

Diary of an Apprentice

Michael Sewell
Department of Mathematics, University of Reading,
Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6AX.
michael@sewells.org
<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/pes20/MJSewell/mjs.html>

November 28, 2007

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	January 1925	2
3	February 1925	5
4	March 1925	7
5	April 1925	8
6	May 1925	10
7	June 1925	10
8	July 1925	11
9	August 1925	12
10	September 1925	13
11	January 1926	14
12	February 1926	16
13	March 1926	17
14	April 1926	19
15	May 1926	19
16	June 1926	19

17 January 1927

20

18 March 1927

21

1 Introduction

My father Vern Edward Sewell, always known as Ben outside his family, was an apprentice joiner between the ages of 14 and 21, from 10th January 1921 until May 1927. He worked for Walter Parks and Son at their Swinegate premises in Grantham. For some of this time he kept a diary. Parts of this, between 1st January 1925 and 21st January 1927, have survived. Two sample pages are shown in Fig. 1. Each individual entry may seem mundane, but taken together as a whole, these brief daily comments give some insight into the life of a 19/20-year-old young man making his way in those times. They describe the varied tasks required of him at work, his modes of relaxation in his personal life, and the persistence with which he attended evening classes two or three times a week in Nottingham, 25 miles away by train, after a full day at his work as a carpenter. My purpose here is to make his diaries more easily available to his subsequent family, and others who may be interested in social history. He became a qualified carpenter and joiner in May 1927, and he stayed on to work for Parks' for a further two years.

I have found that fragments in a small pocket diary are not easy to assimilate if left in that format, which is one reason why I have collected them here in a more widely accessible way.

Each entry is preceded by the day of the week, and date, with an obvious abbreviation.

The 1925 entries are in a Collins' Compact Diary. The 1926 entries are in a University College Nottingham Diary for the Session 1925-26, and the 1927 entries are in a University College Nottingham Diary for the Session 1926-27. These latter two Diaries also list the academic staff of the College. The four named members of the Mathematics Department there include two who taught me when I was an undergraduate at the University of Nottingham, in 1954-57, namely H.G. Green and F.A. Underwood.

2 January 1925

T1: Working at Johnson's today with Percy stopping the damp under windows, caused through leaving out the water bar.

F2: Finished at Johnson's today, and came back in the shop. We are not very busy.

S3: Bought a new suit for work today. Went to Willoughby's to do the same to their windows. Jointed up boards for my tool box this afternoon. Saw "It's the Last Man" at the "New" tonight.

S4: Went to Holy Eucharist this morning and Evensong with Eddie Ledger tonight. Had tea with Gran and Grandad at the Peacock today. [This "Gran and Grandad" will have

FEBRUARY, 1925.

Monday 2

Entered for P. M. E. U. Exam's tonight at college. Making up top for an old gale-leg table today.

Tuesday 3

Went to Building Construction as usual tonight. Had another lecture on steel & framed & louvered partitions.

Wednesday 4

Got in the piece of a rug with the quonon about this week. Said it had cost a lot. Very sarcastic indeed. Went to notes as usual.

Thursday 5

Went with John to Henrson's to hang the summer door today. Did some homework tonight.

Friday 6

Very slack, indeed at work hardly anything in at all. Had to fall back on the frames for Bolton Lane.

Saturday 7

Did a little bit more to my tool box this afternoon. Went to pictures with Cyril tonight.

Septua-
gesima. Sunday 8 ○

Reg came home this week-end so I went to church & then for a walk. Will Beck came with us at night. Left at 6 after evening service.

Memo.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
NOTTINGHAM.

❖

DIARY.

SESSION 1926-27.

Name V. B. Swell.

Address 50, Westgate
Grantham.

IF FOUND, please oblige by immediately
returning to above address.

Figure 1: Sample diary pages

been Ben's mother's parents Joseph and Mary Ann Cook. The Peacock was a pub which they ran at 3 Welby Street.] Went to Barrowby with Eddie for a walk this afternoon. Saw H.E. tonight. Walked up to Mrs. Whiteheads with Winnie after Church this morning.

M5: Working at Willoughby's again with Percy. Applied for my season ticket tonight. Had a few minutes chat with Teddie and Ralph. Letter from Mag.

T6: Working at the Nurseries today repairing the greenhouses. Went up to Whiteheads to play cards.

W7: Been at the garden again today. Had a walk round tonight and went down to Shepheards.

T8: Still up at the gardens. Went up to Whiteheads tonight to supper. Met the Rev. Lambert, a very nice chap indeed.

F9: Finished at the gardens today, went to the ? to help Percy with rotten window back.

