buy their supplies or for those stay at home housewives he visited in order to take their order for later delivery. His list would jog their memory in the event that they might have forgotten something. Jonah learned his list so well that he could still recite it in his retirement years. Much of the stuff came into the shop in bulk - tea in chests, sugar and dried fruit in sacks, biscuits in tins and everything had to be weighed and packed in special bags. Most grocery shops of any standing at that time had their own blend of tea and specially printed bags. Central Stores was no exception and the tea was said to be a special blend for the Brownhills water. The cheese and butter came in large rounds and was stored in the cellar - often for months - until tasted and declared ready for sale.

As a young man, he showed a great deal of promise as a soccer player and at one point considered turning professional. His team, the Watling Street Wesleyan Football Club, were district soccer champions many times over and we have many medals won by Jonah over the years. Soccer was the working man's sport and as more people began to enjoy a Saturday half-holiday, it became even more popular. Many church and chapel groups, pubs, institutes and industrial concerns formed teams and clubs.

Local pillars of the community were happy to help these young men fill their spare time with a recreation that was healthy, harmless and satisfying and Jonah's Dad filled this role on Watling Street. He sponsored the Wesleyan Football Club and provided the field for them to play on as well as change rooms and refreshments after each game. Albert Poxon, who played on the same team as Jonah recalls that the team was affectionately known as "Jonah's team" because Jonah Jr. captained them and that they used to have some great times together. Soccer became a national sport and the only other sport that mattered as much was cricket, which Jonah also became involved with during the summer months when there was no soccer.

The 1920's were years of many contrasts. Britain was trying to pull out from the European scene following the war in order to cope with her own position in the world, especially concerning the Empire. British exports, especially textiles and coal, went into a rapid decline and so, for many people the years were filled with depression and unemployment with the worst troubles being in the coal and textile industries. Being right in the middle of the South Staffs coalfield Brownhills suffered along with everyone else

and when the *General Strike* began on May 4th 1926 it affected everyone in the community to some extent. Soup kitchens were a common sight with Jonah's Aunt Zillah [Priscilla Deakin] running one in front of the Zion Chapel. The *General Council* of the T.U.C. agreed to end the strike on May 12th but the miners stayed out for over six months feeling that their leaders had betrayed them. In the end, poverty and hunger forced them back to work. The aftermath of the strike was awful, ending as it did in total defeat, further reductions in wages and huge unemployment because of the loss of foreign markets.

For many others technological advances following the war improved the standard of living and Jonah's family were amongst them. Being comfortably off they were able to enjoy such luxuries as a "wireless". These were being manufactured at the world's first "wireless" factory in Writtle near Chelmsford only about 125 miles from the Deakin home and where the world's first regular wireless broadcasts for entertainment had begun in 1922 from the Marconi Research Centre, after the formation of the BBC* under the sponsorship of the Post Office.

The country seemed to be entering a new era with the influence of America being widely felt. Men's clothing was becoming more informal with wide bottomed Oxford "bag's"[†] and lighter coloured clothes in vogue. Not to be outdone following their post-war emancipation, women were emulating the men and sporting short, boyish haircuts - the "Eton bob" - and boyish outfits with short skirts and small hats.

The first decade of the century saw the beginning of the mass production of the automobile and Jonah's family was lucky enough to be able to purchase a car and to afford the luxury of the occasional trip to the seaside. Jonah learned to drive his Dad's car and to play tennis, which was a very popular sport with the young people at that time. This combination led to his meeting with Doris in 1931. He had driven to the tennis courts on Lichfield Road and was playing on one of the courts when Doris and her Aunt Kitty [Catherine Tongue who was three years her senior] arrived on motorbikes with two boys from Hammerwich to play on the other court. Suddenly the fire bell on the side of the Council House went off and with no more ado Jonah grabbed Doris and took her off to see the fire! He pursued her relentlessly after this even to the point of promising to buy her a baby grand piano shortly after they started courting and presuming that that was all he needed to persuade Doris to marry him. He did follow through on his word buying the piano, as promised, in October 1933 from W.H. Priestley, Musical Instrument Dealers, Colmore Row, Birmingham for £42.[‡]

By this time, of course, Jonah was twenty-five years old and anxious to marry and settle down. Doris was only nineteen and not nearly so anxious! Social change was in the air with jazz becoming popular and the tango, slow waltz and foxtrot all the rage - and Doris loved to dance! In addition, Stage productions were becoming very popular - especially Noel Coward's comedies - and the growth in the number of cinemas and films was huge. Most films made in Hollywood featured stars like Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford and Rudolph Valentino and so Britain brought in an Act to make sure that a certain percentage of films

*British Broadcasting Company

†Grey flannel trousers

‡ Equivalent to £2352.90 [\$5720.85] in 2002

shown there were produced there. By 1929, talking films had arrived from Hollywood and Jonah and Doris had become regulars at the local cinema. Jonah was a most persistent suitor and nothing Doris could do discouraged him. Even after the Tongue family moved to Handsworth and Jonah had to have Doris home by her curfew of 10 p.m. and then walk the twelve or so miles home alone after missing the last bus, he continued to be enthusiastic. His persistence paid off and on December 28th 1933¹⁴ Jonah and Doris were married in Perry Barr Wesleyan Church. Fred Towe was Jonah's best man and Kitty Tongue and Maggie Espley were Doris's bridesmaids. Doris's sister, Brenda Tongue, was the trainbearer. A reception in the Wesleyan Schoolroom followed the ceremony.

