



MARRIED recently at St Bartholomew's Church, Wickham Bishops were Maureen Taylor of Back Lane, Wickham Bishops and Mark Cribb of Taunton, Somerset.

Firm's golden anniversary

A CANTERBURY firm, F. R. W. Berry, celebrated its golden anniversary this month. It was first started 50 years ago by the late Mr. "Roy" Berry and is now in the hands of his son, John, with the possibility of a third generation of the family coming into the business.

The firm's offices are now at 2 St. Margaret's Street and it was in that same street that the late Mr. Berry set up this family firm of estate agents, auctioneers and surveyors.



Mr. John Berry

Mr. Berry had previously been part of the Middleton and Berry partnership, which was responsible for arranging the auction of the Royal Fountain Hotel.

From his first office in St. Margaret's Street, Mr. Berry moved premises to Watling Street and then in the early 1930s went to 17 St. George's Street, moving in 1939 to ground floor offices in 10 St. George's Street.

The new site was short-lived, as in 1942 it was demolished by bombs and all the firm's records were lost in the fire. Business continued, and from 1942-54, Mr. Berry operated from the High Street, moving back to St. Margaret's Street in 1954.

Mr. John Berry decided on a further move in 1963 from 37 St. Margaret's Street to the present address.

Although the firm was forced to keep on the move during the Second World War, Mr. Berry had more than his own property to worry about. He was responsible for managing premises left by people who were evacuated and looked after the King's School, when boys and staff were evacuated to Cornwall.

Mr. John Berry told me that his father used to do a lot of business for the licensing trade when there were more brewers

involved in the city public houses and hotels than there are today.

During the War, his sister, Joy, also helped their father in the business. Their father died in 1956, and their mother, Mrs. C. Berry, now lives at Bridge.

Over the years, the family has been connected with helping to sell some of the city landmarks, including the old Fleur-de-lis Hotel, and administered the auction at Bourne Park at Bridge when it went up for sale in 1954.

Mr. Berry followed his father into the business after serving in the R.A.F., including spells in India, Burma and Ceylon. He now hopes that his 17-year-old eldest son, Jonathan, will continue the family tradition.

This year, Mr. Berry unsuccessfully stood as a Conservative candidate in the Municipal Elections. He continues to take an active interest in the affairs of the city which "for the past 50 years has given my father and myself a livelihood."