

**Interview recorded 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1987 of Mr.Fraser by the late Dodie Masterman, transcribed from her notes that were kindly donated by her son.**

**“WEBB and Mr.Fraser”**

Mr Fraser left school in 1922, he then went to Webb's shop which was his first job. He worked for six or seven months for two summers when he was about 14 or 15. Mr H.J.Webb according to Mr Fraser never took his trilby hat off. Worn all day in the shop (went to bed in it for all I know). He was a man of few words, went about quietly and didn't speak much. About 5'5" tall,.....?.., charcoal suit, same every day, watch chain (pulled it out to see the time !) The red haired girl was his daughter. She called him Dad. The man and Mr Webb were never seen together so it appears. Mr Webb kept his tinsel in cardboard boxes. Mr Fraser remembers him punching out cartridge paper shapes with foil attached. He would cut the foil and paper into strips, the paper stuck to the foil with SECOTINE.

He then punched them out in a row. He left them out on a shelf to dry out and put them into boxes next day. He used tobacco tins, square and round, "Three Nuns Tobacco", to store the tinsel in. He was a retail and wholesale tobacconist. Mr Fraser's jobs included delivering tobacco to small retailers, tidying up the shop. He did no selling. The walking sticks were made across the road (diagonally). Mr Fraser would call for sticks and deliver them strapped up in long bags. He put them on his shoulders. All local more or less, cafes and booths. Mr F. remembers the patterned foil. Mr Webb had a foot or so wide "mangle" which he fed plain foil into and got embossed patterns out. He changed the rollers for different patterns. Mr Webb remarked that he didn't do so much of that nowadays. Mr Fraser thinks he was amusing himself. The trade in foil and Juvenile Drama had slacked off. He sat behind the counter doing his colouring got up to serve, and went back again.

He had a steel block on which to punch. He had boxfulls of ones for varying pieces. Boxes were on a shelf under the bench in the back shop. Mr Fraser's first job was eight shillings and sixpence a week in Old Street for a scale maker. Knocking out pieces or stamping out. He stayed three days! Too monotonous. The Webb job wasn't full-time and it was between school times. Mr Fraser's dad was a gold and silver stick mounter. He knew Mr Webb and we think it was probably through the walking stick trade. Webb was is on his own in the shop. Had no assistants. The girl was busy making ? for sticks opposite. The ?stuffed dog was probably their own. Mr Fraser didn't work full-time for Webb. He finished work about 3pm the shop was open till about 8pm for six days a week it opened at eight. Mr Fraser came at 9am in the morning.