

Edward Stanley de Groot (Stanelli) 1895 - 1961



Edward aged 11 and later in his career as comedian and radio star.

He lived with his parents and brother at 6 Meadvale Road

Henry and Naomi De Groot were probably the first tenants of 6 Meadvale Road. They had two sons Edward Stanley and Walter. Edward was born in Dublin where his grandfather Marinus De Groot JP was described as "a distinguished member of the Hebrew community." It was here that Edward learned to play the violin. He won scholarships to the Royal Academy of Music and aged 9 appeared with Kreisler before King George and Queen Mary. He was expected to become a conductor or violinist.

An item in a Brentham Magazine describes the setting up of the first social centre in Woodfield Crescent. The little club held dances, whist drives, concerts and lectures. "Well known artistes supported the concerts and it is interesting that Stanelli de Groot, then a small boy living on the Estate, was often called upon for violin solos. He was an infant prodigy and could fill Ealing Town Hall on the concert platform. "

He had a rather surprising career as a popular Music Hall artiste and during WW1 appealed against conscription on grounds that it would cause hardship to his music hall partner and mother (his brother Walter was in the army). However, from 1917 he served in the London Scottish Regiment until the end of the war when he moved to Hendon. His mother, now widowed, joined him there 5 years later. He made voyages to America.

He is still remembered for his BBC Radio programmes (Stanelli's Stag Party), film work and his Hornchestra, a collection of bulb motor horns demonstrated on his television debut. His compositions such as ATLANTIS, a tone poem performed by the Halle and conducted by Stanelli suggests he never lost his ambition as a serious musician. He died in Datchet in 1961.