

## R.E. Cook Remembers ...

*"I was born next door but one to Harris & Pearson in 1935. My mother, Elizabeth Cook, worked there for about 15 years in 1942 till 1957. I also worked there, my first job when I left school at 15 until I went into the army. I worked as a page to Billy Jones who was the brickmaker. We made bricks by hand rolling clods of clay, punching it into moulds and bumping it on a big wooden table, cutting off the surplus clay with a wire and laying them on a hot floor.*

*The manager was Charley Salt. The yard foreman was Charley Richards. George Barker was in charge of the mill. There was a belt driven motor which operated a crusher where the old bricks were crushed and mixed with the clay from Whittymore Mines in the mill. The mixture had to be just right.*

*Fred Biddlestone was the tempera and in charge of the pug where the clay came out and (was) cut into wire cuts 12 at a time, loaded on to a barrow and the setter's would set out the kilns. The bricks would be in the kilns about 3 days, then the drawers would empty the kilns. The bricks (were) then loaded on to barges. The women did the loading."*

Turn over to see R.E. Cook's sketches of Harris & Pearson as it was in 1930.



**From Harris & Pearson Towards Silver End as it was in 1930 by R.E. Cook**

No 56: Harris & Pearson; No 54: Mr & Mrs Wall; No. 52: Mr & Mrs Thompson; No. 50: Mr & Mrs Bolton; No. 48: Mr J Willis & Mrs G Willis; No. 48 is still there



**From Harris & Pearson Towards Brettell Lane as it was in 1930 by R.E. Cook**

No 56: Harris & Pearson; No 58: E. Plant, Undertaker; No 60: Q. & D. Plants Shop;  
 No. 62: Mr & Mrs Cook ('Mom & Dad'); No. 64 : Mr & Mrs Truman; No. 66: Mr & Mrs Timmins;  
 No. 68: Mr & Mrs B. Truman