

My Boss's Invention

I went to the Festival of Britain twice (once with my parents).



Skylon tower at Festival of Britain 1951

I worked in a refrigeration firm in the building opposite Big Ben. This building was demolished and another one built in its place. The firm I worked for was called L. Sterne & Co. which made quite large refrigerators for shops etc.

The reason I'm writing this is because my boss at the time invented the electric hand drier, and all of us went to see it. I'm sorry to say that at the time, I didn't think much of it, but now how foolish of me because it has become necessary. My boss, Mr. James Douglas, (of Scottish descent) was Director of L. Sterne & Co. and I worked there for quite a few years. I enjoyed working there but eventually I decided to leave and go to work at some nearby Solicitors' offices. I liked working there because it was so interesting.

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Advert and badge for L. Sterne & Co. Ltd.

Image courtesy of Chilli Services (Chilli Refrigeration Ltd) www.chilliref.co.uk

This was all during the War. I lived at the time at Kennington. I used to get there and go home on the tram, apart from one evening when, having worked a bit late, I couldn't get a tram so I decided to walk home but the problem that particular evening was that there was thick fog. I got as far as Lambeth Bridge and a woman called to me asking if I would like to go along with her as she had a torch. I just about saw her and we both walked together. I eventually arrived near my home and having thanked this woman I suddenly heard my mother shouting my name, "Enrica, where are you?" and she must have got a shock when I replied. I hope this will be of interest. In 4 years of war I had quite a lot of awful experiences but I survived!



Enrica P. Hiles (nee Zersi) © 2011