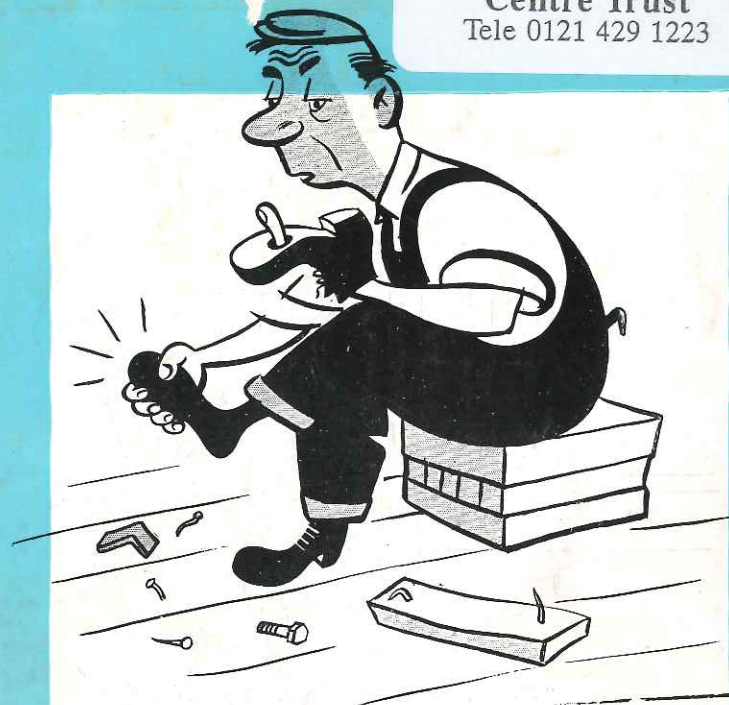


2015.277
This is the property of
Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust
Tele 0121 429 1223



Foot Drill!

Watch out for cullet. And beware of nails in timber. They have a disconcerting habit of being very sharp, so be sure that the soles of your boots and shoes are in good condition as well as the toe-caps. Safety shoes are best for use during working hours—Men's shoes can be obtained from the General Stores and women's shoes from The Personnel Department.

Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar.

Produced and published by Teamwork Magazines (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.), 25 Catherine Street, London, W.C.2, on behalf of and in collaboration with Chance Brothers Limited, Smethwick.

Chance

COMMENTS



MAY—JUNE 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.

EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office	J. ALLEN
Blown and Pressed Inspection	F. O'CONNOR R. TURTON B. PATRICK S. STOCKIN A. SUTTON MISS J. KENDRICK MRS. A. KEYS
Process Making Sales Warehouse	MRS. A. KEYS
Buying & Stationery	MRS. CANTY
Engineering Drawing Office	J. FISHER
Electrical Grinding Machine and Fitting	J. THOMPSON MRS. HASTINGS
Commercial Staff	F. CARTWRIGHT F. W. G. BEAUMONT
Sumo Office	S. BROWN
Sumo Works	J. T. HALL
Time Study	A. HEATH
Toolroom and Mould Shop	W. B. COX
Welding and Blacksmiths Works Staff	D. EDWARDS A. SLEIGH H. V. SKAN
Export	
Flat Glass Making and Warehouse	R. E. EVANS
Sales	R. PALMER
Seven Storey	A. FARDELL
Laboratory	MRS. RUSSELL
Maintenance and Construction	
Boiler Shop	G. ROWE
Building	S. BEARDSMORE
Electricians	E. A. WHITEHOUSE
Garage	V. COOKSEY
Millwrights	W. JOHNSON
Old Hall	J. CHEETHAM
Stores	D. KIRKWOOD
Mixing	N. GREEN
Optical	MRS. F. HOLLYHEAD
Pyrometry	N. WALKER
Recreation Club	A. HEATH
Silvering	T. PAGE
Traffic	MRS. K. FELLOWS
Transport	F. G. ANKORN
Typists' Pool	MISS M. VICKERS
Wages, Pensions	MRS. MOUNTFORD
BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS	
Glasgow	J. A. AITCHISON
London	J. C. PERKINS
Malvern	MISS D. CLARE
	P. ROBINSON
St. Helens	K. W. APPLETON

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CARTOON BY K.P.2	Inside Back Cover

This month's cover : Fiesta glass in ruby or blue glass, with the pattern in pure gold.



12487 SD © A.V.M. & Co. Ltd.

H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

JUNE 2nd, 1953

THE thoughts and prayers of all at Chance Brothers Limited will be with our Queen, Elizabeth II, on the occasion of her Coronation on Tuesday, June 2nd, 1953. and we humbly pledge our loyalty and service.

VOL. 6, No. 2

MAY—JUNE 1953

Page One



IN 1845 the partners of Chance Brothers opened the Chance Schools in the buildings which now house the canteens at the New Gate entrance. The following is a copy of a notice issued in 1867:—

GLASS WORKS,
November, 1867.

AN examination of the Boys, Girls, and Young Persons employed in the various departments of our Glass Works, shows that many of them, of both sexes, do not possess the knowledge of the rudiments of Education, which every person, at least in this neighbourhood, who is old enough to work, ought by this time to have acquired.

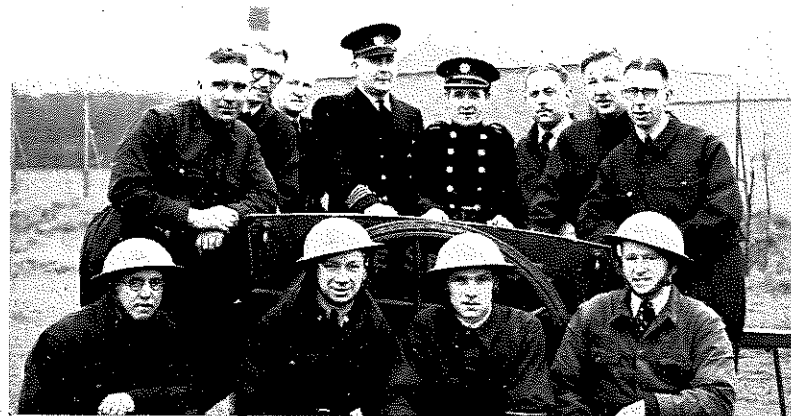
We have therefore resolved, in future (1) to discountenance the employment of Girls and Boys in our Works, who do not possess at the time of seeking employment, a fair acquaintance with the Elements of Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, with the addition of Freehand Drawing for the Ornamental Department; and (2) to open an additional Day School for Glass-house Boys, and an additional Evening School for Girls and Young Women.

