

2015 276
This is the property of
**Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust**
Tele 0121 429 1223

BOOK THESE DATES

The Recreation Club Annual

G A L A B A L L

and Chance Brothers Finals of the

THE GLASS QUEEN COMPETITION

will be held at

T.I. BALLROOM, OLDBURY

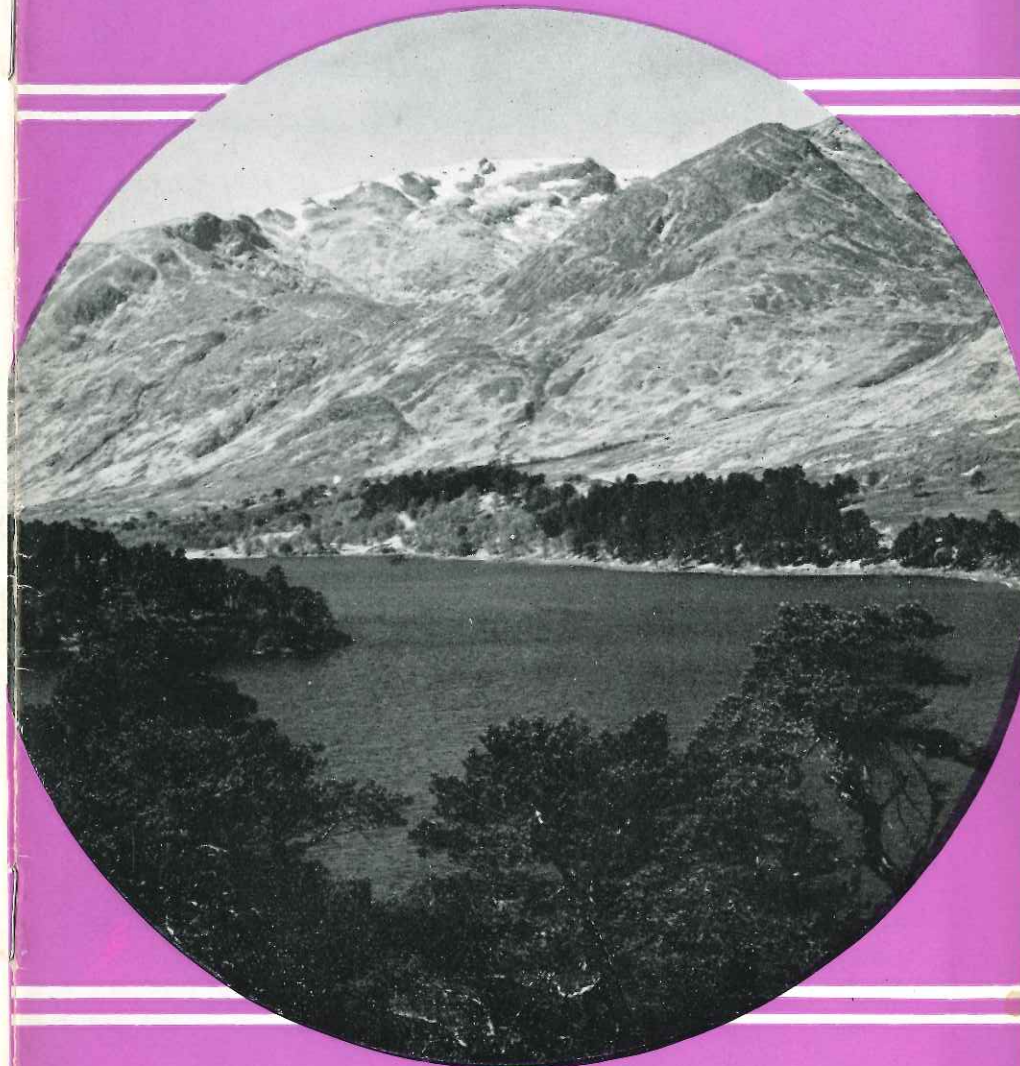
on

FRIDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1961

In the meantime, Chance Brothers employees
and their guests may enjoy dancing in the
Recreation Club Pavilion and the programme
details appear on page 13

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

Chance COMMENTS



OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 1960

3^D

Chance

COMMENTS

The MAGAZINE of Chance Brothers Limited, published in alternate months for the interest, entertainment and information of all employees of the firm.

