BARRETT JENKINS

SOUTHWOLD

1904 – 1992
Foreword

It could be said that Barrett Jenkins has been in the 1900s what James Maggs was in the 1930s. They both recorded daily life, as well as the people of Southwold, Maggs with his many photographs, and Barrett with his stories and newspaper articles. Barrett's understanding of Southwold during his lifetime, which have been collected and admirably by Alan Bottomley, Head of Elexon. Jenkins was a great man in the town.

Barrett Jenkins

Barrett Jenkins was the father Frederick into the civic life of Southwold. He was a councilor, alderman, recorder, and for three terms as mayor. During one of these terms, he was also mayor of the Borough of Southwold, and during the same year, he was a member of the Borough Council. During this time, he took part in many activities and was involved in many civic matters. Some of this material was that used by his son, Henry Jenkins, in his book, "A Visit to Southwold," and Editor's Note: 1963 was based on this. Three other books follow his Seminaries of Southwold during the War Years. Another is "A Collection of Bygones and Local Characters," and "The Chaff and Scrapping Stories and Local Personality." His contributions to the town and to the lives of many of its residents have been remembered and appreciated. He is greatly missed and remembered to the public in Southwold.

Southwold

1904—1992

Barrett's story is more personal. His words of the everyday occurrences in his life. Read them, keep them, and enjoy some of the records of the town, with the help of Frederick and Barrett for leaving so much material to be shared over in the coming years.

Southwold F. Winters

[Signature]
Foreword

It could be said that Barrett Jenkins has been to the 1900s what James Maggs was to the 1800s. They both recorded daily happenings in our Borough. Maggs with his many vocations was in the centre of civic life and his ditties, notes and printed matter left a wonderful record of Southwold during his life time, which have been edited so admirably by Alan Bottomley, Head of Eversley School, for the Suffolk Record Society.

Barrett followed his father Frederick into the civic life of Southwold, serving as councillor, alderman and for three terms as Mayor, marking a period of over fifty years service to Borough and Town. Most of his records were made during this time, but most important Frederick Jenkins was the local photographer, with his shop in the High Street. Together they were responsible for hundreds of photographs, taken of civic and public functions and of the people present. Some of this material was first used by his father to form the lantern lecture 'A Visit to Southwold', and Barrett’s first book in 1983 was based on this. Three other books followed — in 1984 ‘Reminiscences of Southwold During Two World Wars; 1985 saw ’A Collection of Bygones and Local Characters’ and in 1986 ‘Ghost and Smuggling Stories and Local Poems’ was published.

Barrett will be best remembered in Suffolk and beyond for his lantern lectures that he so freely made available to the public at large, especially his second love the Southwold Railway. I saw and heard this at least ten times myself, his enthusiasm for our local line seemed to bring it to life and I swear you could smell the smoke.

Unlike Maggs, Barrett’s diary is more personal. He wrote of the highs and lows and the everyday occurrences in his life. Read the diary together with the books and enjoy some of the records of our town, and thank Frederick and Barrett for leaving so much material to be mused over in the coming years.

Scrivener P. Waters
Arnold Barrett Jenkins, second child and elder son of Frederick and Maud Jenkins, who came to Southwold in 1900-1 taking over the photographic business, also the stationery, china and artists shop from Martin.

Arnold Barrett Jenkins was born on 25th September 1904 at 94 High Street, Southwold. Married on 25th September 1929 to Gwyneth Constance Annie Freeman, born 12th September 1904, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Freeman of Wenhaston, Corn and Coal Merchant, Farmer.

Three Children
Andrew Barrett, Born 1st June 1937.
Peter Brian, Born 3rd September 1938.

Mrs Gwyneth Constance Annie (Queenie) died 10 pm, 17th January 1982.

Peter, died 8th February 1992.
Education

Private School  Miss Cleaves, Reydon  Aged five to ten years.
Boarder  Paston Grammar School, North Walsham, Norfolk.

Day Pupil  Workington County Technical and Secondary School.
1918, 1919-20  Two years  Secondary Section.

Private Tuition by a Mr. Fox, retired school master.
Prior to being articled to auctioneer and surveyor, Horley.

Hobbies

Metalwork
Started at Workington School. Made ash trays, large trays, fire
screen, etc. in workshop at 96 High Street until date of marriage
when workshop not available.

Carpentry
Made some kitchen furniture and cupboards, small tables, gavel
and block for Town Hall, shields and oak chest. Gavel and block

Wood Carving
Ash trays in Town Hall, trays, jewellery boxes, cigarette boxes,
cake stands, foot stools, etc.
Demonstrated wood carving at exhibition, Sudbury, 1975 and
1976.
Ark of the Covenant and carved cherubs for a masonic degree.

Stamp Collecting
Over many years, later handed over to Andrew about 1970.

Various Activities

Member of Southwold and District Round Table.
Member of Southwold and District Rotary Club until 1970 when
retired from business.

Vice-President and Hon. Member Southwold Archaeological and
Natural History Society.

Vice-Chairman of Southwold Hospital League of Friends. Retired
May 1983.

Member of Probus Luncheon Club, April 1982. Resigned January

Magic

About 1920 Mr. E. W. Moore of Rutland, High Street, Southwold, gave me two books on magic, from which I learnt a
few tricks.

While in Horley, Surrey with Estate Agent I assisted the Rev.
Waller-Bridge of Three Bridges, near Crawley who was a member
of the Inner Circle at some of his charity shows in Surrey and
Sussex in such illusions as 'Will, the Witch and the Watchman' and
the 'Vanishing Witch' in such towns as Haywards Heath, Crawley,
etc.

Joined the Magic Circle in 1925, resigned in 1945 or 6,
performed tricks including escaping while handcuffed from
packing case on stage at Southwold Pier Pavilion. Gave
entertainment at many parties and concerts at Southwold, Beccles,
Leiston, Kessingland and many others, sometimes showing films
as well.
Civic Life

Joined Borough Council, 26th October 1957.
Alderman abolished, 1974.
Elected Mayor, 1965/6/7 and 1969/70.
Acting J.P. during Mayoralty 1965/6/7, two years and one year.
Retired from the council in April 1983 after twenty-five years.
Attended three Royal Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace.
Attended Annual Conferences at Torquay, Scarborough, Blackpool.
Presented block and gavel in bog oak carved with coat of arms, to Town Hall Council Chamber, November 1987.
Full details in desk diaries of those years.
(to be published at a later date)

Having served twenty-five years on the Town Council I did not seek re-election in May 1983.

In May 1983 at the Council meeting I was presented with an inscribed pewter tankard.

Borough and Town of Southwold
A. Barrett Jenkins
in appreciation of services as
Councillor, Alderman and Mayor
1958 – 1983
Southwold Town Council

Masonic Activities

Joined 1955. Secretary L.O.I. for few years to 1967.
W.M. November 1967.
Secretary, November 1968 to November 1983, fifteen years.
Honorary Member, January 1984.
P.P.G. Senior Deacon 1974.
Made set of tracing boards and cupboard 1960-61.
Presented bookcase and library of books.
Wrote 100 year history of Martyn Lodge No 1983.
and presented it to Lodge, December 1982.
Chair of Z 1971.
1968 Secretary to Trustees, resigned November 1990, after twenty-two years.
Joined Mark 1960.
W.M. 1970
Member of Suffolk Installed Masters for many years.

Gave Masonic lectures including:
The Evaluation of the Tracing Boards
Thoughts of a Young Mason on Masonry

Resigned as Secretary to Trustees after twenty-two years, November 1990.

