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Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar

Chance

COMMENTS



JULY—AUGUST 1954

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

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<i>Transport</i>	F. G. ANKCORN
<i>Typists' Pool</i>	MISS M. VICKERS
<i>Wages, Pensions</i>	A. E. CARTWRIGHT

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow	A. C. THOMSON
London	J. C. PERKINS
Malvern	MISS D. CLARE
St. Helens	K. W. APPLETON

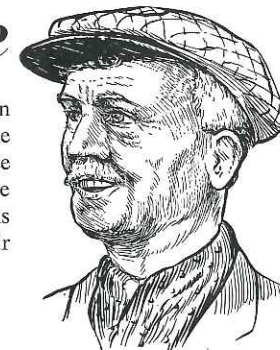
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VOL. 7, No. 3.

JULY—AUGUST 1954.

Portrait of Joe



THIS portrait of Joe—a veteran of industry, is taken from an article written by Edward Hopkins for the Birmingham Mail. Joe does not work at Chance Brothers but he is typical of many who do and whose services and loyalties are invaluable. Their traditions are permanent, their loyalties obstinate, and their sense of humour very much their own.



JOE is one of the veterans—though he doesn't like the word ("means an old man, don't it?" he says)—in the great factory that his family took it for normal he would go into at 14, because his father and grandfather had been there, and it was sort of part of the family life. He has this thing he calls a "cerstificate," for Black Country idiom is in the wax of him, recording that he has been with the firm for thirty-five years.

All blue and gold scrawls it is, with his name done in copper-plate, all sloping, and signatures (not copies, mind you, Joe will point out) of directors down in the corner. It is up on the wall in Joe's living room.

You can see a lot of changes in 39 years, for Joe became a "long service employee" four years ago. When Joe first went to work in the factory, it was just three shops. They took on labour at the gate, where you asked if there was a job going. There was only one gaffer and everybody knew him.

The nipper brought your dinner to the gate in a basin; and wages were paid out Friday nights by the chap who was gang-boss. There'd be about 250 workers all told. Joe knew most of

them. They were chaps from the streets round.

He didn't know more than a hundred or so of the 2,000 on the works pay-roll to-day. He didn't go into three-quarters of the departments that were now separately controlled by managers, so that most of the factory was strange territory to him. The old gaffer had gone long since; there were a bunch of them now. They were "upstairs."

You heard enough about them—the grapevine was there—and you saw them on Sports Day, when they brought the missus, or at times like the Recreation Club trip, when they turned up and saw the buses off.

Joe hardly puts into words the changes he has witnessed. There is all the form-filling and records about him; there's the works surgery where you have to go if you get even the slightest cut and where there's a proper doctor; there's a big canteen, with breakfast, dinner and snacks laid on if you want 'em; though you can no longer brew a cuppa in the shop like you used to in the old days. Can't do much in the shops now, except get on with it, in fact.

As for the furnace room you wouldn't recognise it. All this mechanisation and the fumes fussed over, not spewing all

over the place like they used to, so that your clothes stank and the smell was saturated into you.

Joe got shoved on a committee once. Called a sub-committee. Supposed to send up chat about production to the lot upstairs. Joe stuck it out for a year then packed up.

He knew how to cast a fine intricate thing—a craftsman to his finger tips, the sensitive, clever, deep-rooted skill of a typical Black Country man, the salt of the industrial earth. But talk about production was out of Joe's reach.

He is one of the men who matters; his craft skill is part of that supreme technical efficiency that makes the success of the great factory, on whose pay-roll he is.

T.W.I. has been cast around him; motion-study may soon be hooked on to him; for him there have been set-up departments for his welfare, for his counselling, for his co-operation. Only Joe has not changed.

This benevolent edifice which has mushroomed up around and over him, translating the factory into a colossus, intricate and elaborate, has assumed that Joe would develop along.

He has conformed, of course, to the outward and manifest structure. He falls in with the complicated wage-recording system. The gang boss no longer doles out the "ready," which is brought round Friday afternoons by a clerk from the wages office.

He obeys the rules about time-keeping (nobody allowed in after fifteen minutes' grace unless the departmental manager personally authorises it); he has the routine tests for vision; he brings his sick notes like clockwork; he gets his ticket about this, that and the

other from "the welfare," and an umbrella of modernity is upon him.

But at heart, in habit and thought, Joe belongs to the old days. And in this he is one of a thousand Joes in factories throughout the Midlands.

Joe grew up with the knowledge dinned into him that you must fend for yourself over the factory.

As for the consultation, and the relations, Joe passed it right by. He worked because he liked his job and the money was good. He is proud of his "cerstificate," he loves the factory. These men do love a place which is wrapped into their lives, where so much of their satisfactions are gained, where there is good comradeship and familiarity and security. But he cannot—it is not in him—comprehend or share in the multitudinous programmes in which it is assumed he will eagerly share.

So the new gaffers, many of them, have been disappointed. They have watched the abuse of many fanciful welfare schemes; they have observed much indifference to the use of such splendid and important things as new safety devices.

The Joes of the factory, and they are still legion, can't make the pace. We must remember this, and not lament the failures. In the factories we have forgotten the power of long memories and deep habits, in minds not greatly disciplined, and in natures that are profoundly conservative.

The Joes will be with us for some considerable time, though most of them have now got their "cerstificates." So we must salute them—as valiant servants—but as handicaps on too brisk a march of progress.

THE OLD 'UNS

John A. Aitchison

MR. John Aitchison of the Glasgow Works retired at the end of June.

He first became associated with Chance Brothers just fifty years ago when, at the age of sixteen, he joined his father who was the Company's agent from 1863 to 1914.

