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Don't be let down by a ladder!

If you need a ladder, make sure that it is in good repair before you use it. Are any rungs missing or loose? If so, put it back and choose a sound one and report the fault. Hospitals are full of people whose familiarity with ladders has bred contempt—and broken bones. Don't let your ladder lead you to an ambulance!

Extracted from Pilkington Brother's Safety Calendar.

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Chance COMMENTS



MARCH—APRIL 1953

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Chance

COMMENTS

THE Magazine of Chance Brothers Limited, Smethwick, published in alternate months for the interest, entertainment and information of all employees of the firm.

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Silvering

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Transport

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Glasgow

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London

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This month's cover : Britannia Fruit Dishes are produced in the Blown & Pressed Division.

VOL. 6, No. 1

MARCH—APRIL 1953



The Acropolis.

ATHENS and the HOLY LAND by T. O. ORR

THE request for Sumo orders leads inevitably to the desert lands, and my recent visit to the Orient was no exception. For different reasons, however, it was a memorable journey.

I have written before in *Chance Comments* describing a lengthy tour of the United States, in which I was dealing with a new country and an ultra modern standard and way of life. Now I turn to the wonders of the ancient, back to the roots of history and the birthplace of three of the worlds great religions.

Even a short stay of a few days in Athens is not easily forgotten. Its fine city centre, with handsome buildings, combines the appeal of the modern with the grace and beauty of Greek architecture. On the outskirts is the famous Acropolis, which I managed to visit twice, once alone and once with Mr. Mirasjidis, our Greek agent. Standing high above the city, and commanding an amazing

view of valley, mountain, sea and islands, this citadel, or fortress, with the ruins of these beautiful buildings, seems to hold yet the spirit of the ancient Greeks whose expression of the arts, such as drama, sculpture, literature, and architecture, is still a wonder to the modern world.

In its original conception the Acropolis was a fortress in which the Athenian kings could live safely and to which the Athenians could retreat under attack. Gradually, however, it became devoted to the Gods, and among its temples the Parthenon of Pericles, constructed of marble and astonishingly enough nearly completed between 447 and 438 B.C., is considered the most perfect example of ancient art.

Forty-six Doric columns, standing on a platform 228 feet long by 100 feet wide, formed the outer frame of the temple. The columns taper gradually to the top but show a slight convexity in the middle which gives them



The Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem,

an appearance of graceful and elastic strength.

The interior of the sanctuary was divided into two parts; the larger having in the rear a gold and ivory statue of the Goddess Athena, 42½ feet high, designed by Phidias and of a fabulous intrinsic value.

In the 17th century, however, when the Turks were besieged in the Acropolis, a bomb ignited the powder magazine, and the Parthenon, the pride of ancient Athens, fell in ruins. And yet enough remains as witness of the extraordinary creative genius of these designers and builders, and standing under the giant columns one cannot but marvel at the feat of construction with the tools and equipment available to these men. To quote Dr. Wigram's well known book "We know that the work is all straight lines, and yet not a line in it is straight; there is the curve of the crepidoma on which the pillars stand, the entasis or swell and taper of the pillars themselves, and the inward tilt of each one, so that if the centre line of each were produced, all would meet at a point two miles up; while the whole is made without cement, and with joins into which you cannot put a needle, and which will resist water-drip like a continuous surface. How was it done?

Regretfully I took my leave of this city and its hospitable people, and after a brief stay in historic Cyprus entered the Arab world at the busy and surprisingly large seaport town of Beirut. Time did not allow me to see much of Lebanon, my main objective being Syria and Jordan. From Beirut I went by road over the mountains to Damascus, a city which is growing rapidly, and offers the contrast of the old oriental part with its "suk" or market, and the modern and more residential parts.

From Damascus again by road across the sandy stony desert into Amman, capital town of the Kingdom of Jordan. Here in a city growing even faster (and with corresponding indigestion) than Damascus were the Government and administrative offices with which I was concerned.

Finally, in the company of the friendly and interested manager of our new agents, I went to Jerusalem, over the river Jordan and through the ancient city of Jericho.

Jerusalem, as you know, is in two parts—one in Jordan and the other, separated only by a kind of no man's land, in the State of Israel. There is no communication or intercourse between the two peoples. Our morning

visit was to Bethlehem, which is only a few miles from Jerusalem, but separated by a corridor of Israel territory, and we had to take a 14 mile run over a wild mountain road with fantastic hair-pin bends. Everywhere the countryside is a uniform grey-brown, relieved here and there by the rich dark green of clumps of Cypress trees and the lighter green of the olive plantations. In the spring, with the rains, all this will turn to green, but in the shimmering heat of the late autumn the effect was sombre.

The Church of the Nativity is built on the site of Christ's birth, and the scenes inside are almost beyond description in their beauty and impressiveness. How much is fact and how much is legendary it is difficult to say. The Grotto of the Nativity is marked by the Star of Bethlehem inlaid in the floor, and nearby is the Manger. The care and attention bestowed on the maintenance and preservation of these places is remarkable.

In the afternoon I entered the old walled city of Jerusalem by the Damascus Gate and took the road to Calvary—in fact a street about 12 feet wide, flanked by old buildings, and rising

steeply to the Church of all the Nations, which contains the Holy Sepulchure.

Here is a monument which is at once the meeting place of all the Christian religions in the world. To its construction much is owed to Saint Helena and, at a later epoch, the Crusaders. Every sect has its own chapel, jealously guarded and cared for by its priests, Protestant, Catholic, Russian Orthodox, Greek and others. In one of the lower grottos there is a statue of St. Helena, and legend has it that on this spot St. Helena found the three Crosses.