In the case of Glass-house Boys, who have at their disposal a great deal of leisure time, we expect all of them, under 18 years of age, to attend the Day School at least three times each week for the present, and in the case of all other young persons, of both sexes, whose Elementary Education is defective, we expect the Boys to attend the Evening School three times in each week, for at least six months in the year, and Girls and Young Women for such longer period as may appear to us to be desirable.

It is our purpose to impose a Fine of Sixpence per Week upon Glass-house Boys who absent themselves without sufficient cause, and no longer to employ any whose conduct is reported by the Master to be bad, or whose attendance is not kept up with regularity.

We propose to hold an examination of all our Young People, from time to time, and to institute a system of Rewards for those whose Attendance, Good Conduct, and Progress, merit such distinction.

We shall be glad to find our intentions in this matter fully appreciated by those whose Welfare is to be thereby affected, and to know that those whose Education is in a satisfactory condition will still give a regular attendance on the Schools and Classes both for the sake of their own progress, and as an example to those whose Education is not in so satisfactory a state.



THE WORKS FIRE BRIGADE

FIRE! Fire! "In case of fire telephone 222"—so runs the notice. What happens when you do? A special red telephone, which must be answered instantly, rings in the Old Gatehouse. Your message will be taken and at once the gatekeeper will telephone the South Side Boilers, where the alarm on the bull will be sounded—three short blasts of twenty seconds duration each with ten seconds between blasts. Simultaneously the internal works siren sounds a long blast in departments. Immediately, the members of the Brigade who are in the Works leave their jobs and hurry to the scene of the fire, while those at home—they nearly all live very close and within earshot of the bull—come in to the Works.

From then on the responsibility for dealing with the fire is that of the Brigade. They are the main immediate line of defence, where every second counts and small fires can quickly become big ones. Their task is to extinguish, control and isolate the fire, meanwhile where necessary calling in the National Fire Service from outside. For this purpose there are fifteen fire boxes equipped with hose (half a mile) and couplings, forty-four hydrants, and soda acid extinguishers

spread round the Works, in addition to fire buckets of water and sand in all departments. Additionally there are foam extinguishers where there is an oil fire risk, and C.T.C. extinguishers where there is an electrical fire risk.

Chief Officer Flook, assisted by Second Officer Clive, leads a well-

Chief Officer Flook





A helmet used in the year 1843 causes some amusement.

trained Brigade—all volunteers—of fourteen men.

The present members are:—

Chief Officer T. Flook (Internal Transport)

Second Officer S. Clive (B. & P.)

Leading Fireman A. Shepherd (Internal Transport)

Fireman D. Arnold (L.H.)

Fireman B. Bagnall (Internal Transport)

Fireman H. Bagnall (Internal Transport)

Fireman J. Beckley (M. & C.)

Fireman M. Belt (R.P.)

Fireman T. Clift (M. & C.)

Fireman A. Jane (B. & P.)

Fireman W. King (B. & P.)

Fireman W. Tonks (B. & P.)

Fireman F. Walton (Gate)

Fireman N. Whitehouse (L.H.)

Their training—two hours a week to keep them on their toes and up-to-date—is done in their own time. Training is very important for every second may count and in the Glass Works many of the “fires” are tank bursts, calling for a specialised knowledge and technique very different from those for a fire proper.

The Chief Officer is charged with the responsibility of advising management on fire risks and prevention. To do this effectively he has to keep abreast of new methods of fire fighting and changing risks created by new buildings, new processes and new machines. All his many friends will be pleased to learn of the honour recently paid to Chief Officer Flook by the Smethwick Industrial Fire Brigades' Association in electing him their Vice-Chairman.

An interesting link with the past is a battered leather fireman's helmet now in the possession of the Company, which was worn when the Brigade was first formed in 1843. The Brigade must be amongst the oldest industrial brigades in the country, having now 110 years of continuous history behind it. The helmet was worn by a leading fireman named Bird, and was purchased recently from his great-great-grandson. Records of the nineteenth century Brigade are scanty, but coming to more recent times many people can remember Jim Field (M. & C.) who was Chief Officer for many years up to 1922, Joe Hinton (Boiler Shop) who was Second Officer from 1909-1935, and Major Warner (Internal Transport) who was Chief Officer from 1922-1939. Tommy Clift (Boiler Shop) is still serving after thirty-five years membership.

The service of most of the present members dates from the early days of the last war, when Sam Stockin (B. & P.) was Chief Officer from 1939-1946. To meet the emergency the Brigade was expanded to three times its present strength and became an important part of the A.R.P. organisation, dealing

with ‘incidents’ such as those of November 1940 when a large number of incendiaries and a number of H.E. bombs dropped on the Works, but no fires were allowed to break out, although several firemen were injured. Then towards the end of the war came the big fire—not due to war causes—which partially destroyed the L.H. Electrical Shop.

After the war the Brigade reverted to its peace-time strength, Second Officer Flook becoming Chief Officer, and it has on a number of occasions proved its value by dealing quickly with what could have been dangerous fires—such as No. 8 roof (1950) and the Old Decorating Department (1952). On an average the Brigade deals with about a dozen bursts and four fires a year, happily most of them being extinguishable by the Brigade. Chief Officer Flook's most violent dislike—to borrow a phrase from another part of *Chance Comments*—is people who smoke in prohibited areas such as warehouses.

In the Civil Defence Organisation, which was revived last year, the Brigade is again scheduled to play a vital part. All the members have added Civil

Defence Training to their fire fighting; those further volunteers who would be needed in the event of an emergency have come forward, have been trained in Civil Defence and are training as firemen.

There are two highlights (planned!) looked forward to annually by the Brigade. The first is the local Fire Brigades Competition, held last year on the Recreation Ground, when they measure themselves against the men of other Brigades, many of them full-time firemen. After intensive practice, starting at Easter, the Brigade usually acquits itself creditably. Each year since 1948 a diploma has been won. Places have been won in the Four-Men Hydrant Drill and the Four-Men Hose Cart Drill, while in 1951 and 1952 Fireman B. Bagnall won a place in the One-Man Hydrant competition. The second event is the annual outing to the sea, when the Brigade restores itself after the rigours of the competitions.

After 110 years the Brigade is an essential part of the organisation, and its members are giving an important voluntary service to the Company and their fellow employees.

A photograph of the Works Brigade about 75 years ago.

Top:—F. Langford, J. Matthews, B. Parry.

Middle:—E. Peters, Dr. Pitt, S. Field.

Front:—F. Lloyd, Capt. Forster, J. Field, J. Lloyd.



Meet your CORRESPONDENTS



JOHN CHEETHAM

THE Company has reason to be proud of the number of members of the staff who are A.M.I.Mech.E., but one staff member, and only one, has full membership of the Institution and he is John Cheetham of the Maintenance & Construction Drawing Office.

