



1954 - 1961 Worked at
Clemersons, L. Bro' (writing in 2015)
Furniture manufacturers.
Firm closed down, due to
old factory buildings in town
centre. Jobs, hard to find.
Beryl's dad suggested I went to
see a Ken Watts, at Swannington.
where dad had just finished
installing, three phase power
for Ken's machinery. Ken thought
my joinery & cabinet making exper-
-ience would widen his pattern
making products, so he set me on,
I think it was £8 a week.

I recall, one of my first jobs was
to make a newspaper stop counter
with a sloping top & a curved front
for a shop, owned & run by an ex-
-Arsenal goalkeeper in Sutton
Coldfield. I made & fitted it

Midland Patterns, was a firm
supplying wood patterns to the
foundry, for the manufacture of
metal products. Ken Watts was an
RAF fitter, after demob, he went to
Kenya, where his father lived, whilst
working as pattern maker, there, he met
& married a Coalville girl, Olive, who had
emigrated there, with her family.

When trouble with the Mau Mau
started, they came home to Coalville
& there, bought the old chapel for £100

Pattern making is a very complicated
trade but I soon converted, from
cabinet making

The pattern maker converts a two
dimensional drawing to a 3 dimensional
reality, sent to the foundry, put in
a steel moulding box, filled with
special sand, rammed tight the
sand treated, making it rock hard



the pattern removed, then molten metal, poured into the space

Obviously, some castings are very complicated. Imagine a car engine block, with induction & exhaust ports & lots of other protrusions, making it necessary to have removable parts, dovetailed on, to allow the withdrawal of the pattern, from the mould.

Every surface is made with tapes, to allow removal of the main pattern, from the mould.

The wood pattern is made with a ruler, slightly larger than normal to allow for contraction of metal when cooling. Where a casting is to be machined, extra metal must be left on, to ensure it can be milled to a perfect fit

Some of the work, done in the Swannington Chapel, may surprise some

- 1) Concrete castings, the metal moulds patterns for its types.

- 2) Jigs, for producing fuel pipes on Rolls Royce RB 211 jet engines with a 10 thou tolerance

- 3) Pressure reduction pipes, for British gas

- 4) Lots of patterns for casting industry machines

- 5) Wood bodies for Co-cast construction, and at one time, repairs

to an ocean going, racing yacht, (Had to remove part of building front, to get it in).

We once turned a 6'6" dia heavy wooden ring, on our lathe

To produce a large pattern & core boxes could mean 40 to 50 separate pieces of wood &



would entail, weeks of work
One customer wanted half of
a large bearing, so we built a 4'
dia circle with carved segments,
like a brick wall, then turned it
on the lathe, then cut it in half
like a half moon. One half was scrap
but it made a wonderful rocking
boat, for my kids.

One order, from Expert Industrial
Controls of Lount, was for an exhibition
stand, with pool, electronic organ,
which, when played, coloured fountains
ejected in the pool, all controlled of
course, by solenoids, made by E.I.C.
These solenoid switches are quite small
so to see detail of construction, required
a range of models, 2' in height

So when all was complete, the whole
lot, Ken's included, was shipped
down to Earls Court, London, for a
week's Electronic Exhibition

Union men, on the entrance, stopped
anyone, taking tools in the hall. So
we stood back & watched them erect
the whole display.

While walking round Earls
Court, some Naval Officers asked
if they could hire the display at the
forthcoming Portsmouth Navy Day.
So, off we went, on a week's stay,
at the Kippels Head hotel, all expenses
paid, courtesy of the Royal Navy.
A gang of Mateboes doing the work
we supervising.

I was asked, by the local historical
group, about Swannington's industrial
history. This is the letter