S10: Four years today since I started at Parks'. Planed my toolbox up today. Went to pictures with Cyril.

S11: Went to Holy Eucharist and Evensong today and had walk with Reg.

M12: Started back to Notts again tonight. Not much work in the shop.

T13: Had a lecture on stones etc. tonight from Mr. Shacklock. Still "hanging on" in the shop.

W14: Learned how to develop brackets etc. tonight from Mr. Hollinger. Travelled with Soven as usual.

T15: Stayed in tonight and did my homework. Not very busy at work.

F16: Working on frames for Belton Lane today in the shop. Did more homework tonight.

S17: The firm signed over to Joe White today. Very surprised indeed. We all had to sign for our wages today.

S18: Went to Church as usual today to holy Eucharist and Evensong. Had a walk with Wilf Beck. He came to service tonight.

M19: Clearing out day today. Len Smith, Grace and Newman all finished tonight. Went to Notts and did more handrailing.

T20: Started on steelwork tonight at Nottingham. Still on frames for Belton Lane.

W21: Did some more developments tonight; on roofs etc. this time.

T22: Went with Ernest up to Hammonds' to paint their porch this afternoon. Robinson, Stephens and Kirkham have now finished.

F23: The place seems empty now. Hardly anyone working, no machinery going or anything. Scarcely any work at all.

S24: Winnie and Mrs Whitehead came up this afternoon. Did a bit more at my tool chest. Went to "panto" with Cyril and took Winnie. Decent show really.

S25: Went to Church and then for a walk with Winnie round Wash Dyke Lane this morning. Wilf Beck came to Church with me tonight.

M26: Had a demonstration with a steel square tonight at Nottingham. Made part of a hipped roof and found all bevels.

T27: Did some more steelwork tonight at Building Construction Class tonight at Notts.

W28: Went to Notts as usual tonight with Sowers. Had a lecture on Venetian Windows from Mr. Hollinsworth.

T29: Stayed in and did my homework tonight. Drew the Venetian window etc.

F30: Winnie came up to say "Good-bye" tonight so I had a little walk with her down to Nidd's.

S31: Winnie has gone to Putney today to a Nursing Home. Went to see West Ham and the Forest. The "Hammers" won 2 - 0. Rotten weather. Rained hard all second half.

[On the "Cash account" Diary pages for each of 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January and 7th and 14th February he lists "Received £1-5-5 and Paid £1".]

3 February 1925

S1: Went to Church as usual today at Holy Eucharist and Evensong. None of my pals were at home so I went with K.E. for a walk.

M2: Entered for E.M.E.U. Exams tonight at College. Making a top for an old gate-leg table today.

T3: Went to Building Construction as usual tonight. Had another lecture on steel and framed and trussed partitions.

W4: Got in the deuce of a row with the guvnor about this table. Said it had cost a lot. Very sarcastic indeed. Went to Notts as usual.

T5: Went with John to Jenson's to hang the summer door today. Did some homework tonight.

F6: Very slack indeed at work. Hardly anything in at all. had to fall back on the frames for Belton Lane.

S7: Did a little bit more to my tool box this afternoon. Went to pictures with Cyril tonight.

S8: Reg came home this week-end so went to Church and then for a walk. Wilf Beck came with us at night. Saw K.E. after Evening service.

M9: Been working at Barkston-le-Willows with John today. Repairing some stairs in a cottage. Went to Notts on the 6.25 p.m. tonight.

T10: Walked to Barkston and back again today with John. Very windy and rough indeed today. Got to College at the usual time tonight.

W11: Went to Barkston by myself today just to finish off and glue the windows. Booked an order for another window and glazing on Mr. Rilett's farm.

T12: Making the above mentioned window today in the shop. Wrote to Margaret and did a bit of homework.

F13: Made the sash and hung it for the window frame and then helped Ernest for an hour planing up boards for his gate.

S14: Got a rotten cold today. Never went out after I once got in at dinner time. Not even to the pictures.

S15: Stayed in bed till tea-time today. Wilf Beck came in and stayed the evening with us.

M16: Kept in bed today until tea-time. Had a letter from Mr. Thorpe relating to the exams today.

T17: Got up for dinner today. Had a stroll round to see Mr. Thorpe. Met K.E. this afternoon and then Mrs Harcourt and Kathleen, and had a chat with them.

W18: Started work again today at Barkstone. Went to Notts as usual.

T19: At Barkston again today and had to walk home and arrived about a quarter to seven. Finished all off.

F20: Did my homework tonight and stayed in. Stuck some skirting by hand for Doubleday today.