Contents

EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Blown and Pressed

Inspection F. O'CONNOR
Pressed Process
Cathodes A. SUTTON
Vello O. McKENNA
Warehouses G. GRIGG

Flat Glass

Fiesta MRS. GILGESS
Rolled Plate and
Coloured R. E. EVANS
Rolled Plate
Warehouse MISS W. WALKER
Seven Storey A. FARDELL

Laboratory MRS. W. RUSSELL

Maintenance and Construction

Boiler Shop R. TIMMINS
Electricians R. TURLEY
Fitters L. BRADLEY
Drawing Office
and Offices MRS. N. O'RiODAN
Vehicle Repairs H. COSNETT

Optical MISS. C. MOORE

Offices

Accounts MISS J. TAYLOR
Sales A. COWLES
Typing MISS M. VICKERS
Buying and
Stationery
Wages A. E. CARTWRIGHT
Stores D. R. KIRKWOOD
Old Hall MISS V. HICKLING

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow H. MACLEOD
London J. C. PERKINS
Malvern MISS D. CLARE

OPERATION RECREATION CLUB	...	1
GOODBYE OLD FAITHFUL	...	4
SUPERVISORY PROMOTIONS	...	6
PETS ARE BIG BUSINESS	...	7
CHANCE SNAPSHOTS	...	8—9
NEWS FROM ALL DEPARTMENTS	...	10
JOTTINGS	...	12
LONG SERVICE AWARDS	...	14
IT'S A WOMAN'S WORLD	...	15
SUGGESTION SCHEME	...	16
AN IDEAS COMPETITION	Inside back cover	

THIS MONTH'S COVER

A prize of five shillings will be awarded to the sender of the first correct identification of this month's cover picture.

In the last issue, the picture was taken on the Church Steps, Minehead. (*Travel Association photograph*).

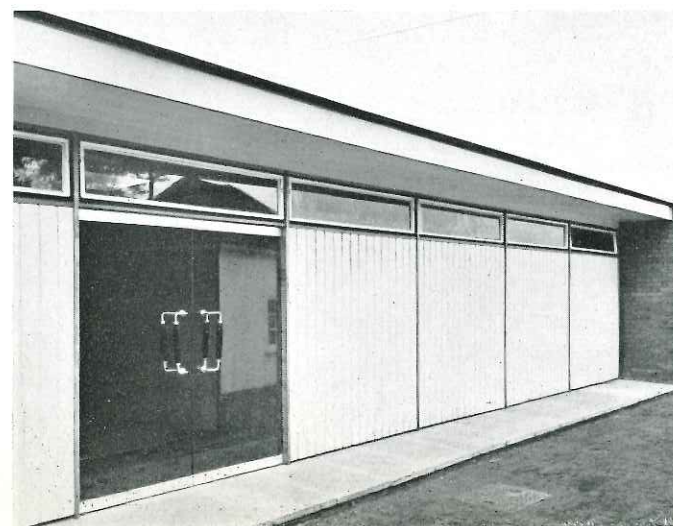


OPERATION RECREATION CLUB

THE Architects, Clifford Tee and Gale take readers on a conducted tour of the new additions to the Recreation Club Pavilion.

The new entrance is on the side of the old pavilion, and one enters through a pair of "Armourplate" doors. You will notice throughout the new section that we have aimed to display the group products to their best advantage. The side walls of the entrance hall are sycamore panelled; the floor being covered with sheet linoleum. The fluorescent lighting is concealed behind panels of ribbed glass set flush into the ceiling. Double doors at the other end give access to the Main Hall, which has been re-painted and the floor sanded down to give a good surface for dancing. Doors on either side of the entrance

hall give access to the toilets and changing room areas which will be used as cloakrooms when a function is being held in the Main Hall. The toilets have been moved into the new brick structure, so that we were able to use more hygienic finishes. The wash rooms have been fitted with showers, four in the men's section and two for



VOL. 14, No. 4

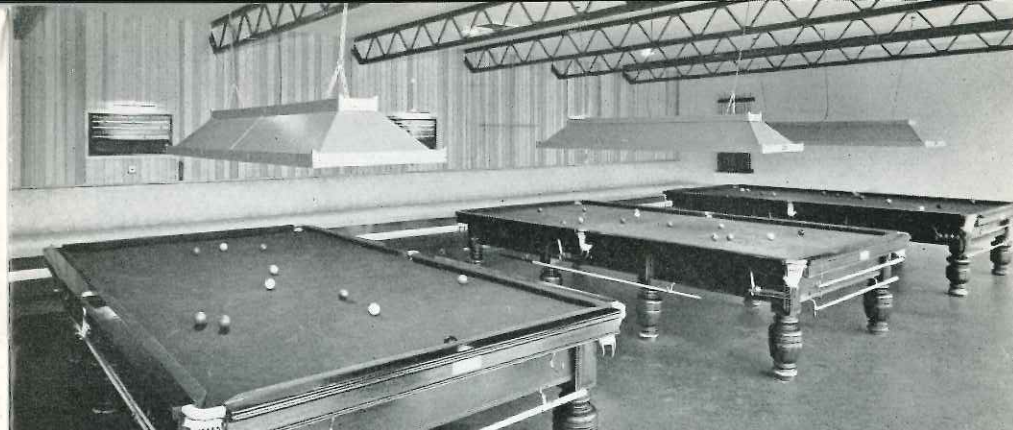
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1960



the women. The walls behind these have been tiled and the floors covered with terrazzo. Wherever possible pipe-work has been hidden from view, extra daylighting has been supplied by glass domelights. The changing rooms are positioned in the old building two for the men and one for the women. The corridor ceiling connecting the old and the new is at a lower level, this is due to structural difficulties at the junction. The sportsmen have a separate entrance from the playing field side. The terrace lengthened and provided with more imposing steps down to the playing field, leads to Lounge and Billiard Room entrance.