My Arab guide took me also to the Mount of Olives, the Chapel of the Ascension and the Garden of Gethsemane. In the Garden is a large olive tree. This tree is very old and it is possible that it is the actual tree under which Christ sat.

Apart from the necessity of finding water supplies for the native settled population, all these countries have a tremendous problem to face in housing and feeding the Arab refugees from Palestine. Underground water is the key to irrigation, and here Sumo will have its place.

The Grotto of the Nativity.



The return of FLUORESCENT TUBING

AFTER a period of incubation away in Scotland the soda-lime tubing manufacture has returned again to Spon Lane.

Tubing has always been a basic and very useful item of glass manufacture. It has been made by hand drawing at Spon Lane since 1925, and it is interesting to notice that the two principal machine drawing processes in commercial use today are really only elaborations of the old hand drawing method.

Chance Brothers were asked some years ago to supply tubing for fluorescent lamps and some preliminary and not very promising trials with an up-draw process were made at Spon Lane. Consideration was then given to putting in some Danner machines, but after further consultation with Corning Glass Works, who operate most of the well-known processes, we decided to instal the Vello system, this being the most up-to-date plant available for automatically producing fluorescent tubing at high outputs and efficiencies.

It was estimated originally that Home and Export requirements combined would have absorbed the output of one large furnace, and it was partly for this reason that the plant was first installed at Glasgow where space and other facilities were available. Unfortunately, owing to the imposition of new import restrictions in the overseas markets, this large demand was not able to develop, and at the moment a full load is not available for the plant throughout the year. It was therefore decided to bring the plant down to Spon Lane and to run it parallel with domestic ware presses on No. 8 furnace. This affords a welcome and very necessary flexibility in the fluorescent tube plant operation.

The removal of the plant was commenced late in November 1952. and it was ready for a restart early in January 1953. (The dramatic story of how the "hole" for the draw was transported from Glasgow to Spon Lane has already been related at a social function by the G.M., of the Blown and Pressed Division).

A few technical points about the process may be of interest. Successful high speed tubing production depends upon the precision control

of : glass temperature and homogeneity, pull-off conditions, and speed of draw. The Vello system meets these requirements by (a) utilizing a special forehearth 24 feet long, equipped with latest Speedomax automatic temperature controls. This delivers glass to the drawing annulus at a uniform temperature, which is held within 2°C of the preset figure. (b) Drawing the glass through an annulus, the shape and effective area of which is adjustable to micrometer measurements. This enables the thickness, and uniformity of thickness, around the circumference of the tube to be set quickly and held accurately. This feature is unique to the Vello process. (c) In common with other systems, draw speed is variable, but can be held accurately at any desired velocity. Another unique feature of the Vello system is that, in principle, it is a down-draw process, but immediately after emerging from the annulus, the tube is bent round in the plastic state, and then drawn along a substantially horizontal track. This enables the advantages of a down-draw to be combined with horizontal drawing this latter being essential to high output production. Actually, in the Spon Lane set-up, the draw is up an incline of $4\frac{1}{2}^\circ$. So far as we know, this is the only Vello plant in the world where this has been done. The plant will be seen producing 33 4 ft. tubes per minute, i.e., drawing tubing at a velocity of 130 ft. per minute. This in fact is only about half the speed of which the plant is capable.

With the plant have come down Alex Nicoll, Owen McKenna, and Hugh McPherson, all of whom got experience of the Vello "know-how" at The Corning Works in America. For the first two, it is a return to their alma mater. Les. Bullock has also come back. These veterans will operate the plant under the fatherly guidance of Ted Bennett and Bernard Patrick. We hear that the rugged heart of Murdo Moir has been warmed by the music of other Scottish tongues around him.

Fluorescent tubing has literally had an "up-hill" start at Spon Lane, and much effort both on Sales and on Production will be required to get it firmly established. We wish it luck and hope that the courage of our Directors in allowing us to persist in our efforts with it will be amply rewarded.

A.M.H.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE response to my letter to members, which was also published in the last issue of *Chance Comments*, has been splendid. More than 750 members of the Club have written to say that they agree to the voluntary increase in subscriptions. To each of them I would like to say, on behalf of the Officers and General Committee, "Thank you for your support." The effect of these contributions is to increase the annual income of the Club by £280 by our own efforts, plus the resultant grant from the Company.

To those members who have not yet returned their authorisation form, may I urge you to do so now. To men who smoke, the extra sum I am asking for is only the cost of one cigarette per week; to ladies, one per fortnight. Will you not make that sacrifice to ensure not only the financial stability of your Recreation Club, but a continual improvement in the amenities it offers?

Jack Chance
President, Chance Recreation Club

ARCHERY

Preparations are well in hand for the new Season. Several Shoots have been arranged with local clubs. New members will be welcome and should contact the Secretary (Mr. T. W. Field, Export Shipping).

A Dance has been arranged at the "Red Cow" Hotel on Friday, 27th March, 1953.

BOWLING

Teams will again be entered in local Leagues and Competitions, plus the usual Interdepartmental Competition and Individual Handicaps. All members interested should contact Mr. L. Wilde (Blown & Pressed Inspection).

CRICKET

A full programme of Saturday and Sunday matches has been arranged and spectators can be assured of a match every Saturday and on fifteen Sundays commencing on the 25th April.

The Interdepartmental Matches for the Foster Cup will again be held, and entries should be sent as soon as possible to G. Woodcock, Lighthouse Griding Room. We hope to play the final of this competition during our Coronation festivities.