John came to Chance's in November, 1936. He is a Lincoln man and served his apprenticeship with the well-known engineering firm of Ruston & Hornsby.

The M. & C. Drawing Office is unusual compared with most Drawing Offices in that, in addition to work for maintenance and construction, the D.O. boys are concerned not a little with glass design and they also have to design special purpose machinery for glassmaking, which work could not be tackled by any outside firm. It's a pretty tough consignment and John Cheetham, who is O.C., has to resign himself to a state of being "married" to his job.

He is, of course, married in the normally accepted sense and has two charming daughters and a bright young

son. Yet despite the calls of his job and his home, he is able to give time for service to others and for the past two years he has been chairman of the Recreation Club. During his terms of office the Recreation Club has developed its activities considerably, but has had a most worrying time in regard to finance. The way ahead is more clear, and John Cheetham and his Committee is making a mark.

A keen angler, a dashed good wood-carver and a keen interest in wild flowers and trees are John Cheetham's private life attributes.

JONATHAN FISHER

JON FISHER is *Chance Comments'* representative in the Lighthouse Drawing Office. In our last issue we announced that he had recently obtained Associate Membership of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. He also holds a Higher National Certificate in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

Jon, who was selfish enough to disturb his household by coming into the world two days before Christmas

The nearer photograph is of Janette Kendrick.

On extreme right, Sam Stockin.



Day—in 1921, came to Chance Brothers to serve his apprenticeship in the Lighthouse Works and he is now a section leader in the Sumo Pump Drawing Office. He not only found a career at Chance's—he also found himself a wife as in 1946 he married Mary Mills, who was at that time secretary to the Lighthouse Sales Manager.

Early last January Jon and Mary became the proud parents of a daughter.

ETHEL HOLLYHEAD

LANCASHIRE claims to be the true home of brass bands but Mrs. Hollyhead, the correspondent in the Optical Division, is convinced that the West Bromwich Borough Band is as good as any. Both she and her husband are attached to the Band and are real enthusiasts.

Mrs. Hollyhead has been in the Optical Department for the last seven years. She told our reporter that she finds her job and running a home a full-time occupation yet she finds time—very wisely—to attend dances, concerts and whist drives, and also gets through a good deal of knitting.

JANETTE KENDRICK

JANETTE is the youngest of all our correspondents and she looks after the Blown & Pressed Sales Office, where she is employed as a clerk.

It is unusual for a young lady to be interested in production charts and

statistics, but Janette really is and she also takes a keen interest in customer reactions to our wide range of domestic glass.

Her main hobbies are cycling, films and reading thrillers, but she did whisper to our reporter that she hopes one day to marry and have a family.

SAM STOCKIN

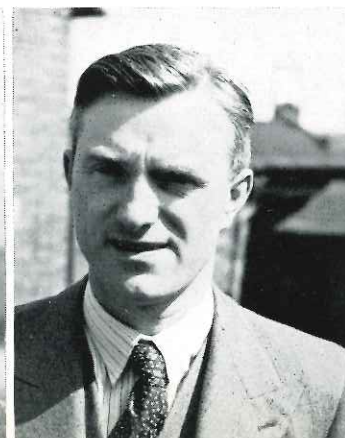
BROWNING wrote "A mother who boasts two boys was ever accounted rich." Sam Stockins parents must have been rich indeed as they had eighteen children, five of whom were boys. Sam was the first born. At some time or other the five boys worked here, as did the father, and also Sam's two sons—some of the clan are still here, of course.

Sam Stockin appears on this page as a correspondent in the Blown & Pressed Division, but he is best known as the foreman of Pressed Process and what he doesn't know about pressed glass isn't worth knowing as he has been in the Process Department for 31 years.

The line of Fire Brigade photographs which hangs in the Billiard Room bar feature Sam as the chief of the Works Brigade—a position which he held for many years until bronchitis forced him to hand the reins to Tom Flook in 1946.

He is a keen gardener and specialises in carrots. He was, in fact, secretary of the war-time Works food production club.

Below, left to right :—John Cheetham, Jonathan Fisher, and Ethel Hollyhead.



From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

THE final meeting of the Works Consultative Committee for the year 1952/3 was held on the 26th March. Unfortunately, the Managing Director, Mr. John Raymond, was unable to attend but in sending a message thanking the members for their services during the past year he said: "Much useful work has been done and I assure you that it is very greatly appreciated by the Board and myself. There is

no doubt that the Works Consultative Committee plays a valuable part in helping to keep the Works running smoothly, and we hope that it will continue to grow from strength to strength."

In the monthly review of the Production position the following points were made:—

In the Rolled Plate Department we were disposing of the total output of the Smethwick and Glasgow tanks consequent on an improvement in export orders.

In the Coloured Department there was keen competition and difficulties were being experienced in obtaining export sales.

Division	Group	Representative
Flat Glass	1. Coloured & Seven Storey	A. Piper
	2. Rolled Plate	A. J. Goodridge
Optical	3. Optical	G. O. Moore
Blown & Pressed	4. Making & Furnaces	H. Care
	5. Process, Inspection, Warehouse	B. L. Roberts
Maintenance & Construction	6. Millwrights, Boiler Shop, Electricians, etc.	E. A. Whitehouse J. Hill (Deputy)
	7. Building, Carpenters, Crate Yard, Garage	W. Holloway T. Hensley (Deputy)
	8. Machine Shop, Fitting, Tool Room, Welding, Smiths, Sumo	F. A. Cartwright
Engineering	9. Electrical, Grinding	H. Johnstone
General Services	10. Mixing, Pot & Clay, Transport, Traffic, Cleaners, Gatehouses	F. Walton T. R. Page (Deputy)



YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. A. Piper. | 2. A. J. Goodridge. | 3. G. O. Moore. | 4. H. Care. |
| 5. B. L. Roberts. | 6. E. A. Whitehouse. | 7. W. Holloway. | 8. F. A. Cartwright. |
| | 9. H. Johnstone. | 10. F. Walton. | |

In the Engineering Division the emphasis was now largely on sales and Mr. H. L. Barman was in America, Mr. F. Beaumont in India and Mr. T. O. Orr in Australia. On the Sumo side there was a lot of work on hand, but there was increasing competition from German pump manufacturers. The Austinlite Section has a big programme of work for the Post Office.

In the Optical & Special Glass Division, Malvern was busy on syringes. Blown & Pressed were now producing good glass on the Vello Tubing and No. 8 plants, whilst on the Hysil side the emphasis was on cathode ray tubes.

The elections for Workpeople's Representatives for the year 1953/4 were held on the 14th April with results as shown on opposite page.