The new lounge is the men's old changing rooms and you will notice again the use of concealed ceiling lighting, with wall lights giving patches of extra brightness. The room has been decorated with restraint so as to focus attention onto the new bar which is shared by the Old Club Room. The bar counter top is white formica with three specially made blue china pull handles on each counter, the front being faced with sycamore.

The glass shelving at the back supports a large variety of interesting bottles of all shapes and sizes, and these are reflected in the peach tinted mirror set behind them. The ceiling is painted



boarding with inset spot lights. A cellar has been provided for the proper storage of beer.

The Billiard Room contains three tables spaced out to meet the highest standards of play. The floor is matt and dark so as not to distract from the lighting over the tables. One wall of the Billard Room is glazed with "Insulight" double glazing so that the field can be viewed from inside, there are also curtains so that the room can be darkened during the day to give the best conditions for playing billiards. The opposite wall, on which are mounted the scoreboards, is faced with strips of Parana Pine, below this is a continuous Vynide covered seat. The

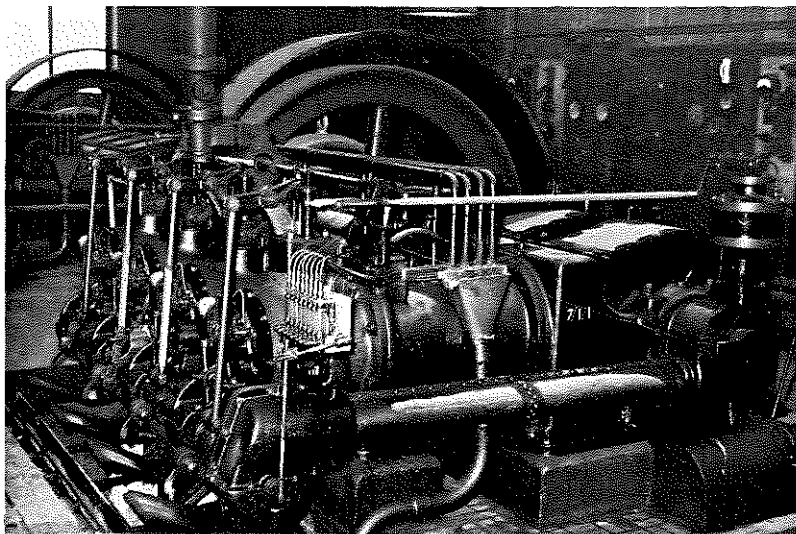
heating in the Billiard Room is by underfloor electric heating.

People in the lounge are able to watch the billiards in progress through the glazed screen dividing the two rooms.

Any building work is a team operation, and we should like to thank Mr. J. R. Cheetham, Mr. A. Ogden and Mr. W. H. Green who, on behalf of the clients, gave helpful advice at the planning stage and afterwards, and also L. Dainty Ltd., for the high standard of building which they have achieved.

We wish the recreation club committee every success with their future activities.





● Gas Engine

Goodbye Old Faithful

by J. R. CHEETHAM

READERS will already be aware that the electric current used in their homes is alternating current but it may not be so widely known that in the Smethwick Factory we use a considerable amount of direct current. It is about the generation of the latter that this article is written.

Over the last thirty years the D.C. electricity has been produced by two Gas Engine driven generators located in the E.P.P. house which is adjacent to the present railway sidings and loading bay.

The gas used for operating the engines was initially supplied by a clean producer gas plant located on the site now used as a steel stocking area by our Boiler Shop, and afterwards by a new gas plant built in 1947 sited between the Plain and No. 8 and 9 Furnace Buildings.

As an engineer I can't resist giving a few technical details of the gas engines shown in the photograph. They were manufactured by Crossley Brothers Limited of Manchester in 1929 and were of the four cylinder side-by-side horizontal type with cylinders each of

of 250 revs per minute and was direct coupled to a 230 volts generator.

Although in the past one could see some very spectacular glass blowing on the works, to me this was never quite as fascinating as watching the rhythmic rise and fall of the polished steel rocker arms and the opening and closing of the inlet and exhaust valves of the gas engines.

The engines were kept spotlessly clean as was also the red tiled floor of the power house and reflected the care and attention given to them by the drivers and maintenance personnel. In the

To him, the engines were a couple of busy old ladies, but he cared for them and treated them more like princesses.

One very curious point is that the peculiar action of the exhaust valve arms and rollers always made one think of four hens in a row, pecking.