In 1907, Mr. Aitchison came to Spon Lane to work in the Home Sales Office under Arthur Hephens and Samuel Grice. Later he was placed under Mr. Bassett in the White Figured Rolled Warehouse. This was good experience but he didn't relish the long hours that were worked in those days and to quote the inimical Dr. Johnson—"the noblest prospect that a Scotsman ever sees, is

the railroad that leads him out of England."

In 1911 he was transferred to the Firhill (Glasgow) Works which Chance Brothers bought in 1907 from the Glasgow Plate Glass Company.

Principally connected with Sales and Administration, Mr. Aitchison had the privilege of working under Mr. A. Lindsay Forster and when Mr. Forster died in 1941, he was put in charge of the Works.

In addition to securing an adequate proportion of the trade in Scotland, the North East Coast of England was made the responsibility of Glasgow in 1915, and all Ireland in 1922. The total population therefore allocated to the Glasgow Works was approximately twelve million.

H.s first official visit to Newcastle-on-Tyne in June 1915, along with Mr. A. E. Bassett, coincided with the Zeppelin raid on Palmers Engine Works and resulted in an order for 40,000 ft. of $\frac{1}{4}$ " Cast to make good the damage, and for the first time in the history of the Glasgow Works the Warehouse cutters and packers worked the following Saturday and Sunday to provide immediate delivery.

Mr. Aitchison's best love after business is golf and bowls and he is no mean player in both games. It is true to say that there is not a glass merchant in all Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire who does not respect him and hold him in high esteem. As a proof of this the Scottish glass merchants arranged a luncheon in his honour on 28th June and presented him with an engraved silver salver and a pair of binoculars.

All employees of Chance Brothers wish him many years of happiness.



Our rescue team go "DOWN THE MINE"

ON Saturday, May 15th, our Civil Defence Rescue Team paid a visit to Hilton Main Colliery, to see for themselves how the miner tackled the job of propping and shoring as tunnels are made.

We left the works complete with overalls and tin hats, and arrived at the pit at 10.15. Here we were met by the Deputy (who has about the same standing as a foreman) and we were taken through the baths, which were very modern and warm, each man using a separate cubicle to have his shower. In these baths were hundreds of lockers, each having a different key, and a man may go to work in a good clean suit, change into an old one and after he has come back up the pit, he may bath, change again and leave the pit much cleaner than many men leave a factory.

From here we were taken to a room and advised to leave our jackets and tin hats, as the proper ones would be provided, and then we were given a new pattern lamp, the battery of which is carried on the hip, and is in a metal case about 8 inches long and about 5 inches wide. This fits on a belt and a lead passes up a man's back and to a lamp fitted to the front of the helmet. Next we were given a helmet which is made of papier mache, and fitted inside with sorbo rubber and a sweat band, which we found was very necessary.

Now we were ready to descend, and were joined by another deputy, and we all crowded into the cage (lift) and it was just like stepping outside into a shower, for it was soaking wet and water was dripping down on us as they lowered us to the bottom. It did not take long to go down 1,866 ft. and we started to walk along No. 15 workings. From the start it was only on rare occasions that the taller members of the party could stand upright, and although one was often warned by those in front to "duck" at each warning someone did not either duck quick enough or low enough. At one point the writer was too slow in ducking, and hit a beam so hard that he was knocked right over, but thanks to the helmets, no one received any hurt

from the many bangs they received during the two mile walk to the coal face and back.

The walking was very hard, for not only was the floor covered with a thick layer of dust (brick dust for the greater part to keep down the risk of combustion) but there were also rails upon which the tubs of coal are drawn. The first 200 yards or so were uphill, and then for what seemed about half a mile the road went downhill at a much steeper gradient, and then another rise brought us near the coalface. The party split into two at this point, each one in charge of a deputy, and at the coalface we saw the job we had really gone down to see, propping and shoring as they worked along into the coal seam. By now we were at Nos. 16 and 17 workings, and saw the miners working naked to the waist as they got the coal out.

Time did not permit a long stay at the face, and for that matter the miners did not want us to stay there very long for there was little space for them to work in, and we were not helping output by getting in their way, and so the return journey began, uphill and downhill, bending and stooping and crawling to avoid hitting low beams. In some places they were "ripping" out the roof, for in these parts of the roadway the weight of the earth above had bent the steel arches into the ground, so much so, that instead of having about six feet of headroom, only between 3 and 4 feet remained. New arches were being fitted, and the old ones packed up until the new ones were capable of safely holding the overhead load.

To the members of the Rescue Team, all the information they received was very valuable, for they had everything fully explained to them and also saw propping and how it should be done, and all this gave them a much clearer conception than any lecture could have done. It was 12.20 when we reached the top again, and although it was a dull day, it seemed very beautiful and fresh to eleven men who were hot, sweating, dirty, tired and very thirsty.

Continued on page 7.

Coming Fishing?

SINCE the last Chance Comments was published, the "Coarse" Season has started, and thousands of anglers, of both sexes, have been lining the river banks. Roach, Perch, Dace, Chub, Gudgeon, Pike and Eels will have been providing sport for those who have been waiting impatiently for the season to start. What about you?

If you are one of those who are wondering what all these people see in sitting and watching a float, and yet would not mind trying it, let me give you a hint or two about tackle. Take someone with you when you go to buy your rod(s) and lines. In a good tackle dealers, you will see all sorts of rods and reels, and if the salesman is good at his job, you may find yourself with a rod for Roach, another for Perch and Chub, another for Pike, a creel complete with one or two reels, many lines and floats, a keepnet, a landing net, and by the time he has finished with you, you will either be broke or in need of a "man" to carry all this tackle for you.

