



The Journey Continues

Farewell to a Friend

By Kevin Finn

On 30 July, *THE ARCHER* lost a great friend, a local band lost its drummer, the Catholic Church lost a dedicated worker, a family lost an inspirational member and the world lost a great man. I have only known Mal Jacobs for a little over a year, but in that short time he has had a profound impact on me and many others. Mal was a regular contributor to *THE ARCHER* and wrote with a primary focus on issues affecting older members of society. His most enduring trait was his continuous optimism, signified by a bright, bubbly and cheerful outlook, and a very infectious laugh.

Mal was born in Essex in 1932 the youngest of a family of four boys and a girl. He was brought up and educated in a catholic environment where he developed a deep faith that guided him throughout his life, manifested by a caring, joyful outlook that others were innately attracted to. As a young man he set up a carpentry, building and design company, but his greatest passion was music. He was a skilled drummer and went on to become a professional musician playing the 'Big Band' circuit.

After extensive travel around the UK, Mal moved to Australia where he joined his parents and two of his brothers. He continued with his musical career, opening a drum shop and travelling the world doing what



Mal in London, Spring 1998.

Photo by long time Californian friend Terri Davidson.

he loved best, and admitted to being happiest in 1970 whilst in California, USA. He returned to the UK in 1986 and subsequently settled down in East Finchley in 2001.

Mal was involved in a number of projects with the church in London and Essex. As well as his involvement with *THE ARCHER*, he was also well known in Maddens Ale House

where he was a member of the Jeremy Currie Trio, a local jazz trio that entertained for fun.

Mal died from a heart attack on 30 July 2003, a shock to all that knew him, and he certainly looked and acted as one considerably younger than his 71 years.

Mal's wish was to be kindly remembered as someone who tried to leave the world a better place than he found it. As for me, I'm saddened by his sudden loss, but grateful for the privilege of meeting such a wonderful person.

Malcolm Bernard Jacobs
23/3/1932—30/7/2003

One of our regular contributors, Mal Jacobs, passed away at the end of July. The following article is Mal's final submission. You may well have views on what he says, and, if so, *THE ARCHER* will be pleased to receive them. - Editor.

It's in the Mail

By Mal Jacobs

It used to be called the Postal Service, but is now referred to as No Service for many seniors living in rural and suburban areas. It is just another item to add to the growing UK casualty list, prompting the question, "Can we run any service efficiently and effectively in this country?" Sadly, the answer seems to be "no".

It appears that the Post Office is to cut overheads by cutting jobs, closing as many outlets as possible (ignoring any public opposition) in order to be profitable. However, the Post Office is not involved with coffee or materials; it is supposed to be providing a public service. Some of its customers are frail or elderly people, those who live in remote areas with little or no public transport, who need and demand a decent postal service. Most people, of course, know we have to progress but why not explain what is afoot in full and do some proper forward planning. Some humble suggestions for the masters from me are:

1. Install ATM machines, stamp machines and other automated services for use when a post office closes
2. Operate a mail order service to buy stamps, air letters and other products available post-free!
3. Install automatic vending machines in pubs, shops etc to sell post office merchandise and essential products
4. Put letter boxes near bus stops, phone boxes,

shopping centres and in more user friendly locations

5. Arrange with National Express etc. a tie-up to get same-day service to major cities
6. Implement user-friendly hours for shoppers and open all day Saturday similar to all other shops
7. Ready-stamped tourist postcards in all post offices throughout Britain so the sender merely puts address, message and posts the cards
8. Automatic weighing machines outside post offices to send parcels or letters worldwide using the outside stamp machines at the post office. These could be installed in a separate booth outside all post offices
9. Better consultation is required with the RNIB for future ideas like keypads with poor vision in mind
10. Offer two new same-day services - pigeon post and a roadrunner. The pigeon will be faster but the runner will have the advantage of being able to speak the message.

Thanks Karen

THE ARCHER would like to thank Karen & Stuart March of INTERental.com, who were so helpful in arranging a mini bus to transport friends to the funeral of Mal Jacobs in Essex.

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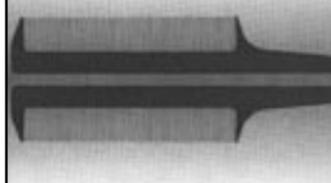
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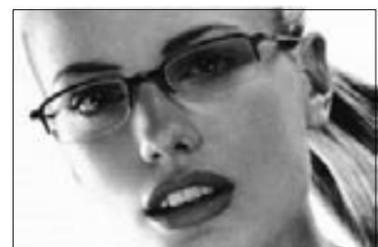
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