On their return from their honeymoon in Bournemouth, the newlyweds moved into Central Stores, given to them by Jonah's parents as a wedding gift. Jonah Senior and his wife, Jane, moved into their newly built home, The Hollies, across the Watling Street from Central Stores. During the years after his marriage and before the outbreak of the Second World War Jonah became active with the Loyal Order of the Moose* joining the Walsall Lodge number 114. Around the same time, he also joined the Walsall and District Grocers Association and became President of this Association in 1948. He was also following in his father's footsteps and beginning to show a keen interest in politics.

Doris made it clear to Jonah that she was not ready to start a family immediately after they were married. Consequently, after five years of marriage, when the first of two

important family events occurring in Jonah's life in 1939 happened on January 16th Jonah was ecstatic. The great occasion for him was the birth of his first child, a daughter, Gillian. What a proud father he was and how he enjoyed showing her off to all and sundry as he took her out for walks in her dark green, low slung Windridge "perambulator"[†] whenever he had the opportunity. During the first eight months of Gill's life reports were coming out in the newspapers and on the radio about Hitler flexing his war muscles in Europe. Despite this, the family risked a holiday in June in Rhyl, North Wales. Finally, on September 3rd, after Nazi Germany had invaded Poland the second important event of the year for Jonah took place when Britain and France declared war on Germany. Being unable to fight in the war for medical reasons Jonah volunteered as a special constable and at the end of the war he received a medal for faithful service in this Constabulary.

The first impact of war that affected Jonah and his family was a series of rules and regulations. Everyone received a gas mask and an identity card [OTKO 40:1/2/3/4 were our family numbers] and a blackout was imposed on all lights after dark. Initially there was a ban on car headlights but later, due to the dramatic increase in the number of road accidents, masks were allowed. Petrol was rationed right from the start of the war and by 1942 none was available at all for pleasure motoring.

A system of food rationing began in January of 1940 to guard against shortages and as a means of distributing supplies more efficiently. Amongst Jonah's customers rationing was one of the biggest sources of

*a fraternal organisation with members throughout the U.S., Canada and Great Britain who pledge their loyalty to the aid of children and their fellow man and woman

[†] Bought at a cost of £15 in 1939 = £693 [\$1,684] in 2008 - a small fortune!

complaint about wartime restrictions but, as a grocer, he found the Government's scheme not too difficult to implement for distributing food equally and fairly. Everyone received ration books, which guaranteed food and other necessities on surrender of the appropriate coupon. I have read that some grocers at this time were responsible for what was called "the dump" - a hidden store of basic food which would have fed the locals in case of an invasion - but whether Jonah was involved in anything like this I do not know. Food remained available, prices were controlled and many foods remained unrationed. The system unfortunately ended up lasting long after the war as the government struggled to repay its debts. Initially rationing began with meat [including bacon], sugar, tea and butter and by 1941 a points system had come into effect. Under this system the customer could choose which of the various commodities e.g. canned meat, breakfast cereal, jam, biscuits etc. he would buy with his weekly issue of "points" coupons. "Personal points" for sweets and chocolates followed in 1942.

The events that gave Jonah and his family [and most other Britons] their most persistent and tough taste of war were the air raids on the larger cities, which began in November of 1940. Coventry and Birmingham were two of the prime targets of the Blitz and the Germans used Norton Pool [later renamed Chasewater] as a "signpost" to these two cities. Air raids were commonplace and at the first sound of a siren, everyone headed for the air raid shelters. At Central Stores the shelter was set up in the cellar and eventually single and double beds were set up there for the duration of the war amongst the rolls of butter and cheese that were stored there. At air raid time the cellar became a second home to Jonah and his immediate family along with his parents, his aunt Esther and her daughters and families and oftentimes Doris's parents

[who had by this time moved out of Birmingham because of all the bombing there]. Air raids certainly united people.

In 1938, when war with Germany was imminent, the British government brought in the Emergency Powers or Defence Act and set up defence procedures to protect the civilian population against air attacks. Many civilians joined the A. R. P. [Air Raid Protection service] becoming wardens, firemen, or ambulance drivers, or special constables as Jonah did. As a Special Constable, he had the power to deal with such things as blackout violations, gas, incendiaries, unexploded bombs, crashed aircraft, national registration, loose barrage balloons, enemy aliens and drunken servicemen. What began as a voluntary service ended up becoming compulsory and its members not being allowed to resign. The Blitz petered out in the summer of 1941 but small scale "tip and run" or nuisance raids continued until 1944 when much more serious air raids began again.

War brought many restrictions and greater strictness that directly affected Jonah and his young family, which had grown on April 13th 1942 to include a second daughter, Jennifer. There could be no holidays at the seaside because the beaches were mined and cordoned off. There was no Sunday afternoon pleasure drives because petrol was rationed and almost no sporting events took place. Books were printed on poor paper with close type, newspapers were thinner, and houses became shabbier as paint became scarcer.

The Board of Trade devised a Utility Scheme in 1941 in which clothing, furniture etc. was made to a tolerable standard to be sold at controlled prices. Utility beds and bedding purchased by Jonah and Doris during the war are still going strong seventy years

later, and are of better quality than some items and materials purchased much more recently. Everyday life for Jonah and his family during the war involved many irksome hardships - things like queues, overcrowding, shabbiness of clothing and housing, shortages and even air raids. The BBC was one of the things that helped to bring some light relief to those difficult War years. One terrific program which Jonah and the family liked to settle down to listen to every Sunday afternoon was the comedy show, ITMA [It's That Man Again] starring Tommy Handley. It was one of the most popular wartime shows and was a show that helped unite the ordinary people more than would have seemed possible.

