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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.

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Chance COMMENTS



JULY—AUGUST 1953

3^D

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.

Contents

EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office	J. ALLEN
Blown and Pressed Inspection	F. O'CONNOR R. TURTON S. STOCKIN A. SUTTON MISS J. KENDRICK MRS. A. KEYS
Process Making	
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Flat Glass	
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Maintenance and Construction	
Boiler Shop	G. ROWE
Building	S. BEARDSMORE
Electricians	E. A. WHITEHOUSE
Garage	V. COCKSEY
Millwrights	W. JOHNSON
Old Hall	J. CHEETHAM
Stores	D. KIRKWOOD
Mixing	N. GREEN
Optical	MRS. E. HOLLYHEAD
Pyrometry	N. WALKER
Recreation Club	A. HEATH
Silvering	T. PAGE
Traffic	MRS. K. FELLOWS
Transport	F. G. ANKCORN
Typists' Pool	MISS M. VICKERS
Wages, Pensions	A. E. CARTWRIGHT
BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS	
Glasgow	J. A. AITCHISON
London	J. C. PERKINS
Malvern	MISS D. CLARE
St. Helens	P. ROBINSON K. W. APPLETON

	Page
TALKING DOUBLE DUTCH ...	1
THE PENSIONERS' DAY ...	4
RANDOM HISTORICAL DATA ...	5
RECREATION CLUB NEWS ...	6
MEET YOUR CORRESPONDENTS ...	8
FROM YOUR COMMITTEE ROOM ...	10
CHANCE SNAPSHOTS ...	12
NEWS FROM ALL DEPARTMENTS ...	14
NEWS FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS ...	16
JOTTINGS ...	18
THE OLD 'UNS ...	20
CHANCE COMMENTS GALLERY ...	21
SPON LANE 100 YEARS AGO ...	22
FRET AND CULLET ...	24
CARTOON BY K.P.2. Inside Back Cover	

This month's cover: *Lancia Tankards—Products of the Blown and Pressed Division—being used for a Loyal Toast. This excellent picture is reproduced with permission of "Coal" Magazine.*

VOL. 6, No. 3

JULY—AUGUST 1953

Talking "DOUBLE DUTCH"

by W. E. BARRATT

DO you believe that there are lightships on canals? Ridiculous isn't it? If, during this past winter you had passed through the village of Foxhol, situated thirty kilometres inland in the north of Holland, you would actually have seen two such vessels lying in the canal which passes through the village, one bearing the name "Krishna" and the other "Baragua." The explanation for this unique sight, although quite simple is rather unusual.

In April 1951, Chance Brothers received an order from the Government of Burma for the most modern type of lantern, pendulum gear, optical apparatus, electrical power plant and fog signalling equipment for a new lightvessel for Krishna Shoals. This was followed some few months later by a contract for similar equipment, but without fog signalling plant, for a second ship for Baragua Flats, both vessels to be stationed at the approaches to Rangoon Harbour in Burma.

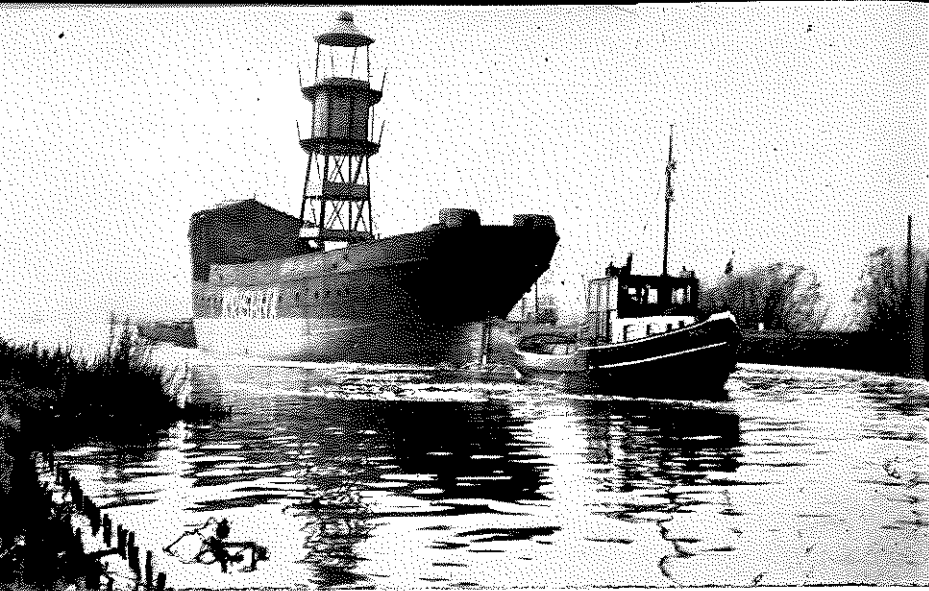
For various reasons, the order for building the two ships was awarded to a small shipyard at Foxhol. The Consulting Engineers for the whole contract were Sir J. H. Biles and Company, wellknown naval architects and ship building consultants in Lon-

don and their representatives made frequent inspection visits to the shipyard whilst work was in progress.

Our installation work in Holland commenced on 1st November 1952 and the writer had the assistance of two Austinlite installation engineers, Joe Whitehouse and Vivian Fadelle.

The first ship had already been launched when we arrived at the yard, but we had the pleasure of seeing the second ship take the water. This was a most interesting event, for the vessel was not launched in the usual manner, that is by sliding into the water stern first. Instead it was launched sideways as are all ships built on the Dutch canals. It is a tricky business launching up to 1,000 ton vessels into a canal not much more than twenty-five feet wide and only eight to ten feet deep. No-one is allowed on board during the actual launching as it has been known for a vessel to roll right over.

Conditions in the shipyard, which was more or less situated in a field at the side of the canal, were extremely trying to say the least, due to lack of equipment. The fact that very little English was spoken by the shipyard employees and still less Dutch by my-



self and my colleagues also added to our difficulties. Another point regarding the language difficulty was the fact that certain everyday Dutch and English words, although having the same pronunciation, have entirely different meanings. On several occasions during conversation there was a very embarrassing silence and we received a pained if not horrified look from our Dutch friends. Quite innocently we had "dropped a brick", hence the title of this article.

The weather plays a very important part in lighthouse installation work, and for the first two and a half months of this particular job, we suffered some of the most unkind winter weather which can be experienced in the Netherlands. The canals were frozen over and at times the ships them-

room in these vessels, which were totally devoid of heating and often lighting, surrounded in that confined space by welders, electricians, painters, carpenters, riveters and other noise-makers, not only added to our discomfort but unfortunately also affected our tempers at times. In addition there was the added complication of working desperately against a time schedule to meet the arrangements already made for towing these vessels out to Burma.