Buy a good, light rod, preferably one with a split cane top joint. Heavy rods are wrist and heart breaking contraptions which do not do the work any better, if as well, as a good light one. A useful length is twelve feet, and if this is used in conjunction with a Threadline reel, it will be possible to reach any part of the river within reason.

Having bought your tackle, the next thing is to "go fishing," and so we must consider the bait, and without doubt, the maggot is the best all rounder of all. These are bought white, but any chemist will sell colouring powders which will enable you to dye them and the table cloth, handkerchiefs, hands and the sink, any colour you may like. Worms, bread, paste, wheat, wasp cake, hempseed, part boiled potatoes, cherries, raisins and cheese will all tempt fish to the hook, and all you, as a beginner has to learn is how to catch them, and having caught them, land them.

This will come with practice, and the more often one goes to the river, the more proficient one will become. In the Midlands we are well provided for in this respect, for we have the Severn, the Avon, the Teem, the Arrow, the Trent, the Penk, many canals which hold good fish, and dozens of pools. Each will "fish" differently, and if the beginner goes with someone who knows how to fish, and will be prepared to be taught, little difficulty should be experienced before fish are being caught and landed.

Fishing is a sport which takes one into the country and the fresh air, and the thrill of seeing a float dip and the feel of a good sized fish fighting at the end of the line is worth going a long way to experience. The fish may not always oblige in the way one would wish, but if the day is fine and the scenery and surroundings pleasant, don't worry, for the next time the sport may be fast and furious.

REDFIN



SPORTS AND SOCIAL

Chance's Recreation Club's New Constitution

Following the recent re-organisation of Chance Brothers Limited, the members of the Chance's Recreation Club held a General Meeting on 14th June to decide on the future constitution of the Club. The Club President, Mr. J. W. Chance, was in the Chair, and he was happy to announce that it was the wish of the Directors of both Chance Brothers Limited and Stone-Chance Limited, to provide social and recreational interests for the employees of both Companies through the medium of a Recreation Club. Accordingly, no great changes in the future of the Club were contemplated but it was necessary to make a number of alterations to the rules.

The members present adopted the Committee's recommendations for amendments to the rules and in general this now means that the Club is for employees of both Companies and each of the two works will appoint a member as Joint Secretary and the Office of Chairman will alternate between the two Companies each year.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Chance's Recreation Club will be held in the Pavilion, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, at 5.45 p.m., on Tuesday, 27th July, when the accounts for 1953/54 will be presented and the Officers and Committee elected for the year 1954/55.

A. Ogden,
Hon. General Secretary.



Cricket Season Opens

The First XI occupy the fourth position in the league table having won four, lost two and one game being rained off. This is a satisfactory position in their first season in the premier division of the Business Houses League.

The second XI are also doing reasonably well having won two, lost two and one game also being rained off.

The bowling strength of both teams appears to be adequate, but we should like one or two more accomplished batsmen. We seem able to dismiss any opposition for less than one hundred runs, but we are then unable to achieve this total ourselves. If there are any batsmen who wish to play we shall be pleased to see them on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the nets.

G. Woodcock,
Hon. Secretary.



Ladies' Darts

At time of writing the team lies fifth in the Smethwick Darts League, having played seven matches. Of these seven matches, we have won five. We are out of the running for the Knock-Out Shield which we won last year, being given the K.O. by a team whom we beat later in the League game.

Anyone wishing to join the team should contact either the Captain, Mrs. T. Bowden, or the Secretary, Miss W. Davies.

W. Davies,
Hon. Secretary.



Badminton

The sudden ending of the Badminton season, due to the condition of the floor in the Pavilion, left us all somewhat in the air. The section will, however, be interested in the news that several of our members have distinguished themselves in the recent tournament in conjunction with Smethwick Youth Week.

Some hundreds of entries were sent in, and it is with great pleasure that we record Miss Margery Cole's success in the Mixed Doubles. Entered with Frank Taylor (who was precluded from playing by the incidence of some childish complaints, long delayed), Miss Cole had, at a late date, to find a new partner.

This she was able to do with success, for by brilliant badminton, they won the Mixed Senior Tournament, against stiff opposition.

In the Junior Mixed Section, Mike Tregunna and June Darby were beaten only in the Final. Both of these players were in their first season at the game and did wonderfully well to reach such an exalted position. (Be it known that had they played their usual game, it is quite possible that they too would have won the Final, but "nerves" joined in as a third member.)

In the Men's Doubles, Bob Palmer and Mike Tregunna put up a very good show and were only beaten by far more experienced players in a late stage of the competition.

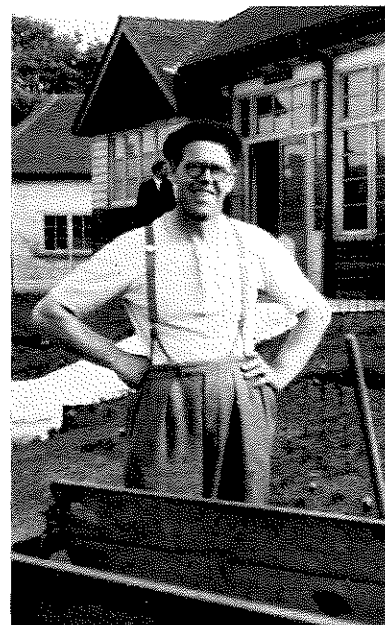
Miss Cole and her partner also reached the Semi-final of the Ladies Doubles, so it will be realised that she is a most useful and popular member.

Congratulations to all who took part and enhanced the reputation of the Club not only by their ability but also by their demeanour on the court.

F. L. Taylor
Hon. Secretary.



Groundsman Tom Dowd



Dancing and Concerts

During the past few weeks the Wednesday and Saturday dances in the Pavilion have had to be cancelled, but it is hoped to start an attractive programme of regular dances in the early autumn.