Practice nights will again be Tuesdays and Thursdays, commencing second week in April, and all old and new members are cordially invited to come along.

DARTS (LADIES)

The 1953 Season starts in April. New members will be welcomed and should contact Miss W. Davies (Teleprinter Operator).

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

A Billiards and Snooker Individual Handicap is being arranged. See posters for further details.

FOOTBALL

The 1st Team now seems to have settled down at long last into a well balanced side, and is not only climbing in the League but has reached the semi-final of our Cup. The progress of the 2nd and 3rd XI's has not been so consistent of late, though both teams are winning more than they lose without having any honours fall their way. New blood is still required in the 3rd Team, and will all interested please get in touch with the Secretary (Mr. L. Cotterill, L.H. Stores Control).

SWIMMING

It is proposed to form a Swimming Section. Will any members interested please contact Mr. D. Forsyth (Optical), Mr. F. Cartwright (L.H. Fitting Shop) or the General Secretary.

TENNIS

Although it is a little early to think of tennis, the Match Secretary (Mr. J. Foster, Traffic Office) would be pleased to have the names of any newcomers wishing to become members in the coming season. Instruction is available and beginners are particularly welcome.

CORONATION YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

It is proposed to hold the finals of all Interdepartmental and Individual Competitions of all outdoor activities on one day (provisional date Saturday, 20th June), plus Children's Races and other events. Further particulars will be announced in the next issue and on Club Notice Boards.

GROUND EXTENSIONS

During the past few weeks our Groundsman has been busy levelling some 1½ acres of rough land on the railway side of the Recreation ground and this urgently needed additional playing space will be ready for use next Autumn.

Meet your CORRESPONDENTS



JOHN ALLEN

IF you go to the Birmingham Central Gas Showrooms and meet an attractive young lady named Audrey Brettell, she will tell you she is engaged to John Allen and that they plan to marry in July.

John Allen, the correspondent for the Accounts Office, joined our staff in 1939. He was in the R.A.F. on Radar between 1942 and 1946, and saw service in the Middle East and in Italy.

His job is keeping the Company's financial ledgers and he has seen the office system develop in that whereas one trial-balance a year was made before the war, one in each period of four weeks is now produced.

John plays first-class cricket—one has to keep a place in the Works First XI. He also gives service to the Recreation Club by serving on the Committee as an elected representative for the Glass Works Office Group.

WINIFRED RUSSELL

MRS. Russell, the correspondent for the Laboratory, came to Chance Brothers in September, 1947, in the position of Librarian. "Gosh! What a cushy job!" some might say but it is, of course, anything but.

The Librarian is at everybody's beck and call and the staff expect—and get—quick answers to the many questions that arise from day to day.

Since Mrs. Russell first came to us our Library has grown in size considerably, and there are now some 800 volumes housed in the Laboratory. In addition, 130 magazines and trade journals are circulated to members of the staff.

Another responsibility of Mrs. Russell is to keep an eye on all Patents relating to Glass, and she can justly claim that she hasn't missed one—yet.

A good Librarian must have great patience and tenacity, and Mrs. Russell is blessed with these virtues—plus an up to date knowledge of what the Petty Sales Shop has for sale!

The nearer photograph is of Kathleen Fellows. On extreme right, Nora Mountford.

KATHLEEN FELLOWS

OUR correspondent in the Traffic Department first came to us as Kathleen Hampton in 1942. She married in September, 1951. When she was asked if she lived in the Black Country she said, "No, I come from West Bromwich."

Mrs. Fellows' main jobs in the Traffic Department are checking road accounts, drivers' log sheets and recording mileages for 27 lorries and 2 vans. It is estimated that these vehicles cover, in total, some 1,350,000 miles in a year. Before the war our first road fleet was 12 lorries only. The volume of essential record-keeping has accordingly increased enormously.

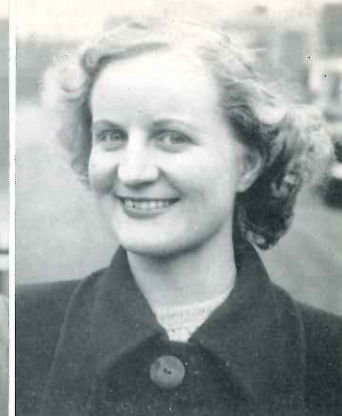
Studying the picture we are showing here, you can easily see that Kathleen has a most pleasing personality—a personality that is blessed with a sense of humour, and no objection was made when a gatekeeper suggested that our photographer should take her picture in two sections!

VICTOR COOKSEY

THE 2nd February is the feast of Candlemas, so-called from the great number of lights used, and it was on such an important day that Vic. Cooksey first saw light 52 years ago.

Vic. is Jim Gilfoyle's right-hand man in the Vehicle Repair Shop which has to keep all the Company's cars, lorries, vans and tractors in a good state of repair; internal combustion engines of all kinds have been his life's work, and he dreads the day when some "high up" will drive up in a jet propelled car!

He has an interesting job—cars are always exciting—but often he has the sticky task of going out to a breakdown.



During the war he had to get a lorry back from Worcester, and to keep the auto-vac. petrol feed going it was necessary for him to ride on the mud-guard; an air-raid was on at the time and there lay Vic. wearing his tin hat.

His daughter is a doctor, married to a doctor. Vic's hobby is fishing, and it is the first time we have met an angler who claims no heavier fish than 2½ lbs.

NORA MOUNTFORD

FOG at Great Barr is the bane of Nora Mountford who is, perhaps, best known to us under her maiden name of Nora Brookes.