The vessels could not be completed at the shipyard because their final weight would have been such that they would have sat on the bottom of the canal, therefore both ships, still without their anchor chains and many tons of ballast, were towed down the canal to a fitting-out basin at

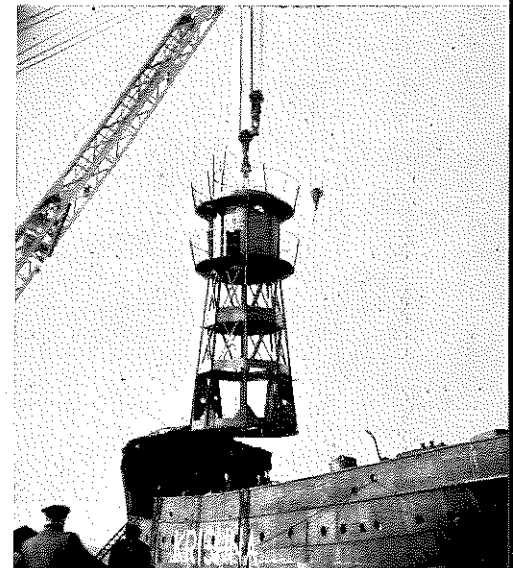
During our stay in Holland tragedy struck the country, for on the night of 31st January, Holland's greatest enemy struck its most devastating blow. The sea, lashed by a violent storm, broke the main dykes and flooded hundreds of thousands of acres of land with a very heavy loss of human life. In one terrifying night the country had lost what had taken years to win from the sea. It was indeed fortunate that the Province in which we were situated escaped flooding entirely. However, we were in a position to observe the immediate and overwhelming response of the nation to this cruel blow. Here it is worth recording that Joe Whitehouse immediately placed his car at the disposal of the authorities.

We made our home in a hotel in the village of Hoogezand. Since the hotel was the centre of most of the community's social life, the majority of the local events and entertainments took place in its large concert hall, and our Dutch friends gave us a cordial invitation to attend as many of these functions as we wished.

One evening soon after our arrival in Holland we were invited to visit the Swift Table Tennis Club at Scholteren. In a very short space of time we found the thirty or so members so friendly that there and then we became fully paid members of the Club.

pleasure and relaxation. The club ran nine teams playing matches against clubs in the surrounding towns and villages and it is interesting to note that Joe Whitehouse made the grade with the first team whilst the writer became a pillar in the second team. Wherever we played the Englishmen were always accepted with the greatest courtesy and kindness.

The Netherlands is a country well worth visiting but not in wintertime and speaking from personal experience Amsterdam is a most attractive city. We found that the Dutch people had a warm and friendly welcome for any visitor from Great Britain.



RANDOM HISTORY

VENETIAN glass mirrors were first made in 1317.

Flexible glass was first made in Rome in 14 A.D.

Opalescent glass was made at Alexandria in 117 A.D.

Thevart discovered the art of casting plate glass in 1666.

The diamond was first employed to cut glass in 1600.

The first glass works were established in England in 1557.

Benedict Biscop brought window glass to England in 676 A.D.

The enamel system of glass painting was discovered in 1550.

Crystal glass was made and sculptured by the Persians in 532 B.C.

The Greeks employed glass for architectural ornamentation in 409 B.C.

Transparent glass drinking cups were made by the Greeks in 360 B.C.

Magnifying and burning glasses were known to the Greeks in 212 B.C.

Scent bottles of yellow and blue glass were made in Egypt in 1590 B.C.

Windows of mosaic glass were in use among the Singhalese in 306 B.C.

Glass mosaics were first employed by the Persians at Persepolis in 521 B.C.

Two-gallon wine bottles of blown glass were made in Egypt in 1900 B.C.

The body of Alexander the Great was placed in a glass coffin in 358 B.C.

The Phoenicians made all kinds of blown glass at Tyre and Sidon in 1450 B.C.

Coloured glass windows were placed in the Basilica of St. Paul's at Rome in 330 A.D.

Coloured glass windows were placed in the Abbey of Tegernsu, Bavaria, in 999 A.D.

Blown and cut greenish transparent glass bowls were made by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.

Cameo glass came into use among the Romans (Portland and Naples vases) in 79 A.D.

Painted representations of glass blowers on the walls of tombs at Beni-Hassan date from 2851 B.C.

Plate glass windows for coaches were made at the Duke of Buckingham's works in London, in 1673.

The oldest painted windows now in England are in the choir at Canterbury Cathedral, which date from 1174.

St. Sophia at Constantinople, when rebuilt by Justinian in 532 A.D., was adorned with coloured windows and mosaics.

Glass was made at Venice at a very early date, but the first documentary evidence of the practice of the art is of the year 1009 A.D.

Nilometers and other objects of blown glass, bracelets, beads and ornaments of cast glass in inlays, etc., were used in Egypt in 1703 B.C.

Flint glass was rediscovered by the English in 1635. In the same year coal was substituted by Sir Robert Mansell instead of wood as fuel in glass making.

According to a pamphlet entitled "Tiffany's Favre Glass", the oldest piece of dated glass known is an Egyptian amulet now in the British museum, which was made in 3064 B.C.

The Persians in 516 B.C. invented a transparent glass varnish, which they laid over sculptured rocks to prevent them from weathering; this silicious coating has lasted to our day while rocks beneath are honey-combed.

Glass factories were established at Rome in 54 B.C., in which blown, cast, wrought, embossed, cut and mellefiori glass of all kinds and colours was made in the shape of vessels, bottles, bowls, window panes, mosaics, water clocks, dice, chessman and ornaments.

The Pensioner's Day

*As newer comers crowd the fore,
We drop behind,—
We who have laboured long and sore
Times out of mind,
And keen are yet, must not regret
To drop behind.*

Thos. Hardy.

THE annual outing for pensioners and long service employees is always one of the highlights in the social activities of the Company and the 168 old people who attended this year's party on June 23rd had a most delightful day.

Tea was at Rednal, where the guests were received by Sir Hugh and Lady Chance; Mr. Walter Chance; Mr. and Mrs. John Raymond; Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Hampton; Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Barman; Mr. C. J. S. Newman and several senior Managers.

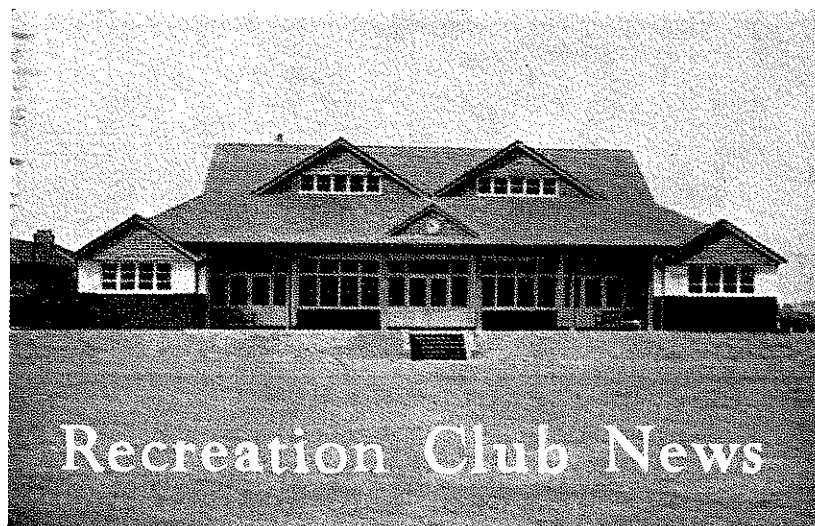
In his welcome, Sir Hugh Chance reported that there are now 155 works and staff pensioners on the Company's records and the average age is 73 years. The oldest pensioner at the party was Silas Round aged 89, but he was followed closely by Mrs. Perkins and Arthur Hancox who are both 87.

Records for long service continue to be broken and there are now 29 men still working at Spon Lane who have had more than fifty years unbroken service including W. F. A. Richey with 70 years service and Harry Hill with 68 years service. By the time this magazine is issued, Harry Hill will have retired. The list of veteran employees is given below.