The war with Germany eventually ended on V.E. [Victory over Europe] Day - May 8th 1945 - and celebrations in the form of street parties took place across the country. In London, over a million people celebrated in a carnival atmosphere and though Watling Street, Brownhills could not quite compete as far as numbers went, what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm and Jonah and his family entered fully into the celebration "V for Victory" teas.

Gill had gone off to school in 1943 and so Jennifer was left to her own devices until it was time for her to follow suit on September 12th 1946.¹⁵ She remembers her Uncle Harold dressed in his army uniform coming home around that time, picking her up, and swirling her around. She was very cute and a real chatterbox and could always tell a good story for a laugh but as far as her schoolwork went she was unfortunately not an eager scholar. Jennifer did however, have a very sweet tooth and her favourite place to go to get candy was her Grandma Deakin's house [The Hollies]. She regularly rushed there after school attired in her usual long legged, navy britches under her dress and with a desperate desire to visit the

toilet. She could be seen hopping from one foot to the other on the step while ringing the doorbell and anxiously waiting for the door to open. Jennifer also loved fish and chips and was a regular customer at the Fish and Chip shop run out of the front room of Mrs. Austin's home across the street from The Hollies in the row of houses between The Stores and Doody's Pub. Both of us were fascinated by the big machine Mrs. Austin used to "chip" the potatoes and loved to watch her in action.

Never averse to making a bit of money she was always thrilled if her Dad asked her to polish his shoes because he would give her sixpence for it and tell her what a good job she had done. She could also earn sixpence by walking down The Avenue [later renamed Deakin's Avenue] to Central Stores to pick up her Grandma Tongue's grocery order. Jennifer loved fresh bread and if that were part of the order there would be little left of the crust by the time it arrived at its destination. Both of us loved Grandma Tongue's scones and the aroma of her baking was an irresistible draw for all her grandchildren.

Jennifer did not pass the 11 plus - the test to determine whether a person is suited to a grammar school education - so on July 24 1953 she transferred to Ogley Hay Senior Girls School. Although she was only there for one term, she quickly became the class clown. She excelled in theatre and remembered putting on a "one man" show at one point. It was a mime and though she has no memory of what she did, she vividly remembers the audience laughing like crazy! Jonah and Doris wanted their daughter to go to a more prestigious school and so they quickly enrolled her in Hydesville Towers Private School in Walsall. There she soon made many friends [many of whom had rich parents] and thoroughly enjoyed her years at the school.

The pupils were required to wear a very unattractive brown uniform including a brown bowler hat that students frequently used as a Frisbee causing much hilarity on the bus to and from school.

Jennifer was able to enjoy lots of socialising outside school hours and spent a lot of time during her final year at Hydesville at the Clover Coffee Bar where she and her friends all used to meet after school with the boys from the Grammar school. Saturday night's she and her girlfriends went to the weekly dance at the Walsall Town Hall where they would stand around waiting to be asked to dance by some handsome grammar school boy. Dirndl skirts with lots of material and big, bouncy, net underskirts were "in" as were "winkle picker" shoes. These were shoes with pointed toes and metal tipped stiletto heels up to 5 inches in height. Jenny always tried to make herself look taller [and older!] by wearing higher heels than all her friends because she was so small. Wearing her hair in the popular beehive hairstyle also made her look taller than she was. Despite being ten and a half pounds at birth, as a child she was quite small and she remembers that her mother used to make special sandwiches with some protein based "goo" on them that was supposed to make her grow!

She loved clothes and dressing up and as she got older, she was never shy about borrowing clothes from either her mother or me. Nothing was sacred! Often she would go out through the front door with one outfit on [her own] and then sneak back into the house through the back door. She would then creep upstairs and take whatever she fancied from Mum's or my room and then sneak back out through the back door. The worst thing was that she did not take care of the items that she borrowed. Unfortunately, she loved to poke about in my drawers and cupboards, much

to my chagrin - I was a very private and neat person and her ways drove me to distraction at times. Even locks on the furniture couldn't seem to keep Jennifer out!

She loved going to Jumble [Garage type] sales at the chapel and would often buy back stuff that Mum had sent there for the sale if it was something she did not want to part with. Being more than three years older than she was, we didn't really have much in common - that is until we started horseback riding. Now that I look back on those days it occurs to me that we were really quite spoiled! When Jennifer hit her teen years, she was like many girls her age and was desperate to have a horse. We went for lessons initially to a stable at Churchbridge and then, much to our surprise and joy, we were each given our own pony for Christmas in 1954. I was not so desperate for a horse but my parents thought that what one of us had the other had to have too and so two ponies appeared in the field at the bottom of the garden.

Once Jennifer had finished at Hydesville she went on to Secretarial College near Walsall and spent the next three years studying shorthand, typing, economics, law etc. finishing with a diploma enabling her to obtain a job as an executive secretary. After leaving school her social life became even more active and she never learned how to be home in time for her curfew. Once she began borrowing her mother's car, it became even worse! At 19 she became volunteer secretary to the Walsall French Club - a position that she held for three years and the first of many volunteer jobs that she has taken on over the years - already she was following in her father's footsteps! The group had a reciprocal arrangement with Mulhouse, France and organised student exchanges. A French student, Marie, stayed at our home and Jennifer in turn visited her family.

