

SMWHC 2015 268  
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**Smethwick Heritage  
Centre Trust**  
Tele 0121 429 1223



## Beware of loose ends!

Loose clothing is potentially very dangerous when operating machines. If your clothes *should* get caught, it will do them no good at all —and there is always a strong probability that you will be wearing them at the time! Tight-fitting overalls are best for certain jobs.

*Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar*

# Chance COMMENTS

*Fiesta*

A GIFT FOR EVERY OCCASION

MAY WE SUGGEST 'FIESTA' GLASSWARE AS AN IDEAL AND INEXPENSIVE GIFT

for

- PUBLICITY GIFTS
- CHRISTMAS
- WEDDINGS
- ANNIVERSARIES
- PRIZES
- BIRTHDAYS
- PRESENTATIONS

SELFRIDGES, OXFORD STREET, ARE MAIN LONDON STOCKISTS. PLEASE ENQUIRE WITHIN FOR STOCKISTS IN YOUR HOME AREA

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 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

### CORRESPONDENTS

<i>Accounts Office</i>	J. ALLEN
<i>Blown and Pressed</i>	
Inspection	F. O'CONNOR
Process	R. TURTON
Making	S. STOCKIN
Warehouse	A. SUTTON
	MRS. A. KEYS
<i>Buying and Stationery</i>	MRS. M. CANTY
<i>Cost Office</i>	MISS J. HEATH
<i>Export</i>	F. TAYLOR
<i>Flat Glass</i>	
Making and Warehouse	R. E. EVANS
Sales	R. PALMER
Seven Storey	A. FARDELL
<i>Laboratory</i>	MRS. W. RUSSELL
<i>Maintenance and Construction</i>	
Boiler Shop	G. ROWE
Building	A. HAND
Carpenters	P. FOSTER
Electricians	E. A. WHITEHOUSE
Garage	H. F. COSNETT
Gas Plant	J. WHEATLEY
Millwrights	W. JOHNSON
Old Hall	MRS. N. O'RIORDAN
Stores	D. R. KIRKWOOD
<i>Mixing</i>	N. GREEN
<i>Optical</i>	MRS. E. HOLLYHEAD
<i>Pyrometry</i>	N. WALKER
<i>Traffic</i>	MRS. K. FELLOWS
<i>Transport</i>	F. G. ANKORN
<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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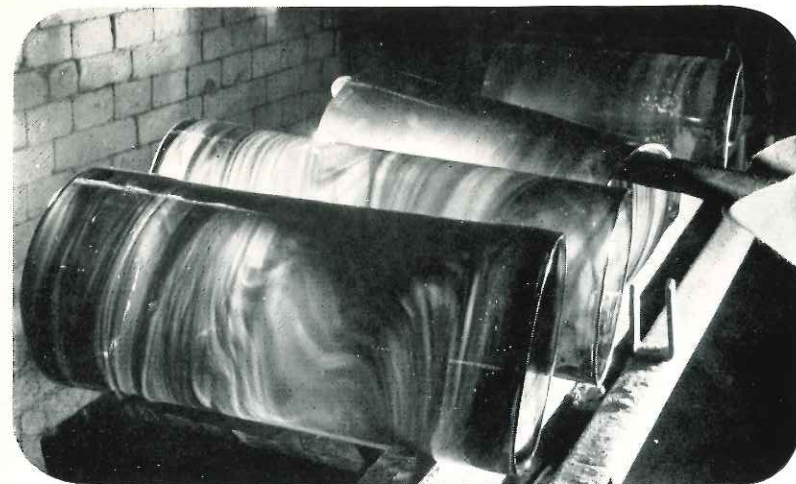
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### THIS MONTH'S COVER

Shop window Fiesta display at our London Office.

VOL. 7, No. 5.

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1954



*Cylinders of Antique Glass.*

## Antique

THE Chances of Birmingham have been concerned with the manufacture of Antique glass since 1793 when William Chance and Edward Homer, hardware merchants of Birmingham, became partners in the glass works at Nailsea, near Bristol. In 1870 Chance Brothers and Company of Smethwick bought these works and four years later the Nailsea works were closed down and some of the employees and much of the plant were transferred to the Smethwick Works.

The Antique glass of those days not only comprised coloured glass of a great variety but also applied decoration by staining, embossing and enamelling. Examples of this work were shown by the firm at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Manufacture was suspended during the last war but revived last year to meet a long-felt demand from American users who prize English "Antique" glass

most highly on account of its rich colouring and variety of tints.

The process of making Antique to-day is much as it was 160 years ago. It is a craft which has produced glass for ornamental windows since mediaeval times and those who make it claim that to-day's glass is not only just as good in texture, but that there is more variety of colour.

Like so many other glass manufacturing jobs, the production of Antique is essentially a team affair. Fred Sadler who is the leading hand to the team of five men, gathers the molten glass and on his skill depends the quality and texture of the "metal." He has John Walsh as pipe warmer, Joseph Bates is the cylinder opener and the blower is Albert Stanley. William Wilkinson is the post gatherer and he also looks after the kilns.

*Page One*

The glass is made by obtaining a gathering of molten glass which is slightly shaped in a mould and mouth blown into a long balloon shape. Then one end is cut with shears to open it,

and the other end tapped off, to make a cylinder. After annealing, the cylinders are split and put into a furnace to flatten with the heat into sheets.