A new dance floor will be laid down in August and when dances re-start admission will be restricted to members of the Club and their guests.

The Sunday Night Concerts continue to be well supported by members and visiting cricket teams.

H. Mills,
Hon. Secretary.



Tennis

There is no need to be a pro' or even an accomplished player to be welcome at the courts on Mondays and Thursdays.

Although teams have been entered in the Men's Doubles and the Mixed Doubles of the West Midlands Association of Works Recreation Clubs' Knock-Out Competition, we have been unable to play our usual number of friendly matches owing to our depleted membership.

We are very pleased that the Dr. Hampton cup has been transferred to the Section and a competition will be organised in the very near future to decide the holder.

J. Nicklin,
Hon. Secretary.

"DOWN THE MINE" continued from page 4.

We were very grateful to the management of Hilton Main Colliery for their co-operation in showing us just what we wanted to see. There was one thing upon which we all agreed, and that was—we were all very willing to let the miner go on getting our coal for us, for if it was left to us to get our own, we should go fireless.

A better appreciation of another man's job was got through going 1,866 feet below ground to see how coal is got and brought to the surface, and before we left the management extended an invitation for another visit, and so, perhaps later on, more of our Civil Defence members will have the opportunity of seeing that Glass making is not the only hot job.

H. L. NEWBY

From your COMMITTEE ROOM WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

THE regular cleaning of machinery and plant, methods of handling raw materials, night canteen services, the care of unused equipment, the employment of Jamaicans—these and similar problems were discussed by the members of the Works Consultative Committee at the meetings held in May and June.

The newly appointed Divisional Production Sub-Committees also achieved some useful work, for example Group 9 which includes Transport, Traffic and Mixing Departments gave consideration to such matters as weather protection on the Reliance tractors, the handling of bought cullet, loading tubing cartons and the stacking of coal.

The Blown and Pressed Sub-Committee discussed many problems concerning production such as stones in the forehearth on No. 8 furnace, lifting tackle for moulds and trucks for internal transport.

These are just examples of the wide range covered by the Committees and it would seem that this year's Committees are determined to give more time and thought to problems of production. The full Minutes of the Works Consultative Committee meetings are always posted in a special notice board placed on the wall of the Medical Centre and every employee is encouraged to look at these.

THERE'S ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

£100 awarded in two months

During the year 1953, the Suggestions Scheme awards amounted to £339. In that year 318 ideas were put forward, 148 of which were adopted. It looks as if this record may be broken in 1954 as £100 12s. 6d., was distributed in May and June, bringing the half year total to £170 10s. 0d. A good idea certainly does pay dividends.

Two ladies share £35 5s. 0d.

It is by now generally known that the competition for the best idea received in March was won by Mrs. J. Bloomer and Mrs. N. Richards of the Optical Department, who jointly put forward the idea that an adjustable platform be fitted to the optical sorting benches so that the centre of the light beam came parallel with the vein in the glass slabs.

The adoption of this suggestion means that optical glass can be inspected more economically in that faults are spot located. For this most useful idea £25 5s. 0d. was awarded in the normal way plus the £10 prize.

St. Helens in the picture

J. Orford of St. Helens Optical is better off to the tune of £25 5s. 0d., tax free, as a result of his suggestion that sand could be used instead of grit on the grinding and polishing machines for certain types of glass. Sand could, and is now, being used with a resulting saving in costs. It seems elementary but so many successful ideas are.

Rowland Goodall receives four awards

It is a common experience that once an employee has a suggestion adopted, he comes back for more. Rowland Goodall of the Mixing Department has rung the bell four times in the last two months and has in consequence earned £4 0s. 0d.—and he still has another

suggestion outstanding which is almost certain to be adopted. All his ideas have been concerned with the methods of handling mixing materials.

£2 5s. 0d., award increased to £16

Three or four months ago, G. Humphries of the Blown and Pressed suggested an extension to the base of cathode neck moulds to assist in the making and on the adoption of his suggestion he was awarded £2 5s. 0d. Further results from these particular moulds indicated that the savings were

higher than were at first anticipated and the Suggestions Scheme Committee, quite rightly, gave George another £13 15s. 0d.

A good one from Glasgow

J. Smith of our Glasgow Rolled Plate Works suggested a device to hold glass in place when it is loaded on lorries in the form of a "loose load." His idea comprised two padded pieces of timber capable of being drawn together by a wing nut—less breakages for the Company and £3 5s. 0d., for the idea.

Here are the others :—

			£	s.	d.
E. J. Gardner	Blown & Pressed	Temporary use of plywood jigs ...	3	0	0
E. J. Gardner	Blown & Pressed	Adaptor to jigs on autoflow machine ...	1	2	6
Miss D. Bloomer	Optical	A sorbo lining for washing machine ...	2	15	0
J. Muir	Glasgow	A standby on the temperature recorder ...	1	2	6
T. Mellor	St. Helens	An improved method for weighing cullet ...	1	2	6
C. Lowe	M. & C.	Concerning Mixing skip joist and conveyor ...	1	2	6
J. Hanson	M. & C.	Recovery of emery ...	2	15	0
H. Price	Blown & Pressed	Dealing with oil leaks ...	1	2	6
G. Keys	Laboratory	Asbestos paper to prevent fusions sticking to trays ...	10	0	
J. B. Paice	Laboratory	Safety idea ...	10	0	
R. J. Payne	M. & C.	The use of wire ropes on Muirhill shovels ...	1	15	0
H. Beech	M. & C.	Improved lighting on shaping machine ...	10	0	

Workpeople's Representatives on the Works Consultative Committee. Back row :—A. Piper (Seven Storey) ; H. Care (B. & P. Moulds) ; W. Holloway (Garage) ; J. Hill (Boiler Shop). Front row :—J. Meese (Cathodes) ; J. Forrest (Optical) ; J. H. Wilkins (Rolled Plate) ; S. Clive (B. & P. Warehouse) ; and B. Launchbury (Transport).