Meantime I had moved away from home to Bournemouth in 1960, the year Jennifer began keeping her page a day diary - a habit she continues to this day. After completing her Secretarial Course, she soon obtained a position as secretary to a Mr. De'ath, the Sales Department Manager at C. M. Churchhouse & Co., an electrical fitting company in Brownhills. Jennifer thoroughly enjoyed her position there as she had a wonderful boss. However, after two years she was getting tired of Brownhills and felt the need to move on although she did not quite know where she wanted to move. I had immigrated to Canada in November of 1962 and letters from me foolishly telling her how wonderful Canada was encouraged her to think of emigrating also. Her mind made up she set sail from Liverpool on July 5th, 1963.

Jennifer was very touched when, as they parted, Jonah handed her a poem that he had written dated June 29th, 1963.

OUR SAD MOMENT

*As the big boat sails on Tuesday noon,
The parting for us is far too soon,
But forgetting our pain as we see you go
We know on Gill's face there'll be a wonderful
glow
When the train arrives in ten days time
A marvellous re-union in that wonderful clime:*

*We shall miss you both many hours of the day
And in our hearts hope you will never forget
The truths, the principles and the way
To fuller lives, with the desire to beget
Many friends, on the shores of that wonderful
land
Where, in the future, maybe, we'll walk hand in
hand.*

*We have reared you both, to this moment of
time,*

*And hope that you two in that beautiful clime
Will always remember old "J" and "D"
And never forget that only the sea
Divides two little girls from old Mum and Pop
So plenty of news, dears, let's have the lot!*

After landing in Vancouver Jennifer moved into the apartment with me to take the place of another flat mate [also Jennifer] who had returned to England to get married. Three days after her arrival my roommate, Madeleine, and I put on a party to welcome her to Canada [we were always looking for any excuse for a party!] and there Jennifer met her future husband, Nello Busdon. Nello had immigrated to Toronto, Canada from Trieste, Italy in 1960 along with 149 other young men and with only \$5 in his pocket. Against difficult odds he had made good and was doing well in the hairdressing business. In September 1965, two years after they met, Jennifer - now called Jenny - and Nello returned to England to marry in Brownhills Parish Church on September 11th. Ian and I went over also, as I was to be Matron of Honour and Ian Best Man. Before returning to Canada Jenny and Nello visited Nello's family in Italy on their honeymoon.

Five months later Nello bought his own beauty salon "Galano's" on Robson Street in Vancouver and Jenny gave up her job as a legal secretary, took a three-month course in manicure and facial, and joined Nello in the shop as a Cosmetician. They became avid skiers spending every spare minute skiing at Whistler Mountain. In spring of 1967 they bought $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of land at Alta Lake in Whistler and built an A-Frame on it - no water or indoor plumbing. In 1968 they made the decision to move permanently to Whistler and within two weeks had sold the salon and moved into the A-Frame. At the time Whistler could boast of one gas pump, a garbage dump [with bears] and two ski lifts. Jenny became secretary to the

Ski Mountain's area manager and Nello decided he had enjoyed building the A-Frame and so took a construction apprenticeship. Soon he had his own construction business and, as well as building a bigger house on their acreage, he successfully started building "spec" homes.

They sold their property in 1973 for a good price and bought an acre of land on the shores of Alta Lake where Nello built a large post and beam home for his growing family. They had one son by now, Nicholas who was born October 5th 1970. Jenny was pregnant with Melanie who was born August 20th 1974, six months after they moved into the new house. Both of them threw themselves fully into the life of the village that had only fifty full time residents when they first moved there. Jenny was starting to take after her father and grandfather in the political arena and in 1975, the year after the Village became a Resort Municipality and took the name of Whistler BC., she received the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award. In 1981 she was awarded the Humanitarian Award for outstanding community service.

The first phase of the village development started in June 1978 and Nello, along with two partners, were chosen to build a 20,000 square foot building at the entrance to the new village. It comprised commercial below and condominiums above and these sold like hotcakes. Nello and one of his partners were the only non-union builders in the village and this caused many problems. Nello even appeared on the Jack Webster Show in defence of his non-union company. In 1982 Nello became involved in a 45-room hotel in Phase three of the development plan. Unfortunately many things went wrong - including interest rates soaring from 11% to 21% and the hotel missing its opening deadline - and Jenny and Nello lost a lot of money.

They were by now soured on the business climate in Whistler and decided that the time had come to move. They had friends in Sun Valley, Idaho that they had visited and decided that that was where they wanted to move to. By now, the population in Whistler had grown to 2,000 permanent residents and they were able to sell their house on the lake easily in November of 1984. The community gave them a huge "going away" surprise roast two days before they left for Sun Valley at the end of November. Now, although retired, they love living in the Sun Valley area and have continued to be very active in their community. Initially after their move Nello built houses and Jenny worked for many years as a book keeper at Backwoods Mountain Sports. And they skied - Nordic style - at every opportunity.

Jenny taught at the Sun Valley Nordic Ski School for 11 years and won a medal for the US Relay team at the World Cup Masters cross country races in 1995. She is passionate about Galena Lodge and when it closed its doors in 1992 threatening the loss of its groomed trails, Jenny organised a very successful "Help Save Galena" campaign and raised \$350,000 to keep the Lodge open. A few years later she co-chaired the "Power Galena" campaign and raised \$500,000 to bring electricity to the lodge to replace the old propane powered generator. In order to raise money to keep the lodge operating Jenny has organised the Galena Benefit Dinner and Auction every year for the last 16 years as well as organising an Annual Gourmet Ski Tour for the last 14 years. She reaped her rewards on February 1st 2012 when she was inducted into the Sun Valley Ski Hall of Fame.