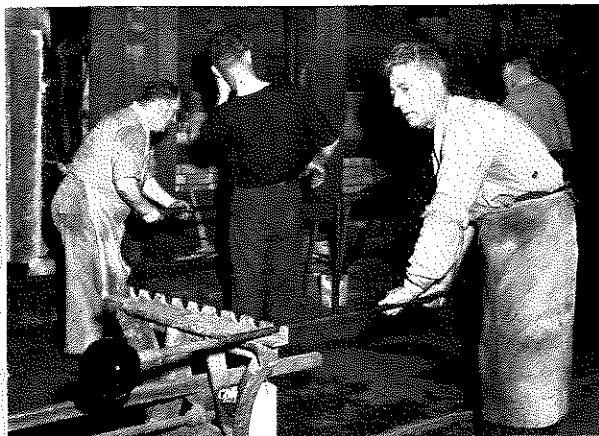
Colour comes from metal oxides mixed with the other ingredients of the glass. For example, copper oxide gives blue-green colours, and manganese oxide reds. Gold is also used for rich effects. For streaky types, where colours are mixed, a small quantity of molten glass is dropped on to, and wound round, the initial gathering of glass.

While the method of manufacture is highly controlled, it can never produce two sheets of glass exactly alike in thickness, texture, colour, and streaky and seedy (bubbly) effects. Thus the user can have infinite variety at his disposal.

To-day, with the accent on colour in interior design, it is thought that there is scope for these beautiful coloured glasses in public buildings, both civic and commercial, shops, hotels and restaurants, ships and in the home as screens and panels.



From top of page. Pictures show: Fred Sadler at work; Albert Stanley (left) and Joe Walsh; and left to right Joe Bates, William Wilkinson and Albert Stanley.

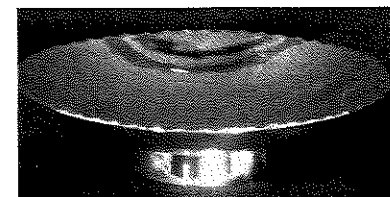


## HOBBIES?

### *Mine is Silversmithing*

writes VERA HICKLING (Work Study)

THE noise is terrific. It seems almost impossible that just a handful of beings could make such a din. Their faces wear the earnest expression of concentration usual with amateurs who are not quite sure of what they are about. A face will light up hopefully at the approach of the instructor, only to be dashed at a remark such as—"You've punished that a bit, haven't you? Look this is the way you want to do it!" And away he'll go, the planisher dances freely and evenly in his expert hand. The silver sheet curves sweetly over the stake, the student's face relaxes and he has another try.



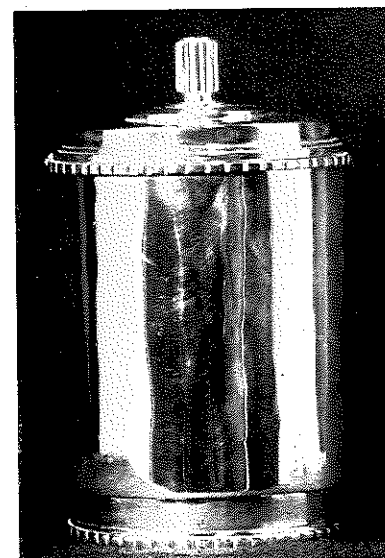
*The First Attempt.*

The School for Jewellers and Silver-smiths in Vittoria Street is a very happy place, full of interest and variety. Day students and apprentices to the trade drift in and out the evening classes.

Their creations are usually attractive and modern, perhaps a little outlandish to the eyes of the more practical and older student, but very refreshing. We are intensely interested in all the work under execution and often very critical, but nobody minds, one can always give as good as one gets.

The variety of work is endless, one student has just finished a silver teapot, another a cigarette box and yet another a silver rose bowl.

The instructors are men well known in the silver world. On view at Birmingham Art Gallery at the present time is a piece of civic plate, a huge fruit bowl designed by the Senior Lecturer of the School. It is very beautiful and was commissioned by Birmingham Corporation to commemorate the Coronation of the Queen.



*The Silver Caddy.*

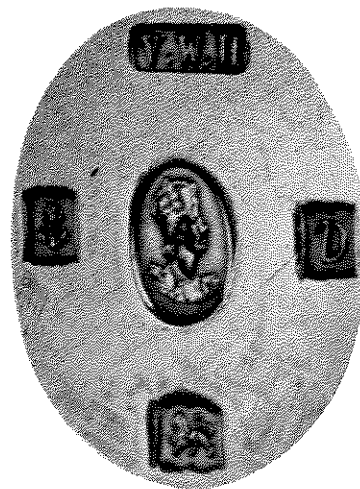
Coronation year was one of great interest to us as the Assay Office issued a special stamp. This is a very infrequent occurrence, the previous one being to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary.

## THE JUBILEE MARK



The Jubilee Mark with the London Mark for 1934-5

When a piece of silver ware is finished it has to be hallmarked. No article or part of an article is marked unless it is first assayed and found to be of the quality of silver required by law.















The Birmingham Hall Mark for Coronation.

Modern hallmarking consists of four punches:—

1. Makers mark
2. Assay Office mark
3. Quality mark (a lion)
4. Date letter which denotes the year.













A piece of ware bearing such a special mark is greatly enhanced in interest and value. There was of course a terrific rush to finish work on hand before the end of Coronation year.

The study of Hallmarking is a hobby in itself which is not surprising since it is known that a Guild of Goldsmiths existed in London in the year 1180 in the reign of Henry II.