Nora came to C.B.'s in October 1943, to give assistance to Tom West, who is in charge of the Pensions Office.

One of her jobs is recording pension contributions and as there are 700 people who have been wise enough to join the Pension Scheme, it means that some 36,500 entries have to be made each year. Realising what a difference a pension makes to anyone who has clocked out for the last time, Nora feels that those who join the scheme are the wise ones, and for those who are not members, passes on the information that the weekly contribution is 1s. 2d. and that this is matched by another 1s. 2d. from the Company.

At one time Nora was very keen on swimming and ice skating. Now however much of her time is taken up by domestic duties but she still finds an odd hour for her other hobby, namely dressmaking. When the occasion arises however, she is particularly good at floral decorations.

Below, left to right :—John Allen, Winifred Russell and Victor Cooksey.



From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

OUR Managing Director, Mr. John Raymond, flew back from Paris in time—and only just—to take the Chair at the last meeting of the Works Consultative Committee.

Mr. Raymond reviewed the position as follows :—

On the Rolled Plate side the order position was satisfactory, and it was anticipated that when both Nos. 3 and 4 tanks were back in full operation the demand would be sufficient to absorb the total output.

In the Coloured Department the making of Solid Opal of very good quality was a real achievement; there had been quite large imports of foreign glass of this type and every endeavour would be made to capture this market.

There had been a slight slacken-off in activity in the Optical Division during recent weeks, but it was hoped that it would pick up again before long.

In the Blown & Pressed Division we were concentrating on getting the three main lines—cathode ray bulbs, fluorescent tubing and automatic production—on to a firm footing from both

the Works and Sales angles. No. 8 furnace was going back into production, and it was hoped to make good quality tubing before very long.

Sumo production was now catching up with orders, and special endeavours were being made to sell our pumps in other parts of the world.

On the Marine side, Mr. Beaumont would shortly be visiting India to try and secure the balance of the Indian order.

Referring to the Works as a whole, Mr. Raymond said that the emphasis at the present time was on the Sales' side, which must constantly be on the alert in view of the vital importance of obtaining more orders in the face of increasing competition. It was equally important, however, that we should continue our efforts to achieve greater production efficiency so as to reduce costs and to help to make us more competitive.

The various sub-committees again reported on a wide field of activity ranging from cycle storage facilities, fuel economy, repair jobs, shop lay-out and production details.

The Safety Committee received a bouquet from Mr. Newman and deservedly so, as in the year 1952 the number of lost-time accidents was 56 whereas in 1951 the number was 87 and in 1950, 96.

Suggestions Scheme

Since the last issue of *Chance Comments* 17 ideas have been adopted and £44 17s. 6d. has been paid in awards. The highest award the Committee can make is £25, and R. Willetts of the Optical Division at St. Helens hit the jackpot. As far back as last April he suggested the introduction of a special machine for edging large optical discs. It was obvious at the time that the idea was first-class and an interim award of £5 was made. Since then the machine has proved its worth and an additional award of £20 has been made, bringing the total to £25.

Another excellent suggestion came from Bill Ellis in the L.H. Mould Shop. He put forward an idea which will save machining the moulds used for making Cathode Ray Tube bodies, and the Committee awarded him £6. £4 is a prize worth winning, and W. E. Maybury of the Globe Process received this amount for an improved method of testing C.R.T.'s.

S. Matthews, Rolled Plate, submitted a sketch showing a modification to the arms on the Dual Machine in the Rolled Plate; his idea was original, it was good, and he earned himself £3 15s. 0d. A suggestion for a clamping fixture put forward by F. Bywater of Sumo was adopted and £2 10s. 0d. was awarded.

The rules of the Scheme permit a supervisor to submit ideas provided the suggestion does not directly concern his own sphere of responsibility, and Eric Vose, M. & C., took advantage of this by submitting an idea for an improved method of drying out the stators in Sumo Pumps—he received £2 7s. 6d.

There were 4 awards of 17s. 6d. each; J. Goddard, Stonemasons, for an improvement on the stone lathe; E. J. Gardner, Pressed Mould Shop, for an idea concerning wind shields around the No. 9 Tubing Machine Bath; J. Lea of St. Helens for a revised method for grinding small discs on the edging machine, and W. A. Perkins, Optical, who recommended that a wooden ramp be provided to the Optical kilns to facilitate loading.

15s. 0d. went to A. R. Lago of the Engineering Division Pattern Shop for an idea in regard to the routine vetting of patterns, and 10s. 0d. was granted to J. Wedgwood of St. Helens and to R. Skidmore of the Electrical Shop, who each put forward an operational idea.

A modest 5s. 0d. was paid for four modest yet useful ideas, namely, J. D. Cooper, Electrical; A. E. Rising, Machine Shop, and F. A. Clifton, Millwrights (2 ideas)



SNAPSHOTS OF OUR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



- ★
1. *The Maintenance and Construction Department Annual Dinner.*
 2. *The top table at the Accounts Section Dinner.*
 3. & 4. *More photographs taken at the Gala Ball.*
 5. *The Children's New Year Party, organised by the Recreation Club.*
 6. & 7. *Fun and Games at the Laboratory Staff Party.*
- ★





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

ENGINEERING

THE Drawing Office staff congratulates Jack Fisher, who has obtained his A.M.I.E.E., and also on his becoming the father of a daughter.

At the time of going to press, Jack Crowshaw of the Lighthouse Machine Shop is away ill and his friends wish him a speedy recovery.

It was good to see Len Kettle of the Blacksmiths when he visited the Works recently, but we are sorry that he is not yet well enough to return to work.