During an air raid in 1940 bombs were dropped quite near to the power house in fact just by the adjacent railway line, but the engines were not damaged and continued to chug away regardless. The engines seemed to be symbolic of our spirit in those days, determined to carry on in spite of everything.

As the years went by, it became obvious that the engines were nearing the end of their economic life and as the manufacturers indicated that certain of the metal parts were showing signs of fatigue it was decided in 1957 that the engines should be shut down in 1960 and other means found for providing the D.C. electricity required in the works.

Much thought was given to the type of plant to replace the gas engines and it was finally agreed to install one of the latest and most efficient pieces of equipment namely a Germanium Rectifier. This unit is supplied with alternating current from the local supply and produces direct current at 230 volts for

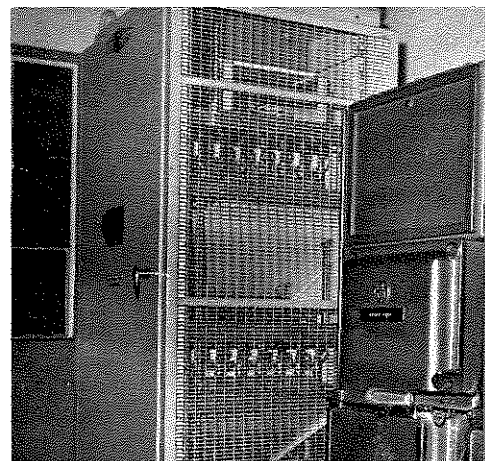
use in the works. The voltage is accurately controlled to within plus or minus 1 per cent of nominal.

The photograph shows the new rectifier which only occupies an area of 9 square feet compared with an area of almost 2,000 square feet taken by the old gas engines.

The new unit which is located in our No. 1 Sub-station makes no sound and has no moving parts, is fully automatic and therefore requires no one to watch over it as was necessary in the case of the engines.

One advantage of the gas engine set up for providing direct current was that it was independent of the outside power supply and was therefore free from interruptions. To compensate for outside power failures affecting the D.C. power supplied by the rectifier a diesel engine driven generator has been installed. This unit which is fully automatic and takes over the full D.C. load of the works within a few seconds of the A.C. Mains failing, is located in the old E.P.P.

During the last few months we have said goodbye to the grand old engines which gave such faithful service and also to the clean producer gas plant associated with them and we have accepted the quiet efficiency of the new automatic D.C. equipment.



SUPERVISORY PROMOTIONS

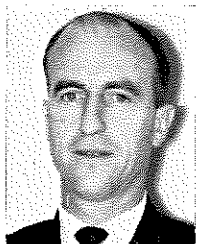
Harry Price

Harry Price has been promoted as Foreman of the Fitters in the Blown and Pressed Vello plant. Since he joined Chance Brothers in January 1953, Harry has been a Fitter in the Vello plant. It was in 1953 when the plant came to Spon Lane from the Glasgow Works, and Harry was one of the M. and C. personnel who had the task of installing it. Having already installed it, he had the responsibility of ensuring that it remained in operation. Those who follow the reports of the Suggestion Scheme will have noticed that he has successfully submitted a number of ideas concerning the Vello plant.

Harry is a keen supporter of the Recreation Club and is the current secretary of the Snooker Section. Next year, he hopes to re-create the formation of an Archery Section.

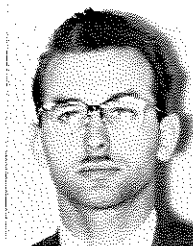


● Harry Price



● George Mitchell

● Edward Preece



● Ann Cammies



George C. Mitchell

George Mitchell of the Malvern Works has been promoted to Shift Foreman. He started at the Malvern works as a Machine Setter in 1953.

George was born in Plymouth and like all true men from Devon, the sea was his love in his early days. At the age of sixteen he enlisted in the Royal Marines and did service in H.M. ships and the Royal Marine Commandoes in Malaya.

Edward F. Preece

Edward Preece has also been promoted to Shift Foreman at Malvern works. He joined Chance Brothers as a Machine Setter in 1958. Prior to that he was a Motor Mechanic with a particular love and aptitude for working on racing cars.

During the war he gave five years service in the Royal Air Force.

Ann Cammies

Ann Cammies of Fiesta has been promoted to Forewoman in the Fiesta Warehouse.

She came to Chance Brothers straight from school in August 1932 and spent twenty-one years working in the Globe Warehouse. She was transferred to the Fiesta Warehouse in 1953.

Pets are Big Business

JOE Hinton breeds canaries, Fred Evitts keeps pigeons, Ken Hill trains alsations, Ernest Hill has his spaniel, Mr. Newman has a corgi, Dr. Bastick has a cat—this is just a mention of a sprinkling of Chance Brothers employees who have pets. It is estimated that one British family in four keeps a cage-bird. One in five have a cat, and a slightly smaller proportion, a dog.