Lagged steam pipes are the bane of our maintenance plumbers as if a leak occurs it is difficult to trace the exact location. D. Parrott, an M. & C. pipe fitter, suggested that the lagging

SUGGESTIONS SCHEME

be marked to indicate joints and thus facilitate repairs. His idea, like the one reported above, was simple yet practicable and the Committee awarded him £1 5s. 0d.

J. Pugh from the Sumo Shop received £1 10s. 0d. for a suggestion for the building of CTT enclosure tubes for C.F. stators.

The intermittent hiss of air from the Optical moulding plant has always been an irritant to those employed in the Moulding Shop and O. Cotham, at the St. Helens branch works, decided to try to reduce the nuisance. He obtained a used treacle tin, filled it with steel wool and hey presto ! he had an efficient silencer. He earned himself £1 plus improved working conditions.

As far back as July, 1951, W. Severs of the Blown & Pressed Warehouse

put forward an idea concerning a method of carton packing. At that time it was not practicable to use his suggested method, but recently his proposals have been put to use and he was awarded 17s. 6d.

Other awards of 17s. 6d. each went to R. W. Moore of the Blown & Pressed for an original suggestion to improve the locking action of one of the glassmaking moulds, and to S. Matthews of the Millwrights for a suggestion for a jig to assist the Rolled Plate cutters to set-up.

S Last month A. R. Lago of the Lighthouse Pattern Shop received an award for an idea concerning the handling of wood patterns. He has again cashed in on his ideas by receiving 15s. 0d. for another useful suggestion which will reduce the possibilities of small patterns becoming lost.

T. Morton, of the Lighthouse Grinding Shop, received 12s. 6d. for an adopted suggestion to improve the effectiveness of an internal direction sign.

10s. 0d. went to H. Mann of Rolled Plate who suggested that during ladling of No. 4 Tank, two or three bars be fastened by buckstaves across the front of the dog house arch of No. 3 Tank to protect it from damage. A 10s. 0d. award was also made to F. Bywater of Sumo for an idea concerning the frazing of holes on the inside of certain stator casings.

7s. 6d. was paid for each of two modest yet useful ideas, one from J. Goddard of the Stonemasons and the other a joint suggestion by R. J. Grosvenor and M. J. Hinds from the Engineering Division Drawing Office.



OF NO PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE ?

THE Editor has given me the dullest and dreariest duty ever set for a contributor to *Chance Comments*. What a difference to the tasks set for sales-sahibs, on their return from their travels in Peru, Kansu, Timbuctu and Honolulu, to get orders to keep us busy. We all have seen in this journal the beautiful pictures they have brought back, and read with interest the experiences they have had. Which is not to say we should not have read with even more interest the experiences they left out. In comparison, as said above, mine is a very dull stint. I have dodged doing it for months until the Editor blackmailed me by saying that if I didn't do it this time he would have a blank page, as he had nothing else to put in. A self-respecting Editor is never of course in this position so I knew he was doing what Mr. Braden says they do at Edgbarston 'treating the truth roughly'. Nevertheless fearing further blackmail I buckled to.

There is no secret as to why I have started in an unusual way. It is just to make you curious to read a bit more. You have had the treacle and now for the brimstone.

I am going to write about 'pennies'. Even to the kids today, as unfortunately every parent knows, pennies are of no particular importance. Why then should they be of importance to a powerful company like Chance Brothers Limited. The answer is merely by multiplication. If every one of the 3,000 of us wastes even a penny a day (and who doesn't) either in the usage of stores, spoilage of work, or misuse of time, it comes to a million pennies in a year. This is a tidy sum which I will leave Mr. Gould of the Lab. to work out on the new calculator he has had on appo. for the last 6 months,

and which he hopes the makers have forgotten to collect.

I must now come to the subject I was really asked to write about i.e., "Consumable Stores" which is a surprisingly important aspect of saving pennies. This description covers such things as gloves, soaps, cloths, lamps, brooms, rags, waste, toilet rolls, towels, files, abrasives, paper, cartons, type-writer ribbons, etc., etc. The Company spend a lot of money on such things, i.e. £80,000 a year, and such a sum gives much scope for the pruning knife without spoiling the tree.

Mr. Kirkwood of the Glassworks Stores says we are particularly heavy on gloves. Though these cost only a few shillings a pair, we use fifteen thousand pairs a year. Mr. Moore of the Lighthouse Stores says he wonders if we really realise how much the various stores items cost these days. As an instance, he mentions those insignificant looking sticks of special solder we use, which if not worth their weight in gold are nearly so in silver. It is no use our saying Storekeepers are always grumbling at something—these are the facts.

I know Mr. Medley and his gallant cleaning ladies don't waste anything—I daren't say so even if I knew differently, because I am sure the riposte would come—'tell that ruddy buyer to get stuff which lasts a bit longer'.

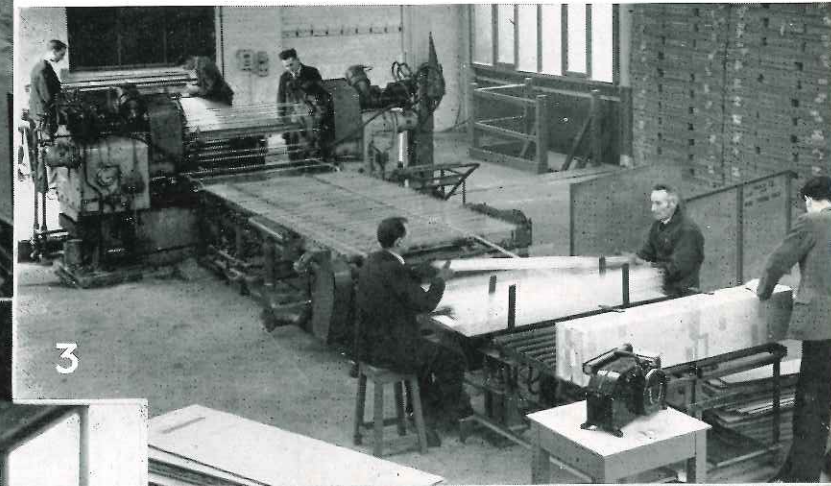
The object of this bit of nonsense, as you will all know is to underline the importance of getting our costs down. Our jobs quite literally, in the harder times we are experiencing, will depend on it, and the more economical use of consumable stores is a way everybody—repeat everybody—can help.

F.J.W.

VELLO TUBING

In our last issue was a feature on the manufacture of fluorescent tubing. Here are some photographs taken on the plant.