January 1991. Presented to Lodge, Deed Box containing many items of historic interest collected over the years.
Early Days

One of my earliest recollections was being pushed in a perambulator or what was commonly called a mailcart up Station Road and told to be quiet as we were passing the Police Station.

In these early days we always seemed in the charge of a nursemaid.

When nine months old the Pier Master remembered me walking on the pier with father.

On 29th June 1907 when nearly three years old, a Mr. F. J. White, a practical Parenologist and Physiognomist was visiting Southwold so with my sister Marjorie and brother Blyford we had our bumps read, and I was found well adapted for: - Agent, Surveyor, Engineer, Mechanic, etc.

Once when quite young our parents went away on holiday and we were parked out on a farm in Bramfield where I remember being seated on a big farm horse and being a bit frightened. I also remember the country loo which was a two seater and often jointly occupied. On returning home we were taken by pony and trap to Wenhaston Station and then by train to Southwold with our parents on their return from holiday.

As there was no garden at our home at 94 High Street, but only a backyard, we spent most of our time on the common which was our playground.

On Sundays we used to be dressed in our sailor suits and hats with the ribbon flapping over our ears and taken to the Congregational Church for the morning service and leaving just before the sermon. We were not allowed on the beach on Sundays, and later on were not allowed to use our cycles on Sundays, and had to attend Sunday school.

The summers always seemed to be sunny and warm, the beach being sandy and the sea mostly calm, even so when we went bathing we had a rope tied round us for safety.

Christmas parties were always popular between school friends at private school in Southwold and Reydon.

I well remember Monday wash days when the wash woman would arrive in the early morning and the fire would be lit under the copper in the corner of the washhouse. The place would soon be full of steam and in due course the old mangle would by turning and the washing ready to hang out.

On those days women would spread their washing on the gorse bushes on the common to dry and bleach, needless to say all children had to keep well away.

Christmas was always a special occasion, having spent Christmas Eve decorating the photographic studio ready for distribution of presents which took place after the turkey dinner and plum pudding on Christmas Day.

The presents were piled around the Christmas Tree which was lit with small candles placed away from decorations. When everyone had settled down, the presents were handed out one at a time so that all could see before the next present was handed out. This way we were kept occupied for most of the afternoon and then in no time it was tea with cakes and jellies.

After playing the usual Christmas games of ‘I Spy’, ‘Blind Mans Buff’, and card games we were soon tired out and ready for bed.

On bath nights all three of us were put in the big new bath, which replaced the tin bath in front of the fire. I was always in the deep end, my older sister in the middle, and my younger brother in the shallow end. After being allowed to play for a while, you can imagine the state of the floor when we had to get out and settle down in our night clothes with a dish of hot leek soup.

In the winter we were dressed up in warm clothes with boots that buttoned up, using button hooks and taken out either in the pram then called a mailcart or for walks onto the common, especially when snow covered the ground, when we helped to build snowmen and throw snowballs. We used to be out in all weathers.

In the winter we wore black oilskin coats like the fishermen with s’wester hats.

At the age of five years I went to a private school run by Miss Cleeves, Lowestoft Road, Reydon. The three of us always walked
to school whatever the weather, went home for dinner and then back to school for the afternoon.

At Christmas we used to visit each other's houses and enjoy good parties.

In December 1910 I won a prize for recitation, a book called 'Cymberline'.

Sometimes on a Wednesday, when it was early closing in the shops and during the summer terms, our parents would hire a trap and horse, and if when coming home at tea time would stop at the school when we had an enjoyable ride home.

Normally we would be coming home when the afternoon train was arriving from Halesworth, when I would sometimes jump onto the step at the back of the horse drawn bus and have a free ride up Station Road.

It was about this time that we had the first gramophone and early records of famous singers and bands.

1909

Great excitement on 26th October 1909, when a balloon came down in Reydon after having been blown across the North Sea in a gale during the night, when father was called out in the early morning to take photographs.

In May 1909, Halleys Comet was visible in Southwold between 9 and 10.30 p.m. I was four and a half years old and remember being called from bed to look out of the window to see this wonderful spectacle in the sky. I was told that many people assembled on the common to get a clear view. I hope to be able to see it again in 1986.

1910 — 11

About 1910 I went to Workington with Aunt Ethel by the night train after spending the evening at a friend's house in London, and I can still smell the rotten egg which was cooked there. Returning home after a short holiday in the Lake District with my parents.

During this visit I saw which I think was my first aeroplane which flew from Scotland over the Solway Firth and landed on the beach at Silloth, near Workington. Men from a nearby works applied grease to protect the metal parts from rust.

While in Workington I remember seeing the wives and family at their front doors awaiting news of those killed and injured by a fall of a chimney at the Moss Bay steel works.

Coronation of George V 1911. I watched the dinner in the High Street, when 1000 men, women and children sat down. There were forty carvers, each with four assistants. Each child was presented with a mug.

The first cine film I saw was of the Coronation and shown in the Old Drill Hall (now Conservative Hall) when the projector was housed in a metal fireproof cabinet.

In August 1911 the gorse bushes near the Golf Club were on fire, and the nearest water was in the dykes nearby and was pumped by the old manual which was worked by hand by the spectators as well as the firemen. There were four or six people on each side working the pump arms up and down. I can still remember the excitement.

1912 — 13

On 17th January the 'Idun' was washed ashore in front of the town, but as this was in the evening and dark and stormy we were not allowed out. But saw it next day when we heard of some brave rescue work. Later on the ship was dismantled and sold by auction.

1913 Whit Monday Sports. The first aeroplane to land on Southwold common gave displays. At the time I had mumps so was not allowed in the sports enclosure but watched the flights from the common.

The next day father paid the pilot a golden sovereign for a flight.

During one of the landings the propeller was damaged by hitting a wire fence. This propeller now hangs in the Town Hall.
Boarding School

In 1915 while still ten years old went to a boarding school at North Walsham for three years with my brother Blyford. The Paston Grammer School was where Lord Nelson went, and in a glass case there was a brick on which he had carved his initials. Owing to travelling difficulties we did not go home for half-terms, but stayed behind and had fun with a few others. Only on one occasion did I remember our parents visiting the school, and this was on a swimming sports day. It was at this school that I learned to swim.

The school was sub divided into four houses, namely Nelson, Host, Walton and Tennyson to which I belonged.

During some of the winter Sunday evenings a few of us were allowed into the head masters private sitting room to listen to gramophone records, and I was allowed to wind up the gramophone as we had one at home and knew how to work it.

Two of the languages taught at this school were French and Latin to be replaced by German at the Workington school.

One moonlight evening while looking through the headmasters large telescope at the moon I was lucky to see a Zeppelin pass in view right in front.

During air raid warnings we had to pick up our clothes which were laid out in the head masters private sitting room to listen to gramophone records, and I was allowed to wind up the gramophone as we had one at home and knew how to work it.

Being wartime some of the boys who were boarded out to other houses were so hungry that we would save some of our food for them, such as bread and dry buns.

We used to get plenty of rabbit stew (sometimes we thought it was cat).

On Sunday for breakfast we often had bread and black treacle.

We had to march in single file to church morning services wearing the awful mortar board hats which seldom fitted and were often falling off.

During one service an army dispatch rider marched up to the pulpit and handed in a message after which all the visiting soldiers left the church.

An armoured train often parked on the railway line beside the playing field ready to steam off in any direction it might be needed.