Jenny seems to have inherited her grandfather's love for finding a bargain and will "shop until she drops" in her quest for

bargains either in local weekly garage sales or high quality stores. Her own annual spring garage sale - a well-known event in the area - is necessary to make room in her large closet for more bargains! Jenny's other weaknesses are her daily cappuccino's, Cadbury's Crunchie bars and good bread!

Having tasted life in Arizona during the late winter/early spring period for a few years they decided to purchase a second home on the golf course in Sedona in 2009 while prices were advantageous after the mortgage collapse. While there they are able to indulge their passion for mountain biking and running.

Nicholas attended the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho and in May 1993 he graduated with a B.A. in Psychology with the emphasis in Neurophysiology. On August 31st 1999 he married Sarah Goldman in Boise and they have two children, Lauren Maddison born August 21st 1998 and Carter James born April 2nd 2004. Nicholas is presently a Senior Title Assistant with the Sun Valley Title Company and Sarah is an Administrative Assistant for Blaine County at the University of Idaho.

Melanie graduated from Wood River High School in 1992 and after travelling to Europe and spending some time in Boise she eventually moved to Portland. There she obtained her aesthetician license and in 2003 opened her own spa - Miramaré European Skin Care - on NW Thurman Street. On Christmas Day 2007 Melanie was proposed to by Barrett Gubba-Reiner on a visit to her parent's home in Sun Valley. She accepted and on August 18th 2008 they were married at Kruger's Farm, Sauvie Island. Barrett is a tile setter in Portland with his own business and on November 27th 2010 Nola Genevieve was born at the Andaluz Birthing Centre in Portland. At

the age of 18 months Nola was diagnosed with Diabetes.

Meanwhile after the war Jonah had begun taking a more serious interest in politics. He had been a strong supporter of Winston Churchill and his coalition government during the war and believed that something better should emerge following the war, which had brought about a revolution in men's thinking about the role of government in economic affairs. So he jumped into the fray and in 1949 was elected to Lichfield Rural District Council as an Independent candidate.

Though he always leaned to the right politically he never affiliated with any particular party at a local level and this way he always maintained that he could vote for what he believed was right rather than for the party line when any controversial issues were brought up. His beliefs were strong and he would not compromise over things he felt strongly about. Sunday opening at Chasewater was one of his "Donnybrooks"^{*}. He enjoyed a good discussion and was always willing to listen to the other person's point of view even though he might not intend to change his own mind on an issue!

The Beveridge report of 1942, which pointed the way towards Social Reform, received a very popular welcome and the Butler Act of 1944, which served as the framework for much of the educational developments of the next twenty years, was received enthusiastically by men of all political persuasions. Jonah believed that young people should be able to receive as much education as possible and that it should be freely available and so he worked very hard all his life to see

* A public argument or brawl - coming from *Donnybrook Fair*, an annual Irish event known for its brawls.

that this should be so. He maintained an interest in the welfare of young people all his life. He served, at one time or another over the years, as a member of the Cannock Chase Divisional Executive, as Chairman of the Brownhills Evening Institute, as a member of the Brownhills and Aldridge Youth Council and as a Governor of Brownhills Central, Ogle Hay Girls and Shire Oak Grammar Schools. Church was always an important part of Jonah's life and in 1945 as well as being a part time organist he became conductor of the Park View Methodist Church Sunday school Anniversary. He continued in this capacity for many years as well as being a trustee of the Church.

During the year 1948 while Jonah was President of the Walsall and District Grocers Association he and Doris took a trip to Denmark with the Association. Spending money on the trip was very limited [fifty pounds only] as that was the year of the devaluation of the pound due to Britain's poor financial health. While Jonah was away, his mother fell and broke her hip and she never again regained full mobility after the accident. Jonah regarded his mother very highly and was most upset about her accident.

1951 saw the beginning of some years of change for Jonah. It began with the death of his father in April. Initially he moved the family over to "The Hollies" after having some alterations and an expansion done on the house so that his invalid mother could live with them and would have someone to care for her. After her death in June of 1952 he sold the grocery business which had been in the family for over fifty years [they had celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1949] to Harold Walker and began working as a Sales representative for the John Drew Flour Mills in Perry Barr. Working for someone else was quite a change for Jonah and it was a change not altogether

to his liking. Over the years, he became progressively more involved in real estate and eventually quit his job as a sales representative and became a full time real estate salesperson. He went into partnership with Victor Cox opening an office in Lichfield and later in Wolverhampton.

Enjoying foreign travel Jonah and Doris took a trip to Austria in August of 1952 and three years later visited Germany. On May 9, 1955, Germany had become a member of NATO and at almost the same time, East Germany [the GDR] became a member of the Warsaw Pact whose primary objective was a common defence against NATO. Germany was completely split geographically, politically and in a military sense, and Doris and Jonah were appalled at the hatred still being shown to the British tourists by many of the German people, particularly the youngsters. They did not find it a pleasant experience.

Elected to the Brownhills Urban District Council in 1956 - something that his Dad had never been able to do - was an achievement that Jonah was very proud of. That same year he became Chairman of the Lichfield Rural District Council Housing Committee after having been on the Council for 6 years.