After tea each guest was presented with a Coronation gift in glass and the party proceeded for an evening trip to Bridgenorth.

Service of 50 years and over

Ashcroft	E.	Coloured	1902	Parrish	E.	7 Storey	1900
Banner	W.	Rolled Plate	1903	Partridge	I.	Pressed W'hse	1900
Barrett	F.	Lighthouse	1902	Potter	A.	Rolled Plate	1899
Bird	W.	Rolled Plate	1902	Shaw	W.	Millwrights	1903
Braden	J.	Rolled Plate	1902	Stanley	F.	Optical	1900
Clifton	E.	7 Storey	1900	Richards	E.	Rolled Plate	1901
Durrant	W.	Crate Yard.	1894	Richey	W. F. A.	Lighthouse	
Frewin	B.	Carpenters	1898			Drawing Office	1882
Griffiths	T.	Coloured	1897	Tandy	B.	Rolled Plate	1899
Hicks	W.	Rolled Plate	1892	Tanner	W.	7 Storey	1897
Hill	H.	Box Shop	1885	Thornton	A.	Rolled Plate	1900
Jones	S.	7 Storey	1892	Tinsley	A.	Coloured	1902
Lloyd	H.	Mixing	1900	Tinsley	S.	Coloured	1900
Morris	T.	Blown & Pressed	1900	Withers	W.	Coloured	1902
Morton	W.	Coloured	1900	Vaughan	E.	Rolled Plate	1903



ANGLING

This Section is just now preparing for its first contest, scheduled for Sunday, July 12th, venue Undersdale, near Shrewsbury. Its 35 members are all looking forward to a very enjoyable season, and none more so than such stalwarts as Albert Heath, Les Richards, Harry Adderley and John Cheetham, to name but a few. This also includes the newcomer who, having read and digested Izaak Walton, decided last season to "have a go" and finished up in the river—but on getting out was heard to say "I'm soaked to the skin, but I've never enjoyed myself so much in all my life!"

The goal of the Section, although no-one mentions it, is the "Sports Argus" Trophy. The nearest yet was its appearance in the 4th Round a few years ago, but this year an all-out effort will be made to better this. What would make better headlines than:—

"CHANCE BROTHERS' RECREATION CLUB AND ATHERSTONE MINERS TO MEET IN THE FINAL OF THE "SPORTS ARGUS" TROPHY"?

Well—good luck and good fishin', anglers.

BOWLS

Fuserium found at Smethwick

No—this isn't a V.I.P. or a rare member of the uranium family, it just

happens to be a disease that attacks turf, and turf once contaminated *must* be thoroughly cleansed before it is again fit for use. The Committee has been forced to close the green for an indefinite period. Notwithstanding the loss of its green, however, the Bowls Section is having a very successful season. This, despite the fact that all home matches must be played on "foreign soil" and in consequence, its members sadly lacking the practice so necessary for the continuation of form. At the moment it is "sitting on top of the world" leading the rest of the League.

In the Rose Bowl Competition, open to all Clubs in the Oldbury League, it has reached the semi-final stage and if optimism counts for anything, then the Bowl and the League are as good as won. To quote L. Wilde, its energetic Secretary, "We are confident of being in the Final."

The Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the gesture made by Mr. W. Palmer, mine host of the "Bell," in placing his green at its disposal during the period of quarantine.

CHORAL

This Section is still very much alive after a very strenuous concert tour of surrounding districts. At no concert has there been anything but praise for the choice and execution of its repertoire. The trip to Blockley was, if anything,

more successful than the last one and culminated in all members and friends assembling in the upstairs room at the "Bell" (together with the locals) and, with Jacqueline and Doug Sandin alternately "hitting the elephant's teeth," singing and swinging their way thro' such widely different works as Beethoven's 9th (Choral) Symphony to "How you gonna keep 'em down on the farm?"

The Section still requires six more men—not necessarily music readers, in fact they needn't know anything about music. All that's necessary is the ability to sing in tune. If forthcoming, sea shanties, negro spirituals etc., will be included in the repertoire. Anyone still a little undecided can come along any Tuesday night and just listen to a typical rehearsal.

CRICKET

The Section is now in full swing, but this season with a difference. The 1st Eleven which, for the past few seasons, has been deprived of promotion to Div. I at least three times by the proverbial hair's breadth, so far this season has the playing record—played 9, won 4, lost 4, drawn 1. This has seriously upset the final League placings for the season (which have already gone to press) with Chance Brothers' Recreation Club in its usual position of runners-up. Only one other famous Club has previously had a similar distinction—Glasgow Rangers Football Club. This Club, during the pre-war years, was heralded, acclaimed and only uncrowned leaders of the Scottish League for many years—months before the season commenced.

However, it is only right and proper that the mantle of Elijah should fall upon Elisha, and so far this season the 2nd Eleven is in the happy position of being joint League leaders. History was created in the match against Wolseley—B. Howells had 7 for 51. Not a bowling analysis in this case, but 7 'lives' in hitting 51 tuns. Smells a little of bribery and corruption—but "nuff said."

The Foster Cup will again go down Lighthouse way. Machine Shop A meet L.H. Drawing Office for possession. The *shock* team of the season—L.H.

Electrical B—were just pipped by their neighbours, the L.H.D.O., for the distinction of meeting the almost ever-present L.H. Machine Shop A in the final.

NETBALL

This Section is still carrying on manfully (or should it be womanfully) despite the absence of several regulars due to reasons many and varied. It appears that the recent wet spell has caused not a little amusement during recent matches, with players performing ballet-like movements in their efforts to keep their feet on terra firma. Probably the most adept at this is Denise Martin, who assumes and holds a Pavlova-like poise whilst in the act of finding the net. Marion Rock startled her team-mates during one recent match by suddenly bending down, picking up the ball and exclaiming in a loud voice "Am I alright?" The answer to Marion is a decided "Not 'arf you ain't!"

PAVILION

ENTERTAINMENTS

This Section is one of the few in action all the year round and thanks to a very energetic Committee of Sammy Clive, Herbert Mills and Jack Hartley, plus "Bunny" Bryant, Kathy Massey and Edie Dirdin, its well planned calendar is not only well publicised but well patronised.

However, Herbert Mills, its very active Secretary, wishes to make an appeal for old clothes etc., for a Jumble Sale to be held on Saturday, 3rd October, in aid of the Children's Hospital. Don't let this appeal go unanswered and if anybody has any old clothes (yes, I know that one; "Sure I've got some but I've got 'em all on")—seriously—if you have any, or old relics, heirlooms or first editions, contact Herbert.

TENNIS

The season's programme is now well under way and very keen battles have been fought against local Clubs with honours fairly even. The West Midlands Coronation Knock-out Competition has been entered with Accles & Pollock (we hope) its first victim.

Meet your CORRESPONDENTS



DONALD R. KIRKWOOD

DON Kirkwood is—by adoption—a “Pig Islander.” He told our reporter that a Pig Islander is a New Zealander and the name is derived from the fact that when Captain Cook explored New Zealand he found practically no animals and in due course he introduced pigs to the natives.

Don Kirkwood was born and educated in England but proceeded to New Zealand where he served an engineering apprenticeship. He came for a visit to England to see the Jubilee of King George V in 1938 and he still has his return ticket!

His position with the Company is that of Chief Store-keeper and he estimates that his department handles some 60,000 stores requisitions each year for all kinds of things from office dusters to leather conveyor belts.