The headmaster was very free with the cane and one had to bend over to receive it. I was lucky and only had one stroke and that was a backhander as I turned the wrong way.

I always thought that we went to this school because one of the masters was a cousin of fathers, but he was called up for the army in the early days.

The main sports were football and cricket and when cold enough we went skating on the nearby canal.

On Trafalgar Day the ghost of Nelson would visit and scare the younger boys after lights out.

During fire drills we had to climb out of a top window and slide down a canvas shoot on to the ground.

While at this school the headmaster’s wife Mrs. Hare damaged her foot on the iron entrance gates which caused blood poisoning, from which she died. We all had to file past her coffin which was covered with flowers.

All letters we wrote home were checked for spelling mistakes, etc.

As it was wartime we did not have a tuck box, and were envious of those who had.

It was at this school that I learned to play chess.

My brother Blyford and I first arrived by train in the afternoon, in time for tea, which was totally different from home life. At home we were never given tea to drink, but a cup of hot water with sugar and milk. When asked to pass our cups to the top of the table where the tea urn was operated by a prefect we asked for hot water, sugar and milk and were laughed at, which was upsetting. Then asked for jam and were told that this belonged to boys who
had tuck boxes. We did not have tuck boxes so had to go without. Apparently our parents had no idea about tuck boxes, so we were left without extras such as jam or cakes. One day Blyford helped himself from another boys locker, was caught and had the cane. At home we had not been prepared for boarding school life and we had quite a hard time for the first few weeks.

During the school holidays, on dark evenings one of our pranks was to make a cardboard life size folding skeleton and paint it with luminous paint, then suddenly to produce this in front of people with various results.

Late one summer evening we had a red painted flash lamp bulb on a long flex and swung this from a bedroom window over the street when several people thought it was some kind of fire fly, and a small crowd gathered including a parson.

Many evenings were spent in building working models with meccano from a large set received one Christmas also another make with wooden parts for building trucks and carriages for toy railways.

During the evenings we all had to learn to play chess, but there were other games we could join in.

School at Workington

On leaving boarding school brother Blyford was sent to Framlingham College, while I, being interested in mechanical things, was sent to Workington to the County Technical and Secondary School, and presumably to save costs was boarded with Grandma and Aunt Ethel on mother's side. I duly took the entrance exam for the Technical section. But after the first day Aunt Ethel had me transferred to the secondary section without my parents knowing, saying that I would be learning more. I was not allowed to write home to tell my parents.

I found this difficult as instead of continuing with French, Latin, Chemistry and Carpentry I had to contend with third year classes in German, Physics, Carpentry and a little Metalwork such as making brass ashtrays. This was disappointing and difficult as I was expecting to learn engineering subjects. I still have certificates for Woodwork and Physics.

My first journey was with father to London who was returning to camp after a short leave from the air force. We went to a show then I was taken to some Y.M.C.A. hostel with instructions to put me on the midnight train at Euston for Workington, arriving next morning.

Workington was so far away that I did not go home until the following summer holiday, nearly a whole year. On arriving at Southwold station there was no one to meet me, and it seemed strange to walk home carrying my case all on my own.

During each term I had dinners at school, when we had to hand in our meat coupons before being allowed in. One day I managed to slip my empty plate under the table and was served with a second helping.

While at Workington I joined the gymnasiuim club run by the Baptist Church where I had to attend twice each Sunday and Midweek Service, also helped with the juniors at the Sunday school.

On Saturdays when I had finished chopping fire wood and polishing the gas stove with emery paper, also polishing the knives etc I was allowed out for cycle rides and when fine would visit Basenthwaite Lake and hire a rowing boat for the afternoon.

On most Sundays after the evening service we would visit the parson's house for a light supper. Although we lived very close to the chapel, Grandma would always keep a clock five minutes fast so as not to be late for the service, but nearly always arrived during the first hymn.

After two years living in Workington with Grandma and Aunt Ethel, who was a teacher at an infants school you could understand that I was pleased to return home to Southwold in the summer of 1919.

Had flu very badly during 1918 epidemic when many died.

I lived at 32 Gray Street, Workington, Cumberland, with Grandma and Aunt Ethel while at school in Workington.

At the rear were the railway engine repair works and general maintenance where I spent many hours shunting engines in and out of sheds and helping to prepare them for daily work.
World War 1

At the outbreak of the first world war there was some panic among the August visitors as the banks were closed and some of the shopkeepers had to lend money.

Great excitement when the Duke of Westminsters armoured cars arrived and parked in the High Street.

About the same time the Royal Sussex Cyclists arrived one afternoon when accommodation had to be found for them. The soldier who stayed with us at 94 High Street was Ernest Butcher the singer. The regiment left Southwold on 1st July 1915.

Both of these occasions were photographed by father.

During air raid warnings when Zeppelins could be heard approaching we would be taken across the street to the cellars of the vicarage when sometimes Rev. Sutton would give us sweets.

During the early morning of 25th April 1916 during the bombardment of Lowestoft, I watched the fire gun flashes of the German Warships, and later cycled over to Lowestoft to see the damage done.

When a Zeppelin was brought down in the evening of 17th June 1917 at Theberton the flames could be seen from Southwold, but I saw the glow in the sky from Lowestoft where I was staying for the night.

Occasionally a sea mine would be washed up on the beach and they would be guarded by soldiers until disposed of.

The Red Cross Hut was used as an ammunition depot, and we used to watch the soldiers priming the Mills Hand Grenades ready for practice on the common.

On one occasion we hid in a trench nearby while the grenades were exploding.

When the practice was over we would collect some of the unexploded ones, defuse them and make fireworks. We placed the detonators on a wad of cotton wool soaked in meths, lit them and put a dustbin lid over them, the result was a loud bang and the dustbin lid landed on the roof, riddled with holes.

On Armistice Day 1918 I was still at school in Workington, when at 11 a.m. all the works hooters and whistles were sounded and all were sent home for the day. I went to the railway engine depot at the rear of Gray Street where I was living with Grandma and Aunt Ethel, and was allowed to drive a railway engine up and down the line over fog signal detonators.

At one time when the marshes along Ferry Road were flooded, father (F. Jenkins) was fined 10 shillings for using his camera near some defences.

1921—24

Between School and Office Work

On leaving school I remained at home for about a year, having tuition with a Mr. Fox, a retired schoolmaster, who gave me plenty of homework to do.

During this time I would help in the shop and printing rooms, I also cut out and painted small animals in wood for the shop.

On many occasions I would show the lantern for lectures at the Town Hall, St. Felix School and Chapels using the Carson Arc Lamp while our electric supply was D.C.

During this period a Mr. E. T. Deacon who was a partner in an estate and auctioneers business in Horley, Surrey was staying at the Crown Hotel and in conversation with father thought it would be a good thing if I joined his firm as an articled clerk. The outcome of this was that I had to sign a three year agreement as clerk for a premium of £100 for which father had taken out an insurance to mature when I was twenty-one, to repay him.

I was not keen on working in an office but did not have a choice, but I did enjoy the surveying part and drawing plans, etc.

During that time I had to study by correspondence courses, but without any supervision I did not do very well and failed the second year exam.
Horley  25th August 1921 – 25th August 1924

After arriving at Horley during the afternoon of a very hot day I spent a long time looking for digs and found a room for one night, after which I had five other places during my three years as articled clerk to C. F. Taylor & Co, House Agent and Auctioneer.