In 1958, he and Doris celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary with a big party at the Brownhills Memorial Hall.¹⁶ There were people there from all walks of life and they were indicative of his wide involvement in public life. The time he spent on his public life of necessity cut back on the time available to his family but he was very proud of his girls and had high expectations for them. He was a firm believer in the old adage "a child should be seen and not heard" and he made his daughters well aware of this. Despite this, he

had a very soft spot for us and hated to see us punished. Doris was always the one required to mete out needed punishments and he would often find a way to circumvent her orders.

He thoroughly enjoyed his life in Brownhills and particularly the fact that he was somebody special in his community and that his doors were always open to anyone needing help. He was always willing to go the extra mile to offer a helping hand to someone with a problem and he was always well regarded both in and out of the Council Chamber. He was very conscientious about his duties as a councillor as his attendances during the 1964-65 year shows. He never missed one of the regular monthly meetings during that year and out of a possible 121 committee/sub-committee meetings he could have attended he only missed eleven - an impressive record.¹⁷

Jonah retired from Lichfield Rural District Council in 1966 but remained on Brownhills Council and became its last Chairman before its amalgamation with Aldridge - an amalgamation that occurred following a recommendation of the Local Government Commission for England. In the May election of 1965, Jonah campaigned on the premise that it was "*the service that counts*" and that he was an Independent man and "*Personalities not Politics*" were what was important. Of the fifteen men putting up for the 6 available seats on council in the four wards - Norton [2 seats], Central [2 seats], Walsall Wood and Shelfield/High Heath [1 seat each] Jonah, representing the Central Ward, polled highest with 1256 votes.¹⁸

Councillor W. G. Simpkins, leader of the Labour group on council, nominated Jonah for the office of Chairman of the Council and despite their frequent opposition on council matters remarked, "*I am mindful of the good*

work that he has done as a member of this council. I have not always agreed with him but we have always been prepared to agree to disagree. Sometimes I have managed to convert him to my way of thinking and I hope to do so much more in the next 12 months!" Seconding the nomination, Councillor Cyril Tomlinson said that Councillor Deakin had been a member for nine years and each time had been returned with a large majority. "*This is a long overdue reward for his consistency both to the electorate and to this council*", he declared. It was a very proud moment for Jonah when he was elected Chairman "without dissentient".

In his opening remarks, he congratulated council members and officials on their vision in providing sites for new industrial development in the district following talk about the coalmine closures made 10 or 12 years previously. He continued:

"The new sites that have been built have provided employment for over 2,100 people and with another 36 acres available for further expansion, the area is well covered. Also during the coming year another 345 units of accommodation would be provided together with 82 bungalows, some of which would be for welfare accommodation. In every ward there will be some form of building in progress."

He forecast that there would be many well-known business names appearing in the new shopping precinct on the south side of Brownhills High Street when it opened in September or October. He anticipated that

"many other schemes in our urban district such as dual-carriageways and sewer schemes are all in the pipe-line to be started very soon. All in all, it augers well for the future of Brownhills Urban Council."

Urging members to treat each other like gentlemen during his year of office Jonah reminded the members to

*"Keep in our minds that we are not here to do something which may please us personally, but to do the right thing for the people we represent on this council. This should be paramount in our minds."*¹⁹

He concluded by giving a sincere assurance that he would do his utmost for the council and the community during his year in office.²⁰

It is surprising to note that even as recently as 1966, many council house tenants in the area did not have hot water - or even indoor bathrooms - in their homes and during Jonah's year in office, council took steps to rectify this. At a meeting of the House Planning committee held in July plans were made to convert the small bedroom in some of the council houses into a bathroom, reducing the houses from 3 bed/5 person to 2 bed/4 person dwellings, with the West Midlands Gas Board preparing estimates for costs of installing gas hot water heaters. Upgrades were to be a continuing project.²¹ In January 1966, the Council placed an order with South Staffs Waterworks Company for the installation of water fittings in 62 houses at a cost of £155.²²

In the UK, the council house is a form of social housing built and operated by local councils to supply uncrowded, well-built homes on secure tenancies at below market rents mainly to working class people. This type of development began in the late nineteenth century and peaked around the 1960's. Later developments included large "council estates" as well as tower blocks. Waine House and Bayley House were two such 14 storey tower blocks completed in 1965 during Jonah's term

on council. They were 40-metre tall monstrosities, which, like many others of their ilk, did not live up to the hopes of their supporters, deteriorated badly and were demolished in 2004. Many folks from demolished slums in Birmingham moved into these blocks of flats and had no idea about how to look after them. Not used to having indoor bathrooms many people kept coal in their bathtubs! Humphreys House, a 46-metre high, 17 storey tower block completed in 1967 and Severn House are the only remaining tower blocks in Brownhills.

After the introduction of "Right to buy" legislation in 1979, local authorities now own only about 40% of the country's social housing. The system is a bit unfair in that it favours those who have already secured tenancy, even after they are no longer in dire need. Having security of tenure and affordable rent there is little incentive for tenants to downsize after their children have moved out. Meanwhile, those on the waiting list who often are in much greater need of a home, cannot have it because, once a council house has been granted to a tenant, they cannot be evicted except for anti-social behaviour, serious offences committed at the premises or breach of tenancy conditions, such as rent arrears.