S21: Helping John to prepare doors for Doubleday today. Went to pictures with Cyril.

S22: Been with Kath and Reg nearly all day. Celebrated Holy Communion this morning. Had tea at Harcourts with Doris Tinkler, Kath, Reg and Jack.

M23: Still helping John with doors today. Went to College as usual. started on handrail as practical work.

T24: In the shop again today on those doors. Hard work doing every thing by hand! Went to Notts as usual.

W25: We had pancakes today of course for dinner. Still on doors with John. Did some more developments at Notts.

T26: Stayed in tonight to do some homework, tiling, slating, etc. for Mr. Shacklock.

F27: Went down to Belton Lane today packing up stuff in preparation for next Tuesdays job. Miserable wet weather today. Saw Eddie tonight, he's finished at Bolton.

S28: Ralph and I have been unloading, sorting out the stuff in Barrel's yard this morning. Went to theatre with Cyril tonight. Good show. Fine comedian.

4 March 1925

S1: Had a walk with Eddie after Church this morning. Went up to Mrs Whitehead's tonight. Got a photo of K.E. that she promised me tonight.

M2: Prep for sale again today in the rain at Barrels with Ralph. Went to Notts and did more handrailing.

T3: Sale day today at Parks'. Not very successful though from the guv'ners point of view. Went to Notts as usual.

W4: Started clearing everything thats no good out of the yard today with Ralph and Jacky Stocks. Went to Notts again.

T5: Still clearing up at the yard today. Stayed in and did some homework.

F6: Finished my homework tonight for Nottingham. Still clearing up at the shop.

S7: Nothing much to do at the shop, so still clearing up. Went to pictures with Cyril and Eddie.

S8: Went to Church as usual this morning with Reg, and to Evensong with Reg and Wilf Beck.

M9: Clearing up on shop again today. Went to Notts as usual and did some more handrailing.

T10: Started on the platform at the Drill Hall for the Philharmonic Society today with Ernest, carting it from the malting.

W11: Assembling the platform today with John, Ernest, Ralph and Jack. Went to Notts as usual.

T12: Finished the platform at dinner time today and went back to shop with John.

S28: Went to Semi-Final of the F.A. Cup today at Notts with "Smiler" and Sipping. Cardiff City were "all over" Blackburn Rovers and won 3-1. Went to pictures with Cyril.

S29: Fair Sunday today. Went to Church as usual. Had a walk with Eddie Ledger. Saw K.E. this morning. Grandad Sewell died today at Grimsby. Dad and Cyril went by car but he was dead when they arrived.

[This Grandad Sewell was Henry Lawrence Sewell, who was born on 23rd March 1853 in Bourn, married Ellen Sowden on 17th May 1875, by whom he had thirteen children of whom only seven survived to adulthood, and who became a butcher in Grantham. After Ellen died he married again and had one more daughter, before eventually moving to Grimsby. So he lived to be nearly 72.]

M30: Margaret came home tonight. I went to Notts and she stayed to supper. We did not bother about the Fair tonight.

T31: Went to Notts as usual. Margaret waited for me and we went on the Fair. It seemed rather tame though to past years.

5 April 1925

W1: Went up to the Junction to see Grandad [Cook] tonight. Spoke to Aunt May for the first time for about ten years.

T2: Margaret started on her new job at the Poor Law Infirmary today. Saw her tonight after tea. Grandad's funeral today. [Grandad Sewell].

F3: Working at Burton's Garage again today, fitting the gutters and beams and roofing with the Boss, Ralph and Ernest.

S4: Went to Notts for the E.M.E.U. Practical Exam this afternoon [Carpentry 2-6 p.m.]. We had to make a sort of box. Went up to see Ellen and Arthur.

S5: Went to Church with Reg this morning and with his mother too tonight. Margaret was late off duty so I went up to her house.

M6: Sat for the Theoretical Exam tonight [Carpentry and Joinery 7-10 p.m.]. Much stiffer to what I had anticipated. I have been polishing at the Chapel all day.

T7: Been at Chapel again today. Margaret came for me and we went up Greenhill. I went to prep for my Easter Communion in Church tonight.

W8: Margaret and I went to see "Muddles" at the Theatre tonight. Not a bad show in parts. Bit weak in others.

T9: Went with John, Ernie, Ralph and Jackie fixing Brittain's signs on the Station Road today. Stayed in tonight for I have a bit of a cold.

F10: Stayed in bed today until tea-time and never went out all day as I have a bad cold.

S11: Polished table at the shop today for Mr. Major. Bought a new pair of shoes today at Jeffery Smith's. Went to see the Vicar. Saw Margaret afterwards.