It is with profound regret that we report the death of Doris Dix of the Grinding Shop after a long period of illness.

Sumo welcomes as newcomers Iris Walkley, Beryl Gibbs, Horace Woodhall, Stan Greene and Eric Dunne. Eric, by the way, recently became the proud possessor of a second daughter. Geoff. Glover and Ron. Boswell are also welcomed back after their brief spell elsewhere.

Best wishes are extended to Dorothy Biddulph, who married William Crabtree recently.

The Electrical Shop congratulates John Egginton and Eric Peters, who have attained their majority. John has now had to start his National Service.

Congratulations and best wishes are also extended to Mavis James on her marriage to Arthur Johnson, and to Mrs. Guernsey who has attained the age of 60.

Welcome newcomers to the Electrical are Millie Bywaters, Rose Jones and Christine Hibbs.

The Shop extends very sincere sympathy to Miss L. Bird, Miss B. Jones, Harry Belt and Ernie Millington, all of whom have recently lost their mothers.



FLAT GLASS

The Flat Glass people have been making merry in recent weeks. The Sales staff organised a party to see Anna Neagle in "The Glorious Days" at Birmingham Hippodrome; a party from the Works went to the panto, at Dudley, and another group organised a supper party at the "Old Crown" near Stourport.

Sales congratulate Dennis Webb, who recently attained his majority.

Deep sympathy is extended to Andy Nicoll on the death of his brother.



LABORATORY

A belated yet sincere welcome is extended to the following, who joined the Company in recent months:—R. Beavon, L. V. Bright, B. Brooks, K. Carr, A. W. Kyte, P. Lee and D. R. Nellist.

St. Valentine's Day was indeed a great day for John Gillespie as he then married Miss T. Bentley, and the Lab. Staff wish them every happiness.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Old Hall staff were sorry to lose K. Poole from the Drawing Office consequent on his being appointed Assistant Engineer to another Company, but wish him every success in his new sphere.

G. Riley has left us temporarily to serve his period of National Service.

Congratulations and best wishes are offered to G. Harrison on his recent marriage.

Very deep sympathy is extended to Mr. & Mrs. S. V. Scriven on the loss of their baby son. Another sad loss to report is the death of Bill Thompson of the Boilers at the age of 72. Bill had been employed here for 13 years.

The M. & C. personnel were more than pleased to receive a letter from the Managing Director expressing appreciation of the excellent job that had been done in quick time in connection with the installation of the Vello Tubing Plant.



MIXING

The Mixing Department congratulates Mr. & Mrs. S. Newey on the birth of a son.

It is with profound regret that we record the passing of Elijah Arrow-smith. Elijah was always a Trojan for work, and he had been employed at the Works for 34 years.



OFFICES

On 21st January the Accounts Section, which includes both Glass Works and Lighthouse Cost Offices, Ledger, Secretarial, Wages and Machine Accounting Sections, held their second annual dinner and social evening at the White Horse Restaurant, Birmingham.

The company was graced with the presence of Sir Hugh and Lady Chance, Mr. & Mrs. John Raymond and Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Barman, and two very distinguished guests—Mr. D. V. Phelps, our new Company Chairman, and

Mr. A. Pilkington. In all, 89 members of the staff and their guests sat down to an excellent meal.

After dinner Mr. Raymond proposed a toast to the Accounts Section, to which Mr. A. J. Platt made a very suitable reply. Sir Hugh then proposed a toast to the guests, the response being made by Mr. Phelps.

When the tables had been cleared, everyone settled down to the evening's entertainment—organised by members of the staff—which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Personal news amongst office personnel is the announcement that Sheila Staphnill, formerly of the Typing Pool, now has a baby daughter.

The Salaries Office were sorry that Betty Westwood had to leave consequent on a serious illness, and welcome Iris Newey who has been engaged in place of Betty.

Newcomers who are welcomed are Mary Hill (Printing), Mary Spooner (Export), Joan Stone (Wages), and Annie Stockley (Typing Pool).



OPTICAL

The Optical Division were sorry to learn that Mrs. Waterhouse had passed away at the age of 84. Sympathy is expressed to Mr. & Mrs. Hennessey on the death of their baby daughter, and to Mrs. Mason, Miss Thacker and Mr. Pernall, who have had recent bereavements.

Congratulations and best wishes go to Miss J. Paddock on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. R. Bloomer.

Three of our staff left recently in expectation of happy events, namely Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Washington and Mrs. Davies.



SILVERING

The Silvering Department's thoughts are with Mrs. H. Bird, who left recently in expectation of a happy event.

Mrs. L. Povey, who has been employed by the Company for some 18 years, has left to remain at home and we wish her every happiness.

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Glasgow Works held their Annual Dance on Friday, 13th February, in conjunction with Fibreglass Ltd., at the Cadora Ballroom. Some 200 people were present and the organising committee was very pleased to have the support of Mr. Hudson Davies.

A successful Whist Drive was held in the Canteen on the 25th February.

In recreation spheres, the Table Tennis "A" Team are 4th in the League Table, but the "B" Team are finding it heavy going and will have to work hard to improve their position before the end of the season.

The Works Charity Fund does some grand work, and during 1952 a total of £162 0s. 0d. was distributed to local charities. On the suggestion of Stanley Shields, the Fund allocated grants for Christmas parcels to those on the Pension List who had served the firm for not less than twenty years, and the following qualified:—Patrick Keogh, James Cunnion, James Hamill and William Wylie. Parcels were also sent to the following, who had been absent for twelve weeks or longer due to illness:—R. Shearer, J. Hutchison E. Davie and M. Lennon.