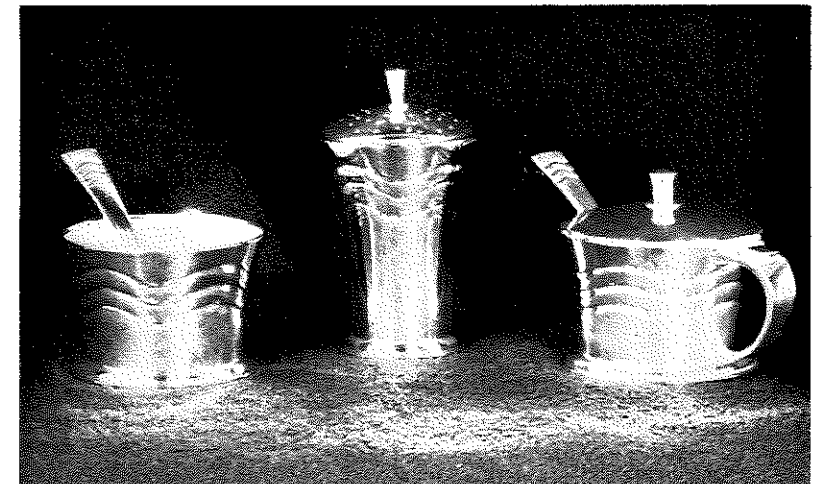
LONDON DATE LETTERS											
											
B 1479 - 0	C 1520 - 1	D 1551 - 2	E 1580 - 1	F 1509 - 0	G 1638 - 9	H 1485 - 6	I 1486 - 9	J 1481 - 2	K 1521 - 2	L 1552 - 3	M 1581 - 2
N 1610 - 1	O 1639 - 0	P 1640 - 1	Q 1641 - 2	R 1642 - 3	S 1643 - 4	T 1644 - 5	U 1645 - 6	V 1646 - 7	W 1647 - 8	X 1648 - 9	Y 1649 - 0

Previous to the year 1773 everything made in Birmingham had to be sent to London to be marked. This was a slow and costly business and largely through the perseverance of Matthew Bolton whose factory was at Soho Hill Handsworth, an Act of Parliament was passed granting Sheffield and Birmingham power to assay and mark silver-ware. As much of the business of the Assay Bill was transacted at the Crown and Anchor in the Strand it is conjectured that this may be the reason for Sheffield adopting the Crown and Birmingham the Anchor for their local marks.

## BIRMINGHAM DATE LETTERS

											
A 1773 - 4	B 1774 - 5	C 1775 - 6	D 1806 - 7	E 1807 - 8	F 1808 - 9	G 1839 - 0	H 1840 - 1	I 1841 - 2	J 1872 - 3	K 1873 - 4	L 1874 - 5
M 1905 - 6	N 1906 - 7	O 1907 - 8	P 1908 - 9	Q 1938 - 9	R 1939 - 0	S 1940 - 1	T 1941 - 2	U 1942 - 3	V 1943 - 4	W 1944 - 5	X 1945 - 6

Did you know that 700 years ago silver pennies were called Sterlings, a term thought to originate from the Easterlings or Hansa Merchants of North Germany who supplied silver from the German mines of a fineness of 925 parts of silver in 1,000. Sterling silver means just that today.



The Silver Condiments Set bearing the Coronation Mark.

One could go on and on about this truly fascinating craft, but now is the time of year to get busy again. I think I will try my hand at a bit of dress jewellery this winter. There are two Wedgwood medallions and a piece of moss agate waiting to be mounted.



# SPORTS AND SOCIAL

## Reports from Chance's Recreation Club

### ANGLING

The Angling Section fished the Annual Contest at Claines, in the River Salwarp, and it was won by L. Richards, Blown and Pressed Division, with nearly 4lbs. of fish. J. Cheetham was second and H. Adderley, Stone-Chance Toolroom, was third.

We were represented by a team in the West Midlands Open Contest, which was fished at Arley, and E. Yardley of the Canteen finished a close second and our team were runners up. This was quite a good show, for one firm had sent nine teams to represent them. H. Adderley and J. Cheetham won their section prizes.

It was decided at the General Meeting that the next Annual Contest will be fished at Abingdon on the Thames.

New members are welcome, for an all out endeavour is being made to make this Angling Section second to none in the Industrial Clubs.

### BADMINTON

By the time these notes are in print the Badminton Section will be in full swing. As many of last season's members have departed to pastures new, there are vacancies for both sexes, for those who have never played before and for those whose experience would also assist the novices.

The playing nights are Mondays and Thursdays and Badminton is certainly a game to keep the men fit and the ladies beautiful. Towards the end of last season we saw some of the "new players" really taking it out of the "old Masters" and we can look forward this season for very keen competition for team places.

Why not come down one evening to watch—you will have a hearty welcome!

### CRICKET

The records of both First and Second XI's for last season in the Business Houses League were quite good. The first team did very well to finish third in Division I, whilst the second team just managed to hold their own in Reserve Division A.

The Batting and Bowling prizes for the First XI were won by M. Tregunna, and for the Second XI J. Francis won the Batting prize and S. Butler the Bowling prize. The prizes were presented at the Section's Annual Social function which was held in the Pavilion on 12th November.

### FOOTBALL

The first team are again off to a good start with maximum points from their first six league matches and also have reached the third round of the cup. Whitehouse with 15, Farnell with 14 and S. Moore with 9 are the leading marksmen in a total of forty-four goals.

The second team are meeting stronger opposition in Division 12, but are holding their own with three wins from five matches in the League and they also are in the third round of their cup. When the team has settled down better results will be forthcoming.

### DANCING

The Autumn Ball held at West Bromwich Baths was a very enjoyable affair, although the numbers were not so high as we should have liked. And now the stage is set for the Annual Gala Ball which will be held at Dudley Town Hall on Friday, 7th January. At this ever popular event Styx Wilkinson and his Orchestra will again ensure perfect dancing and tickets will be on sale through Group Representatives early in December.

The new dance floor in the Pavilion is first class and the regular Wednesday and Saturday dances for members and friends are very happy occasions.