S12: Stayed in bed instead of going to communion. Went to morning service. Fainted in the porch. Margaret came to tea with me.

M13: Rotten weather today. Raining hard. Stayed in reading most of the day. Went to see the Doctor.

T14: Started work again today in the shop for Burton's Garage. Prep glazing bars for the roof.

W15: Still working at the shop for Burton's. Not extra busy.

T16: Started on door frame and door for Burton's in the shop today.

F17: Still in the shop on door frame for Burton's Garage.

S18: Worked in the shop again this morning and prepared for going out to Woolsthorpe on Monday.

S19: Went to Church with Reg this morning, and with Eddie and Wilf Beck tonight.

M20: Went out to The Stables at Woolsthorpe today with Ernest Nidd and Ralph Brown. We got one floor up today and just started to re-lay it.

T21: We got half the floor down again today after shooting every board. Rather a slow job.

W22: Went out again today to Woolsthorpe. We have almost finished the floor in the small room.

T23: Cricket practice started today down London Road but I never went for a game as we arrived home late. Started taking up the boards in the large room.

F24: Finished taking up the large room floor today and started to relay it. Went to the pictures with Margaret.

S25: Went down London Road today to play cricket for the first time this year. Bowling better but batting very feeble.

S26: Went to Holy Eucharist this morning.

6 May 1925

S2: [Building Construction exam 6-10 p.m.].

S31: Went to Holy Communion this morning and Evensong. Saw Margaret after Church tonight.

7 June 1925

M1: Went to Notts v Surrey at Trent Bridge. Jack Hobbs made 189 but was somewhat slow. Fine day and good "gate". Wilf Beck, Joe Crook and Will Blower went with me.

T2: Started work again today with windows for Joe Parks' bungalow. Went down London Road tonight for a game.

W3: Working in the shop again today. Prep a front door for Hill Avenue. Had a row with Margaret.

T4: Saw Margaret tonight and finally finished with her.

W17: Finished at Woolsthorpe tonight but was rather late home. Went for a walk with Pat Hall and Jack Green.

T18: Lining the skirting today in the front rooms. Had a walk with Wilf Beck tonight.

F19: Floor laying today with Jackie up at the bungalow. Had a stroll with Becky and Fred Ogden tonight.

S20: Laid the attic floor and hung the back door this morning. Broke my jack plane handle so had to put a new one in this afternoon. Went to pictures with Cyril.

S21: Went to Church and then for a walk with Win and Margaret. Had a stroll with Cyril and Eddie this afternoon and went to Church with Becky tonight.

M22: Had a bilious attack this morning so stayed in bed till tea-time. Winnie called to say goodbye before she went back at 8 o'clock.

T23: Went up to the bungalow this morning and then back to the shop to prepare the casings. Started decorating for the show.

W24: Went at 6 o'clock to put out the flags at Brittain's. The Lincolnshire Agricultural Show opened today at Arnoldfield. Started on principals for Plumb roof today.

T25: Prince Henry came today to open the Show. I saw him and afterwards went to the Show. Had a stroll with Wilf Beck afterwards.

8 July 1925

F3: Fixing the Principals at Plumbs yard today. A very disagreeable smell though.

S4: Got all the princip

S11: Did a bit more to my tool chest this afternoon. I have decided to make it wider than it was before.

S12: Went to Belton Gardens with Cyril, Wilf and Reg this afternoon but was very hot though. We also went to Church with the exception of Cyril.

M13: Went down to the cricket field tonight to try and get the ground for a match but I am afraid we have upset Monty Appleby. He was very huffy.

T14: Went down London Rd tonight for a game but it was a rotten wicket.

W15: Still at Plumbs on their roof with Jack Stocks. Went down London Rd tonight and to the pictures to see "The Midnight Express".

T16: Working at Plumbs again today. Stayed in tonight and altered Cyril's wardrobe door for him. Wilf Beck came round.

F17: Working in shop today prep some sashes for Doubleday. Went down London Rd tonight.

S18: Still on sashes at the shop this morning. Collected Alexandra Rd and Belvoir Avenue for the hospital today and got £2.0s.6d again. £1.11s.10½d last year.

S19: Went to Holy Eucharist this morning. Had a walk round Gonerby and Manthorpe with Cyril this afternoon and went to evensong with Wilf Beck this evening.

M20: The sheets arrived today so we went on to Plumbs and fixed them. Very wet and damp though today.

T21: Too wet for outside work this morning so went to shop to prepare a skylight for the Hide and Skin Yard. Went to Vicar's class tonight.

