

## MASONIC MOTORWAY BUILDER

W Bro Harry L Yeadon, a member of Lodge Amounderness 7105, has recently published a book entitled *The Motorway Achievement*, a historic account of the development of the North West motorway network.

Harry was the former County Surveyor and Bridgemaster, for Lancashire County Council and was involved, from its inception, in Britain's first motorway, the Preston Bypass section of the M6, which was opened by Harold McMillan, the then Prime Minister in 1958.

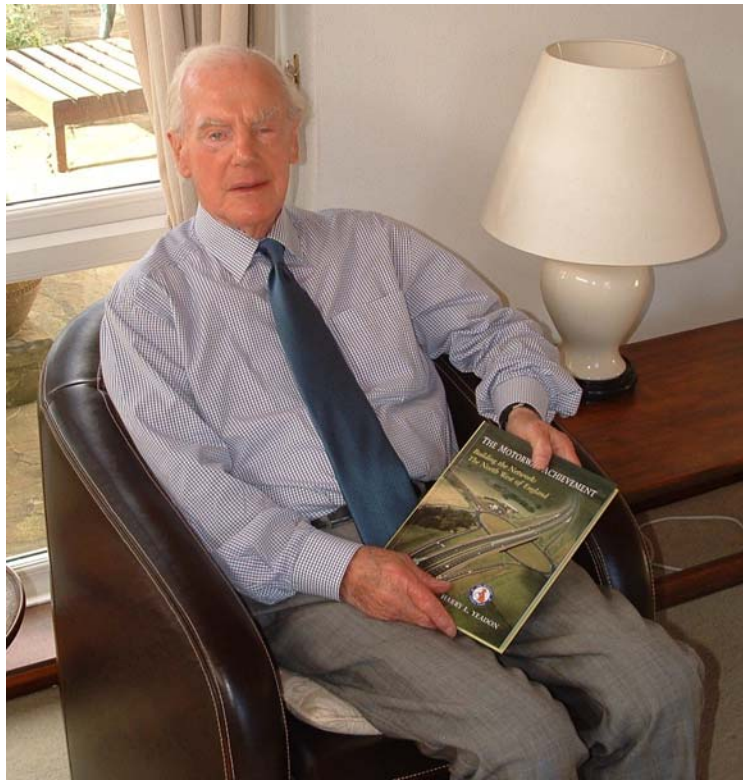
The full title of his book is *The Motorway Achievement, Building the Network: The North West of England*. It is the first of a series of publications which will eventually cover the whole of the UK's motorway network. After many long hours of Harry carrying out research for his books, his work is almost complete, but he will not receive a penny in royalties for his unstinting efforts as all the royalties will instead be generously donated to the Motorway Archive Trust.

The first book in the series is of particular importance, not only because Preston was the first place in the UK to have the benefit to a motorway bypass, but also because the North West in general has a greater concentration of motorways compared to other areas of the UK. There are eighteen separately numbered motorways in the region and they vary tremendously in length from the M6 at 155 miles, down to very short bypass sections measuring only a mile.

When you consider the traffic densities these days it is inconceivable to contemplate our country without the benefit of motorways and the tremendous contribution they have made to our national economy. However, Harry is of the firm opinion that the existing network requires constant updating to ensure the free flow of traffic. He believes this will be achieved by planning and building more new motorways, increasing the number of lanes on existing motorways, and improving link roads to ensure they are commensurate with the volume of traffic entering and leaving the motorway network.

The motorways are a tremendous feat of engineering planning and implementation and to Harry the most impressive aspects of these engineering feats are the Barton high level bridge crossing the Manchester ship canal, the magnificent Thelwell Viaduct and finally the M62 crossing the Pennines between the old rivals of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

So the next time you are speeding away from, or heading towards Lancashire on the M6 motorway, don't forget to spare a thought for our very own Masonic motorway engineer, W Bro Harry L Yeadon whose dedicated career assisted in making it possible.



**W Bro Harry L Yeadon the author of The Motorway Achievement, Building the Network:  
The North West of England.**