Friday nights are free from regular Recreation Club activities and the Club Committee puts forward the suggestion that Works Departments might consider holding a dance or similar social function in the Pavilion. No charge would be made for the use of the room for such events.

### MUSIC

The Section has, so far, held three Concerts in the Cinema Room.

The Concerts are built around a live performance by an instrumentalist, usually a pianist, and we have been very fortunate in obtaining first class people to play for us. In support of the live pianist, we play gramophone records mostly of orchestral music with some vocal pieces.

There are twenty-five members at the moment and we feel confident that we shall get another fifty.

All Recreation Club members are warmly invited to approach the Section Secretary, Gillian Ward (Personnel Department) who can provide details of subscriptions and future activities.

### NETBALL

The ladies' Net Ball team finished in second place in the West Bromwich League—pretty good! This is a summer activity but already the Section Secretary, Mrs. B. Crimes (Buying Office) is scouting for young people who would like to play this excellent game.

### THE TOP CLUB

The Recreation Rooms over the Canteens offer Club members excellent Billiards and Snooker both at mid-day and each week night. Table Tennis is played at mid-day in the Cinema Room. The Choral Section rehearses here each Tuesday.

Members of the Angling Section at Arley.





# From your COMMITTEE ROOM

## WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

**T**IME off for sporting and social occasions, hot water facilities for tea making, the siting of a new weigh bridge, dates for summer holidays—these were some of the “domestic” matters which were considered at the October meeting of the Works Consultative Committee.

Jack Hill, a representative of the Maintenance and Construction Division, raised the question of time off for special functions. He said “there could be a better understanding” on this matter as many employees felt that some agreement could be reached whereby on certain occasions, such as an evening football match or a departmental social, those who wished to leave, say half an hour before normal finishing time, should be allowed to do so, provided always that production or essential services were not thereby effected. He felt that some re-arrangement of the working day might help to make this possible.

Each member of the Committee was in sympathy with the proposal but it was appreciated that in a works such as ours there were difficulties including, for example, the problem of shift workers, the effect of the release of one or two on a team, the need to cover essential services, and so on. The Committee

resolved to refer the matter to Management for a decision.

The arranging of annual holiday dates for the non-continuous process departments is always most difficult. There are obvious advantages in departing from the Midlands industrial holiday fortnight but this can and does upset some family holiday arrangements and it certainly does effect the Company in regard to the deliveries of orders and maintaining supplies of raw materials. The Management has decided that departmental shut downs may be arranged within the period 23rd July to 21st August, and the Divisional Sub-Committees are to decide which weeks would be acceptable to the majority.

In his monthly review of production, the Chairman, Mr. C. J. S. Newman, reported that the position was most encouraging.

The Optical Division had a very full order book as had Rolled Plate and Fiesta. In the Blown and Pressed Division the emphasis was on the new lay out and installation of machinery for fabrication of Cathode Ray Tubes and Mr. W. E. Barrett gave an interesting account of his recent visit to America in connection with this development.

## SUGGESTIONS SCHEME AWARDS

# £83 awarded since our last issue!

**T**HE competition for the best idea received during October resulted in some excellent suggestions being received and we hope to be able to announce the result in our next issue.

Here are brief reports on ideas that have been adopted since our last issue—not all were entered during the competition period.

There were two awards of £25 5s. 0d., each: E. J. Gardner of the Cathode Section devised a new feed pipe on the polishing auto-flow to prevent splashing and trials proved that this increased production of cathodes.

W. Forber of the Optical Works at St. Helens put forward a complete new operation schedule for making prisms and his plan resulted in a greater yield—and a handsome tax free cheque. We congratulate these two thoughtful people on hitting the Suggestions Scheme Jack Pot.

H. Pleaden, a newcomer to the Millwrights, puzzled out a method of preventing floating weed on the canal from clogging the Pump House filters. He devised a successful way and was awarded £15 5s. 0d.

It is surprising how much avoidable waste goes on in factories; J. Studer of the Crate Yard thought that twine cut from bales of bought in straw should be saved for use on bales that were made up in the Works. An obvious thing to do but we had never saved such material before and the twine bill was high. £2 15s. 0d. for the idea.

£2 5s. 0d., was awarded to H. Ellis of the Boiler Shop who suggested that the front plate of the hopper on the batch feed at Nos. 3 and 4 furnaces be bolted down to effect ease in repairs.

The Malvern Works girls were determined to have a go for the competition prize and so far three of the ideas from these Works have been adopted. M. Masters re-arranged the method of loading work trolleys to increase loadings into the oven and she received £1 2s. 6d. M. Ulett suggested alterations to the foot pedal position on the welding machines to improve conditions of work and for this she was awarded 15s. 0d. She then combined with V. Low in putting forward the suggestion that perforated zinc boxes would be more suitable than wooden boxes for certain processes and they shared £1 2s. 6d.

Other awards during the period under review were:—

		£	s.	d.
G. A. WILLIAMS	M. & C.	1	2	6
J. RICHARDS	Rolled Plate	1	2	6
B. L. ROBERTS	B. & P.	1	2	6
J. BIGGS	Optical	1	2	6
J. JOHNSON	St. Helens	1	2	6
R. BELL	St. Helens	1	2	6
S. KELLY	St. Helens	1	2	6
R. GOODALL	Mixing	15	0	
G. WALSH	St. Helens	10	0	
W. BICK	B. & P.	10	0	