W22: Cleared the roof and fixed the casing for skylight today. Went down London Rd tonight for fielding practice. Heard today that I had passed my exams! I was 1st Class Prac. Work + Joinery, 1st class Theoretical Joinery, 2nd Class Building Construction.

T23: Finished skylight at Plumbs today.

T28: Went to Barkstone Schools today with Jackie, to put the roofs on the W.Cs. and wash house. Went down London Road.

W29: Relaid old door etc. at Barkstone Schools today. Went down London Rd tonight.

T30: Still out at Barkstone with Jack Stocks. I see we have bought a new Chevrolet Chassis and are selling the Ford.

F31: Made two sashes today and fixed them on the roof and also glazed them. Went down London Rd tonight.

9 August 1925

S1: Prepared two lavatory seats this morning for Barkstone in the shop. Went down to the match v Peterborough. Stephens batted well for his 60 odd runs.

S2: Went to Holy Eucharist and Evensong today. Had a walk round Barrowby with Wilf Beck, Greasley and Cyril.

M3: Wilf Beck, Cyril and I went to Sheffield to see Lancs. v. Yorks. at Bramall Lane. Fine days cricket. Very interesting indeed.

T4: Started work again today.

S15: Did a bit more to my tool box today, finished the lid. Went to pictures with Cyril tonight.

S16: Saw Winnie today. She is home on holiday for a month.

S22: Cyril and I went to Trent Bridge to see Notts v Gloucester today. Notts were well on top, but Gloucester were a fine bowling and fielding side. Went to the Long Row with one of Cyril's old mates.

S30: Went to Holy Communion this morning, and afterwards had a walk round Harrowby with Bernard Shipman. Went to Gonerby with Cyril, Wilf Beck and Grearly tonight.

M31: Back in the shop again today, helping "Gillie" with some windows for Hill Avenue. Went down London Rd tonight and had a decent game.

10 September 1925

T1: Been down at Bird's all day today repairing sash cords, etc. Went to pictures with Fred ? tonight to see "The Side-Show of Life".

W2: Started on a pair of gates for Mr. Atkins of Barrowby. Repaired three sash chords at Burtons. Winnie came down this evening so I had a walk back with her.

T3: Prep. the top rails for Mr. Atkins gate today, also went down to Mr. Birds. Did a bit more to my tool chest.

M21: Reg's 21st Birthday. Went to his party with Wilf. Met his Eileen, the Misses Labraham, Mr and Mrs Symons, Mr Oates and Miss Mason, Mr Cupitt, Miss Porter, Doris Tinkler, Percy Caunt, Kathleen. A very merry party indeed.

T22: Fixing the ironwork on the Atkins gate today. Went to the prize distribution of the Technical Institute by Lady Brownlow in the Town Hall Ballroom this evening. The place was crowded.

W23: Went to see "In a Monastery Garden" at the New tonight. A very good picture indeed. Been hanging the gates today.

T24: Went to the Vicars preparation class tonight and afterwards Bernard and I went to the study with him for a chat. He looks well after his holiday.

F25: Went with Cyril to see "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall" at the Picture House tonight. Very romantic but very good for all that. Prep front door for Hill Avenue.

S26: Went to enrol at the College tonight and afterwards went with Cyril to the Long Row Picture House. Fine orchestra there, although the picture was feeble.

S27: Harvest Thanksgiving today at Church. Went to Holy Communion and then took Doreen to Morning Prayer to hear the Vicar of Grimsby. Went with Wilf Beck and Andy Greasly.

M28: Started on vestibule frame for third bungalow today. Went with Cyril Martin to Practical Carpentry and Joinery tonight at Notts, first time this session.

T29: Finished vestibule frame today and started on bedroom casement for Hill Avenue. Drew Mr. Atkins gates tonight just to get my hand in again.

W30: Ernest, Ralph and myself have been stacking away 4x2 nearly all day. Stayed in tonight.

11 January 1926

F1: Working at the Duke's Yard today pulling out the old stair. Been listening in to Daventry tonight. Bought a Neutron Crystal. Fine results.

S2: Sharpened Grandad's saw this afternoon. Went to see "Drums of Jeopardy" at the Exchange Hall with Cyril tonight. Went to Bank and took out a Home Safe. [Wages £1-10-10]

[This square-bracketed information about pay is listed, for 12 weeks, separately at the back of the Diary.]

S3: Rained all day today. Went to Holy Eucharist with Wilf this morning. Cyril and Andy came to Church with us tonight. Rev. Pool preached a good sermon.

M4: Fixed stairs in the Toc H room in Dukes Yard today. Went with Cyril to "David Livingstone" at the New. Great picture.