Don is a member of the Institute of Industrial Supervisors and an Associate

Member of the Purchasing Officers' Association.

MRS. M. E. CANTY

MRS. Canty came to us during the War—in February 1942—and she supervises the Printing and Stationery Department. It is easy to understand that in a large works such as ours, there is an immense volume of standard forms, stationery and printed matter used daily, and it is Mrs. Canty's job to see that everything that is required in these lines is ready at all times.

Her department is an extremely busy one, but she carries out her duties in addition to running a home. Her daughter has just left school and is taking a three years course in Speech Training and Dramatic Art.

Mrs. Canty was quite ill recently, but she assures us that her convalescent holiday at Weston has helped her to complete recovery.



Left: Mrs. E. Hastings. Right: Mrs. A. Keys.

MISS M. VICKERS

MISS Vickers is our correspondent for the Glassworks Typing Pool. She has been at Chance's for twenty years and her particular work is typing for the Flat Glass Sales Office. During the period she has been with us, she has never seen glass being made! Nowadays the Company arranges Induction Courses for new members of the staff and the programme includes visits to each manufacturing department, but do you know Miss Vickers, that the Personnel Department organises conducted tours on one Saturday morning each month?

Miss Vickers is a Television enthusiast and she is also keen on knitting and embroidery; also gardening, specialising in roses and carnations.

MRS. E. HASTINGS

MRS. Hastings is best known to the personnel in the L. H. Grinding Room as Edna Mugleston as it was only recently that she married Joe Hastings, who is also employed in the Grinding Room.

Mrs. Hastings takes a deep and sincere part in the social work carried out by her Church. She plays the piano extremely well and was a keen member of the Recreation Club's Music Section which unfortunately suspended its meetings a year or so ago. A weekly visit to a cinema and frequent attendances at old time dances, plus her Church work, plus looking after a husband, gives Edna a pretty full programme of leisure activities.

MRS. A. KEYS

MRS. Keys has been employed in the Blown and Pressed Warehouse for the past thirteen years. Her husband, John, is also employed here in the Mixing Department.

Mrs. Keys has been a loyal supporter of Chance Comments since the first issue over five years ago. During all that time she has regularly reported personal news concerning her department and made sure all her colleagues get a copy of each issue.

She is a keen gardener and grows some very fine chrysanthemums. She is also keen on music and does quite a lot of embroidery and knitting.

Left: Donald R. Kirkwood. Centre: Mrs. M. E. Canty. Right: Miss M. Vickers.



WORKS CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE

The Coloured Section of the Flat Glass Division, in reporting on production, stated the manufacture of Nailsea and Antique had been generally satisfactory, but Flashed Opal and Flashed Blue had been disappointing in quality. The Micro was completely satisfactory both as regards quality and durability. This Committee had discussed such matters as compressors, the recording of coal consumption and steam heating.

The Blown and Pressed Committee had confined their attention to housekeeping matters which included cycle storage, the condition of lavatories, congestion in the Pressed Process section and window cleaning.

and the receipt of drawings. Domestic matters which this Committee had considered included time-keeping, lavatories, diamond grinding, fumes in the Toolroom and lighting in the Welding Shop.

Domestic matters such as lavatories, drains and window cleaning were also considered by the Optical Sub-Committee.

As many as thirty subjects were brought up to the Maintenance and Construction Sub-Committee including heat protection for hot jobs, the method of washing roadways, safety and workshop equipment.

At the monthly meeting of the W.C.C., the Deputy Chairman, Mr. C. J. S. Newman, in reviewing the production position said that in the Optical Division the demand for white spectacle mouldings had improved but there was some shortage of business for platinum melted glass.

At Malvern the number of employees had been doubled since the beginning of the year and the orders for syringes were most encouraging.

Blown and Pressed were still very busy on cathodes and the Engineering Division had become increasingly busy, particularly on Sumo Pumps.

In the Flat Glass Division, the Coloured Department was facing real competition from abroad and it was essential that the quality of flashed glasses be improved. Rolled Plate was very busy indeed and the closing of the Glasgow tanks for repair had placed a heavy demand on the Smethwick tanks.

£89 7s. 6d. was distributed as Suggestion Scheme awards during May and June.

J. Emson of the Lighthouse Machine Shop received £25 5s. 0d. for a really outstanding suggestion concerning the method of machining the moulds for cathode ray tubes. The adoption of Jim's idea has resulted in a considerable increase in the production of certain moulds.

Another valuable idea was received from H. Mann of the Rolled Plate, who was awarded £12 15s. 0d. for his suggestion to increase the distance between the forehearth and the mouth of the lehr at the Rolled Plate tanks and thus improve the cooling system.

J. Bodley, Blown & Pressed, has received two awards. One was for £10 5s. 0d. for a suggestion concerning the building of a tapping block in No. 31 Furnace to assist in the emptying and cleaning of the pot, and the other was £1 10s. 0d. for an idea to make a roller table for No. 11 and No. 9 Tanks to save rings from being broken when setting.

£10 5s. 0d. was awarded to J. Richards of the Lighthouse Machine Shop for an idea concerning an automatic feed on a special purpose machine.

There were two awards of £5 5s. 0d. One went to E. J. Gardner of the Pressed Mould Shop for an idea concerning the Polishing Machine, and the other to J. Studer of the Crate Yard, who put in a first-class idea in regard to the method of loading the straw fumigator.

WS An idea for altering the doorways at No. 11 and No. 22 Tanks was put in by C. J. Bough, of the Pressed Mould Shop, in order to assist in the transportation of the presses. To increase the height of the doorways was an obvious need, but nobody had thought of it previously so Charlie was awarded £4 5s. 0d.

C. R. Rhoades of the Gas Plant earned £1 17s. 6d. with his idea to install a steam line to each producer top to help blow off the "fines."

A keen supporter of the Suggestion Scheme is O. Cotham of the St. Helens Works, and he received £1 15s. 0d. for a suggestion to save sheet asbestos by altering the size of the table top by the moulding lehr.

A Merit Award has now been introduced into the Suggestions Scheme and the Committee may Award a Prize of 10s. 0d. to a Suggestor who, although his Idea is not adopted, has given a lot of thought and time to the Suggestion and to its presentation. Three such Awards were made last month.

D. Parrott of the M. & C. received £1 5s. 0d. for a suggestion for drying muslin cloths used in the Decorating Department. J. Wedgwood of St. Helens received £1 2s. 6d. for an idea concerning the use of filling on spades. A suggestion to prevent the metal running between the lip and the sill on the Rolled Plate Machines earned J. Fenton £1 2s. 6d., and E. Poulton of the Millwrights also received £1 2s. 6d. for a suggestion concerning a technique for "reeding" rolls.