The British have the reputation of being a nation of animal lovers. Today it seems to be more justified than ever, and pets have become big business. Indeed, feeding them has taken on the proportions of a major industry. With expenditure on foods, baskets, cages, collars, shampoos, medicines and pick-me-ups totalling over £50 million per year this is not surprising.

This figure may sound fantastic until we start to break it down. With horse-flesh or cow-meat selling at 2s. per pound or more, plenty of people spend 15s. a week on feeding a cat or dog. A big dog like an alsation or bull-terrier can put away 30s. worth of meat a week without any trouble at all. Other people prefer to use de-hydrated meat or the ready prepared, guaranteed pure, balanced rations out of tins. Nowadays these are not only sold in pet shops and corn stores; grocers and fruiterers stock them as well. At 74d. per tin upwards they are a good selling line in the supermarkets and self-service stores. More than one housewife has told sales investigators that her children "adored" —, mentioning a wellknown brand of canned cat food. The fact that the pet food manufacturers spent £500,000 last year on television advertising alone is a pointer to the size of this growing industry.

The dog-biscuit manufacturers are also doing good business. No longer are these biscuits mixtures of horse-meat and condemned cereals; they are as pure as those sold to humans, their components being worked out in the laboratory to ensure a balanced intake of protein and so on. Thereby hangs a tale. A little while ago the War Office had a large surplus of "issue" Army biscuits which it wished to dispose of, and a Member of Parliament, trying to be helpful, suggested that they should be sold to the dog biscuit manufacturers.

This brought forth an indignant protest from their spokesman who pointed out that they would not dream of putting anything so impure as Army biscuits into their products.

Cage birds, especially budgerigars, are more popular than ever. "Budgies" are the only animal allowed in some hospitals; to quote an official circular "their presence is of therapeutic value." The keeping of racing pigeons has held its own over the years; a racing pigeon is not only a highly intelligent bird, but quite expensive to keep, not forgetting the annual expenditure on its railway fares. Expenditure on "budgies" food is estimated at £4,000,000 as compared with £40 millions for cat and dog foods.

What of the other £6 millions of the estimated total of £50 millions? It includes spending on pet fish, fish food and fish tanks, including electricity to keep them warm. Then there are hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, tortoises, mice, snakes, lizards and monkeys; all to be fed, housed and sometimes dosed. A sign of the times is the number of multiple chemists who have now a special veterinary counter.

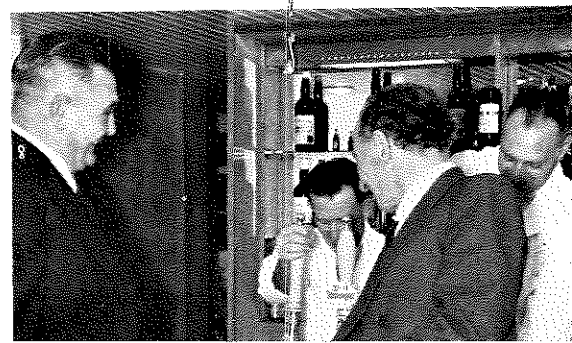
To complete the spending total there are dog and cat baskets, leads and collars, some of them very fancy and expensive, with brilliants set into highly coloured leather or plastic. Considerable sums of money are also spent on dog shampoos, and with experts in clipping the popular poodle. A clip for a poodle costs as much as a "hair-do" for its mistress.

This "dolling-up" of dogs can be carried too far. In London's Chelsea there is a dog-owner with pink hair. Her poodle, an obviously miserable and self-conscious dog, is dyed to match it.

continued on page 16 foot ►

CHANCE SNAPSHOTS

The Editor went snappy happy at the various events to mark the completion of the Recreation Club extensions.





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Blown and Pressed

Congratulations to Michael Kenny of Lead Glass Process on his marriage to Valerie Partridge of M. and C. on September 3rd and to Janet Eaglestone, also of Lead Glass Process on her engagement to Trevor Harvey of M. and C.

No. 8 tank is at present under repair and prior to the start of this operation, stocks of fluorescent tubing were built up to meet customers' requirements. Geoff Grigg estimates that if the stocked tubes were put end to end, they would reach a distance of 4,150 miles.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of Arthur Boden on 24th September. Arthur was aged forty-five and had been in our employ since 1932. Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Boden who is employed in C.P.O.W.

Flat Glass

The Division congratulates Les Bullock on his appointment to the position of Assistant to the Manager of the Glasgow Works. We shall miss him at Spon Lane but know that he will be happy at Glasgow which is his wife's home town.

Plans are well advanced for the Division's children's Christmas parties which will be held in the Pavilion on November 26th and December 3rd. A dance to help raise funds for the parties

will be held in the Pavilion on October 29th.

Leslie Collett and Christoval Billings each became a proud father of a son recently.

Glasgow Works

The Recreation Club looks forward to commencing its winter activities at the end of September. Even at this early date, preparations are under way for the Christmas Party for employees' children.