T5: Matchboarding at the Duke's Yard with Walter Rowarth today. Listening in tonight.

W6: Working in the Toc H room today. Did some unsuccessful experimenting with a two coil holder.

T7: Started on moulds for concrete gate posts today. Drawing a flight of stairs for practical joinery at Notts tonight.

F8: Still on moulds for gate posts for Duke's Yard today. Finished drawing of staircase.

S9: Fixed shuttering for one gate post to be cased "IN SITU". Went to Theatre with Cyril. Jolly fine show. [Wages £1-10-8. Extra insurance became due. I now pay $\frac{1}{4}$ an increase of 2d per week.]

S10: Went to Holy Eucharist this morning. Had a walk with Cyril and Reg this afternoon, and went to Church with Cyril, Wilf and Andy.

M11: Making bench drawers for Champion Garage today. Started Notts again tonight.

T12: Finished making drawers today. Listened in to a good programme from London tonight.

W13: Prepared the runners for drawers today and fixed the locks.

T14: Went to Notts tonight and started on steel rod trusses at Building Construction. Finished at Duke's Yard today.

F15: Went to Yard this morning and repaired chest of drawers. Afterwards helped John with linen cupboards. Developed some mould with Mr. Hollingsworth tonight.

S16: Went to Yard this morning. Worked on cupboards. Saw "Ypres" the "Great War" film at the New with Cyril tonight. [Wages £1-10-8. The Governor asked me several questions relating to my age, date of next rise etc this morning.]

S17: Late this morning so went to Matins ?. Watched the tobogganing on Beacon Hill this afternoon. Went with Cyril and Wilf to Church.

M18: Been with "Gilly" at Wilfords fixing shelves today. Cyril Martin and I did a bit more on the model stairs tonight.

T19: At Wilfords again today with Gilly. Stayed in reading tonight.

W20: Finished at Wilfords today. Went back to the Yard. Helping Gill on the bench.

T21: Went to Notts tonight working on Steel Rod Trusses under Mr. Shacklock.

F22: Started on wardrobes for Parkers today with Gill. Went to Notts and ? Circle on circle door frame.

S23: Went to the Pictures with Cyril tonight. The film was called "Sundown" the sequel to the "Covered Wagon". Very good indeed. [Wages £1-10-8]

S24: Went to Holy Eucharist this morning with Wilf Beck. Had a walk with Cyril and Reg in the afternoon. Went to Evensong with Cyril, Wilf ?? tonight.

M25: Working in the shop again today with Robinson on those wardrobes. Worked on stairs with Martin at Notts.

T26: "Bill" Garton started again today. Helped us with wardrobe. Went to the Vicar's class tonight. Listened in for an hour afterwards.

W27: Finished wardrobes today in the shop and my homework tonight.

T28: Went up Hill Avenue to fix the fence today with Joe, Bill and Jack. Went to Notts tonight.

F29: Fencing again today up Hill Avenue. Went to Theoretical Carpentry tonight.

S30: Fixed ground floor joists to Mr. Patton's house this morning. Repaired Aunt Mary's mirror this afternoon. Went to Theatre tonight. [Wages £1-10-8]

S31: Went to Holy Communion this morning. Had a walk to Harlaxton and passed the old aerodrome. Cyril came to Church with us tonight.

12 February 1926

M1: Fixed a door casing and hung the door in Mrs Clark's bungalow today. Went to Notts with Cyril Martin.

T2: Still up the Avenue helping Joe fencing etc. Did my homework tonight.

W3: Went up to the bungalow as usual today, still fencing with Joe and Jack.

T4: Back in the shop again today helping Garton to ? back framing of Collard's window. Went to Notts as usual.

F5: Cyril finished at Goodchild's today rather unexpectedly. Went to Notts as usual and had a lecture on roof principals.

S6: Met Cyril in Nottingham this afternoon and we went to see the County play Aston Villa. Notts won after a real good game 1 - 0. Went to the Elite afterwards. [£1-10-8]

S7: Too late for Holy Eucharist this morning so went to Morning service instead. Reg, Wilf and me so we all had a stroll down to the Wier houses.

M8: Prep shelves etc for Mr Collards job today in the joiner's shop. Went to Notts as usual.

T9: Working in the shop again today with Garton and Robinson. Did some homework tonight. Bought a mortise-gauge off Jack Stocks.

W10: Started on an angle window for Hill Avenue today in the shop. Stayed in and did some homework tonight.

T11: Still on bay window today. Went to Notts as usual. Rode with Ede Lovegrove and Wilf Gooch tonight.

F12: Finished one window today and had orders to start on another same size.