The most interesting to me was surveying and drawing plans, also attending the many auction sales of property and contents.

The worst job was attending the monthly poultry auctions when I had to catalogue the birds, etc. as they arrived and collect the money from the Jewish purchasers, these auctions were held in Crawley, usually on a Friday.

While at Horley I often cycled to Redhill about five miles away to see Uncle Ernest, father’s brother, and family who had a photographic and toy shop. During this time he gave me some of his old conjuring tricks.

On cycling home from Redhill one evening I suddenly came across a wall of fog and thought it was the back of a lorry so I closed my eyes expecting a crash, but nothing happened, this scared me.

On many occasions I had car rides with Gladys Cooper and Malcolm Campbell, and saw Donald (later Sir Donald who was killed in Bluebird) as a child on his small tricycle.

We had a busy time at the office organising the South of England Brass Band contest in June 1922 or 23.

While in Horley I visited the Great Exhibition at Wembley and one day went to Brooklands on the back of a motorcycle with side car, and received a touch of sun stroke. On that day I saw one of the cars go over the top of the bank when the driver was killed.

In those days of silent films I used to get a free seat in the cinema as I often used to work the sound effects for the main films.

Gatwick airport in the early days was a race course and being near Horley would often go there to see the horse racing.

While Lady Buckmaster (Gladys Cooper) was being divorced or separated, then living at Charlwood Manor, it was my job to catalogue items for auction, and to do this I was sitting on her bed with her. We always knew when she had been in the office because of the strong scent she used and her very loud voice.

As Horley was on the main road to Brighton there were many accidents, and on occasions I had to prepare plans of the scenes for court.

For a dare one day I cycled from Horley to Crawley sitting backwards on my cycle without falling off.

On many occasions when returning to Horley from Southwold I would visit St. George’s Hall, London where all the magic shows were held, then I would make up tricks from what I saw.

During the three years at the Horley office I undertook correspondence courses in connection with estate agency and surveying, but did not complete the courses on leaving the district. The courses were difficult to do as there were no facilities at the digs, so had to return to the office to do most of the work where it was very cold in the winter and received no help from the partners. The exams took place at the Imperial College, London while the surveying was in Osterly Park.

On 19th July 1924 visited the Film Stars Garden Party with Blyford and chatted to Betty Davis and other stars.

Summer holidays started and arrived home by Belle Steamer from London. Arrived at 5.55 p.m. On another occasion I was met at Halesworth Station by Beryl Naunton and her mother who then drove me home. Beryl Naunton was the daughter of the Town Clerk.

On finally leaving Horley there was a tearful scene at the station when a girlfriend who I had known for about a year came to see me off. Her family used to make me very welcome and I used to have my Sunday dinners there, and I used to get my mending done.
Office Work, Ipswich

On finishing my apprenticeship at Horley, I called in at Ipswich on my way home in reply to an advert for a clerk in an estate agent, accepted the job and started the following Monday 13th October 1924, finding digs in Berner Street, this job seemed to be mostly rent collecting and serving writs so after about two months packed this in and returned home on 8th November 1924.

While in Ipswich I obtained my first driving licence in 1924 so as to ride the firm's motor cycle which was a Douglas push start model. I borrowed this one weekend to come home on. This seized solid at Blythburgh so I called the local blacksmith who poured paraffin in the cylinder and worked the fly wheel back and forth. This freed it and I arrived home safely.

29th October 1924, Election Day. Helped with results at Picture House, Ipswich until 3 a.m.

Sometimes had the job of serving writs around Ipswich.

1924—25

After Leaving Office Work

On leaving office work in Ipswich I returned home and gradually drifted into the business at 92—96 High Street, Southwold. Processing films and printing. Also, as wireless was in its early days helped to sell and fit up the early crystal sets for headphones and later valve sets. The shop was busy selling components and batteries. Later on, selling and repairing many makes of radio receivers.

10th November 1924 was Mayors Day when father started his second year as mayor, and I attended the Mayors Luncheon for the first time. Subsequently I took photographs for sixteen Mayors Sundays.

On 19th November 1924 the local students were one player short for a rugger game against Framlingham College, and invited me to join them. I told them that I had never played the game and
Posing in studio

Little Drummer Boy

Growing up

Teenager

How we used to invent our own games

Our Motor car

Blyford and Barrett with favourite meccano set
Barrett in middle of pram (mailcart)

Peggie, Blyford, Marjorie, Barrett, Howard

Family group with parents

Group photo taken after mother's funeral in January 1965
Motor cycling days

Four wheels instead of two

Barrett taking one of many photographs of town function—note size of camera

Barrett and Queenie having a picnic—note picnic box for two!
Barrett and Queenie with Ann, Andrew and Peter.
Southwold lifeguards on duty. Barrett third from right

Barrett as Sir Toby in 'School for Scandal'

Rocking stretcher for resuscitation. Designed by Barrett and Leslie James

First ambulance. Replaced in 1935

Red Cross Commandant
Scale model of new Southwold ambulance, 1935. Made by Barrett

The morning after the night before. 22.00 hours, Saturday 15th May 1943
Barrett in middle of photo standing on bomb debris and rubble

ARP and Civil Defence group outside Pier Avenue Hotel

Southwold Civil Defence Team. Winners of 1954 Challenge Shield
left—right: back, L P James, G A Rowles. front, P W C Waters, G A G Haworth, A B Jenkins
15 Market Place, Southwold

Workshop for radio, and later television repairs

Barret's first van

Accumulator room at back of shop
Barrett and Queenie as Mayor and Mayoress giving out money to school children on Trinity Monday

The opening of Trinity Fair, with Barrett as Mayor
Southwold Railway Centenary of Opening. Barrett with sales card of the commemorative postal cover he devised for this event on 24th September 1979.

50th anniversary of the closing of Southwold Railway  
Mr Girling, Barrett, Mr Burley, Mr Upcraft

Golden Wedding Day, 25th September 1979  
with Ann, Andrew and Peter

Four generations  
Barrett, Ann, Julia, Elinor

Barrett attending eldest grandson Trevor's Graduation Day  
at Cambridge University, June 1983
Peter’s children. Brian, Robert and Christine

Barrett in Town Hall Council Chamber to celebrate anniversary of Charter Year attended by Princess Anne The Princess Royal. 16th November 1989

did not know the rules, anyway I had to join them, but I tried to keep away from the ball much to the disgust of my younger brother Howard who was a boarder at the college. After the game we all had hot baths in the communal bath room.

During 1925 when Mr. Hurst the Borough Surveyor was in hospital I took over his department in the Town Hall for several weeks, paying the workmen, testing drains, carrying out surveys and supervising work for cliff repairs after high tide damage. For this work I received about £10.

At about this time Miss Gladys Cowel used to run Saturday night dances at the Constitutional Hall, South Green, while I supplied the records and two valve battery amplifier worked from h.t. accumulators and six volt accumulator. The pick-up used was very primitive with screw adjustments.

On 24th October 1925 on returning home from the pictures at Ipswich with Blyford by motor cycle, had a puncture near Woodbridge causing us to fall off. Then managed to get to Blythburgh when engine stopped, and we left the machine and walked home to Southwold arriving at 3.45 a.m.—collecting machine next day.

28th October. Made a one valve radio set for late girl friend at Horley.

During 1925 I joined the magic circle and started giving magic shows at parties such as Women Institutes and Childrens parties, also showed lantern slides for lectures at Town Hall, St. Felix School and private shows in the country. I converted the Lantern to show with parallel arc while town was on D.C. 200V, and for 12V accumulator for country use. When electricity was changed to A.C. a 500W bulb was fitted.