The office staff welcome Annetta Watson, Annie Stewart, Margaret Baker and Helen Lockie and hope they will be happy at Firhill. A welcome is also extended to William Bell who comes to us as a replacement for Bill Masson. We are all sorry to lose Bill, but wish him well in his new position. Our best wishes also go to Marina McRoberts who leaves us to take up a situation elsewhere.

The Warehouse staff extend a welcome to the following who have recently joined: William Halliday, George McCracken, John Robertson, Christopher Wallace, James Loudon, William Cantlie, George Murray, Alex Reid, William Hardy.

We extend our sincere sympathy to John and Tony McCusker on the recent death of their father.

London Office

We are very pleased to say that Gillian Birch was married on Saturday,

17th September, at St. Mary's Church, Gravesend, Kent. All being well, and household chores and British Railways permitting, Jill will continue her work with us when she returns as Mrs. Gay.

Laboratory

Christine Garrington is welcomed to the staff of the Laboratory. Congratulations are extended to Norman Hart and Gerry Lane on the attainment of their twenty-first birthdays.

The Laboratory football team are now the proud holders of the Sir Hugh Chance inter-department football cup.

Malvern Works

May we take this opportunity of wishing Dr. Hampton a long and happy retirement. Congratulations to Joan Clay and Bill Winterford on their engagement, also to Mary Ireson on celebrating her twenty-first birthday. Dorothy Evans has left the works and is now married, we wish her every happiness. Plans are now going ahead for our annual dinner and social evening and the Abbey Hotel is again the choice.

Maintenance and Construction

We welcome the following newcomers, Dennis James and Bob Roberts, Drawing Office, Miss Terrett, General Office and Mr. H. Spencer, Assistant Plant Engineer. On the debit side we have lost Bill Bedford from the Drawing Office and hope that he will be happy in his new job. It is with sadness that we report that John Horton died on 16th

● Presentation to Mr. J. C. Richards



September as a result of a works accident he sustained in July 1959. During the long period between the date of the accident and his death, John was very ill and the thoughts of everybody at Spon Lane were for him. Employees were generous in providing some financial help for Mrs. Horton and her children and Mrs. Horton asked the Editor to make her deep appreciation known through the medium of the magazine.

Optical (C.P.O.W.)

Much movement of personnel is taking place consequent on the removal of the plant to St. Asaph in the near future, but things appear to be going well for those concerned.



William Durham

William Durham has retired after twenty-nine years service and we wish him a happy well earned rest and hope that his health will improve.

Offices

Judith Bradley is welcomed as a newcomer to the Cost Office. We are sorry that Harold Fisher of the Buying Office and David Foster of Cost Office have left our ranks, but wish them well in their new appointments.

The Printing Department congratulates Vera Bird on her recent engagement.

In our previous issue, we made mention of Mr. J. C. Richards' return to St. Helens. On the eve of his departure from Spon Lane, he was presented with a travelling clock by members of the staff and we publish a picture of Mr. L. G. Hinton making the presentation.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

APPRENTICE FELLOWSHIP

One of the recent activities of the Chance Apprentice Fellowship was a lecture course on Literature and Music.

The course lasted approximately eight weeks, six weeks being devoted to Literature and two to music.

The Literature course was taken by Miss E. Taylor, B.A., South Staffordshire Organiser of the Workers' Educational Association. Various plays and novels were read and discussed, amongst them being *Roots*, by Arnold Wesker, *Look Back in Anger*, by John Osborne and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, (author of the controversial novel "1984.")

On the whole, the plays and novels tried to show, (and did show very well) various aspects of life and social behaviour. Not everyone agreed on some of the points and ideas put forward, and there were many arguments (which became rather heated at times) but all this added to the interest.

Sometimes, members of the group were asked to read various character parts in the plays, and extracts from the plays were taken, this proved very successful, and besides being interesting, was very amusing at times.

The music course was taken by Mr. Edis Knight who contracted a usually thirty week course down to two weeks, most successfully.

All types of music were studied, played, and discussed from classical down to rock and roll (some people perhaps would prefer this statement the other way round).

These lectures are to be continued during the Autumn (if there is enough support) and if you can spare one and a half hours one night a week, we are sure you will find something to your taste. Mr. O'Leary will furnish anyone who is interested with details.

DRIVER TOM ALLARD DOES IT AGAIN!

Driver Tom Allard of the Traffic Department who earlier this year won his class in the Birmingham Area Competition of the "Lorry Driver of the Year" put up another splendid performance in beating the other thirteen finalists in his class, in the National finals of the competition held at Fort Dunlop on Sunday, September 18th.

This was really a magnificent achievement since the finalists were amongst the finest drivers in the country, all having won their respective classes in the hotly contested competitions held throughout the country.

On 18th September, a total of 138 drivers in eleven classes had to complete four driving tests and then the eleven class winners, including Driver Allard had to repeat the four tests, this time all driving a ten ton lorry.