1. The tube of glass falling through the catenary curve to a horizontal runway. The dimensions of the tube are accurately controlled at this stage.
2. During its long horizontal run, the tube cools slowly as it is pulled along by a tractor.
3. Tubes are given specially shaped ends in the revolving turret end-forming machine, annealed, inspected and then packed.
4. Mr. A. M. Hallawell, in charge of fluorescent tubing sales, examines a tube as it moves towards the end-trimming and end-forming machines.
5. Mr. John Raymond (left), Managing Director, and Dr. H. B. Gibson, General Manager of the Blown & Pressed Glass Division, examine a finished fluorescent light tube.





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN & PRESSED

In the East Coast floods a consignment of Laboratory glass was completely submerged in water, and on being returned to the Works for salvage it was found that the contents, totalling 2,478 articles, were intact. Mrs. Lily Russell and her team are to be congratulated on the perfection of their packing.

The Division was sorry to say goodbye to Mr. M. L. Moir, Mr. E. Bennett, and Mr. C. Harding, who left recently. Cyril Harding's many friends presented him with a clock, a barometer and a brief case.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the following on the occasion of their recent marriage: Dennis Binfield (Cathodes), W. Hollyhead (Inspection), Richard Davies (Methods & Development) and Cynthia Jarrett (Chemical Process).

Margaret Stokes (Warehouse) has had a gift of a son and Peggy Jones is the proud mother of twin boys. Another happy person is June Nightingale (Pressed Dark Room) who recently attained her majority and celebrated by becoming engaged to Gordon Matthews.

Pressed Process welcomes the return of Mrs. Hunt, who has now recovered from an accident, and the Making Section is pleased to have Bill Parkes back after his long absence due to sickness. Tom Kennett is still absent as a result of an accident he sustained at Christmas, and Sid Bryan (Inspection) is away due to illness. We send them our sincere regards.

ENGINEERING

The Lighthouse Drawing Office offers congratulations and best wishes to Norman Bailey on the occasion of his marriage. Norman travelled to Italy for the great event and brought his bride back to settle in this country.

Bill Matthews has left the D.O. for service in the Forces. During the Easter period the Office had visits from Doug. Staines and Norman Bladon, who are still on National

Immediately below:—Mr. & Mrs. Aston; at foot of page:—Mr. & Mrs. Carr.



Service. Norman is going to Germany in the near future.

Joan Barrett left the Office recently to return to New Zealand, and we welcome in her place Catherine Fahey.

Belated, yet sincere, congratulations are extended to Jack Aston of the Planning Department who recently married Joy Picken.

Sumo welcomes as newcomers Fred McNicoll and Albert Worth. Charles Lawrence and Jack Smedley are welcomed back after their illness.

Ray Willetts, Sumo Sales, has attained his majority; Ray is at present serving in H.M. Forces.

The Electrical Shop welcomes Leonard Hargreaves, Doreen Griffiths, Betty Holingsworth, and Lily Rutter, and wishes good luck to Ron Middleton and Eric Copper who have commenced their National Service. June James has attained her majority.

At the time of going to press we learn that Albert Griffin has successfully weathered a major operation, and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Recent announcements of happy events include the news from America that Ken Nicholls has a son. And Albert Baker of the Toolroom has become the father of a daughter.

FLAT GLASS

Bob Evans, the correspondent for the Rolled Plate Department, advises that following the extensive repairs and modifications to No. 3 Tank, a record output of wired and cast glass was recently made.

Sid Cooper and his wife are congratulated on the birth of a daughter—their third.

A happy event is also announced from the Seven Storey, namely, a son for Len Burford.

Ray Fardell of the Seven Storey married Edna Sheldon on March 21st and we wish them every happiness.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Boiler Shop congratulates Harry Isherwood on his recent marriage.

The Shop was sorry to lose Albert Bateman and Joe Bache, who have retired after long service with the Company, and everybody wishes them well.

We are pleased to learn that Ernie Carter's wife (who was at one time employed in the Optical Department) is making good progress and hopes soon to be home from a sanatorium.

Deep sympathy is extended to Ernie Bullen of the Crate Yard on the recent death of his father.

OFFICES

The Export Office congratulates Bruce Fowles on his marriage to Margaret Flook, formerly of the Optical Department, and Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Reading on the birth of a son.

Ron Launchbury, Purchase Accounts, has attained his majority and Howard Charlton, also of Purchase Accounts, is welcomed back on the completion of his National Service.

A newcomer to the Wages Office is Pat Montgomery, and we hope she will like her new work.

Dorothy Beard of the Typing Pool celebrated her coming of age on the 6th April.

OPTICAL

The Optical Division congratulates Clara Beswick on her recent marriage and wishes her every happiness.

A welcome is extended to Sheila Hodgetts, a newcomer to the staff, and to Walter Zuber who has returned to the Division from another part of the Works.

It was with profound regret that the Division learned that Mrs. Clara Mason had passed away; we extend our sympathy to her family.

TRANSPORT

Wilf Warner is away undergoing a major operation, and we all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

The Department, together with Traffic and Gatehouses, held a most enjoyable Dinner and Concert at the Red Cow on the 17th April, when the principal guest was Mr. C. J. S. Newman.

News FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The activities of the Recreation Club for the Winter Session are now approaching completion.

Table Tennis

'A' Team have completed their matches and finished well up in the League.

'B' Team also have done well, and to finish up in the middle of their League is satisfactory for their first effort.

Whist Drive

A Whist Drive was held on the 15th April and the Committee was asked to arrange for another night on the 29th April—this to be the last for the Season.

Theatre Night

A Theatre night on Coronation Day has been arranged for the Pavilion Theatre. The Committee hope to make arrangements for tea before the theatre, and the price of tickets will be posted on the Notice Board in due course.

● LONDON

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Stallard's successor—Mr. A. G. Thompson to London Office and we wish him every success in his new post.

The Ideal Homes Exhibition—is now a memory—all things considered it was quite successful and the general public were very impressed with our range of glassware and many people remarked on how reasonably priced it was.

Once again we are holding an exhibition in the offices to run concurrently with the B.I.F. in London and Birmingham. Invitations have been sent out to all our customers and we are looking

forward to seeing them here during the first two weeks in May. We also look forward to welcoming some of our overseas friends.

The St. James's Square area is putting on its Coronation mantle, and steel tubular structures are appearing like mushrooms on the faces of buildings overlooking the route and even the lamp-posts are being painted in an assortment of gay colours some of which will no doubt cause concern to inebriated gentlemen who have celebrated well but not wisely!

● MALVERN

The Malvern (Engineering) Works congratulates Miss Joan Evans and her husband on their recent marriage.

We would like to extend a welcome to Mr. J. Morgan who has recently joined Inspection Department, and Mr. T. Coleman our new maintenance fitter, and also to Miss Blood. Miss Blood is taking the place of Mrs. E. Cole, who is leaving the country to join her husband in Lagos. We all wish Mrs. Cole the best of good fortune in her new home.