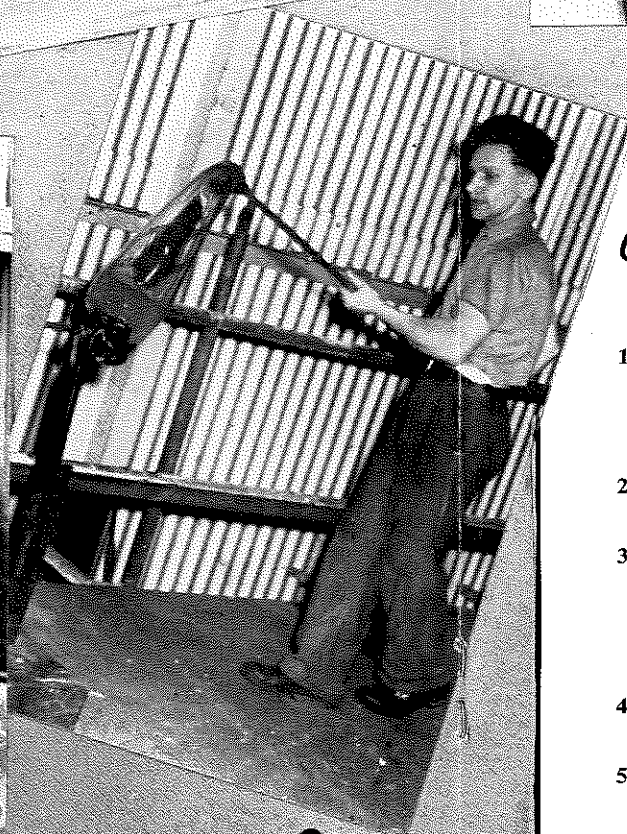
## There's Always a Better Way!



1



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2

## Chance SNAPSHOTS

1. A picture from the past. Smethwick Works (striped shirts) versus Glasgow Works in 1928.
2. William Satchwell, Tube Drawer.
3. Mr. J. Buckley bids farewell to Bill Millington who has retired from the St. Helens (Optical) Works.
4. A member of the Optical Sales Staff in repose.
5. Bill Johnson and Frank Lines at the Old Gate.



4

5



## From all Departments

### MOSTLY PERSONAL

#### BLOWN & PRESSED

It was with profound sorrow that the Division learned of the death of William Jesson on the 15th October after a very short illness. Bill was only fifty-one and had been employed here as a Glass-maker for thirty-six years.

The Pressed Process Shop extends sympathy to Albert Garner who lost his wife so suddenly.

The operatives in the Pressed Process are much impressed with the colour scheme incorporated in the renovations of the department, but hope that none will suffer with colour blindness.

Ernest Forsyth is welcomed back in the Inspection Section.

#### FLAT GLASS

The Rolled Plate department was pleased to welcome Bert Tandy on his recent visit to the Works. Bert retired some months ago and he certainly looks fit and happy.

Bill Bodley has become a daddy to a son.

Sam Jones from the Seven Storey died on the 22nd September. He was a delightful character who had the wonderful record of sixty-two years service. He was aged seventy-six.

George Boswell has retired from work in the Seven Storey.

#### LABORATORY

The Laboratory welcomes as newcomers to the Chance Training Scheme

Pat Wardle, Barbara Grove, Mary Hoole, Bob Steel, Len Baker and Brian Billing, and for more senior work, David Howes.

Ted Thomas has returned to the Laboratory Fitting Shop after his period of National Service. Ivan Molyneux has also returned after five years absence during which time he was at University followed by National Service.

Colin Rigg was successful in obtaining a State Scholarship to enable him to take three years at Sheffield University and Alan Giles and Ken Price have started a full time one year course at Birmingham College of Technology.

#### MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Old Hall staff were sorry to say goodbye to Mary Gould who left to take up employment elsewhere and to Geoff Lavender who has had to start his National Service.

Newcomers who are welcome are Dorothy Wood, a shorthand typist, and John Knight an apprentice Draughtsman.

Sydney Scriven is congratulated on the birth of a daughter and the Old Hall staff wish him happiness in his new position in the Blown and Pressed Division. We also learn with joy that Mrs. Wharton, late of the M. & C. Office has a baby daughter.

The Electricians congratulate Don Parrott on being made a Chargehand

and the Boiler Shop congratulates John Horton on his recent marriage to Miss M. Mascal. The Shops have had news of ex-apprentice Derek Clews who is on National Service in Trans-Jordan, and he sends greetings to old friends.

The Fitters and Millwrights section was sorry to lose Vic Haywood and Ray Payne and hope that they will be happy in their new jobs.

Arthur East is now back as a fully skilled Carpenter on the completion of his National Service. The Carpenters and Box Shop wish Bill Bates a very happy retirement. He left us on the 5th November on attaining the age of sixty-five.

The Works in general and the M. & C. in particular have lost two very dear friends. On the 16th September, James Gilfoyle, Garage Foreman, died very suddenly at the age of sixty-four. Jim had been here for thirty years. Walter Smith from the Millwrights and employed by Rolled Plate, died on the 19th October at the age of 56. We extend our sympathy to the relatives.

#### OFFICES

The Flat Glass Sales Office congratulates Marie Mowen (nee Jones) on giving birth to a son.

We have lost several friends recently, namely Bill Avery, Betty Griffiths, Iris Cottrell, Georgina Schlanker, Doreen Savage and George Neenan—we wish them success in their new positions. Newcomers who are welcomed are Joyce Goreham and Pat Richards.

Bob Fisk recently completed his National Service, but we are sorry that he has decided not to return to the Export Department and we wish him happiness in his new venture.

#### OPTICAL

At the time of going to press, we learn that Mrs. Smallwood is recovering from

an operation and we earnestly hope that she will soon be well again.

Henry Blackhall is still absent as a result of an accident and we hope that he too will soon be back with us.

Congratulations are extended to Jean Bloomer who attained her majority on 18th October.