Chance SNAPSHOTS

- 1 *Mary Thompson of the St. Helens Optical Works learns how not to handle a canoe at a venture course for girls.*
- 2 & 3 *Members of our Rescue Team visit a coal mine.*
- 4 *Mrs. J. Bloomer and Mrs. N. Richards of the Optical Department who shared a suggestion scheme award of £35 5s. 0d.*
- 5 *Mrs. S. T. Pickering presenting a suggestion scheme award cheque for £25 5s. 0d. to Jim Orford (St. Helens).*





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

THE Division has lost some good friends during the past few weeks including Ernie Forsyth and Frank Langford of the Inspection Section and Ken Perks from the Decorating. We all wish them success and happiness in their new spheres. Ken Perks was the magazine cartoonist and the editor takes this opportunity of expressing the readers' regrets that they will no longer see his excellent work.

Ernie Innes and his wife have a son, as has also Tony Zgrzwa and his wife (*nee Irene Withers of the Pressed*).

LABORATORY

CYRIL Fidler of the Chemistry Laboratory married Nadine Campbell of his home town, Sheffield, on 26th June, and we wish them every happiness.

We welcome Chris Bullen on his return after a year at College and we hope that John Paice and Ron Winspear will enjoy their month at the Outward Bound School.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

THE Maintenance and Construction Department are profoundly sorry to record the deaths of three old friends. Mr. R. Bullock passed away on 3rd May. Prior to his retirement early in

1952, Mr. Bullock had been employed here as an Engineer for forty-six years. Mr. J. E. Grosvenor died on 25th June, after several months serious illness. For many years up to the time of his retirement he was in charge of the Building Section. Another sad loss was the death on 19th June of William Westwood of the Building Section, at the age of fifty-nine.

The Old Hall were sorry to bid farewell to Harold Weaver of the Drawing Office and Judith Hooper of the Engineers' Office and wish them success in their new careers.

Albert Rowe from the Box Shop has retired after forty-eight years service.

OFFICES

ON 1st May, W. E. Skilbeck took up his duties at St. Helens. He has, however, not been lost to the Export Department altogether as, apart from his necessary periodical visits, he is in frequent contact with us by telephone. Bill will be missed from Spon Lane; he was always willing to give advice and with never failing courtesy even to the meanest amongst us. We particularly remember his "Sponlaneous" wit at the last Export Department Dinner and the agility he showed both with "figures" and on the field of sport.

During the last few weeks, several others of the Export staff have gone

their various ways. Ken Hunt and Norah Smart have transferred to Stone-Chance, and Mrs. Richards and Bill Field have gone to pastures new. Bill Field who had been with the Company some twelve to thirteen years will be missed, not only in the office, but also in the Archery Section where he showed such prowess.

The Typing Pool congratulates Jean Whitehouse on her engagement to Morris Talbot, formerly of the Blown and Pressed Division, and also extend best wishes to Joyce Shepherd and Ivy Bullas who were married recently.

OPTICAL

THE Optical Division express their sympathy with Mrs. Withers on the death of her husband.

Mrs. M. Emson and Mrs. N. Parkes left us recently as they are expecting happy events.

We are very glad to welcome back Mrs. Alice Washington and we congratulate Norman Stanley on his engagement to Miss Wiggets.

The Division is very busy at present and we appreciate the assistance that is being given by several of our old friends who have come to help us by working for a few hours each evening.

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Department wish Eric Priestman and Pat Bromhill success in their new positions with Stone-Chance Limited and we welcome Kevin O'Leary and Gillian Ward.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

IT is with profound sorrow that we record the death of George Grice of the Traffic Office on 14th June. George

was only fifty-eight and he had been with the Company for thirty-four years.

Bertie Bagnall of the Internal Transport is congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

FLAT GLASS

TOM Griffiths of the Coloured has retired at the age of seventy-four. Tom had been employed here for fifty-seven years and he still looks remarkably young and fit.



Tom Griffiths has retired after 57 years service

Agnes Russell has left the Seven Storey for domestic reasons. She had been with us for over six years and we shall miss her.

Norman Somerfield of the Sales Office is now at St. Helens, but we hope we shall see him at Smethwick often.

A. H. Harris of the Laboratory has gone over to Rolled Plate for a few months for comprehensive training in methods of production.

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Annual Meeting of the Glasgow Works Recreation Club, held on the 25th May, resulted in the appointment of a general committee for twelve months, as follows:—

President : Mr. A. C. Thomson
Vice-President : Mr. J. Crawford
Secretary and Treasurer : Mrs. Bannister
Minute Secretary : Miss McRoberts
Warehouse Representative : Mr. P. Wilson
Engineering " : Mr. S. Shields
Yard " : Mr. J. Dowling
Office " : Miss Caskie
Rolled Plate " : Mr. A. Traynor

The Table Tennis Tournament was won by Walter Elliott of the Wages Office.

Mr. J. A. Aitchison retired on the 30th June and in wishing him a long and happy time, the staff presented him with a writing desk and a tea trolley. A tribute to Mr. Aitchison appears on page 3.

● LONDON

Miss E. Hallifax, the Press Officer's Secretary, has left us to join a Film Company. She will be engaged on Publicity work which promises to be most interesting and we wish her well.

