



Bletsoe

1971

50 cards mark a golden day

FIFTY anniversary cards decorated the little front room at 29 High Street, Bletsoe, on Monday—one card for each year that Mr. Ralph Solesbury and his wife Edith have been married.

How's that for a coincidence?

It delighted Mrs. Solesbury anyway. And so did all the bunches of flowers, the two anniversary parties, and a surprise visit by her nephew, Mr. Colin Deas, formerly of Great Barford, who flew all the way from Portugal to help the couple celebrate.

"There was more fuss than there was at the wedding," said Mrs. Solesbury. "Everyone gave us a lovely time. But the highlight of the day was definitely when the door opened and in walked Colin. He didn't say a word about coming."

The couple, who have lived in the High Street since they were married, met during the First World War when Mr. Solesbury was serving in the Royal Artillery.

"I was staying with his sister at Milton Ernest at the

time," recalled his wife, "and Ralph was serving out in Salonica. The war had broken the family up and his sister asked me to write to him. Two or three letters passed between us and when he came home he came to see me."

"He stayed with us at Bletsoe for a while before returning to the war and when he came back for good in 1919 we were married."

They had a white wedding at Bletsoe Parish Church and moved to their High Street home. Mr. Solesbury started work on the land and that was the pattern of their life set.

Now at 80 and 84 respectively Mr. and Mrs. Solesbury live quietly, with an occasional visit to the Three-in-one old people's club at Bletsoe.

They have one son, Reginald, one grand-daughter and two great grandsons.



Ralph Solesbury about 1968, walking past Colin and Jenny Deas present house with his pet lamb.



Coronation Celebrations 1953