● LONDON

Miss June Staddon, who joined us at the age of sixteen, has left us to take up a position near her home. We were very sorry to lose her, especially as she had settled down so well to the Flat Glass work and was held in high regard by the customers. Her place has been taken by Miss Grace Southwell, who is quite new to the business but is "keeping her head above water"—so far!

We are also pleased to welcome another newcomer, Miss Elaine Hallifax, secretary to the Press Officer and the Architectural Representative, Mr. P. M. Wigzell.

Preparations are well in hand for our participation in the Ideal Home Exhibition. We shall have a shop similar to last year, and our Domestic glassware will again be sold "on the spot." We are hoping to break all records this year.

● MALVERN

The Malvern (Optical & Special Glass Division) Works welcomes back Brian Austin after several weeks in hospital.

Congratulations are extended to Doreen Hunt, who has attained her majority.

Consequent on a healthy order book for our Hypodermic Syringes, the Works have now commenced a two-shift system and up to the time of going to press the following additional personnel have joined us:—

Beryl Tucker	Dorothy Garbutt
Beryl Perks	Betty de Souza
Ella Perks	Joan Jones
Daphne Hislop	Joyce Sambrook
Bobby Jones	Nora Blight
Josephine Heath	Rosa Harford
Joyce Wilson	Thomas Sandy
Beryl Pearce	William Keyte

THE MALVERN (ENGINEERING) WORKS report that they have had two weddings recently and extend best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Stallard, and Mr. & Mrs. Edwards.

Mrs. J. Hurcomb, who was one of our first employees, unfortunately had to leave us, and the district, for the joys of a newly built house.

We were also sorry when Mr. L. Harding and Mr. E. Jackson left us; they will be much missed and we wish them both good luck for the future.

Congratulations to Mrs. M. Barnard on reaching her majority.

We had news of three new babies in two days!—

Mr. F. Freeth now has a son and Mr. L. Styles is the proud father of twin boys.

There are quite a few newcomers to be welcomed to the Engineering Division as follows:—

Mr. D. Chadd
Mrs. P. Jenkins
Mr. L. Styles
Mr. J. Hill
Miss H. Hawker
Mr. A. Whatley
Mrs. R. Jones
Mrs. J. Neville
Miss G. Lewis
Miss E. Horrell
Mrs. S. Collier
Mrs. V. Roan
Mrs. E. Evans
Mrs. Lawrence

● ST. HELENS

We at St. Helens welcome our new Chairman Mr. D. V. Phelps. We congratulate him on his appointment, and assure him of our continued support.

The new members of the Welfare & Production Committee are:—

Mr. S. T. Pickering
Mr. J. Buckley
Miss Brooks (P.B.'s Welfare Officer)
Mrs. Parr (Cutting)
Mrs. Rimmer (Trimming)
Mr. S. Kelly (Furnace Hall)
Mr. W. Garrett (also appointed Safety Officer)
Mr. K. W. Appleton

These people are your representatives and any matter concerning Welfare Safety or Production which employees at St. Helens want brought up at the Committee meetings, the representatives will be only too pleased to listen and put before the committee.

Congratulations to Mrs. Johnson (Iris Blakemore ex Cutting) on the birth of a son.

We are sorry to lose Mrs. Cutler (Inspection), Mrs. Roughley, Miss E. Barry (Dark Room), and Mrs. Ford (Cutting). Our best wishes to them all.

The Board Room at our London Office.



Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

INTO OUR SIXTH YEAR

THIS is the sixth birthday of *Chance Comments*, and we go forward with confidence into another year of useful service in offering our readers entertainment and information on the achievements and doings of the Company and its 3,000 employees.

Compared with the magazines of many Companies, *Chance Comments* is very young indeed, as Lever Brothers first published their magazine in 1899 and the Bournville Works Magazine appeared in 1902. But those connected with these sturdy veterans would certainly desire to wish success to their junior contemporaries, as there are few firms of our size now who do not consider a works magazine or news sheet an important feature in developing sound relationships.

Many of our enthusiastic readers have kept each of the thirty issues, and it is interesting to turn the pages of the first copy, dated March, 1948. The quality of the paper and photographs was not particularly good, but it set off with some first-class material including a foreword by Sir Hugh Chance, an article on Lighthouses in the East Indies by K. Sutton-Jones, and a technical feature on Cathode Ray Tubes. Harry Hill, of the Box Shop, was under the Spotlight; he was then 76 years of age and had had 63 years' service with the Company. Harry is still a first-class box maker despite his present age.

Personal news included the announcement that Bert Bye had become the father of a son, and Bert Mann the father of a daughter. In that year Tom Whieldon (now at St. Helens) had gained his B.Sc., and Jack Lenham had been fitted with new dentures.

The Recreation Club was boosting an outing to New Brighton, and Harry Caddick had won £2 10s. 0d. for catching a 10 oz. 7 drams fish in an angling competition.

At that time the Company had taken into employment some 150 members of the Polish Resettlement Corps, and one page was printed in Polish under the heading "Polska Kolumna."

In his editorial the Editor mentioned that the issue was made up of 10,325 words, and on that basis some 309,750 words have been printed during the last five years, approximating to three full length novels.

HAVE YOU A NOSE FOR NEWS ?

Is anyone in your Department getting married? Or going on the stage? Or joining the Foreign Legion? Or breeding dodos? Or passing exams? Have you anything to sell? Or exchange? It's all NEWS, and the purpose of *Chance Comments* is to record it; to mirror the triumphs and achievements, joys, tribulations, and day-to-day incidents in the life of Chance Brothers and its people.