Others who had their ideas adopted were:—

A. R. Lago, L.H. Pattern In- spection	17 6 10 0
J. Bliss, Pressed Moulds	15 0
J. Richards, L.H. Machine Shop	15 0
Mrs. F. Belton, Decorating	10 0
K. J. Gray, L.H. Planning	10 0
W. Huxley, Pot Making	10 0
S. Bromilow, St. Helens	10 0



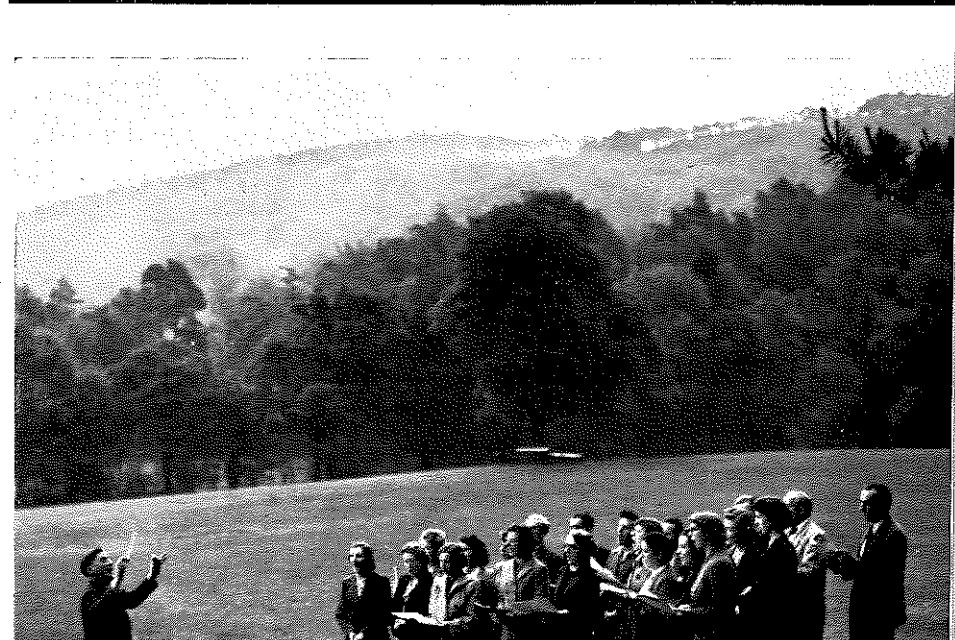


Chance SNAPSHOTS

1 to 5 Snapshots taken at the Pensioners Party.

6 Our London Office Coronation Window Display. Flashed ruby and flashed Blue was acid etched to reveal designs in clear glass of the Royal Coat of Arms, the Royal Cipher, and the Emblems of England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland.

7 A section of the Choral Society sing in the Lickey Hills. (Photograph by permission of the Birmingham Post).





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN & PRESSED

THE Blown and Pressed Division has had two binges since our last issue, a party went to Coventry Hippodrome to see "Zip Goes a Million" and a coach load visited London to see the Coronation decorations.

Ray Kenny has returned to work looking very fit and fully recovered from his operation but George King and Frank O'Connor are away due to illness and we wish them speedy recoveries.

The continued illness of Joe Bird has necessitated his early retirement from work and we all wish him well.

Frank Guest is still away receiving treatment for his limbs and everybody is amazed at his cheerful acceptance of adversity.

The untimely death of Spasojc Zivkovic consequent on a motor cycle accident was a shock to the Mould Shop and it was splendid how his fellow workers rallied round to ensure that he was laid to rest with dignity.

★

ENGINEERING

IT is with profound regret that we record the passing of William Mayne of the Machine Shop.

Harry Westwood of the Blacksmiths has had a nasty works accident and we all hope he will soon recover. We also wish a speedy recovery to Steve Gilbert who is away ill.

The Machine Shop extends sympathy to Bill Wenman on the loss of his wife and the staff condole with H. J. Hipkins who also lost his wife after a long and severe illness. Mr. Hipkins has now retired from the Estimating Department and we wish him a well earned rest.

The Grinding Room welcomes the return of Mrs. Perry and Sumo wel-

comes as newcomers J. Perry; J. Higginson; D. Blundell; Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Ryllo.

Best wishes are extended to George Martin of Sumo who has married Betty Hadley.

The Drawing Office congratulates Reg Duller who has attained his majority.

Production Control welcomes Irene Pallfreeman and congratulates Peter Barlow on attaining his majority. The Typing Pool welcomes Jessie Sheppard; the Wages Office, Laure Strode; the Buying Office, Hilda Archer and the Drawing Office, Frank Pullen.

It is good to have Albert Griffin back in the Electrical Shop and he reports that he is now fully recovered from his major operation.

★

LABORATORY

THE Laboratory staff congratulates and extends best wishes to Brian Boorman who married Norah Lowry on the 23rd May.

★

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

WE congratulate Harry Haller of the Drawing Office and his wife on the birth of a daughter.

We are sorry Tom Lovesy is still on the sick list and all in the Maintenance and Construction Division wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

We were happy to be visited by two of our members from H. M. Forces, namely Geoff Riley of the Drawing Office and John Hickman of the Fuel Efficiency Department.

Mary Gould of the Buying Department (Old Hall) who is a member of the

Women's Auxillary Air Force is receiving two weeks training in Germany.

Our sympathy is extended to Jack Hartley on the death of his father.

Syd Collins of the Millwrights attained his majority in July and we extend our congratulations.

★

OFFICES

CONGRATULATIONS to Jean Taylor and Doreen Pedley, both of the Ledger Office, who have attained their majorities. Congratulations also to Roy Smith and his wife (Export) on the birth of a son, and to Iris Vale on her marriage to John Richards.

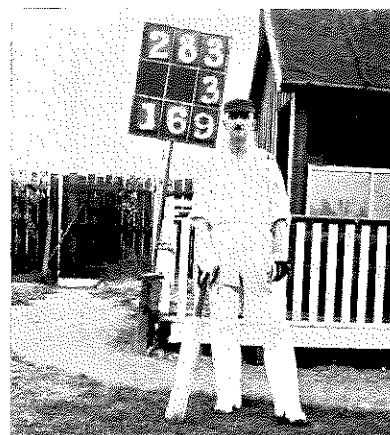
Pensions Office welcomes Margaret Doidge and wish happiness to Nora Mountford who has left as she is expecting a happy event.

The Salaries Office was sorry to lose Doris Field due to ill health and the Typing Pool has said goodbye to Selina Pearson.

John Shrewsbury of the Flat Glass Sales has entered the R.A.F. for his National Service period—good luck John.

The correspondent for Flat Glass Sales sent to the Editor some interesting letters dated 1937 relating to the success of Arthur Taylor in the sphere of cricket. Playing for Chance's in 1937, Arthur scored 169 not out against the Birmingham Gas and as a result he received from the News Chronicle a bat autographed by Jack Hobbs and from the Sunday Mercury a Gunn and Moore autographed bat. Here is a photo of Arthur Taylor taken in those days.

Arthur Taylor in 1937.



OPTICAL

THE Optical Division congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Coley on the birth of a son.

Sympathy is expressed to Jim Forrest on the death of his father.

Best wishes are extended to Valerie Holyhead on her engagement to S. Bradley and Beryl Forsyth to B. Poole.

We extend a welcome to Mrs. Smith, a newcomer to our staff.

★

PERSONNEL

AFTER many years in the Personnel Department as Education and Training Officer, Don Chappell has left to take up a similar position with a well-known firm in the London Area.

Audrey Burchett has also left and she hopes soon to go to a post abroad.

We wish Don and Audrey every happiness.

★

TRANSPORT

WE are glad to report that Wilf Warner is making some recovery after his long illness and we hope his convalescence in Cornwall will speed his full recovery and early return to work.

Inter-Departmental calypso.