● ST. HELENS

The wedding took place on the 21st March of Miss J. Asson (Dark Room), to Mr. Cyril Tanner, our congratulations to them both.

We welcome to the Works, Miss Taylor, Miss McGarry, and Miss Lawrenson, all of whom joined us recently, and now are firmly established in the Dark Room inspection section. We also welcome back Mrs. Ashcroft who has rejoined us after a short absence.

Our best wishes to Richard Barnes who left us on the 20th March to do his National Service.

We hear that Tom McGarry (Grinding Section) has had an addition to his family, a baby boy. Congratulations Tom.

The biggest event in this part of the World, and one which we must mention is St. Helens getting into the final of the Rugby League Challenge Cup. Up here we support Rugby League football and on April 25th, 95,000 fans of which at least 20,000 came from St. Helens, packed the Wembley Stadium to see the final against Huddersfield. On top of this we top the league with such a lead that we cannot be caught, and naturally we are all very proud of our team.

Mr. R. Willetts and Mr. T. Hodgson are both absent at the moment due to illness. We wish them a speedy recovery, and hope to see them back with us soon.

EXCHANGE AND MART

Any employee wishing to sell or exchange or buy articles may advertise in this column without any charge. Enquiries should be made to the Personnel Department.

FOR SALE

Bristle dart board in good condition. 35s. 0d. Box K.5.

Lightweight sports model racing cycle (ladies). Derailleur gears. Pale blue and cream. Box K.6.

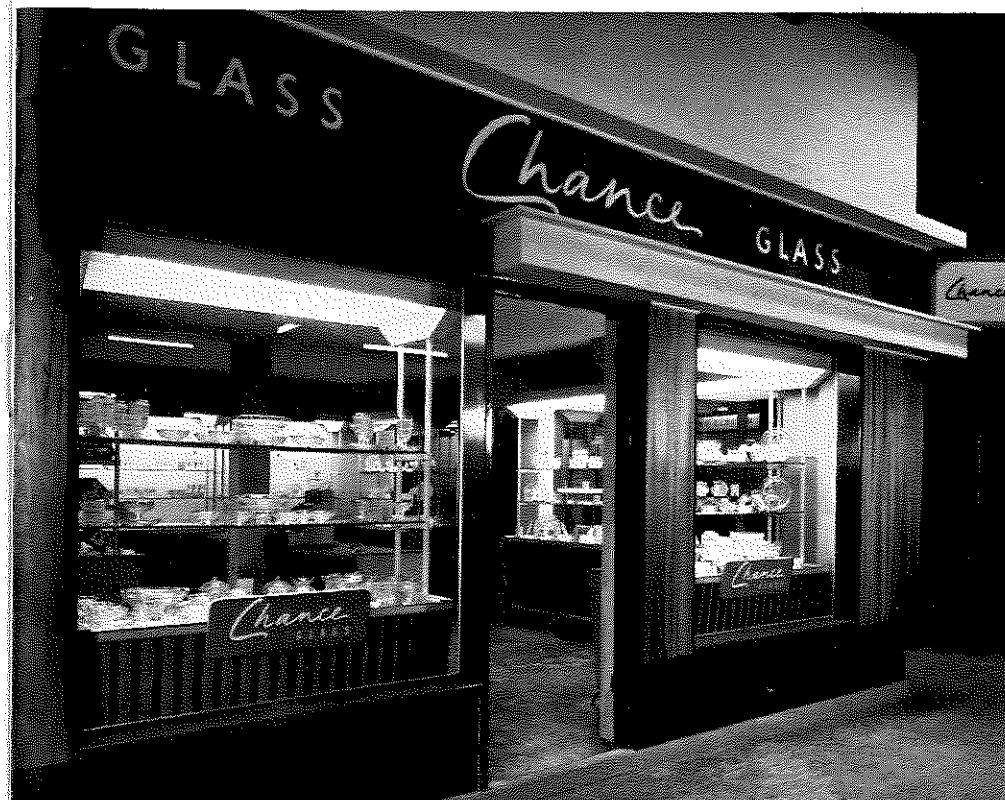
22" French massed start cycle; super specification. Box K.7.

WANTED

14" lawn mower with roller. Box J.5.

THIS photograph shows one side of the Shop in the Ideal Village at the Ideal Homes Exhibition held in March, where we again exhibited our Pressed Domestic glassware and Fiesta.

During the month 6,500 people bought pieces of glass, as compared with 5,400 people last year, thus proving that CHANCE glass is a very popular seller when displayed properly.



Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

It is in the interests both of the Company and of members of the staff that the Company's central records of academic or professional qualifications held or acquired by members of the staff should be accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date. For example, when selections are being made for an outside training course calling for a particular qualification as a condition of entry, it is essential that the field of selection should include everyone eligible.

Qualifications held on entering the service of the Company have always been noted. However, since staff have not hitherto been specifically asked to report the acquisition of qualifications gained while in the service of the Company, there have been a number of instances of qualifications being obtained by spare-time study of which the Company was not aware.

Steps have recently been taken to remedy this situation by bringing up to date the Company's records of the following qualifications :—

- (a) University Degrees.
- (b) Final and Intermediate examinations of such bodies as the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants, Institute of Cost and Works Accountants, Chartered Institute of Secretaries, Institute of Export, Institute of Sales Management.
- (c) Membership of such bodies as the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Production Engineers, Glass Technology, Royal Institute of Chemistry and Physics.

(d) Ordinary or Higher National Certificates.

In order to keep these records up to date, will all members of the Staff who in future acquire one of these qualifications please notify their manager.

* * *

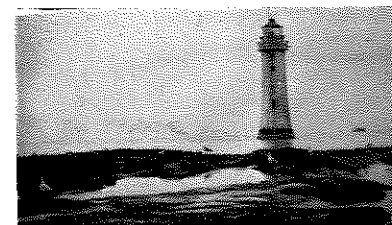
AN IMPRESSION

The following is an extract from a letter received by the Engineering Division Sales Office from one of our American customers :—

"Upon returning from Nevada, my wholehearted wish is that our "Uncle Sam" does not set off another "A" Bomb while I am in the vicinity.

On my last trip, I was riding the bus due to the impossibility of being able to get either plane or train reservation. It was during the early morning transition period from darkness to dawn—we were on the highway about 115 miles from the place where the bomb was to go off, suddenly at 5.20 a.m., the heavens lit up! A sight once seen, such as this, is once too much. It was awesome, beautiful, magnificent, and then—well, at first it appeared as though all the beauty of God's colours had appeared and within a few seconds it seemed as though Satan took over with all the ugliness in the world.