There was much press coverage during 1965/66 of the use of an Arrears Collection Van to draw attention to the folks who were behind in their rent payments. At a meeting on July 1st 1965 the Housing, Estates and Mining Subsidence committee instructed the Housing Manager to affix a large board to the van bearing the words "Rent Arrears Collection" in large red letters on a white background! At the October meeting, a tenant made an irate complaint that the van had called at his house despite the fact that he had a clear rent book! Council decided to send regrets and that the

arrears van would in future operate every Saturday morning and only visit houses on the authorisation of the committee. The tenant in question later demanded compensation for wages lost during the period of controversy following the call of the Arrears Van at his home. The Clerk received instructions to inform him that the Council would not consider any such claim!²³

A few interesting snippets dealt with by various committees throughout "Jonah's year" included discussion about a rat infestation on Stag Crescent, Norton and a Standby Duty Allowance of £1 per week [for 12 weeks from Dec 1st to Feb 28th] to be paid to eight workmen for emergency road gritting and snow clearance. There were complaints about children playing dangerously on the roof of the new flats [Waine House], children playing football on grass verges, and causing damage and about nauseating odours around a maggot factory in Norton Canes. An outbreak of Dysentery in the area was cause for concern. There was also debate on tenants not wanting to pay "lodger rent" in respect of an aged parent living with them and others, including a tenant in Deakin Avenue and another on Watling Street wanting outside aerials fixed so that they could receive BBC 2.²⁴

Although members of Council received no remuneration for all their hours of work, the Chairman did receive an allowance to assist with many of the official functions that he was obligated to attend or host. At the meeting of the Finance committee held on January 5th 1966 the decision was made to increase the Chairman's allowance by £150 "in view of the exceptional circumstances attendant upon his year of office."²⁵ At the meeting on March 30th 1966 it was decided that the Chairman's allowance for 1965/66 be augmented by a further £50.²⁶ Functions that

were attended included the Chamber of Trade annual Dinner and Dance, Chairman's Ball and the Chairman's Farewell Dinner on February 24th at the Three Crowns Inn, Sutton Road, Walsall to mark the winding up of the Brownhills Urban District. Jonah loved any excuse for a little "pomp and ceremony"! During his term as Chairman he and Doris were delighted to receive an invitation to a Garden Party in July 1965 at Buckingham Palace where they met the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

Jonah was one of six council members appointed to a joint Ad hoc committee in August 1965 to deal with the proposed Aldridge-Brownhills merger. The amalgamation was an acrimonious affair - it did not run smoothly from the word "go" and there was much bitterness on the part of the Brownhills members. The Walsall Observer notes

"Simmering discontent over the amalgamation burst to the surface during the inaugural meeting of the Aldridge-Brownhills Urban District council yesterday".

There were nine Brownhills members on the new 28-seat council and they felt excluded from leadership positions on the new council. They also felt that former Aldridge council officers were being given all the "plum" appointments with the new authority. Despite all these problems Jonah continued as a member of the amalgamated Aldridge/Brownhills Council until April of 1972.²⁷ The presentation of a certificate to him on May 24th 1973 acknowledging his outstanding service to the community thrilled him. It read:

"The Urban District Council of Aldridge/Brownhills hereby places on record its recognition of the outstanding contribution to the benefit and welfare of the community of the Urban District made by Jonah Deakin, Esquire, O.B.E., a resident of Brownhills and an

Urban District Councillor during the years 1956 - 1972. This parchment is presented as a token of its high esteem by the Council in appreciation of the dedicated Service given by Mr. Deakin in the development of Community and Recreational Services within the Urban District and the former Urban District of Brownhills of which Council he held office as Chairman in 1965/66. The Common Seal of the Urban District Council of Aldridge -Brownhills was hereunto affixed this Twenty-Fourth day of May, 1973, in the presence of the Chairman and Clerk of the Council."

In the end, the amalgamated council was somewhat short lived. Under the Local Government Act of 1972 amalgamation once again occurred in 1974 and Aldridge-Brownhills became part of the newly formed Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, under whose jurisdiction the area remains to this day. This amalgamation resulted in Brownhills becoming part of the West Midlands County, having previously been part of Staffordshire.

With their daughters both in Canada Jonah and Doris became "empty nesters" and they decided to sell "The Hollies" and move into a smaller home close by. They chose to build a detached bungalow of their own design on a piece of land just down the road from "The Hollies" in Dawes Lane. They named their new home "Capilano" for the area in Vancouver that had so impressed them on their first holiday to Canada. Like most houses in England, it was a sturdy home built of brick and had many big windows to let in the light. Doris had oak plate racks installed around the living/dining room and the hall to display her collection of Royal Doulton figurines, Toby Mugs and decorative plates. A sun room on the south side of the living room was perfect for plants, allowing in lots of natural light - and was a great place for a relaxing afternoon nap. Both worked hard putting in lawns and gardens

and it wasn't long before the place was a showpiece.

In 1968, Jonah became President of the Brownhills Chamber of Trade and later in the year came the highlight of his life when he received a letter from the office of the Prime Minister on November 21st saying,

"in the strictest confidence that he has it in mind...to submit your name to The Queen with a recommendation that Her Majesty be graciously pleased to approve that you be appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). Before doing so, the Prime Minister would be glad to be assured that this would be agreeable to you."

Jonah let the PM know immediately that the submission would be very agreeable to him and in the 1969 New Years Honours list Jonah was recognised by the Queen for his three decades of public service - he was "over the moon" as they say! In January, he received another letter advising him of the date of the Investiture at Buckingham Palace, the number of guests permitted and what the Dress was to be. [For civilians like Jonah, Morning Dress was appropriate but "*Orders, Decorations or Medals should not be worn.*"] Official Press photographers could photograph recipients and their guests outside the Grand Entrance after the Investiture but no photography was allowed in the Palace during the Investiture.