*Cricket lovely cricket
At Chances where they play it,
The Glassworks team did all they could do
But were all out for 52.*

*Burton went in with his hair of red,
Looked alive but was soon dead,
Took a great big swing with the bat,
He was out and that was that.*

*There were 19 overs gone
And we needed every run,
We had left our runs too late
Which made Moore to contemplate.*

*Soon the glassworks took the field,
Their intention was not to yield
To the Lighthouse who was their foe
They wouldn't let one extra go.*

*This I'm afraid was not quite true,
For we missed just one or two
Bullock played well behind the wicket
'Missed a catch but that is cricket.*

*Drury tired and tried a break
But was not for his sides' sake
Beresford met it with a hook
And scored a 6 right over the brook.*

*The match it was very big fun
And we had the help of the "Sun"
But when all is said and done
Glassworks lost and Lighthouse won.*

R. DRURY.

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Glasgow furnace, No. 50, renewed in July/August 1950, rolled glass continuously, apart from one hot repair, until June 13th 1953, and is now in process of a cold repair. The ribbon rolled during two years and nine months, 4 ft. wide, would reach quite a long way, approximately 12,000 miles.

The Recreation Club celebrated Coronation night with a meal for one hundred and twenty members and friends in the Gaumont restaurant, followed by a show at the Pavilion Theatre.

The Annual General Meeting held in the Canteen on the 11th June, appointed the following General Committee for 1953-54.

President	...	Mr. S. Shields
Vice-President	...	Mr. J. Crawford
Sec. & Treas.	...	Mr. I. Blakey
Min. Sec.	...	Miss McRoberts
Warehouse	...	Mr. J. Brown
Engineering & Yard	...	Mr. J. Dowling
Office	...	Mr. Elliott
Rolled Plate	...	Mr. Bell

Congratulations are due to Miss Ina Campbell of the Glasgow Office on her engagement to Leslie Bullock of Spon Lane. This is an example of co-operation between the two Works!

● LONDON

May has been an exceedingly busy month for London Office. We were pleased to see one hundred and twenty visitors to our special B.I.F. display, including twenty overseas agents and customers. Following on, we held a display of domestic glassware and Fiesta for the Trade and Women's Press, and it is hoped that illustrations of the glassware will appear in weekly and monthly papers towards the latter part of the year, when people are considering the purchase of Christmas presents. The Coronation also brought

several overseas agents and customers to St. James's Square.

Miss Margaret Gray finally gave way to a long-standing desire to become a Wren and as we write she is, no doubt, foot slogging and being generally initiated into the way of the Senior Service. Her colleagues in the office made her a presentation of a writing compendium and pen and pencil set.

Sumo staff at Spon Lane may remember Janice Hemp; the wedding bells rang out for her in May.

We were pleased to welcome to the office Mr. Paton from our Glasgow Works, who never fails to call and see us when he is in London, and may we take this opportunity of saying that we are always pleased to welcome any member of Chance Brothers who visits London. The office is situated about three minutes' walk from Piccadilly Tube Station.

● MALVERN

The Malvern (Optical) Works congratulate Irene Fisher on attaining her majority on the 14th June.

We give a warm welcome to all newcomers to the Works and regret losing Brian Austin after six happy years working with him; we wish him all success at St. Helens.

Since our last issue, we have had two enjoyable outings by coach, the first, a Sunday evening trip around the beautiful fruit blossom in Pershore and the vale of Evesham and, on Saturday, 13th June, to London to see the decorations, a Revue "High Spirits" at the Hippodrome and finished the day by having an excellent dinner at the "Lord Belgrave" Restaurant. Thanks are extended to Mr. Perkins of London Office who booked the theatre tickets and arranged the dinner, and Mrs. Sealey and Mr. Morris for organising the trips at Malvern.

Sympathy is extended to Audrey Parsons, Mrs. Sealey and Diana in their recent bereavements.

The Malvern, Engineering Division, wish to extend congratulations to Miss Hazel Trigg and Miss Joan Tomkins who recently got engaged, also Miss D. Grey and Mr. G. Walker of the Machine Shop.

The Malvern Urban District Council at great length but with great rejoicing to Mr. W. Kinchin allocated him a house after two long years of beating the weary trail back and forth to Birmingham.

We are sorry to lose Mrs. P. Warwick who is leaving our employ on the advice of her doctor, and we very reluctantly said goodbye to a number of operators due to the reduction in requirements of 'B' type units. We trust that this is only a temporary phase and that they will be all back with us in the near future.

● ST. HELENS

On Saturday 6th June, we held a Childrens Coronation Party in the Gamble Memorial Hall. Eighty-five kiddies were present and the fun was fast and furious. After a large tea, which straight away put them in a happy mood as can be seen from the photograph, the children enjoyed organized games and racing. Next item on the programme was a film show and for an hour and a half the children sat with their eyes glued

to the screen watching the antics of Bud Abbott, Lou Costello, Charlie Chaplin and others. This was followed by a sing song, more eats, and then the ice cream was announced; this was the signal for more cheering which must have been heard in Brum. Helpers were kept dashing back and forth with second, third, fourth and even fifth helpings. After the prizes for running and games had been presented, each child came up to the stage and received a gift, a bag of sweets and a balloon.

Great credit must go to Mrs. Ashcroft, Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Parr, Mrs. Pierpoint and Mr. Cutler all of whom served on the organizing committee and worked hard on the day itself along with Mrs. Halpin, Mrs. Hill, Miss Williams and Miss Houghton, to make the party a success. Our thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. T. Hodgson and Mrs. J. Houghton for their help at the Hall and to Mr. W. Garrett for coming along to take the photographs.

We are extremely sorry to hear that Mrs. Cullum, Mr. Milne and Mr. Farrell are all off sick, and wish them all a speedy recovery. We are glad to welcome back Tom Hodgson, after his illness and trust he is now fully recovered.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. S. Cutler on the birth of a son.

The Childrens' Coronation Party at St. Helens.



Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions

CORONATION VISIT

The Malt House Youth Centre was allocated a stand ticket for the Coronation route and in a draw, Beryl Davies our fifteen-year-old teleprint operator, was successful in being selected. Here is Beryl's impression of the event.

IT was a great privilege for me to have the chance to visit London for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and it was a day I shall never forget.

I went with a party of fourteen boys and girls and we had a standing place by the Victoria Memorial. At about 9.45 a.m., the procession began, the soldiers were dressed in tunics of scarlet and gold and were mounted on beautiful horses.

Then, as the sun began to shine the golden coach appeared drawn by eight magnificent horses. It was a marvellous sight to see the sun dazzling on it and inside sat our beautiful Queen, more radiant than ever before. As she waved there came a tremendous cheer from the crowds who had waited so long for this moment.

As the procession began to move towards the Abbey, the announcer gave a summary of what was happening. At last the procession made its return journey to the Palace and many minutes before it appeared we could hear the cheers of the thousands of people who had stood all day in the pouring rain to see Her Majesty. There were more cheers for the thousands of troops from every part of the world who had had the honour to be in this great pageant of colour and gaiety.

A CONVALESCENT HOLIDAY

IN days gone by Windmill House was famed for its rhododendrons, but although those days are now past, nothing can mar their beauty. When we

arrived there, the buds were a lovely deep sugary pink, and towards the end of the week, when they were open, the centre of the flowers retained that lovely deep colour, gradually paling to a translucent pink at their curly edges.

On arriving at Windmill House, Audrey and I were conducted through a wide hall, up the stair-case, along to what was to be our bed-room during our stay. The main window of the room ("Sunny Corner"), commanded one of the most perfect views I have ever seen, for it looked out on to a huge garden, at the end of which was a copse, where primroses grew.