The overall winner was Mr. Albert Haywood of Eastwood Road, Edgbaston whose brother won the contest in 1958 and then went on to win the international contest in Paris. This was the year when our own driver, Syd Beddall did so well.

Driver Allard is pictured below with a cheque and three trophies presented by Lord Chesham, joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport.



● Traffic Manager Mr. W. A. Standley with Harry Garrett and Jack Lightfoot take delivery of a new works car.

WHAT'S ON AT THE RECREATION CLUB

Dances

Saturday, October 29th—Flat Glass Division

Friday, November 4th—Blown and Pressed Division

Saturday, November 5th—Club Dance

Saturday, November 12th—No. 10 Group

Friday, November 18th—M. and C. Division

Saturday, November 26th—Badminton Section.

Friday, December 2nd—Blown and Pressed Division

Children's Parties

Saturday, November 26th—Flat Glass Division

Saturday, December 3rd—Flat Glass Division

Saturday, December 10th—Blown and Pressed Division

Dinners

Friday, December 10th—No. 10 Group.

Concert

Friday, October 18th—"An Evening with Chopin," Cecil Austin with his grand piano.

Football

Saturday, November 5th—versus Round Oak

Saturday, November 19th—versus Metro Old Park

Saturday, December 10th—versus Weldall

Dominoes

Monday, 31st October—versus Ivy Bush
Monday, 14th November—versus Labour Club

FIVE SHILLINGS OFF

To encourage all employees to wear safety boots or shoes, the Company grants a subsidy of 5s. 0d. per pair with a limit of two pairs for each employee in each year ending April. Men's footwear is stocked in the General Stores and women's in the Personnel Department. Safety shoes look smart, wear well and protect against toe injuries.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Right: Tom Millward, Building,
Twenty-five years, 29th July, (cash).

Below: Fred Hassell, Carpenters, Twenty-
five years, 10th August, (cash).



Below: William Martin, Building, Forty-five
years, 16th August, (watch).



Left: Doris Hill, Seven Storey, Forty-five
years, 19th August, (watch).



Below: Alex Dawson, Drawing Office,
Twenty-five years, 9th September, (watch).



Left: Jim Keir,
Glasgow, Twenty-
five years, 1st Sept-
ember, (cash).



Below: Ben Jones,
Rolled Plate, Forty-five
years, 15th September,
(watch) and Ted
Smith, Blown and
Pressed, Twenty-
five years (cash).



It's a Woman's World

EDITED BY BRENDA WILLIAMS—Personnel Department

Barbecues go with a Bang!

Bonfire night—that magic night, second only to Christmas in the eyes of children, is almost here. This year, if your garden is small, or if you refuse to ruin the lawn for the sake of a bonfire—don't disappoint the kids—try a barbecue!

This may not be as expensive as you think. A firm by the name of Fletcher is marketing a portable barbecue set for only 34s. 0d. Excellent value, the barbecue has a rotating grill and a windscreen and for easy storage, the legs can be folded away. This model uses approximately 1—1½ lbs. of charcoal per meal.

Old favourites, chestnuts and potatoes can be roasted beautifully on the barbecue without the fear of losing them in the fire. Mushrooms, bacon, kidneys, small pieces of steak, tomatoes, and sausages, a selection of any of these savouries will form a tasty mouthful if threaded together on a cocktail stick to form a Kebab, and grilled. For the more ambitious, the barbecue is of course, perfect for roasting a chicken or grilling steak. Other ideas for a cold night are, soup, hot dogs, miniature welsh rarebits, toffee apples, and fish fingers on strips of toast. Cocktail sticks can again be used for threading together cheese and frozen potato puffs or celery and cheese.

Fashion Notes

We have heard a whisper from London regarding fashion for the coming season. Hats are definitely a must to complete your outfit, but fortunately we are given plenty of scope with style. Big hats are very much in fashion, but, we think, only for the tall and slim. cloche hats, small and fitting close to the face are still favoured and are perhaps a better bet for the smaller girl. Skirts are still short, but remember, an inch above or below the correct hem line will ruin the whole effect. We are told the correct line for the hem is breaking just below the bend of the knee. Waist lines are on their way back and there is a slight suggestion of a waist line in coats this year. The luxury of fur is here, in moderation; trimmings of it are fashionable on collars and pockets. Old friends, polo-necked sweaters are

back with us for this winter, and shoes are lower and not so pointed, and with thicker heels than we have been wearing. Whilst on the subject of shoes, don't forget the Personnel Department has a very good selection of safety shoes in very fashionable styles—all excellent value.

The Cut Flower Trade

Summer has gone—only fog, smog and Winter to look forward to, and yet, not so far away, in fact only twenty-eight miles from the Cornish coast, the inhabitants of the Scilly Isles are busily preparing for the flower season. Strange as it may seem, the first blooms of the Scillies are already on sale in Covent Garden when we are still doing our Christmas shopping! The equable climate and the fact that frost is almost unknown, enables the Scillonian flower farmers to produce cut blooms, cultivated in the open, considerably in advance of all others, with the exception of their rivals in the South of France.