Being the early days of wireless I was busy fitting up one and two valve sets running on batteries and outside aerials of 100 foot copper wire.

These early sets were for headphones only, but later on some were fitted to one valve amplifiers so as to use the loud speakers. Very often reception was spoiled by atmospherics. All accumulators had to be carried to the electricity works for
recharging until I fitted up a charging board in the cellar under the shop. 30th March 1925.

An accumulator collecting round was soon started for Southwold and Walberswick and was done with cycle and carrier, and delivery of sets were either carried by hand or pushed on a cycle.

During the best weather up to 140 films developed some days.

Concerts on Southwold Pier were very popular at this time.

The new motor cycle had plenty of use during the year taking Marjorie, Peggie or Howard for rides. On 12th September took cousin Ford to London while I continued to Redhill and Horley to see old friends then spending the 14th in London, visiting Albert Hall and St. Georges Hall for their magic show. Stayed with Ford near Russell Square then home in the rain next day.

Towards the end of September visited Blyford at Wisbech for wee kend.

On several occasions would go to Ipswich for the evening with Blyford.

I spent many hours helping Mr. Bennett (a local craftsman) make the mayors chair which father presented to the Town Hall. This was made of bog oak and was very hard to cut and carve.

On Saturday 31st October I fitted a loud speaker in the window of 94 High Street so that people in the High Street could listen to the closing ceremony of the Wembley exhibition.

On many evenings would listen on short wave to America, amateurs, also aircraft — this was always exciting, often listening until early hours of morning.

During March 1925 while in London for exams I stayed at the National Hotel with Mr. Hurst, the Southwold Borough Surveyor, and on the 18th watched the great fire at Madame Tussauds from 10.40 to 12.30 p.m. After the exams I visited Redhill and showed a Lantern for Uncle Ernest, then Horley and Tunbridge Wells for weekend. While in Horley I saw the Southern Belle train from London to Brighton suddenly stop to prevent an accident.

Early Days of radio during April fitted up a crystal set in a round boat in harbour with good results and the next week fitted a 2 valve marlonphone set and amplifier (battery) in a rowing boat with Blyford and played this with loud speaker off the sea front. The next week made a frame aerial and received good results.

Newspaper Report March 1970

Radio Southwold 1925 style

Remember the story of young Barrett Jenkins — now Mayor of Southwold and recently retired from business — and how he built a floating radio station offshore at Southwold in the 1920’s and delighted crowds on the beach with music from an old radio set?

This week I received an old photograph of the incident taken by Mr. Jenkins, showing his mobile radio set and loudspeaker, with his brother Blyford and sister Peggie organising the floating demonstration. It caused quite a flutter in those days of sound broadcast.

His brother Blyford, who is an accountant in Northampton, was 19 then. “The picture shows the long aerial wire which we had to rig up,” says Mr. Jenkins.

“The only way we could do it was to lash two oars, one at each end of the boat, then run the aerial back and forth between them — but it worked.”

Just for the record, that pioneer experiment took place at Easter forty-five years ago.

Apart from wireless, assisted in business at 94 High Street developing films, making frames for drying films and heating cupboard, and fittings for printing machines.

As a member of the local dramatic society I took part in the play “School for Scandal”, on stage in Southwold and Aldeburgh.

On Monday 18th May left Southwold Harbour in a motor cruiser with a Mr. Pope the owner at 10 a.m. for Felixstowe arriving at about 6.30, the sea was choppy and some fog. Had fun cooking meals, next day to Orford and stuck on sand bank for a short while. After another night on board we looked around Aldeburgh and train back to Southwold.

May 29th. A further trip to Lowestoft. Three hours rough sea, also sister Marjorie came as well.
1926 - 27

8th October 1926. The General Strike. I was enrolled as a dispatch rider, but was not required. Also, during the strike I placed a large radio loud speaker in the window of 94 High Street, facing down the street to broadcast all the latest news bulletins. About this time the first Pye portable radio came on the market. It had five valves and only received one station, quite a number of these were sold costing £32.

During this winter had several conjuring engagements including Boxing Day at local hospital. At council meeting on 5th February 1926 the mayor and mayoress, F. Jenkins and M. Jenkins, father and mother, were presented with a silver salver to mark their silver wedding of 2nd January 1926.

Spent many evenings at Mr. S. Hurst (Borough Surveyor) and Mrs. Hurst and outings with Mr. Hurst to Norwich and Ipswich, also one weekend in London.

During March fitted up, without any assistance, wireless at hospital and wired the wards for headphones also staff room and kitchen with loud speakers. Handed over and gave demonstration on 13th April.

22nd March 1926. Took Reg Farrow on pillion seat of motor cycle to London for three days and visited the Alambra, Selfridges, Gamages, Marconi Phone Co. and St Georges Hall, then the Ideal Homes Exhibition and Magic Circle Club.

Mrs and Miss Freeman called at shop and ordered radio set which was fitted up on 27th May.

31st May 1926. Attended Trinity Fair Luncheon as father was Mayor, and in evening took Miss Gwyneth Constance Annie (Queenie) Freeman to the fair, the beginning of fifty-six year romance. Within a week I was learning to drive Freemans Austin 7 car, which was followed by regular outings.

During the period 1926 onwards my main hobby was working in brass and copper, making numerous articles such as trays and dishes which I sold to my mother for cash to purchase more tools and materials. All these articles came back to me when my mother died.

15th January 1927. Invited several people to studio to hear the first broadcast of a rugby match. An interesting year for developments in radio. One valve headphone sets and three valve loud speaker sets.

Wonderful view of part eclipse from Pier on early morning of 24th June 1927, viewed through cut up old negatives in place of smoked glass, sold a good number of these.

In July bought a picnic box for two, this annoyed future mother-in-law as she thought we did not want her on picnics.

Quite a treat on Sunday 7th August. Went with Queenie by Belle Steamer for day to Felixstowe to meet Alice Ogden, a nurse friend of Queenie's, and I was sea sick.

21st and 22nd September 1927 had talks with Queenie's mother and father, re engagement, O.K. Bought ring while staying at Croydon then to Olympia for radio exhibition. Arrived home on 27th September and gave ring to Queenie. I received one from Queenie on the 28th September.

According to my diary 1927 was very busy. Photographic, as many as 150 to over 200 films developed in July and August. Plenty of conjuring, (average £2.10) engagements and showing lantern for talks, also projector for films. Loud speakers and records for dances and fetes.

1928

17th February 1928. Largest audience of 400 children at Leiston for conjuring, and was paid £1.10s. Quite a busy year helping at fetes with home made clock game, many lantern engagements. Apart from sales of radios and gramophones and repairs to both.

Home cines became popular and many films taken on 16mm cine Kodak including 'A Day on the Broads' with the family. This film was shown by the BBC on many occasions later. Films were also taken of many local events during the coming years. Some of the films were taken by Rev. Hunt, Methodist Minister, who had a hand cranked projector which I used to show for him on many occasions.
At the end of September 1928 had car holiday with Queenie calling on friends in Chelmsford, Croydon, Worthing, Seaford and Horsham, visiting Kolster Brands Radio Factory in Sidcup, then Kodak for a lunch and shown over their Harrow Factory. On the way home called at the zoo and in the evening St Georges Hall (magic) also Olympia with father for radio exhibition, next day to Madame Tussauds.