Soon after we arrived, the Warden took us for a short tour of the garden. In one part, we entered through an archway in to a cool, sheltered harbor of rhododendron bushes, where we were told, in days gone by, the old ladies used to bring their knitting, and sit on seats placed at intervals along this shady stretch of ground, and gossip to the rhythmical click of their needles.

The bed-rooms had delightful names. To the right of the landing was, "Cotswold", and "Malvern", and above these were "The Oaks", and "Rookery Nook", while to the left of the landing was, "The Retreat", and "Sunny Corner", up another flight of stairs to "Seventh Heaven", "Back O' Beyond", and "The Haven."

With us there were six German men, two German women, and one American woman. They were all here for the purpose of studying Great Britain.

Out of doors, there were facilities for playing: deck quoits, miniature golf, cricket, netball, and table-tennis. The latter could be played indoors according to the weather.

The food, (of which there was plenty,) was wonderful. Every meal was different, the cook never seemed to give us the same meal twice.

Windmill House is not completely isolated from the rest of the world, for there is a 'bus which runs twice a week to Redditch, (Tuesdays and Saturdays).

Altogether, our stay at Windmill House was enjoyed so much that all too soon it seemed time for us to depart, but it is something that neither of us will forget in a hurry.

Thank you Chance Brothers, for providing two grateful employees with a wonderful convalescent holiday.

JUNE HOLMES

Typing Pool.

THE PENSIONER

*Half a century in one small place
With thoughts that Time cannot
erase,*

*I never gave much thought or care,
To things I saw year after year.
Walking here's like walking home;
Its part of me, like earth and stone.
At every brick and sloping stair,
I look, and find a memory there.
I know I can't run through the gate,
And really, well, I'll tell you straight,
In fifty years I've not been late.*

*And time was, when I used to bat
And hear the 'keeper shout,*

"How's that?"

What was his name?

I think 'twas 'Slim,'

*He died one day a'clocking in.
Fifty years, it's quite a while,
I must have walked a thousand mile
But now the streets are safe to
tread,*

*And 'buses take you from your bed.
You young-uns seem so very spry,
But will you reach the same as I
The fifty mark, and still stand by,
And still find joy in making things,
Creative work, fit for the eye.*

*Ah, well, how things and people
change,*

*The 'Cathode Ray' seems all the
rage,
And me, and what I used to do,
Are of the past,
'Today is new.'*

Mrs. Kimberley.
(Blown and Pressed)

A BOUQUET FOR CHANCE GLASS

LAST Spring the Queen and members of the Royal family visited Badminton, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, to witness the Olympic horse trials.

Her Grace the Duchess requested us to supply a number of small Waverley dishes decorated with gold rims and the Royal Coat of Arms for use on the dining tables.

GREETINGS TO AND FROM LIBERIA

MANY of us will remember Edwin Cooper—the Liberian who spent two years with us studying Lighthouse Engineering; he's a married man now and here is his wedding photo.

Kenneth Sutton-Jones spent a week with Edwin recently in his native city of Monrovia, and found Edwin well set-up as Superintendent of Lighthouses of the Republic of Liberia, the negro Republic on the West African Coast.

Everyone Kenneth met in Liberia spoke highly of the kindness which Edwin experienced at Chance Brothers. This has given us a wonderful reputation in Liberia—a country where the colour bar is rarely found.

We send Edwin and his wife Dolly our best wishes for the future.



THE OLD 'UNS

by H. S. MARTIN



"The Lloyd Family"

FOR many years the Lloyd family played quite an important part in the Glassworks. There were five brothers, Forrester, Fred, Harry, Tom and Joe.

Forrester Lloyd, who started work as a glass-house boy, eventually became Manager of the Mixing Department and was also in charge of No. 12 Furnace which made coloured glasses of all kinds many for stained glass windows. He was forced by illness to cease work in 1911 and I succeeded him as Manager of the Mixing Department. Forrester was a venerable looking man with a large beard but no hair on his head as at one time he fell down a swing hole and had to have a silver plate put in his head. He was a stalwart of the Methodist Church which used to be in Spon Lane



and throughout his life he prayed for divine guidance in the carrying out of his work.

Fred Lloyd commenced here some eighty years ago and always worked on furnaces. He was one of the youngest founders and looked after No. 12 furnace and was also in charge of the Pot-setting gangs. He was a very hard worker and most reliable. Fred had four sons—George, Harry, Will and Bert.

George followed his father on furnaces and Pot-setting and worked here for fifty years. He died in 1951.

Harry Lloyd has now been here for fifty-three years and for many of these years he has been in charge of the Mixing Department. At one time he looked after No. 10 Rolled Plate Coloured furnace.

Will works in the Rolled Plate on the furnaces and producers and has been here for forty-five years.

Bert, who worked in the Seven Storey, was killed on active service in 1917.

I have tried without success to borrow a picture of one of the earlier Lloyds, and as the Editor insists on an illustration, I have reproduced a photograph of a Fire Brigade medal won by Fred Lloyd dated 1880. This is of particular interest as it was reported in the Smethwick Telephone that an identical medal was dug up some years ago in Too-woomba, Australia!



CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



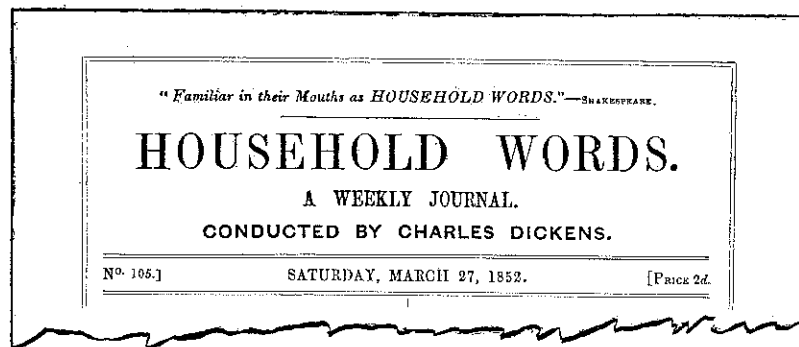
THIS IS THE FIRST OF A NEW SERIES which will feature *Chance Brothers' ladies.*

It is a portrait of Gladys van der Heide.

As her name indicates, Gladys is married to a Dutchman who escaped to England in 1940 when Holland was over-run. Gladys worked in Lighthouse Inspection for three years before being transferred to Blown & Pressed Inspection. She resolved to get a staff job and studied shorthand and typing at evening classes. She is now employed in No. 8 Blown & Pressed Office.

SPON LANE 100 YEARS AGO

Mr. Humphrey Green of Wickford, Essex, has sent to us a copy of Charles Dickens' "Household Words" issued in March, 1852, in which appears an article entitled "Birmingham Glass Works." This describes the many processes carried out at our Works in those days, and the following is an extract concerning the manufacture of glass by the blown cylinder method.



WE have been permitted to see the glass-works of the Messrs. Chance, near Birmingham. Messrs. Chance's works are not in the town, but at Smethwick. The buildings occupy many acres; and the canal has to stretch out various branches among them. The number of men, women, and children employed are twelve hundred or upwards. The schools on the estate contain from four hundred to five hundred children (not all connected with the works, however); and the consumption of coal is,—but we will excuse any reader from believing it, without seeing the coal heaps,—from eight hundred to one thousand tons per week. The vastness of the buildings is as striking as their number; and the passage through lofty dim, cool, vault-like sheds, is an admirable preparation for entrance among the furnaces and kilns.