S13: Helped Cyril to fix iron mould to his plane this afternoon. We went to the pictures tonight. [£1-10-8]

S14: Went to Holy Eucharist and Evensong today. Rained this afternoon so we could not go out. Cyril came with us tonight.

M15: Started on bay windows, helped to sand down timber and this afternoon went to the Wesleyan Chapel and fixed up the lantern and screen for Miss Dawson. Went to Notts with Martin.

T16: Spent today at the bench making an angle bay window. Had a short stroll tonight.

W17: I have been helping John to re-roof Rothwell Lee's boat house up the Wharf today. Did my homework tonight.

T18: Working up Greenhill Road today repairing sashcords. Had a lecture on stability of walls this evening at Nottingham.

F19: Finished the windows and handrail, repaired the door casing and started on picture rail today. Finished the hangar roof tonight at Notts.

S20: Made a lid for the wireless case this afternoon. Went to the "New" to see Len Chancy in the "Unholy Three" with Cyril tonight. Finished the picture rail up Greenhill this morning. [£1-10-8]

S21: Reg was home today so we went to Holy Eucharist and then had a walk round the Weir houses. Went for a walk with Cyril, Wilf and Reg this afternoon.

M22: I have been repairing skirting, etc. today and started to alter cupboards. Went to Notts as usual with Cyril Martin.

T23: Still up Greenhill today jobbing about. Did my homework tonight.

W24: I am finished up Greenhill Rd today, started repairing Mr. White's gate posts.

T25: Leslie is helping me to take up and reset the post after chopping off the old concrete. Went to Notts as usual tonight.

F26: Assisting John to repair fence at Mr Capels, Belton Lane today. Went to University again tonight.

S27: Finished at Capels today and back in the shop. Went to pictures with Cyril. [£1-10-8]

S28: Went to Holy Eucharist and Evensong today. Had a walk with Cyril, Reg and Wilf Beck.

13 March 1926

M1: Working on windows in the shop today. Went to Notts with Martin tonight working on stairs.

T2: Working at Mrs. Burton's today altering cupboards. Did homework tonight.

W3: Fixed a frieze rail in the bathroom and hung one pair of doors today at Burtons.

T4: Finished at Burtons today. Went to Building Construction at Nottingham.

F5: Back once again in the shop today helping John to prepare windows for Huntingtower Road.

S6: Went to see the Forest v Bolton Wanderers in the Cup this afternoon with the Maules. Forest played jolly well and drew 2 - 2. [$\mathcal{L}1-10-8$]

S7: Reg was home this week so we went up to see his Mother. Had a walk this afternoon and went to church tonight.

M8: We are prep windows for two houses in Huntingtower Rd. The Guv'nor and I went up to put the hut up and cut off some material. Went to Notts as usual tonight.

T9: Helping Walter to prepare some signs for Bass and Co. Went with John to unpack the stage for the Philharmonic Concert this afternoon.

W10: Ernest and Jack came to help John and I today at the Barracks. We got most of the platform up today.

T11: John and I finished at the Drill Hall and listened for a few minutes to the rehearsal. Went to Nottingham again tonight.

F12: Up at the Barracks again today taking down the Philharmonic Society's platform. Their rendering of Elijah was a great success.

S13: In the shop this morning with John. Went to see "Trilby" at the Theatre with Cyril. First Class Company. Andrew McMarters was absolutely great. [$\mathcal{L}1-10-8$]

S14: Went to Holy Eucharist with Wilf this morning and had a walk with Cyril and Doreen. We all went to Belton this afternoon, Reg as well and to Church tonight.

M15: Working down North Parade at Browns with Dansons plumbers preparing bathroom. Went to Notts with Cyril.

T16: Still working with Bradley down the Parade. I am 20 yrs old today. Mam gave me 5 shillings and Reg and Doreen gave me handkerchiefs. Also had a letter from the Vicar.

W17: Working till half past seven in the shop tonight with Walter.

T18: Working with Walter prep windows today. We also started on some gates. Went to Notts tonight.

F19: Started on stairs with Walter Rowarth today, for Huntingtower Rd. I did not see Bernard Maule on the train tonight.

S20: Worked all this afternoon on Mam's mantelpiece. I have almost finished it. Went to theatre with Cyril tonight. Had my "raise" today. [$\mathcal{L}1-19-0\frac{1}{2}$]

S21: Fair Sunday. Reg was home today. Went to Holy Eucharist, and then for a walk with Cyril and Doreen. Had a stroll with Cyril, Reg and Wilf.

14 April 1926

S24: Went to Notts with Martin for Practical Joinery Exam today, had tea at Lyons and came home and went to the pictures.

