

OXHEY VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

October 1996

History Sheet No.8

Palmer's Stores

by Sylvia Adams, née Palmer, who is now living in North Devon

PALMER'S WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1938 BY M.R.E.S.PALMER AND OPERATED UNTIL 1972

When first married in 1922, my parents had a village store in Woodside, Leavesden. In 1935 it was sold and my father then went into wholesale greengrocery, later managing a grocers in Pinner Road (next to Pinner Hall, opposite the old Co-Op). After that he started his own business again - in a lock-up shop in Capel Road (which today is the pet shop, next to the Handy Stores). From there, he moved over to 27 Villiers Road, which was now empty, having been, for many years, a drapers Clis-solds and Spicers.



In 1938 Palmer's was established. The staff in those days lived in - behind and above the shop. The barn behind the premises had a baker's oven, but I'm not sure when this was in use. During the war, the barn was used for stores and as a garage - for a pony and trap. This was acquired to deliver orders, as the van and car became redundant with petrol rationing. We collected orders on bikes and then delivered, on the pony and trap - as far as Hampermill lane. Customers also came to the shop and could place orders there.

Ration books came into being and I spent many hours counting the coupons with my mother, these had to be sent back to the food ministry. On the shop forefront placards were placed each day with special offers. There were also advertising boards for Watford's cinema, We received two free tickets to the cinema for this service each week.

Bacon was always the speciality of the shop - mainly Danish. Hams were cooked in the kitchen; cheese, butter, margarine and lard were all weighed by hand. Sugar and rice, etc. went into blue paper bags.

The shop was open from 8:00am to 6:00pm, closing at 9:00pm on Saturdays. Wednesday was half day. On winter days, oil stoves were lit to keep the shop warm - and also to enable us to prepare hot cocoa or tea for elevenses. This smell still lingers with me today.

My Father and Mother always worked hard and all the staff were excellent workers - but apart from this they were good friends and even today I have close contact with a few, hence I heard about OVEG.

The Staff of Palmer's over the years included:

Albert Sparrow

Charlie Hill

Emmie Waller

Olive Wilson

Ellen Dilks

Paddy

Ivy Wells

Keith Munday

Gladys Boulwood

Mr. Bennet

Peter

Len

Mr. Hart

Eva Urlwin

Ruby Coles

My apologies for not remembering all the names fully,