#### MIXING

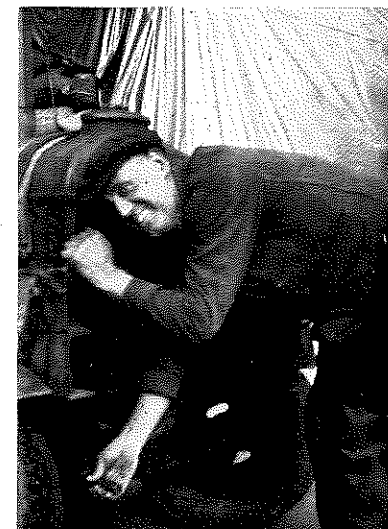
We record with sorrow the sudden death of Arthur Darby on 26th September, at the early age of forty-six. Arthur was the Chargehand of the Mixing Department and first came to Chance Brothers in February 1922. He will be much missed.

#### WORK STUDY

We extend congratulations to Eric Smallwood in obtaining the Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering and to Diana Penn who passed the R.S.A. Intermediate examination in Typing.

\* \* \*

Walter Weston of Transport.





# News

## FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

### ● GLASGOW

The winter social and recreation activities are now in full swing and we offer congratulations to the Table Tennis "A" Team for winning the Shield in the West of Scotland Table Tennis League.

A recent bus-run to the Dutch House Inn, Monkton, followed by a dinner and dance made an enjoyable evening.

Mr. Todd retired at the end of September and our best wishes go with him for a long and happy retirement.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. James Reid on the birth of a daughter, and also to Mr. and Mrs. H. Woods on the birth of a son.

It is with profound regret that we record the sudden death of John Connor of the Mixing Department.

### ● LONDON

The Saturday before the Fiesta Display of business gifts opened on October 11th, saw a great deal of unwonted activity. Usually the office is not fully staffed on a Saturday morning, but a much augmented number was busy washing pieces of glass, pinning velvet and wallpaper for backgrounds, and having long consultations about the best way to show off the various designs.

This display of Fiesta is most attractive and in particular "the window in St. James's Square" gives the passing public a preview of the delights within.

Selfridges, the large London store, are putting on a display simultaneously with ours and we are hoping for a truly "Fiesta" Christmas.

### ● MALVERN

Congratulations to Eileen Walker on her engagement to James Lynch, also

Betty Bannister on the occasion of her wedding and Priscilla Roberts on her forthcoming marriage on the 30th October.

We were sorry to lose Beryl Perks, although she has left for a happy event.

We would like to welcome Winnie Kite back after her long illness also Norman Yapp who we hope will be back with us before the Chance Comments are printed. Norman has been ill for twenty-eight weeks.

Our summer outings were finished by a visit to Blackpool Illuminations on the 25th September, followed by a trip to Leamington Spa Illuminations on 3rd October. We wish to thank Mrs. Sealey for all the hard work she put into making these outings a success.

Plans are now going ahead by the Social Committee for our Annual Dinner and Social evening to be held at the Abbey Hotel on 18th December, 1954.

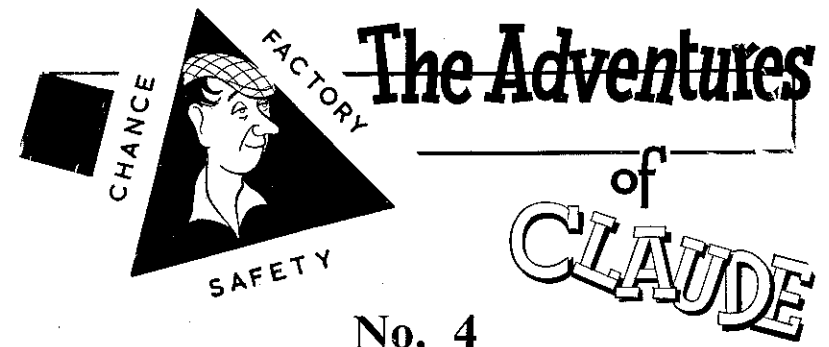
### ● ST. HELENS

The highlight at St. Helens was the visit to the town by Her Majesty the Queen, and the Duke of Edinburgh on 21st October as part of the Royal tour of Lancashire. Most of the works personnel were afforded time off to see the party.

Bill Millington retired towards the end of August. He was one of the most likeable chaps in the Works, quiet and yet always cheerful. He was presented with a wristlet watch and we all wish him many years of happiness in his retirement.

We welcome back Jack Hardman and H. Anders after longish periods of illness.

On the social side, we are looking forward to a Children's Party to be held on 13th November, and plans are well advanced for the Annual Dance which will be held on Friday, 17th December.



I always seem to carry the can. I reckon my gravestone won't say R.I.P. it will say M.U.G.

The other day my Gaffer told me to go into a department—load up some cartons on a trolley which was there and take them down to the Warehouse.

I found the trolley which did not wheel very well so I thought I would do the departmental bloke a good turn and oil it thoroughly.

There were quite a few boxes to be moved, but with a bit of balancing I managed to get them all on the trolley and started on my way down to the Warehouse.

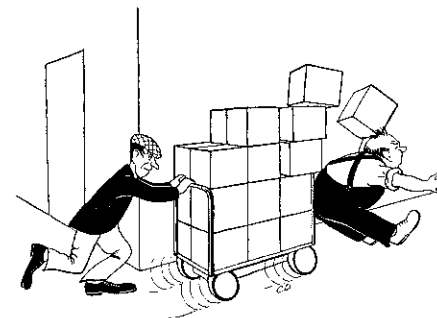
Turning a corner I ran full tilt into that clot Joe and half my 'ord of cartons fell all over him. Mind you, I think it served him right for standing round a corner like that, but he did not seem to agree.