In all departments are correspondents who have volunteered to help collect the news. By passing on any item, however small, to your departmental correspondent you will help to make the magazine bright, interesting and topical. So next time you see a man bite a dog, please inform the correspondent (see list on inside front cover) or telephone the Editor, Mr. A. Ogden, on Extension 277.

VIRGIN ISLANDS STAMP

It was with obvious interest that we noticed a letter from the Virgin Islands bore a postage stamp featuring the Sombbrero Lighthouse, and Mr. Richley, our veteran Lighthouse Engineer, remembers this contract being carried out in 1928.



The optic was at one time supplied by us for Gun Cay, Bahamas, and was returned to us for alteration to an eight-sided 2nd Order single flashing light. A new 1st Order mercury float pedestal and clock was fitted, and the lantern from Lowestoft Low Light was converted to house the optic and pedestal for installation at Sombbrero.

All this, plus the supply of the Tower fittings, was carried out for Trinity House by Chance Brothers.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN COMMITTEES ?

Early this year the workpeople's representatives on the several Works Committees attended a training course organised in the Works by the Company. They learned something about committee constitutions, the management structure, factory costing, welfare services—all of which they found to be most interesting and the majority of those who attended asked the Company to repeat the course and extend it to cover additional subjects.

It has been suggested that as and when a similar course is arranged, an opportunity to attend should be extended to all employees, whether or not they served on one of the Works Committees.

Any employee who would be interested in such a course should arrange to talk the matter over with the Personnel Manager.

EAST COAST FLOOD DISASTER

There was naturally a generous response to the Works' appeal in support of the East Coast Flood Disaster. The Gatehouse collection

raised £41 16s. 6d., and a good deal of clothing and bedding was collected. Letters of appreciation were received from the Mayor of Smethwick and the W.V.S.

The Company was able to render some practical assistance. A van-load of cleaning materials and domestic glassware was sent to a hard-hit village in Norfolk. There was a sense of urgency and within a short time of the appeal being received a van was on the way. There was good team work by the Traffic Department, the General Stores, the Works Shop and No. 8 Warehouse in packing the van. George Grice of the Traffic Department, volunteered to drive, mostly by night. He came back appalled with the scenes of desolation he saw.

The Company received the following letter :—

"The people of Cley wish you to know how grateful they are for all the help you have given to them."

Cley is a small village which possesses no formal body to deal with a catastrophe such as we have suffered. It may therefore be that some kind friends will appear to receive no formal thanks for what they have done and are doing. This will not be due to any indifference on our part but to the great pressure of work imposed on us all. We are all most grateful and thank you from our hearts."

ACCOMMODATION

Many employees are still in urgent need of accommodation, and it would be helpful if any persons who have a room or rooms to let would advise the Personnel Department, who would put them in touch with those requiring such accommodation. The greatest need is for furnished or unfurnished rooms for married couples, with or without children.

EXCHANGE & MART

Any employee wishing to sell or exchange or buy articles may advertise in this column without any charge.

Wanted

Hand sewing machine, Box J.3.
Hand loom for weaving small articles. This is required by a crippled employee.
Box J.4.

For Sale

Commando type steel framed rucsac, £1. Box K.3.
Winchester .303 rifle, new barrel, Parker Hale aperture sights. Box K.4.

THE OLD 'UNS

by H. S. MARTIN

IT has occurred to me that it might interest a lot of people if some mention was made of the "Old Brigade" whose sons are still with us. These "old uns" were great characters and put all they knew into their service for the Firm. I am just picking them out at random as I recall them and not in any order of merit and hope to contribute notes on several in future issues.

THOMAS CLIFT

Take T. Clift for instance. He came in 1884 from coal mining into the Blacksmiths' Shop and retired at the age of 73 in 1935. The picture here was taken at Llangollen after his retirement.

Tommy helped to build the first tank and most other tanks at the time of the change-over from Pot Furnaces to Tanks. He introduced gatherers shades for keeping the heat from the glassmakers.

He was always at the beck and call of everyone in trouble with any iron and steel work at the furnaces.



It is reported that on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. George Chance, Sir Hugh Chance's father, that Tommy fired a salute by ramming gun-powder into an anvil and setting it off.

Tommy was a member of the Fire Brigade for 33 years and rendered good service in this capacity.

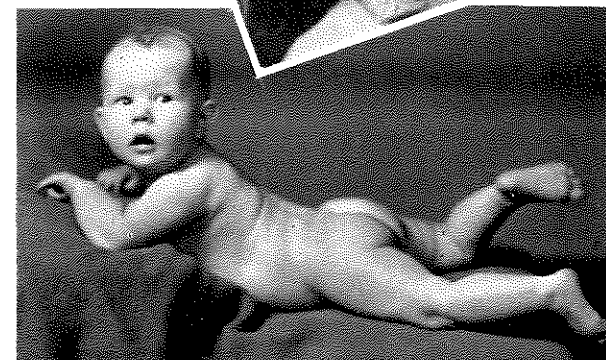
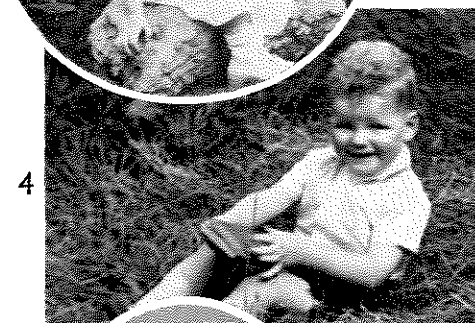
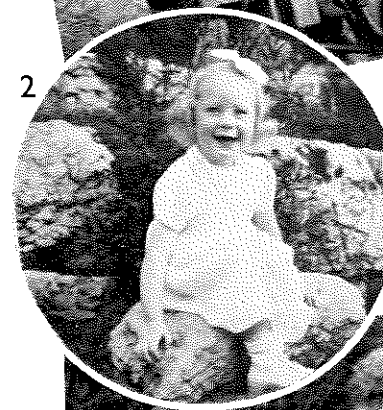
He has a son in the Blacksmith's Shop who has carried on his father's work. He reaches 50 years' service this year and is still going strong. So for 70 years we have called on a Clift when in need of blacksmiths' work.