11th November 1928. Armistice Day. Fitted up wireless sets in Congregational and Methodist Church, also Walberswick for 11 a.m. services. Gramophone recitals were popular in Chapels and other places.

Many evenings during the winter I would be in the workshop at 94 High Street, making articles for the wedding next year, and often Queenie would be present always knitting, including socks for me.

1929 onwards

According to my diary I made my first after dinner speech on 1st February at the Southwold Brotherhood Supper when I proposed the health of the town. I also made the winning design for the Brotherhood badge.

Thursday 11th April 1929. The Southwold Railway closed. I was not able to see the last train out as I was indoors with flu’.

During April decided to get married in September and viewed cottage in Woodleys Yard, but decided on houses being built by Mr. Noller in North Road, which would be ready by August. So discussed plans with parents and decided on 25th September for wedding, it being my 25th birthday.

During May Queenie and I drove to a friend, Mr. Hay at Newcastle-on-Tyne in the Austin 7, staying at Rotherham with friends on the way. Being away for two weeks we were able to attend the North East Coast Exhibition on several occasions.

On 19th June 1929 I bought a second hand car (Fiat) from Spindlers of Wenhaston, and parted with my motor cycle in part exchange, this ended my motor cycling career. Then started to teach Pa and Marjorie to drive—but little success.

A busy time preparing for the wedding in September and other activities. Pa went up twice in aeroplane to photograph Blythburgh and Southwold. On 3rd September 1929 drove Peggie to Swanley with Ma and Queenie. Stayed the night in Croydon with Arthur Harmsworth. While here Queenie bought me a gold watch as a wedding present. The next day called in London.

Called at Lessors and ordered furniture for new house, met Blyford and drove home.

The last entry in my 1929 diary was “Received Key of New House” 14th September, no doubt too busy getting house ready and final arrangements for wedding which took place at Wenhaston on 25th September 1929, when Pa took a cine film of us coming out of church and departing by car.

While renting the house in North Road, I drew up the plans for the house we then had built at 12 Pier Avenue (Tynewold) Southwold and was ready for occupation in September.

Ann was born on 15th August 1932 at Hill House, Wenhaston, her grandparents home, and returned to Southwold with her mother to our new house. Andrew was born 1st June 1937, and Peter was born 3rd September 1938, both at Tynewold.

For many years after moving into Pier Avenue we used to let rooms to summer visitors to help with expenses, sometimes with permanent lets including the district nurse who was with us for some years. During the war we had billeted with us WAAFS, RAF and Police.

During this time I had to deal with callers at the door, also phone calls, and then try and contact the nurse while out on her rounds. It has been known for me to contact patients when both nurse and doctor were not available, even to give injections.

1933

Red Cross and Ambulance Work

I joined the local branch of the British Red Cross Society No.35 in October 1933 and was soon roped in as a driver, and in 1940 was appointed transport officer and spent about fourteen years in charge of the ambulance, taking most of the calls day and night.
Gained badge ‘for merit’ for passing proficiency exams three years running in three subjects: first aid, home nursing, chemical warfare. 16th October 1948, awarded Long Service Medal.

A few years before the second world war I was asked to organise the blood transfusion service after having given blood direct to a patient on the next trolley to me in the hospital operating room.

I soon organised a list of local people who were willing to give blood, and kept a book of names with blood group details and dates of giving blood. On appropriate days I would collect certain donors and transport them to Lowestoft Hospital where they gave blood and received their cups of sweet tea. I carried on organising this service until well after the war when through business commitments I handed the book of details to the head of the Red Cross Womens Detachment. After a number of years I was advised to cease being a donor.

Over the years connected with ambulance work there were some interesting occasions dealing with road accidents, conveying patients to St. Audry’s Hospital in Woodbridge (Melton), and elderly to Poor Law Institutions.

Because I was handy locally, occasionally I would be called on to assist with some operations and help with X-Rays and with accident casualties, and on several occasions with post mortems when I was sometimes left to stitch up, etc.

Occasionally the ambulance itself was in accidents, and on two occasions when it was not really fit to be on the road, and when returning home empty skidded and turned over without any injury. On one dark foggy and cold night on approaching Blythburgh an army vehicle suddenly turned off to Walberswick, I swerved to the left, and on hitting a heap of sand turned over on the drivers side. There was dead silence when the nurse sitting next to me landed on top of me but did not speak. I opened the door, now on top, and helped the nurse out and asked her why she did not speak to me, and she replied “I thought I was dead, everything was so quiet.”

The most exciting was a call to Walberswick where a baby was just born, then having to take the mother to the Norwich Hospital where a second baby was born, making one born in Suffolk and the other in Norfolk—which was unusual for twins.

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Newspaper Report 26th February 1982

Early Blood Transfusion Service

Full Blooded Effort

No one had played a more prominent part in the public life of Southwold than Mr. Barrett Jenkins, of Pier Avenue.

Well known is his municipal life—three times Mayor of the borough, a former alderman and councillor after the 1974 reorganisation—his deep rooted knowledge of the old Southwold railway and the history of the town to mention a few of his associations.

But here is another aspect to this man of many parts that may not be so well known, in fact, if at all.

Mr. Jenkins, who was a fully qualified Red Cross worker, served with the Southwold detachment for twenty years, twelve of which he was in charge of the local ambulance.

He also helped in Southwold hospital with post-mortem examinations in the days when they were carried out by local doctors.

His first post-mortem examination proved a real teaser—he had to leave the scene five times before he eventually saw it through.
Life Guards, Public Address System

About 1935 I joined the lifeguards as a founder member gaining my bronze medallion in 1936 and joined the members in life saving demonstrations on the beach and later using my public address system to supply music for exhibition of drill on the prom.

This public address system was often used at fetes and dancing in the Market Place on special occasions.

As a means of resuscitation L. P. James and I designed and constructed a 'Rocking Stretcher'. Most of the materials were obtained from bombed buildings and made up at our Civil Defence Rescue depot with limited tools.

A.R.P. and Civil Defence

Joined the A.R.P. well before 1939 war when first formed. On committee for forming the local war time departments and my private garage was used to store gas masks and clothing ready for distributing to A.R.P. personnel.

For first part of the war with first aid parties and ambulances at Pier Avenue Hotel, then transferred to rescue party at Crown Hotel garages for remainder of war.

Slightly injured in eye and legs with others when detonator from unexploded phosphorous bomb exploded while being removed by fire service at foot of Wangford Road, Reydon.

The next week I was on ambulance which was called to Henham where two bombers had crashed. On returning home just got clear of woods when cargo of bombs exploded, causing many deaths and injuries, who we were able to help.

Attended many crashed planes within about six miles of Southwold, including Kennedy's plane which exploded over Blythburgh—Westleton Common. Attended to casualties from cargo ship bombed and grounded at Covehithe.

The Royal Crown

Acted as umpire during exercises at Lowestoft and Halesworth.

1935

2nd July 1945. Manager Radio Department, F. Jenkins, 96 High Street, Southwold to 3rd January 1948.

5th January 1948. I took over the Radio and Gramophone business from father and moved to 15 Market Place on 9th May 1949. Mainly because Marjorie wanted 96 High Street all the year round for homecrafts, so I had to arrange a mortgage for this property with practically no capital.

With the increase in business I opened branch shops in Eye and Halesworth. Sold first television in Southwold and Halesworth, and fitted television in Eye Hospital. However, with the coming of television and the opening of the multiple shops, the distant servicing became a problem, so I concentrated on the main shop in Southwold with its workshop and disposed of the branches at Eye and Halesworth.