S25: Lazy this morning and did not go to Church. Had a stroll with Cyril. Wilf Beck came to Belton with us this afternoon and to Church after tea.

M26: Up Huntingtower Rd today helping Ernest on Gibson's roof.

T27: Finished up Huntingtower Rd today. Still wet and miserable. Enough to give one the pip.

15 May 1926

S1: Worked in shop this morning and sat for Grade III Building Construction this afternoon at the Girls Central School. Went with Cyril to see "White Cargo" at the Theatre. Saw Charles Hodges, brother and double of Horace, whom we saw at Notts. I bought a new pair of shoes from Moulds.

S2: Went to Holy Eucharist and then walked to Denton with Cyril to buy a tool chest. Went to Church with Reg tonight and had a walk round Gonerby and Manthorpe.

M3: Went to butchers this morning and repaired floor, arrived back in shop and helped Martin with a bay window. Went down London Rd for some fielding practice tonight.

S23: Went to Church this morning with Wilf.

M24: Saw Notts and Surrey with Wilf, Reg and Cyril. Sandham and G. Gunn both scored centuries. Lovely weather, good cricket which we thoroughly enjoyed.

T25: Working on Hill Avenue on bungalow for Charlesworth. We have started overtime from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Cannot get down to cricket.

16 June 1926

F11: Working with Bill Turner at Garnham's bungalow today.

S12: Went to Test Match at Trent Bridge today with Wilf Beck and Frank Cullen. We saw Hobbs and Sutcliffe get 32 in 50 minutes till rain stopped play. After play was

abandoned for the day we stood outside the members entrance and saw all the players.

W23: Finished on the bungalow and got back in the shop. Went with Gill and fixed a sign at the ? petrol store.

17 January 1927

S1: Spent this afternoon when I arrived home from Waltham on gluing up framing and stall board for the shop window. Saw the "Midnight Sun" at the New Pictures.

S2: After Church this morning I had walk to Harlaxton with Reg. Went out with Becky and Co. after lunch. Wrote to Cyril tonight. Told him to try and be more optimistic.

M3: Garton started this morning so I have been working alone all day. Finished cleaning off the oak framing for Dad's window back.

T4: The "Boss" came out today and kicked up the deuce of a row. Not enough work done I suppose. Stayed in swotting tonight.

W5: I have joined the Men's Guild at Church and attended the first meeting tonight. A very interesting address by the Vicar on the Holy Eucharist.

T6: Went over to Prince Henry's stables with Ernest to be helping Reg to do halter rings etc this afternoon. Ordered ?? season tickets.

F7: Finished at Waltham today and brought my tools home.

S8: Started in shop this morning on bay windows for Hill Avenue. Preparing corner moulds for Dad's window back this afternoon. Memo: Wed Library Galsworthy's "Captures".

S9: Went to Holy Eucharist this morning with Reg. Had a walk to Gonerby with Wilf and Andy this afternoon.

M10: Started school again tonight. We were congratulated on turning up at almost full strength.

T11: Working in shop today finishing bays for Miss Hands?

W12: Went to Notts with "Pop" Raynor tonight for quantities. Mr Bagnall was ill so he sent one of his assistants instead.

T13: Did some more stresses strains etc tonight under Mr. Geeson. Making more Bays for another bungalow with Martin.

F14: Started on drawing of Tympanum Pediment overdoor and architrave for my City and Guilds Model tonight. [The finished version of this architrave in oak has survived, and a photograph of it is included in my article "Ben Sewell - Furniture Maker".]

S15: Suffering from a cold today so went round to the library and chose A.A. Milne's Days Play. Stayed in tonight and did some more drawing.

S16: Stayed in bed today until dinner time. Becky and Andy called after dinner but I did not go out. Did Maths at night.

M17: Cold still bad today so I did not go to Notts tonight. Stayed at home and did some swot instead.

T18: Making sashes today with Martin. Went to Library tonight and took out Shakespeares "Julius Ceasar".

W19: Went to Notts for quantities as usual with Pop Rayner. Took Carpenters Joiners Work tonight.

T20: Spent today in bed with a rotten cold. However I did a bit of reading to relieve the monotony.

F21: Stopped in bed until dinner time today. Got up afterwards and did a bit of reading and swotting.

18 March 1927

He enters the following notes on the "Engagements" page:

March 10th last date of entry for City and Guilds.

City and Guilds. Sat May 14th 10 a.m. to 2.0 p.m. or 2.30 to 6.30.

May 14th. Last Day for sending in Model

Sat. April 30th. Written Exam 2.30 to 6.30.

©Michael Sewell