It was mushroom shape overall with spears of emerald, turquoise, orange, lavender and pink all shooting toward the dome. This all dissolved into an ugly brownish grey smoke. An oddity was that the bus driver, during the previous blast had hardly been able to keep his bus on the road because of the vibrations. This time, however, we felt almost no vibration."



A CUSTOMER'S REQUEST

Mr. Heef,

Will you please prepare an estimate for 1 Lighthouse and 14 Seagulls to attached photograph ?

It will be seen that the light consists of one 6 voltage lamp powered by a Standard 8 Battery, while the murette is exactly as May West's figure from the shoulders to the hips. The light characteristics of the lens are to flash whenever a seagull lands within 20 metres of the hip part of the murette.

The seagulls are a cross between a penguin and a pigeon : Pigeon Chest and Penguin Base. No two seagulls are to be on the island at any one period. Water and food for six months should be quoted for also, and 14 packets of confetti.

Provision to be made for painting Red and Blue. Thus in time Seagulls will make it a British Settlement.

Delivery is of the utmost importance if we are to enter into the field of competitors for this type of equipment.

Yours sincerely,

I've asked for it,

Seagulls Rock.

PENGUINS POINT.

* * *

JACK JORDAN'S SON

Here is a picture of John, the son of Jack Jordan in the Cost Office.

We feature young John as he is a remarkable youngster of 11 years of age. At the age of 4 he could play the piano extremely well, and he has already passed five examinations of the

Royal Associated Boards of Music and is now training for his L.R.A.M.

John is a member of St. Martin's choir, which was on TV on Easter Sunday, and he is training on the organ at his church. He has won several prizes at local Music Festivals.

* * *

THE PICTURE

*The drops of blood, so red—so red,
Like rubies on a golden thread,
The prickly thorns, implanted there,
I wonder, do we really care ?*

*This painter who has dared to paint
The supreme man, the perfect saint
What divine instinct, told him how
To paint, those eyes, that wondrous brow.*

*That form so humble, yet so proud
So much alone, amongst the crowd
Forgive us in this world of dross
We miss the beauty of, "The Cross."*

Composed by Mrs. Kimberley,
B.L. & P. Warehouse.

* * *

John Jordan



THE OLD 'UNS

by H. S. MARTIN

★

“Sniffer” Yendole

HARRY YENDOLE came from Nailsea in 1858 at the age of 9 with his father who worked at Spon Lane as a teaser. Harry worked at one time in connection with Casting and as a general utility man in his later years. It was his responsibility to see that all furnace flues were clear before a furnace was lit off. I have even seen him go into the flues while a furnace was actually on. After “Sniffer” had been through the flues you could be quite certain everything was O.K. He usually read his newspaper sitting down in one of the flues. If any specially hot job turned up it was always “Sniffer” who was sent for.

I have heard the following story but I do not vouch for its complete accuracy. Harry and some others were talking in No. 5 one day about capital punishment and Harry asked how hanging was actually carried out. At that time a chain hung from the roof somewhere near to where No. 14 furnace stands today. One of his mates said “You stand on this box and we will show you”, and they put the chain round his neck. Just at this point someone kicked the box away. It gave everyone a nasty shock.

His son Alfred had been here for 25 years when he died. He worked in the Blacksmiths Shop. Another son Bill is still with us in the Glassworks Electrical Section. He has been here for 45 years. So that a Yendole has actually worked here for nearly 100 years which seems to me to be an interesting record.



SPOTLIGHT *on the top club*

RUMINATING on the activities centred in and around what is commonly called the Top Club, I made up my mind that, at the first opportunity I would spend an evening there and then put down my impressions on record. Well, the opportunity presented itself on Tuesday night, 14th April, and at 6 o'clock in the evening, I crawled away from my work (not having the strength to walk) and wended my weary way towards the club. Whilst climbing the stairs, very, very slowly, the strain of many voices blending in harmony—well, many voices—suddenly struck my ear, and inquisitively, I retraced my steps to investigate. The origin was not far to seek. On opening the Cinema Room door, I made out, what appeared to me, to be a Physical Training Instructor in the middle of an instruction, accompanied by a very pretty, competent and serious looking young lady at the piano. Ah—I thought—physical exercises to music. However when I observed the subjects of the instruction—about 30 in total—slowly the truth dawned—the Choral Society at rehearsal. After about 10 minutes as an eavesdropper however, there appeared to me to be something wrong

somewhere. No solemn atmosphere—no temperamental outbursts—no tearing out of hair—in fact an atmosphere rather more in keeping with a variety stage with wisecracks passing between choir and conductor and occasional outbursts of “boogy-woogy” and popular dance tunes from the piano.

★

How, I thought to myself, could this fit in with the concentration and special effort so necessary for the rendering of any choral piece? I didn't have to wait very long for the answer. On the announcement of the next piece, there followed a few seconds rustling of paper and throat clearing—then silence—two taps on the music stand—everybody up—an introduction from the piano and then all the choir as one voice swept into “Come to the Fair.” At the conclusion of a very excellent performance and with a hasty look at my watch, I asked of an official what he called the usual inevitable question. “Only about 50% can read music at sight” was the reply, “and for the remainder, their parts are taught from the piano—but, *and this is very important*—not as individuals, but as

complete sections. For instance, the first eight bars are played on the piano, and then first the sopranos are taken through them, then the altos, then tenors, then basses. Finally altogether, and at this point the various expression marks are explained to the uninitiated and the conductor explains how he wants "them observed." So far, so good, and all very interesting, so if anyone likes singing in harmony but can't read music, now's the chance, he along any Tuesday night, have a bash, and to quote a famous comedian "Don't be fright."

★

Still thinking of music, choirs and things, I bid au revoir to the choir and continued my way towards the Billiards Room. The contrast was startling. Here there was no singing, no wisecracks—in fact—hardly any people at all except in one corner. I spent one or two minutes taking in the scene—three large expensive billiard tables—two of them covered by their shrouds and at the third a cluster of 6 or 7 people—some sitting, two standing holding cues and a third (obviously an official) also standing and in possession of the rest. Here I thought, was a vastly different form of recreation. Much less vociferous, much less energetic but requiring the maximum of concentration and skill. At this point, I realised that the only reason for the activity on this one particular table was because this was a league match in progress. My mind then went back 10 to 15 years ago in this very spot. The days of the almost invincible teams whose members are still with us to-day. People like George Thompson, Ken Hadley, Arthur Taylor, Arthur Sleigh, Billy Skilbeck and last but not least Alan Kingston. Of these, Arthur Sleigh and Billy Skilbeck are still "potting the black"—but where are the proteges of these very clever exponents of the green cloth? Surely, I thought; somewhere in these works, there are people just as good as these stalwarts of yesterday, or is there something wrong somewhere—something missing—something as yet unknown to the powers that be that would help recreate the atmosphere and interest of the old days? Still pondering on this mystery, I passed through the door and into the darts room and bar. Here a strange sight

met my eyes—so strange in fact, that I re-opened the door and looked for a notice reading "Ladies Only." At least 20 ladies were sitting in two small groups. Some talking and writing, some talking and knitting, some obviously talking tactics and the remainder—just talking. Two sharp taps on the table and then complete silence. Two names were announced—applause and then again almost complete silence interrupted only by the thud of dart meeting board—a ladies dart match had commenced.