Closed business and retired aged sixty-five, February 1970.

After the war the civil defence region held competitions for the various sections.

For many years I was a member of the East Suffolk Wardens Team consisting of members from Southwold and Reydon won on three occasions, and I was leader in 1955 and 1956.

In 1954 I received the winning shield from the Home Secretary at Cambridge on my silver wedding day, aged 50.

During the aftermath of the 1953 floods I was on duty with my public address outfit touring around the district with important messages and instructions.


Having joined the council in October 1957, the next twenty-five years were very busy with three times Mayor, also alderman and acting J.P. All activites are in separate diary. On retiring from the council in May 1983 I was presented with an inscribed pewter tankard.

The Southwold Railway Centenary took place on 24th September 1979 which I organised and produced a booklet.
Link with the Days of 2LO Severed

The first radio business to be started in Southwold has come to a close. Its life ended a fortnight ago when Mr. Barrett Jenkins retired and sold his shop in the Market Place. The premises will continue as a business but in an entirely different field.

Mr. Jenkins can look back over some amusing incidents in his long years as a radio man in the town. It was something he never set out to go into. In 1921, soon after leaving school, he served three years as an apprentice to an auctioneer, surveyor and valuer, followed by a short spell with an Ipswich estate agent.

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**CRYSTAL SETS**

But he returned to the borough and worked in his father's photographic gramophone with records, and wireless business. In those days they used to be extremely busy on Saturday afternoons selling components for customers to build their own crystal sets, he told me. Then as radio techniques progressed, they used to sell components for a one-valve set and later the two-valve set with amplifier to work a loud speaker.

He recalled a lecture he attended in a local hall in those early “listening” days when a radio programme was being received from Holland and the lecturer observed that in spite of the high wind outside the results were good.

Then there was another occasion when Mr. Jenkins and his brother rigged up an aerial in a rowing boat and were able to get a loud speaker going while rowing inshore off Southwold seafront much to the astonishment of the visitors.

**BULLETINS**

During the General Strike in 1926 he used to place a loud speaker outside a window of their High Street business so that the public could listen to the bulletins. In the early days of 2LO and 5XX families would huddle together listening on their headphones, and everyone else in the room would have to be quiet.

As the radio field improved and more people were able to have a set, their business grew rapidly, with large country rounds to pick up accumulators for charging, and also selling batteries.

After the 1939-45 War Mr. Jenkins took over the radio business from his father and opened up in the Market Place, once used as a chemist shop. Business began to boom, and in 1948 Mr. Jenkins started a branch shop in Eye and three years later another one in Halesworth.

With television coming strongly in the area, Mr. Jenkins gave up his Eye shop in 1954 because of the distance involved in servicing. Then in 1963 he closed his Halesworth branch.

**BEST DAYS**

In the early days of television, he told me, the programme used to come from London, and then it could only be received under certain conditions. When the barometer was high, or fog was about, a picture could be picked up.

“We used to contact our customers and tell them to expect a picture, but when it rained and barometric pressure was low we would receive nothing for days on end.”

He told me he had seen many changes and advances over past years—from the crystal set and home-made valve sets, to the modern television and colour sets. But he still feels that the most interesting days were those of headphones, searching for new stations, and comparing notes with others who operated similar sets.

**CIVIC SERVICE**

So much for a busy commercial life. But what of his public and social life? I put this 64,000 dollar question to him: “Do you think you will emulate your father, who was five times mayor of the borough?” He laughed this one off.

Mr. Jenkins, who joined the borough council in 1957, served a two-year term as Mayor from 1965-67, and again became mayor last year. So he has almost completed three terms. His father was an alderman, and he himself is one, having been elected nearly three years ago. But he can’t expect to do much more in this field, as under the Maude proposals this office is to disappear.

But now that he has rid himself of business shackles he will have more time to devote to other interests, and it is quite certain that the borough council has his main interest. He has had lots of others, having served with the local Red Cross for twenty-five years and being in charge of the town’s ambulance for fourteen.

**AUTHORITY**

He also busies himself as secretary of the Southwold Masonic Lodge. But he is also well known in a very wide field as a lecturer and possibly the best authority on the old Southwold Railway. For twelve years he has lectured in the Town Hall every summer to large numbers of people, including many visitors. In fact one year the lecture had to be given a second successive night as the hall could not accommodate the first night demand.

He has written a book on the Southwold Railway. His late father, who was made a freeman of the borough, wrote a book “The Story of Southwold”.

So all the way along the pattern has been the same, and at sixty-five Mr. Jenkins has still the energy and drive to continue his public way of life.
My other activities included being Secretary of Martyn Lodge of Freemasons for fifteen years, handing over to my successor in November 1983 and made Honorary member.

Chairman of the Sports Development Council, Vice-Chairman of the Hospital League of Friends, retiring from both in 1983.

Vice-President of and Honorary Member of Southwold Archaeological and Natural History Society.

In December 1981 the Rotary Club of Southwold voted me the outstanding personality of the year and I received the Rose Bowl for the year.

### Newspaper Report
**December 1981**

**Rotary Cup for Former Mayor**

Southwold Rotary Club has awarded its engraved silver cup for community service to Mr A. Barrett Jenkins, of Pier Avenue, Southwold, one of the best-known citizens.

The presentation took place at the annual Christmas dinner party for members and their wives and guests at the Craighurst Hotel.

Mr Jenkins was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Ann Thornton, as his wife has been a patient in the Southwold and District Hospital for some time.

A native of the town, Mr Jenkins is seventy-seven and has served on the town council for twenty-four years.

He was mayor three times and for a great many years he has been active in many facets of other local life.

Mr Dennis Ball, chairman of the community service committee, referred to the tremendous knowledge of Mr Jenkins in regard to the old Southwold Railway, and said he had frequently lectured to help local organisations and charities.

Mr Jenkins was chairman of the centenary committee which arranged celebrations for the 'Year of the Train' in 1979, the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Southwold line.

The company of sixty-six also included the Town Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs Richard Shaw, and Mrs Joan Knightley, president of the Southwold Inner Wheel Club.

Entertainment after the meal was provided by members of the Rotary Club.

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We celebrated our Golden Wedding on 25th September 1979, my seventy-fifth birthday with a dinner held in the old family portrait studio now called the Upper Room of the Crown Hotel, when I showed family films including one of our wedding in 1929.

After fifty-three years of marriage Queenie died peacefully in Southwold hospital at 10 p.m. on 17th January 1982, seven years after suffering a stroke.

Andrew was unable to attend the Church service as he was away at sea.

During the next year or so I have been kept busy with many activities, but the time has come when I should take life a bit easier, so during 1983 I resigned from the Hospital League of Friends and the Sports Development Council, and attended my last Town Council meeting.

1983—84

During the past year I have been preparing a photographic record of old Southwold based on the lantern slide lectures given for many years to visitors to the town and local people. This will contain about 155 photographs and script and was in the printers hands July 1983. Published in November 1983. 1st Edition sold out in two months. Reprint of 1500 in February 1984.

In May 1983 for St. Edmunds Hall funds I gave the talk on Southwold during the two world wars. This had been revised to give more details of incidents including dates and times from Police records recently obtained.

Early in 1984 I started preparing a photographic record in connection with the two wars entitled "Reminiscences of Southwold During the Two World Wars" 1914-18, 1939-45, and was in the printers hands July 1984. Published December 1984.