The fashion for cut flowers in English households was revived during the year 1873 and has been maintained ever since. In 1881, as an experiment, an enterprising Scillonian despatched a hat box full of flowers to Covent Garden. This promise of Spring was so warmly welcomed in the grey cheerlessness of wintry London, that the islanders quickly appreciated the possibilities. Their former livelihood, the sale of early potatoes, had been a profitable business since 1538 but was now failing, ship building, their other source of income, had come to an end. The flower trade saved the islanders from destitution and undoubtedly helped to sustain spiritually, millions of men and women in our industrial cities and remind them that Spring was not so far away.

Hello to Good Buys

Do you know of the new product FEND? This is a colourless liquid which when painted over wallpaper or distemper, will make them impregnable to dirty finger marks, oils, greases, jam, coffee, soot and even biro. A small tin (to cover 130 sq. ft.) costs 5s. 6d. and large tins (260 sq. ft.) 9s. 0d.

Tuxan's Leather Expander, price 2s. 11d. a bottle has been tested and approved for easing tight shoes.

Suggestions Scheme

IDEAS EARN £55

Since the last issue of *Chance Comments* a further £55 has been paid out for adopted ideas. The total for 1960 is now up to £292. Here is a brief summary of awards made in August and September.

Flat Glass

W. Hipkiss £2 5s. 0d. Construction of ramp at R.P. Export Warehouse. Also £1 for recommending improvements to fire fighting equipment.

A. Wincott £4 2s. 6d. The fitting of two extra supports on loose load steads to prevent breakage.

H. Clifford £1. Fitting a road mirror at No. 4 Rolled Plate Warehouse.

T. Collier £1. Providing a mesh safety curtain at lehr end.

Maintenance and Construction

T. Knott £1 17s. 6d. Cleaning telephone hand sets.

W. Manning £3 15s. 0d. Improved method of changing AUDCO valve packing. Also £1 15s. 0d. for an idea for the construction of Rolled Plate burners using "elbows."

L. Mason £1. Safety rail on platform used for loading scrap.

A. Brookes £1. Safety in cloakroom.

E. J. Gardner and A. Cutler £1. Safety on Scolefield crusher.

W. J. Adkins £1 10s. 0d. Use of coloured board outside D.R.M. Shop.

R. Hinson £1. Fitting L.V. leads on portable drill transformer. Also £1 for urging repairs to grating at No. 8.

A. Perks £1. Safety—Canteen steps.

W. Allbutt £1. Safety on Rolled Plate crane.

F. Lloyd £1 15s. 0d. Hopper to collect over-spill from frit belt.

W. J. Ellamore £1 15s. 0d. Provision of hood over Magnasite container to prevent spillage.

Security

G. E. Porton £1. Improvement to system of checking incoming vehicles.

L. Moore £1. Provision of foot mats in showers.

C.P.O.W.

A. Jane £2 5s. 0d. A fixed ruler on sawing machine.

Traffic

C. Page £1. Safety guard for heating apparatus. Also £1 for recommending that window flower boxes be arranged at office entrance.

Glasgow

D. Ball £2 5s. 0d. Use of an improved type of masonry cutting wheel.

Blown and Pressed

W. Edge £5. Adjustable loading chutes on exhaust tube glazing machines.

Reminder or merit awards of 10s. 0d. each were paid to J. Wright, Rolled Plate; J. A. Welch, Rolled Plate; T. Collier, Rolled Plate; A. Brookes, Maintenance and Construction; A. Perks, Maintenance and Construction; W. Sharrett, Maintenance and Construction; C. Page, Traffic.

See Inside Back Cover

for Details of

AN IDEAS COMPETITION

continued from page 7

Making dogs look fools is a form of cruelty, though their owners may have the kindest of intentions. And there is, of course, one thing that foreigners find very puzzling about us. It is why, as a nation of animal lovers, we find it necessary to maintain at least half a

dozen societies to prevent cruelty to them. Nor should we forget the remark of the Spaniard to the Briton who was complaining loudly about the cruelty of bull-fighting. "Perhaps it is cruel," he replied quietly, "but we in Spain do not have to maintain a society for the prevention of cruelty to children."

AN IDEAS COMPETITION

The Prizes are:—

Furniture Valued £25

An Electric Fire

A Food Hamper

Plus Cash Awards

All suggestions received between now and the end of the year will be included in a Suggestions Scheme Competition.

Prizes in addition to the normal cash awards will be as follows:—

- A. Furniture to the value of £25 to the winner's choice, for the best idea adopted which increases productivity.
- B. An electric fire to the employee whose awards for adopted suggestions amount to the highest monetary total.
- C. A food hamper to the employee whose awards for adopted suggestions amount to the second highest monetary total.

Note: *The suggestion which receives the prize under Section A, will be excluded from Sections B and C.*