I got to the Warehouse all right and when I got back my Gaffer said the foreman of the shop I had just taken the boxes from wanted me. So back I goes up there.

This bloke didn't half lash into me. He reckoned one of his best workers had slipped in the pool of oil that I had made and broken his arm and that was my fault too. I pointed out that it was his department's responsibility to keep the trucks oiled, but that didn't seem to make any difference.

What a blooming life ! ! ! ! !

(With acknowledgement to Lucas Reflections)



There is a moral to this story—when pushing trucks or carrying boxes, make sure you can see over your load; in any other operation you do, whether pushing a truck or oiling it, always think of the effect of your actions upon other people.

# Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

## PENSION AND SUPERANNUATION FUNDS

**E**RIC Whitehouse of the Electricians' Department was recently appointed a Director of the Chance Pension Fund Ltd., which administers the Works Pension Scheme. The other Directors representing the members are R. E. Ingram, Old Gate, W. Berry, Blown and Pressed and J. Russell, Glasgow.

W. E. Barrett has been appointed a Director of the Chance Superannuation Fund Ltd. The other Directors representing the members are Miss I. Uffen, F. J. White and W. N. Wheat.

\* \* \*

## GETTING FIXED UP

**T**HE Personnel Department often receives very amusing letters from applicants for employment but we have not yet had one to beat the following which was reproduced in the Industrial Welfare Society Magazine:—

*Dear Governor,*

*Just a Few lines, Hoping you are well.  
Could you Fix me up with a Job ?*

*Labouring work.*

*I am a Personal Friend of G.B.S.  
55 year age as strong as steel and as  
Light as moonbeams. Hoping that*

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*They Friends you Have this year you  
will Have Next year and Hope you will  
Get your Hearts Desire.*

*With Kindest Regards,*

*Yours Sincerely.*

\* \* \*

## WHAT IS A SUGGESTION ?

**A** SUGGESTION is a constructive idea that answers "Yes" to any of the following questions:—

### Will it Eliminate ?

- Waste
- Accident Hazards
- Non-essential routines

### Will it Simplify ?

- Operations
- Layouts
- Methods

### Will it Improve ?

- Service to customers
- Working conditions
- Sales

### Will it Establish a New Practice ?

- That is better
- That is safer
- That is more efficient

## Will it provide a Solution ?

- That is understandable
- That is practicable
- That is timely

\* \* \*

## GARDEN IN SPON LANE

**D**URING the past summer and early autumn, those employees who use the New Gate have been charmed with the beauty of the flowers in the Hostel garden and on the war memorial. The voluntary task of making such a delightful display was undertaken by Ernie Bullen, Foreman of the Crate Yard, and Joe Studer, also of the Crate Yard.

Joe Studer came to us soon after the end of the war as a member of the Polish Resettlement Corps. Prior to the last war he was a professional gardener in Poland. His wife and daughter are in Prague and his son is a Dental Surgeon for the American Army.

\* \* \*

## WELFARE REMINDERS

**F**OR the benefit of newcomers to the firm, here are brief reminders of some of the welfare services:—

**Chiropody**—A visiting Chiropodist visits the Works early each Tuesday evening. Appointments must be made through the Medical Centre.

**Safety Shoes**—Industrial Safety Shoes may be purchased from the Company. Men's shoes are sold by the General Stores and Women's by the Personnel Department.

**Savings**—You can authorise the Wages Office to deduct a regular amount

from your wages every week for holidays.

**Canteen Meals for Juniors**—Boys and girls aged under sixteen may obtain a full mid-day meal from the Canteen at the reduced price of 6d. Books of tickets are obtainable from the Personnel Department.

\* \* \*

## THE VIRTUES OF A NURSE

**T**HIS notice is displayed in the Staff Room in the Works Medical Centre:

*"The qualities needed by a nurse are:—  
The curiosity of a cat, tenacity of a bull dog, determination of a taxi driver, patience of a self sacrificing wife, enthusiasm of a jitterbug, good humour of an idiot, assurance of a college student and the energy of a debt collector."*

*J. Studer (left) and E. Bullen, plan a floral display.*





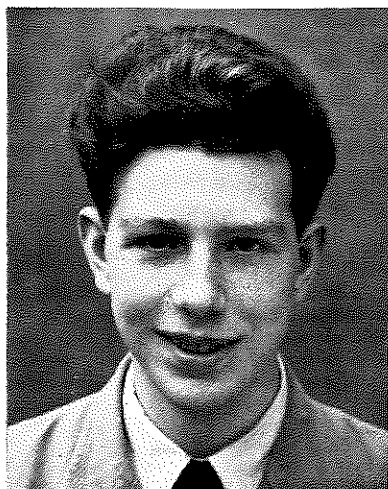
# THE YOUNGER GENERATION

## BRENDA CRAWFORD

**B**RENDA was sixteen on 19th June, and has worked in the Optical Department Despatch Office since July of last year.



*Brenda Crawford.*



*Clifford Dangerfield.*

Her main interests at school were domestic science and music. She did not like many of the other subjects although, she says, she "coped." Sporting life of the school mainly comprised netball and hockey, and although Brenda played for her form teams, she never developed any keenness for either game.

In the sphere of music, Brenda has been a member of the Smethwick Girls' Choir for many years. Her most memorable occasion was a Christmas Concert which the Girls' Choir gave in conjunction with the Smethwick Men's Choir. The Concert was held at Holly Lodge Grammar School and Isobel Bailey sang as soloist.

Nowadays Brenda is studying to qualify as a shorthand typist and attends the Chance Technical College on one half day per week.

In her spare time she occasionally cycles to a relative's caravan at Bewdley and sometimes goes to a dance with her cousin and best friend, Hilary Hooper, who works in the Drawing Office of Stone-Chance Limited.