1985—86


During 1986, prepared fourth book on Smuggling, Ghost Stories, and Local Poetry, this was published in December 1986.

1987

The Great Storm. 5.30 a.m. Roof and aerial damage. Electricity off 6.10 a.m. to 10.20 p.m.

1989

Carved oval plaque ready for 1989 celebration of 500th anniversary of King Henry VII Charter 1489–1989, one for museum and one for Town Hall.

Summer lecture for Archaeological Society for thirtieth year.

Gave lecture of “Bygones and Local Characters” and raised £91 in aid of museum preparations for Charter year.

Gave the thirty-first and final lecture for summer series using the magic lantern and slides depicting “Southwold at the Turn of the Century” on 5th September 1989.

25th September, being my eighty-fifth birthday was quite a day. Had lunch with Ann and Andrew at the Pier cafe, then in the evening invited out to Andrew’s house, where they both had arranged wine, etc. for a few friends, but in the end there were present a total of thirty-six, which included the Mayor, Joe Hurren and four other ex-Mayors still on the council, together with the Town Clerk Mrs. J. L. Hurstall, also senior members of Martyn Lodge of Freemasons, The Archaeological Society, Hospital League of Friends and many others. Then on behalf of the guests the mayor presented to me one of the Charter Commemorative Plates and a card signed by all who were present.

During the previous day, it being the 110th anniversary of the opening of the Southwold Railway I walked along the track from where the Southwold station was, to the spot where the Walberswick station had stood, which brought back memories.

On the day following my birthday I attended the Town Council meeting as usual, when at the end of proceedings I was presented with a card signed by all members of the council, then to my surprise out came the sherry, which had not been done before—this ended two days of celebrations.

On 10th November 1989 I was invited (as an ex-mayor) to attend the reception of HRH the Princess Royal at the Town Hall, on her visit to Southwold during celebration year.

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Newspaper Report
Lowestoft Journal, August 1989

Final Talk by Mr Barrett Jenkins

Ever since the Southwold Archaeological and Natural History Society began its series of summer lectures at the Town Hall thirty years ago, one of them has been given by Mr. A. Barrett Jenkins, a vice-president.

“Southwold at the Turn of the Century” was the subject for the third of the season last week when all the 100 seats in the council chamber were booked beforehand.

Mr Jenkins, who will be 85 on September 25th, announced during the evening that this was his thirty-first talk to the society and he had decided to make it his last.

The talk was based on “A Visit to Southwold” the first of a series of books he has had published in the last few years.

The book contains more than 150 pictures of local historic interest taken by his father, Mr. Frederick Jenkins, a predecessor as Mayor of the Borough, who died in 1954. Some date back even before the latter came at the beginning of the century.

Throughout the time Mr. Barrett Jenkins has given the talk he has used the original lantern slides prepared by his father, in illustration. The set, together with a description of Southwold, was often lent to speakers in various parts of the country to advertise the then little known watering place with its narrow gauge railway line connection to other parts.

Mr. Jenkins said after the lecture, at which he was welcomed and thanked by Mr Ronald Waters that the lantern was about eighty years old and had operated as perfectly as ever. As a young man he used to operate the lantern for his father.

“This may well be the last occasion on which the lantern is used,” added Mr. Jenkins. He thought too, that the time had come to give up lectures which he had begun just after the war with talks on the old Southwold Railway. He had spoken on the subject at many places out of the district, including Norwich, Ipswich, Cambridge and Southend.

Mr. Jenkins said he was particularly pleased that Mr. David Cleveland, of the University of East Anglia, had attended his last lecture specifically to make a video for the archives.
1990

12th April. Flight in 'Robin' light aircraft with Ann. The pilot was Brian Coleman. On take-off front wheel blocked with cowlings causing sudden stop just before take-off. Fault removed and flight to Southwold and back to Seething airfield. Good landing. This was my first flight since about 1928.

Video tape produced of my 16mm films since 1928. These have been sold for £15. Main profits to film archives of University of East Anglia. "Barrett Jenkins Southwold".

Video tape incorporating some of my Southwold Railway films. Produced by Hillside Videos. These are being sold at £15.25.

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Newspaper Report

East Anglian Daily Times, Thursday 7th June 1990

Video turns table on film-maker

Barrett Jenkins is well-known in his native Southwold as a local historian, film-maker and lecturer.

Thrice mayor of the borough, he is the author of a number of books on the history of the town, and he is soon to acquire wider fame as the subject of a video tape issued by the East Anglian Film Archive.

The tape, called Barrett Jenkins Southwold, is the fifteenth produced by the Film Archive, and begins with an extract from one of Mr. Jenkins’ lantern lectures on early Southwold and goes on to cine film he shot in the 1920s and 1930s.

Included are sequences from his films of Trinity Fair and beating the town's bounds in 1928, of the famous narrow gauge railway which closed down in 1929, fishermen on the beach and many other events in the town right up to local celebrations of the Royal Wedding in 1981.

Mr. Jenkins, whose father opened a photographic shop in Southwold High Street in the early years of the century, provides his own commentary for the video tape, which costs £15 and is available from the Film Archive at the University of East Anglia.

1991

During 1991 I find that I cannot walk so far as in the past, but continue walks to the beach chalet in the morning and across the common in the afternoon with a rest on one of the seats near Rope Walk, sometimes watching the sunset.

During the summer afternoons I spend a lot of time under a shade in the garden.

Andrew having hurt his back at sea has been sleeping at Tynewold and having some meals with me for company while under treatment.

This year I have done very little in the garden except growing the usual runner beans, but busy in the greenhouse as usual with a good crop of tomatoes.

The old chicken shed has been dismantled giving more room at the end of the garden.

1992

Early in the year my son Peter was taken ill and after an operation was in hospital for a short time and died at 6.10 p.m. on 8th February 1992, aged fifty-three.

The shock of Peter’s sudden illness and untimely death took its toll, and Barrett could feel himself failing, but was determined not to give in, continuing to walk up the town every morning calling on his sister Peggie before doing his daily shopping. He developed difficulty in swallowing and was admitted to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, where he underwent a successful minor operation, but collapsed and died under anaesthetic at 7 p.m. on April 16th 1992, aged 87 years.
TRIBUTE TO BARRETT

In memory of the association of Barrett Jenkins with the Southwold Archaeological and Natural History Society, members decided to commission a chair, to be placed in the museum in Victoria Street for the use of the Steward on duty.

The society chose this form of memorial as a practical and permanent way of recording their thanks for all the lectures, lantern slides and donations, by way of photographs and railway artefacts, he had made over the course of many years.

The chair has been made by George Smith, a local craftsman and the plaque attached is inscribed:

In Memory of Barrett Jenkins
Local Historian and Good Friend of the Museum

Lectures Given Over The Years

Old Southwold
Southwold Railway
1983 Within Living Memory
1984 Southwold During the Two World Wars Slides & Sound
1985 A Photographic Collection of Bygones and Local Characters of Southwold
1989 Final Lecture for Southwold Archaeological after thirty-one years
Video made by David Cleveland

Publications

1964 Memories of the Southwold Railway
1983 A Visit to Southwold
1984 Reminiscences of Southwold During the Two World Wars
1985 A Photographic Collection of Bygones and Local Characters of Southwold
1986 Poems, Ghost and Smuggling Stories Connected with Southwold
1990 Video Tape ‘Barrett Jenkins Southwold’