Our Receptionist, Miss Pat Hunt, has just returned after having a minor operation. She is quite well now and we are pleased to have her back with us.

Mr. Skipp's old friends at Birmingham will be pleased to hear that he calls in occasionally and that he is as cheerful as ever.

Mr. Jack Chance has been appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, an honour which I am sure we all consider to be well deserved.

● MALVERN

We all wish to congratulate Priscilla Roberts and Tom Stanbridge on their recent engagements. Also best wishes are sent to Elsie Rogers on her forthcoming marriage in July, Elsie will be leaving us to make her home in Birmingham.

We are very pleased to hear that Mrs. Kite is making good progress after her severe illness and hope she will soon be back with us. We hope too that Edie Clare who had an unfortunate accident in the factory and has been away from work for several weeks will soon be back. We are all very sorry that Norman Yapp is still in hospital and hope that he will soon be well and home again.

A very enjoyable day was spent by some of the workers and friends on 30th May at Elan Valley.

Another outing on Whit Tuesday to Bertram Mills Circus was much appreciated.

Yet another outing was arranged for 26th June to Clifton Zoo and the Cheddar Gorge. Thanks are due to Mrs. Sealey for organizing these outings for us.

We shall be sorry to lose Walter Zuber but we wish him the best of luck in his new work, also John Brazier who is going to do his two years National Service.

● ST. HELENS

Our Congratulations to Miss Louise Forrest on her engagement to Mr. P. Lynch, to Mr. R. Bell and his wife on the birth of a daughter and to Mrs. D. Connell and her husband on the birth of a son.

On Saturday the 20th June we held our annual Bowling outing to the Hesketh Arms at Standish. Ralph Hull won the Bowling handicap from Bob Cain in the final after a very close game the score being 21—15.



The Adventures of CLAUDE

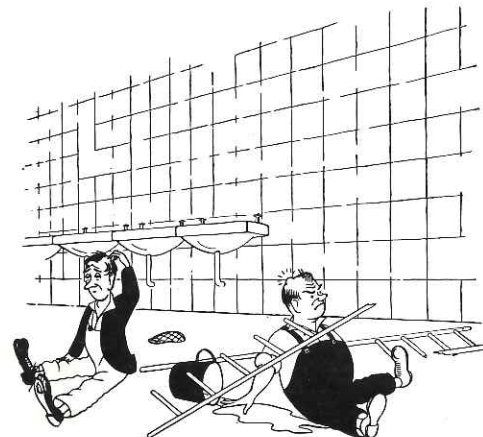
No. 2

REMEMBER me ? I am Claude Klewless.

Last month I told you of my first adventure where Joe, the clumsy lout, left a piece of his nose on the concrete steps. Well blow me down if I didn't bump into Joe again last week.

It happened like this—I was sent to work in the cloak-rooms to clean down the walls as far as I could reach while standing on the floor.

I thought I'd make a proper job of it and found an old ladder lying around which some contractors had left behind. The cloakroom had a sloping floor to make it easier to wash down and I found that the ladder slipped a bit. I soon got over this by turning the ladder upside down.



There is a moral to this story—if you have to use a ladder make sure that it is set at a safe angle and held by someone or securely lashed to some robust fixed object. Make sure that the feet of the ladder do not slip, and don't try to over-reach.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

BOUQUETS

THE Queen has approved the appointment of Brigadier Douglas V. Phelps, T.D., A.D.C., vice-chairman of the West Lancashire Territorial Army Association, as Honorary Colonel of the 596 (South Lancashire) L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (T.A.), of which he was formerly commanding officer.

Brigadier Phelps is chairman of the executive directors of Pilkington Brothers Limited and chairman of Chance Brothers Limited. He was promoted brigadier in 1951, when he was appointed to command 96 Anti-Aircraft Group, R.A., Liverpool, the post having previously been held by an officer of the Regular Army.

During the war he served as GSO 1 Airborne Forces Experimental Establishment (1942), at the War Office (1942-43), in Egypt (1943) and A.F.H.Q. Algiers and Italy (1944-45). In 1947 he was appointed to command the regiment of which he is now honorary colonel.

* * *

In the Queen's birthday Honours List, Dr. W. M. Hampton received the Order of the British Empire.

Dr. Hampton joined Chance Brothers in 1917 as a junior chemist and rose, through the posts of Manager of the Optical department, Director of Research to Technical Director and now to Managing Director. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, and a Fellow of the Society of Glass Technology, of which Society he was president from 1948-1950.

The present honour recognises his work before and during the last war, on the development of new types of optical

glass and methods of their manufacture, and the many scientific papers published on these subjects and also on problems relating to the optics of lighthouses.

* * *

In the recent Municipal Elections, Frank Guest of the Blown and Pressed Cost Office, was elected a member of Oldbury Council.

* * *

Our Traffic Manager, Bill Standley, was a guest of the Directors of West Bromwich Albion on the occasion of their successful final at Wembley.

He was afforded the honour of carrying the cup along Regent Street and Park Lane.

* * *

WHAT IS WORK?

WORK . . . is an action involving effort or exertion directed to a definite end.

Work . . . is the labour done in making something as distinct from the materials used.

Work . . . is that which is done.

It is also that which was done, will be done, or was paid for and not done. It can be trouble, affliction, ache, pain or the exercise of a sport or game.

One can have a work-mate, work-box, work-bag, bench, or a work-hand, train or table. Be at work, make work, set to work or cut out work, and do good work, bad work or homework.

It can be applied to earth, liquor, music and art, and to rage, sheet, and shyness. One can work in, up, off or out, one's head off, one's guts out, or one's ticket.

It is said that doing it never killed anyone, and I find this particularly encouraging. I'm in for 65,000 hours of it before I retire, and—I hope—a lot more after that.

