



*John Floyd's carved salmon on the front of a car.  
That's John on the running board there and Dad in the car.*

bottle bar” as they were known. I was told it was in a working-class area and folk would drink and smoke a lot, maybe as a compensation for their harsh working and social conditions.

Great Nan was a kind and caring person but she could also be very strict and had strong Victorian values. This was a bit contradictory as she'd been in the licensing trade all her life. She was obviously used to dealing with intoxicated, rowdy individuals and was a formidable match for any customer who became troublesome. Great Nan kept an orderly bar; she could evict anyone with a stern command and formidable look and was seldom ever challenged. At this time the Simonsbath road was being built by gangs of Irishmen, who became regular customers with the inn being open all day.\* She was a very religious person who attended Brendon Church on a regular basis.

Soon after coming down to help his mum run the pub, Dad had met a very quiet girl called Doreen Allen who was to become my own dear mum, bless her. She'd come down with her grandfather and

\* During the Depression, when the national unemployment figures topped two and a half million, the Dulverton Rural District published its own figures which amounted to one – just one man – unemployed in the whole region! When this was reported in the press large numbers of unemployed men came to the area seeking work, a very large contingent walking in from Cardiff. The Surveyor of the Brendon Road scheme was able to employ varying numbers of these over the next three years on a casual basis, and hatted camps of dormitories in which these men lived followed alongside the road as it progressed across the common. The last of these camps was situated at Blackpits and it was probably from here that the men walked in large numbers to the Rockford. Further details of the building of the Brendon road and the hatted camp at Blackpits are in Appendix 3 (page 116).