## CLIFFORD DANGERFIELD

**C**LIFFORD will be nineteen on 29th October. He is training as an Electrical Engineer and currently works in the Pyrometry Department.

He successfully took the second year of the Ordinary National Certificate in June and hopes eventually to specialise in electrical instruments.

Cliff was born in West Bromwich and attended the West Bromwich Grammar School until he was sixteen, when he took Ordinary Level General Certificate of Education in six subjects. His likes at school were woodwork and science, and he had a very definite dislike of French.

On the sporting side he played inside right for the Grammar School First XI at soccer and he now plays at centre half for Chance Brothers Second XI.

Cliff's father is a foreman at a structural steel works and up to last season he was a prominent official of the West Bromwich and District Football League.

Together with Mom, whom we regret has lately been ill, his brother aged four and sister aged fourteen, Clifford has a more varied and interesting home life than many.

## PAT WARDLE

**P**AT is seventeen years old and now works in the Physics Laboratory. She has lived at Dudley Wood all her life. She attended the local Dudley Wood Primary School until she was eleven and then went to Dudley Girls' High School. She left that school last July, after studying there for five years.

Although her chief interests at school were mathematics and science, she always enjoyed the art lessons, especially wood carving which she still does in her spare time.

Pat also enjoys dressmaking, and sometimes designs her own patterns. Another favourite pastime is reading. She likes to watch cricket, hockey and tennis, but admits she is not a sports-woman herself.

She enjoys old time dancing, and watching television, "Science Review" and similar programmes being her favourites.

## KEN FLETCHER

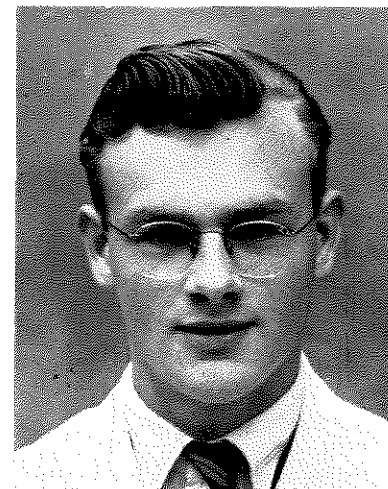
**K**EN Fletcher will be twenty on 20th January next year, and has worked in the Laboratory since September 1951.

He attended Holly Lodge Grammar School where his interests were, apart from studies, boxing, cricket, football and chess. He represented the school in each of these sports and was Captain of the chess team.

Ken at the moment is studying for the Graduateship of the Royal Institute of



*Pat Wardle.*



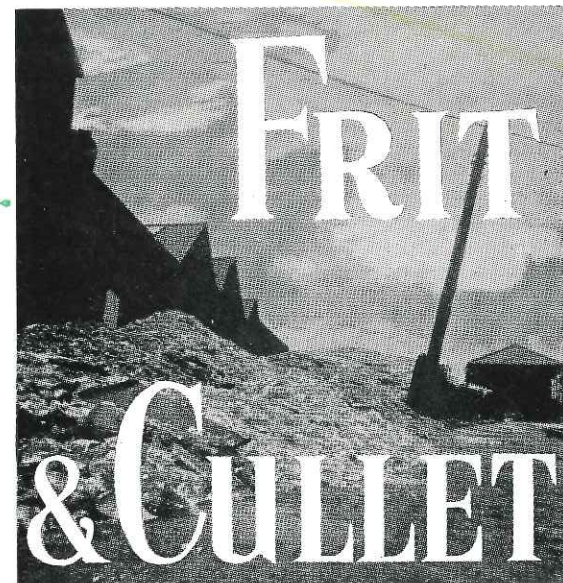
*Ken Fletcher.*

Chemistry, but he still maintains an interest in sport, playing cricket for West Bromwich Dartmouth, also tennis and table tennis. He has developed an interest for amateur dramatics and took part in the Holly Lodge Old Boys' latest play. He also likes classical music his favourite composers being Handel and Mozart.

# CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



THE girls at the Malvern branch of the Optical and Special Glass Division selected Hazel Hoper for this month's Gallery. Hazel is an expert Lamp Worker who first joined Chance Brothers in the very early days of the setting up of the Malvern Works. Her husband is in the Forces, stationed on Cyprus, and Hazel hopes to join him before Christmas—when she does go she will be much missed.



A girl had recently commenced work in a newspaper office. She was surprised when, on her first morning, a man walked up to her, tapped her on the head, and went out.

The same thing happened on her second day, so she decided to catch him before he did it again.

The man walked into the office on the following morning and, before he had reached her the girl said, "And who do you think you are?"

"Oh," said the man, "I'm the Editor."

American (showing an Englishman a statue of George Washington), "That is a monument to a man through whose lips a lie never passed."

Englishman, "You're right of course, all Americans speak through their noses."

A rector in giving out the notices for the week in a church which had two fonts said, "On Sunday afternoon babies will be christened at both ends."

## Supply and Demand

He wanted a wife badly so thought he would advertise for one.

He had twelve replies—all from men saying he could have theirs.

Inquisitive Willie: "What did prehistoric men look like?"

Mother: "I can't remember—ask your father."

Millie "Given two wishes what would you have?"

Gertie "Firstly a husband."

Millie "And secondly?"

Gertie "I'd wait and see what the first one was like."

A bookmaker had been sentenced to death and had arranged to leave his Clerk all his money. On the morning of the execution the Clerk was standing outside the prison when a racing friend asked for the loan of £5. The Clerk looked at his watch which was then at three minutes to eight and said to his pal, "You're a bit swift. Can't you wait till the all right's gone up?"