(From *Eastern Electricity Magazine*)

* * *

KEEP THE BOYS AT HOME

THE Chance Recreation Club has a snookerette table for sale. It is in need of some repairs which any handyman can carry out and it will go to the person who makes the highest offer. Particulars may be obtained from the Editor.

* * *

FOOT PROTECTORS

TO reduce foot injuries, arrangements have been made for employees to buy steel capped safety shoes at cost price. These shoes are in attractive styles and are outwardly indistinguishable from ordinary types—the important factor is that they are cheap and provide protection against falling objects.

Men's shoes are obtainable from the General Stores and women's from the Personnel Department.

In his annual report for 1952 the Chief Inspector of Factories states that in that year 28,045 accidents—practically one in six—involved injury to the feet and that this was a hazard which every worker could guard against by the simple expedient of wearing safety footwear. The Chief Inspector reports: "The clog and the old-fashioned stoutly made boot were no doubt out of place on the dance floor and even in the factory they did not give the same measure of precaution against falling articles as does a modern safety boot; at least they had solid soles which resisted penetration by broken glass and materials with sharp edges. It might have been hoped in these more enlightened times that workers would have adopted footwear which combined greater comfort with greater safety; but instead the clog and the stout boot have

been discarded and all too frequently last year's Sunday best shoes are thought adequate for wearing out in the factory. This is the height of stupidity."

* * *

VENTURE COURSE

AFTER hearing that I had been selected to attend the first Venture Course for girls at the Liverpool Colomendy Camp School near Mold in North Wales, I must admit I awaited the course with some qualms. By the end of my 10 day course all my fears had however, proved groundless and I really wondered what on earth I had been frightened of.

The Course commenced on a Friday when after tea we were introduced to the Staff and each other, by the Headmistress of the camp. We were then divided into groups for the purpose of the course, and had our sleeping quarters allocated. It was on seeing these that I first realised that this was it, you see I personally had never slept in a bunk before let alone a two tier bunk. However, I soon got used to the idea and from here onwards my whole life was changed for 10 very full days.

Rising bell at 7.30 a.m. P.T. before breakfast, then off straight away on Saturday to Mountain Climbing. Each day we had something new, something entirely different to anything I had ever attempted before, climbing, canoeing, ridge walking, scrambling, nature study, field study, and just to keep the feminine touch we had evening lectures and demonstrations on Dress Sense, make up, drama, music, and flower arranging. All of these subjects were taught by a staff of experts.

Perhaps the stiffest test we were asked to undertake was a twenty-three mile walk from Horse Shoe Pass which entailed a lot of ridge walking and scrambling and the climbing of Snowdonia.

All too soon it was our last day in the camp, and the short period of 10 days I had done things and achieved objectives I would never have believed possible of myself. I have quite honestly never enjoyed myself so much and I have come back with memories of happy comradeship and experiences that will live with me for ever.

MARY THOMPSON (ST. HELENS)

THE YOUNGER GENERATION

ROBERT BEAVON

"**ROB**" is one of those phenomena who sit for both the Ordinary and Advanced Level General Certificate of Education at sixteen years of age, and pass in three subjects at each Level.

Birmingham born, Rob passed through the channels of Primary school and Secondary Modern school to Saltley Grammar school.

Apart from his outstanding success as a student, he played in the school First XI at cricket and the Third XV at rugby, besides taking part in the Debating Society and Scientific Society. The last named group, as part of its activities, visited numerous factories. It is significant that Rob chose Chance Brothers to whom to apply for a job.

Rob is an only child, who, by the way, shows no sign of being spoilt, and he is proud of his Dad's prowess as a Charge-hand Tube Roller at Stewarts and Lloyds and as a playing cricketer at the age of fifty-one. Mum also comes in for a share of her son's pride in that she sings contralto in the Birmingham Ladies' Choir in addition to looking after Dad and Rob.

Currently Rob is taking the first of four years study to qualify as A.R.I.C.,

but his horizon does not end there; he wants, after taking his basic qualifications, to enter the arduous field of management.

More power to your elbow Rob!

DONALD BROMWELL

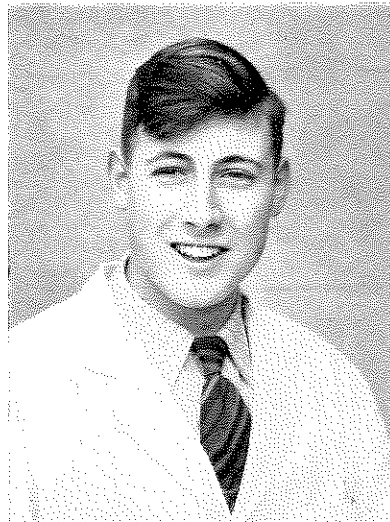
DON is nineteen and has served nearly three years of his apprenticeship in the Carpenters Shop. He usually works with fully-fledged carpenter Eric Morris on general maintenance of the Company's buildings.

The City and Guilds Course is occupying much of Don's time; he took Intermediate in June 1953 and again this year, just to keep in practice, and is due to take Final in June 1955.

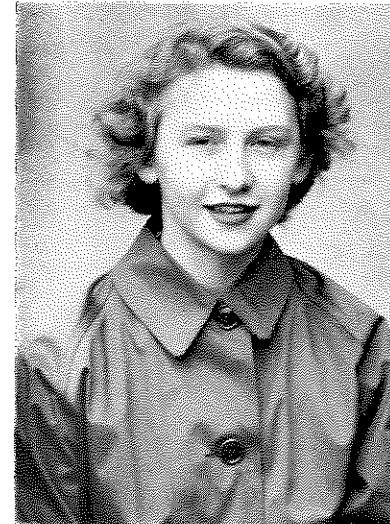
It was not until during his last six months at the James Watt Technical School that Don decided to make his vocation carpentry. Previously, he had concerned himself mainly with sport; he was a regular player at outside right in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior football teams at James Watt, his best performance being to score five goals in a match against a Smethwick Town Schools XI, which his side won 8-0.