IMPORTANT PEOPLE . . .

Studies of our Employees' Children

1. Colin, Philip, Roy and Neil—sons of A. E. Cartwright, Wages Office.
2. Wendy Joy, daughter of H. Gregory, L.H. Electrical.
3. Carrol, daughter of A. Gould, Building.
4. Alan, son of Mrs. D. Russell, B. & P.
5. Margaret, daughter of T. Robertson, Optical.
6. Gillian, daughter of T. Hedley, L.H. Electrical.
7. Melvyn, grandson of Mrs. Hunt, B. & P.



Dobson and Young

THROUGH the kind auspices of the Chance Education Trust, a "get-together" of Directors and their wives, Works Supervisors on the staff and their wives, together with all members, and their wives of the Works Consultative Committee and its sub-committees (both management and workpeople), was arranged to listen to a Dobson and Young talk.

The entertainment given by these clever educationalists was taken to heart and Friday, 6th February, 1953, may well prove to be a turning point in the lives of some of those present. Just as the reader borrows the virtues of the character in the book,

so did the listener identify himself with the man who Mr. Dobson said, could become someone important if he knew where his talents lay. We have, each one of us, undiscovered talents which may, by careful application in our leisure time, reveal themselves. When told that only one-tenth of man's potential comes to the surface, the audience no doubt felt confident that the other nine-tenths couldn't be very far away.

It was pleasing to all present to meet on equal terms and be told by their visitor what was good for them, and to share the sensation of becoming "hot under the collar" at their own shortcomings.

Since education draws more and more upon visual aids, so

did Mr. Dobson illustrate his many points with simple but well designed "props," not forgetting his own hands.

The refreshment break was a welcome one, in which Mr. Young was heard talking "off the record" to members of the audience.

The last part of the visitor's talk was really a serious attempt—in a Dobson and Young way—to bring home to each person present that a third of one's lifetime is leisure time, which should not be wasted. It is time during which we may acquire and store knowledge in our minds to draw upon in later years. Although our water-colour may be poor, our wood-carving crude, we have had the courage to pick up the tools and have a go; we have made something with our own hands and though it may not be a masterpiece, it is OURS. Skill will come later.

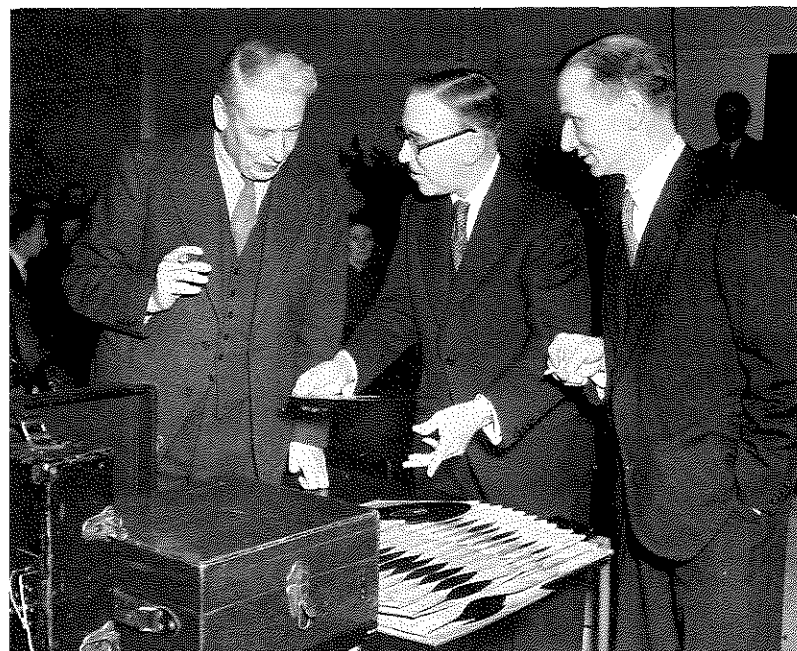
Leisure time is what we make it, and the success of it is ours for the making. So ended a delightfully presented talk.

Mr. Dobson thanked the Company for the kind reception he and his partner had been given, and Mr. John Raymond responded by stressing the importance of the Dobson and Young brand of educational entertainment and the need for everyone's interest in active leisure.

Mr. Young, seen but very seldom heard, then said that although we were not exactly a "dense" audience, we were certainly not a "normal" one. So on this parting pun closed a pleasant evening, with hopes for an early return of Dobson and Young.

W. F. DIMMOCK.

Sir Hugh Chance with Mr. Dobson (centre) and Mr. Young. (Reproduced by permission of Smethwick Telephone.)



At top of page:—Dobson and Young try their hand at glass blowing. Centre:—Mr. John Raymond with Mr. Young and Mr. E. Bennett. Immediately below:—Walter Dobson explains a point to Mr. & Mrs. Newman.



& CULLET

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"Harry never could take his radishes"