Jenny was unable to attend because of work commitments but I travelled over to England in February 1969 with sons Jonathon and Craig for a three-week visit, I accompanied Jonah and Doris to Buckingham Palace, London where he received the OBE from Queen Elizabeth.²⁸ It was an impressive ceremony and I was surprised by how petite the Queen was. A framed scroll and a plate specially made by Aynsley China Works were

further reminders of the great day. Apart from the ceremony in London and the children's first wonderful visit with their paternal grandparents, it was somewhat of a "holiday from hell". The boys became sick on the plane flying from Vancouver to London and, after being stuck on the Motorway overnight because of a paltry half an inch of snow on the road, they became sicker and unfortunately did not recover until after our return to Kamloops.

Over the years after Jenny and I emigrated, Jonah and Doris made numerous trips back and forth across the Atlantic to visit with both of our young families and us. They missed being close to their family - especially the grandchildren. The very significant decision was made that they, too, would immigrate to Canada once Jonah had reached retirement age and to this end they purchased a small plot of land in Kamloops on the South Thompson River for \$8,000 from Betty Hewson²⁹ about half a mile upstream from Gill and Ian's home. The land had belonged to Betty's parents, Elizabeth Stockton and her husband, and was used to grow tomatoes and asparagus in the very early years of this century when they themselves had emigrated from England. On August 18th 1972, Jonah and Doris landed on Canadian soil as immigrants.³⁰

Once again Jonah had plans drawn up for a small retirement home and made sure that he was on site every day and that everything was being done right as the building progressed! After spending six months living with Ian and I they were finally able to move into their new home at 7016 Furrer Road in early 1973 and were soon involved in the life of the community. Their love of gardening continued in Kamloops and while Jonah took pride in his lawns, Doris nurtured her flower gardens tenderly. It wasn't long before they

had good neighbours move in beside them, Herb and Elsie Litzenberger, who hailed from Saskatchewan and who quickly became very good friends. Because his name was so unusual Jonah had, for years, laughingly offered a half a crown to anyone who would name his or her baby after him but it was not until years later, after his death, that the Litzenberger's daughter, Sharon, named her first son after Jonah. He would have been so pleased!

Just over a year after their immigration Jonah and Doris celebrated their 40th anniversary very quietly with dinner out followed by a family gathering with Gill and Ian along with Jenny and Nello who had driven up from Whistler for the occasion. A quiet celebration was unusual for Jonah who preferred something more outgoing but Doris had had major surgery in the fall and was still not feeling up to par so a big celebration was not deemed appropriate.

During his retirement years in Kamloops Jonah became a keen lawn bowls player [as was his father before him] and he was able to indulge his passion for a good chat anytime he found the opportunity. He encouraged his grandsons, Jonathon and Craig, on the soccer field and enjoyed nothing more than going to a game and shouting instructions from the sideline much to the chagrin of all the family! He worked as a volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society and became an active member of the Tranquille Auxiliary.

He and Doris made a couple of trips back to England after their immigration. The first time was in May 1973 when a framed Parchment commemorating his outstanding service to the community was presented to him. On their second visit in 1976, Jonah was present at the rededication of Park View Chapel along with the rededication of the

communion rail etc given to the Chapel in 1952 as requested by his Dad, Jonah Sr. in his will. The original Chapel was demolished for road widening and the original Schoolroom converted to a Chapel. Jonah and Doris went on two cruises - one to the Caribbean in May 1974 and another to Alaska in 1977 - and thoroughly enjoyed the experiences. They travelled down to Whistler a few times to visit with Jenny and on one of their visits, Jonah experienced a very close encounter with a bear in Jenny's garden.

Elected to the Provincial Legislature in 1975, Bill Vander Zalm immediately became Minister of Human Resources. He campaigned against welfare fraud and became an overnight sensation with comments he made after the swearing in ceremony regarding what people on welfare might expect of him. The last part of his comment, which the media immediately latched on to was

"if someone is able to work and refuses to do so, they had best pick up a shovel or I'll give them a shovel"

Jonah was delighted to meet with Bill on one of his visits to Whistler. Bill later became leader of the Socred party and Premier of the Province.

To become Canadian citizens, a person must have lived in Canada for at least three years and so in 1976 Jonah applied for and received citizenship of a country he had grown to love. Despite becoming a Canadian Citizen he Continued to work hard for British Pensioners in Canada trying to have the British and Canadian governments form a reciprocal agreement so that he [and thousands of others in a similar predicament] could receive the full British pension to which they felt they were entitled - but it was not to be. He wrote

hundreds of letters to everyone he could think of from the Queen down with no positive results - in fact, the struggle continues even to this day. The stress he experienced from this continuing fight may well have contributed to his early demise. He felt that his country had let him down and cheated him out of a pension that he had contributed to all his life.

Frequent visits from long time friends and family in England were always highlights of the year for Doris and Jonah. They had visits over the years from Fred and Madge Bowen, David and Doris Gardner and Selwyn and Nora Devey amongst others. It was during one of these visits from old friends Selwyn [Jonah's one time Bank Manager] and Nora that Jonah had a massive heart attack very early on the morning of June 21st 1980³¹ and died before reaching the hospital.

Kamloops United Church had become his spiritual home for the eight years he lived in Kamloops and it was there that the funeral and service celebrating his life took place after his death. The hearty singing of some of his favourite hymns was a fitting end to his life. Jonah would have approved!

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