★

In this small room the almost impossible was happening, the getting together of the fair sex, all of different and varied temperament, all imbued with the same spirit, and the same determination to enjoy themselves, come what may. This indeed was a tonic. Here was another section really determined to "go places." The atmosphere at times was electric and when a home player reached finishing double the proverbial pin could have been heard drop. The relief and joy that greeted "game shot" for a home player could only be likened to that which follows a decayed tooth extraction. As the game progressed and we romped to a 5 to nil lead, our girls did not attempt to hide their elation. Here were opponents—runners-up last season—already crushed to defeat—in fact—a veritable David & Goliath. When the opposition finally did manage a success to be quickly followed by 2 more—just to show this was no fluke—the last home player defeated her opponent to make the final score 6—3. Congratulations to both teams for a very fine exhibition of both skill and sportsmanship and the best of luck to our girls in their remaining matches.

★

Again a hasty look at my watch—10.30 p.m. and together with the players, officials and the few remaining stragglers in the bar, I was ushered out into the cold night air with the last parting remarks of the steward still ringing in my ears "Ladies & Gentlemen, it is only an act of Parliament not an act of God—so—your backs tonight—but please—your faces tomorrow." A grand finale to a grand show.

WEL:

Focus on the Archery Section

Monday and Wednesday nights are "At Home" nights with the Archery Section and as Monday, May 11th, proved no exception it saw the stalwarts of the Section, ready and willing, as always, to instruct all would-be bowmen (and bow-women) in the gentle and ancient art of toxophily. To a casual spectator, looking on from afar, the task of just hitting the target—well, it's no task—it's easy. To a learner (after his first efforts) it's impossible.

Read now the impressions of one recruit after his initiation:—

"I arrived at the shoot with a dual purpose in mind; firstly, convinced that the 6d. bet I had made with an established member to get at least one in the target was already won and, secondly, fully determined not to make a fool of myself.

Before the assault on the target began, thinking of the safety of my fellow-men, I asked for the following safety-first precautions to be taken:—

1. All shunting operations on the railway (immediately behind the target) to be suspended and no traffic to be allowed through during the assault.

2. Nobody to be allowed within 100 yards of the target.
3. In no circumstances should anyone be behind me (in case the arrows went the wrong way).
4. Complete silence should be observed during hostilities.

I picked up my bow and braced myself for the ordeal; I shot; I missed. Time passed... I still missed and there, 50 yards away, still stood the mask-like features of my adversary, unscathed, unmolested, unperturbed and seemingly gloating at the amateurish efforts expended in the effort to conquer. It was only now that I completely understood the feelings and the exasperation of Jerome K. Jerome's famous character in his "Three Men in a Boat"; the large, appetising tin of pineapple and no tin-opener. Oh, how I wished and prayed for the last command of the field captain to break the dread silence and at least make possible the partial squaring of accounts with my foe—"Fix bayonets. Charge!"

Perhaps I should have taken you into my confidence sooner—this happened *after* receiving instruction. Before my lesson I somehow managed to get two into the target and so won my bet!"

"WAGSTAFF"

CORONATION EVENTS

1st June: **CORONATION EVE DANCE**
in Pavilion. Tickets 2s. 0d.

20th June: **FINALS DAY**, on Recreation Ground.

The programme will include:

Finals of Interdepartmental and Individual Competitions, Tennis Tournament, Cricket Match, Netball Match, Children's Sports.

FRIT & CULLET

HEARD THESE ?

A man fell overboard and screamed for help when he saw a school of sharks heading for him. A famous criminal lawyer jumped into the sea without hesitation. The sharks immediately formed a two-lane escort and conveyed the two men back to the boat.

"It's a miracle !" cried the rescued man. "Not at all," said the lawyer. "Mere professional courtesy, that's all."

Girls who wear flimsy clothes on windy days may be building up their resistance, but they certainly weaken a man's.

A notice in a Dublin saloon bar reads :

"Will customers in need of new glasses kindly consult their optician before taking ours."

A member of one of the British Overseas Information organizations was trying to explain his job to a Yorkshire audience. "In a nutshell," he said at last, "I suppose it's trying to export the British way of life."

Silence followed for a moment, then a voice said : "That's champion ! We don't want the mucking thing here !"

On a radio programme, a woman was asked if her husband was a book-worm.

"Oh, no, Sir," she replied. "Just an ordinary one."

Welfare worker visiting a sick employee in hospital. "Don't worry about the job ! We'll look after that—as soon as we can find out what you do !"

DO YOU KNOW ?

1. If the equator is a great circle of the earth, equidistant from the poles, what is an equinox ?
2. We know what an evergreen is, but what is a deciduous tree ?
3. We would look for a corn on our toe, but where for a cornea ?
4. There are 5,280 feet in a statute mile, how many in a nautical mile ?
5. A gargle is a liquid for washing the throat, what about a gargyle ?
6. Salt is used for seasoning food—for what is saltpetre used ?
7. Cushions are often stuffed with a soft waterproof fibre called kapok, what is a kopek ?
8. Most of us would say we live at home—what is an ohm ?

1. The time at which the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal.
2. One that sheds its leaves each Autumn.
3. It is part of the eye.
4. 6,080 feet.
5. A spout from a roof gutter in the form of a human or other figure.
6. Making gunpowder.
7. A small Russian coin.
8. A unit of electrical resistance.

ANSWERS

WHO LAUGHS LAST



"Yes dear, of course I believe you. Now go to bed."



"So you have helped to run up Mummy's new dress."

2015-277
This is the property of
**Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust**
Tele 0121 429 1223



COMPRESSED AIR IS DANGEROUS

Compressed air is dangerous; never
take risks with it.
Pointing an air pipe is like pointing a
gun.
Never let youngsters or new hands play
with compressed-air gear.

Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar.

*Produced and published by Teamwork Magazines (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.), 25 Catherine Street,
London, W.C.2. on behalf of and in collaboration with Chance Brothers Limited, Smethwick.*

Chance COMMENTS



JULY—AUGUST 1953

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