Lately, however, Don has concerned himself with more serious things; he

Robert Beavon



Donald Bromwell



Diana Penn



Lois Reeve

has been walking out with the same girl since he was sixteen and has an eye towards engagement. Here's hoping he is successful and happy in every direction.

DIANA PENN

GRIPTON College, West Bromwich, was the school at which Diana qualified in shorthand, taking the Pitman's certificate for 100 words per minute. This was in 1952, and immediately afterwards she joined the staff of the Work Study Department.

Since then Diana has attended the Chance Technical College and taken the elementary typing examination; she is due to take R.S.A., intermediate typing examination in July this year and final in 1955.

There are the makings of yet another family tradition of service to Chance Brothers in that Diana's Dad is a foreman in the Traffic Department.

Usual spare time interests for Diana are ice skating, which she has been doing since she was thirteen, and the cinema where her favourite stars are Jeff Chandler and Audrey Hepburn. Lately, however, these amusements have had to be curtailed because Diana is saving hard for a holiday at Blackpool in July. May the sun shine for her!

LOIS REEVE

OUR Lois must be one of the most travelled young ladies of her age in this district.

Born at Pembroke Dock, Wales, she moved at the age of two to Oxford where she stayed until reaching her eighth year. There then followed moves to Abergavenny for a year, Blackheath for another year, back to Oxford for three more years and, finally, to Hateley Heath at the age of thirteen. At the age of eighteen she is still there and likes it better than any of the other places.

Lois liked netball and needlework as a schoolgirl but did not fancy hockey nor, incidentally, studies! She came to Chance Brothers at the age of fifteen and commenced work on the teleprinter. She had a try at shorthand and typing classes at the Chance Technical College, but found that it was not her cup of tea.

After a while on the teleprinter Lois was transferred to work as a relief telephonist and has remained there this last two years. She is very happy in her job and says that its interest is in getting to know so many people.

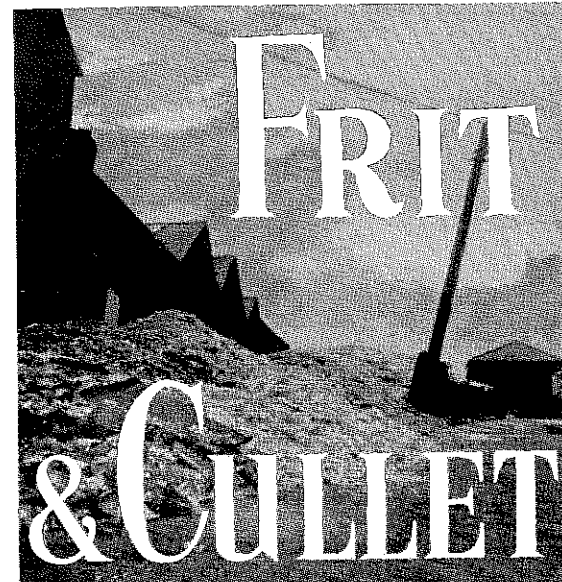
On the lighter side she used to go dancing four times a week but as her current boy friend (he has lasted a whole fortnight) doesn't dance, she is confined to going for walks and the cinema—still she thinks it's worth it!



CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



We have selected Jean Barnes for this month's gallery as she is one of the most popular girls in the Blown and Pressed division where she has been employed for nine years as a Glass Inspector.



Voter: I wouldn't vote for you if you were the Archangel Gabriel.

Candidate: You wouldn't have the chance, as you wouldn't be in my district.

* * *

"I do hope I haven't kept you from your bed," said the talkative departing guest. "That's all right," replied his host, "We'd have been getting up soon in any case."

* * *

"Why were you sacked?"

"Well, you know that it's the foreman's job to stand around and watch people work."

"Yes."

"He got jealous. A lot of the chaps thought I was the foreman."

* * *

The lady of the house had called in the plumber as the boiler had suddenly ceased to function. The plumber arrived, and for five minutes did nothing except stand with his ear to the casing, listening intently. Then, drawing a large hammer, he gave the boiler a sharp tap, and told the lady to turn on the hot water tap. She did, and there was the water flowing again.

"That's it mam," said the plumber, "that'll be fifteen bob."

"What," said the lady, "fifteen shillings just for hitting it with a hammer."

"No, lady, that's only sixpence. The rest is for knowing where to hit it."

The driver of the vintage Austin 7 had been forced on to the footpath by a sparkling new Jaguar which had cut in at the traffic lights. As if to prove himself in the right, the Jaguar owner leaned out and glared. At this, the driver of the Austin poked his head out of the side curtains and observed, quite pleasantly, "I say, old boy, don't scratch that thing until you've finished paying the instalments."

* * *

An anonymous tax-payer sent a letter to the Inland Revenue authorities saying that he had not declared his full income three years before, and had not been able to get a good night's sleep since. He enclosed £30 and added, "If I still can't sleep, I will send the balance."

* * *

A little girl wildly excited with her new present of a toy mechanical carpet-sweeper was trying it out in the same room in which her elder sister was using the vacuum-cleaner. All of a sudden, her mother heard a shriek, "Mummy, she's stealing my dust."

* * *

A bridegroom is a man who spends a lot of money on a suit nobody notices.

THIS MONTHS COVER

Semi-Automatic pressing car head-light lenses in the Blown and Pressed Division.