We find ourselves on a sort of platform, in front of six furnace mouths, which disclose such a fire within as throws us into a secret despair; despair

for ourselves, lest we should lose our senses, and for the men, because it seems impossible to live through the day in such a heat. Looking into one of the openings, as well as we can from behind a screen, we see that the spectacle is one of exquisite beauty. There are the great pots, transparent with heat, and of the palest salmon colour, just distinguishable by their rims from the fire which surrounds them. Rising on tiptoe, we can see the metal—a calm surface, somewhat whiter than the pots. The workman dips one end of his pipe into the metal, taking up a portion which is of the consistence of honey. He lays his pipe across the trough, and laves it with water, while a boy blows into the end, swelling the metal into a small globe. The effect of the breath is seen in a paler central bubble, spreading itself through the red mass, and expanding it. When more metal has been taken up, enough for a sheet of glass, it is to be carried to the next shed, where there are more furnaces, and the globe is to become a cylinder.

We pass a man who is hewing out, with a small hatchet, a hollow in a block of wood, large enough for the globe to be rolled about in. In the next shed, each workman has one of these blocks to himself. It contains some water; and as he rolls his red-hot globe in it, a boy sprinkles more water upon it. The water seethes and bubbles, but does not reek. The heat is actually too great to permit evaporation. The globe is tossed about, and blown into again. If the pipe is raised in the air while blown into, the metal becomes cheese-shaped: if held horizontally, the form produced is a globe: if pointed downwards, the globe is elongated. This particular mass is elongated. In a moment it must be heated again. Between the range of blocks and the furnace, there are bridges across a deep chasm; a bridge to each furnace mouth. The workman runs along his particular bridge, holds his metal into the furnace, withdraws it for another toss, heats it again, with another puff through the pipe, and at last has blown a hole through the further end. The whole expands, the edges retreat, and we now see the cylinder form arranging itself. There he stands on his bridge—as half-a-dozen more men are standing on their respective bridges, swinging the cylinder at arm's length, even swinging it completely round in the maddest way; the scarlet colour at the further end shading off beautifully into soberer reds up to the point of the pipe, where the central knot is still scarlet. When it is of the right length (that is, for the Crystal Palace panes, somewhat above forty-nine inches), the cylinder must be detached from the pipe. For this purpose it is laid upon a wooden rest; a touch of cool iron breaks off the pipe; with pincers, a strip of red-hot glass is drawn off from the end of the pipe, and laid like a ribbon round the cylinder, near its closed end. After this, a gentle tap severs the closed end, and we have the cylinder complete.

Some of the men have bare feet and legs; some have no clothing but drawers and a blue shirt; one or two, indeed, add the article of gold earrings, being Frenchmen.

If we are to follow our own particular pane of glass, we must be off; for the cylinder is cool enough to be carried in a man's arms to the annealing, in preparation for the splitting. How this round thing is ever to grow flat, we cannot conceive. Supposing it split, the inside must have a more contracted surface than the outside. Well; we shall see. It has to be annealed, before anything more can be done to it, and for this purpose, it is carried to the kiln, where it is to be well baked, and gradually withdrawn into a lesser and lesser heat, until it will bear what else it has to undergo.

The diamonds, for cutting, are shown to us. One is mounted as on one point of a pair of pincers, the diamond looking inwards. The pincers are mounted upon wheels. This is for cutting off the edge of the cylinder, which is more or less jagged. The little carriage runs round under the upright cylinder, the diamond marking the glass as it travels; and a gentle tap severs the jagged end at the mark. Next, the cylinder is laid along upon a table, and another mounted diamond is run through the inside of it, from end to end, guided by a ruler. Another tap, and there is a split along the line, and the edges actually overlap. A curious fact is observed here. Looking at the edge of a piece of red glass, we see that it is not red throughout—that, in fact, the glass, seen sideways, is greenish; but how this happens we cannot divine. It is done by taking up first a little of the red honey from the ruby glass-pot, and afterwards white—again and again, in proportion to the intended paleness of the hue. Thus, the red, while completely incorporated in substance with the rest, is spread over only the inner surface; and thus, when cut, the sheet can be embossed with white figures.

We adjourn to the mouth of a kiln, where we see that a slab of stone, moveable, forms the floor. On this slab lies a sheet of glass; and our cylinder is to be unrolled upon it, or its lower side would be made rough by contact with the stone. As it heats, it begins to gape at the slit. The process is aided by the man at the kiln. He takes up a pole which has a wooden block at the end of it, thrusts in the block, and proceeds to iron out the relaxing cylinder. His block begins to smoke, and presently throws out sparks, more and more; but he perseveres until every corner is levelled; the sheet lies as flat as a pancake.

FRIT & CULLET

DO YOU KNOW ?

1. What are the opening dates for (a) grouse shooting, (b) the oyster season, (c) salmon fishing and (d) trout fishing ?
2. Diabolo was a great craze before the First World War. What similar crazes swept England between the wars ?
3. What were the nine original public schools for boys ?
4. (a) What was the name of the well-known cross-eyed film star of the 1920's ?
(b) What film star wore horn-rimmed spectacles without glass in them ?
(c) What film star used the sentence, "I want to be alone" ?
(d) Of what film star was it said, "His boots are cracking for want of blacking" ?
5. What were the first two places captured by the Hebrews when they entered Palestine ?
6. About what time was tea first drunk in England ?; coffee first drunk ?; chocolate first eaten ?; chocolate first drunk ?

* * *

HEARD THESE ?

The Local Vicar received the following letter from the British Railways:

"Dear Sir,

We should be much obliged if you would arrange to collect a package addressed to you labelled "books" as this is leaking rather badly."

The village curate stopped a nine-year-old girl and said: "Hullo, Mary. I hear God has just sent you two little twin brothers."

"Yes, He did," said Mary, "and He knows where the money's coming from, too. Daddy said so."

* * *

The doctor had received an urgent 'phone call from a man whose small son had swallowed a fountain pen. "All right, I'll come at once," said the doctor. "What are you doing in the meantime ?"

Whereupon came the unexpected answer: "Using a pencil."

* * *

Three young men descended on the hotel bar from a rather ancient motor-car.

"Sarsaparilla !" demanded the first one firmly.

"Coco-Cola," ordered the second.

"Make mine milk," said the third. "I'm doing the driving."

1. (a) August 12th; (b) August 5th; (c) February 1st; (d) March 1st.
2. Crossword puzzles; mah-jongg; put-and-take; yo-yo.
3. Eton; Winchester; Westminster; Charterhouse; St. Paul's; Merchant Taylors; Harrow; Rugby and Shrewsbury.
4. (a) Ben Turpin; (b) Harold Lloyd; (c) Greta Garbo; (d) Charlie Chaplin.
5. Jerticho and Al.
6. Tea, coffee and chocolate all began to be drunk about 1650. Chocolate was not eaten until about 1842.

ANSWERS

NEWS ITEM

How to Organise a Day Off

Employees of the United States District of Columbia have had this directive from the City Commissioners: "The second non-work day of the calendar week is hereby established as the regular non-work day in lieu of Sunday for the purposes of this sub-section except that the first non-work day of the calendar week is hereby established as the regular weekly non-work day in lieu of Sunday for the uniformed force of the Fire Departments."

WHO LAUGHS LAST

