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## Photographic Competition

A photographic competition will be held. The rules are simple.

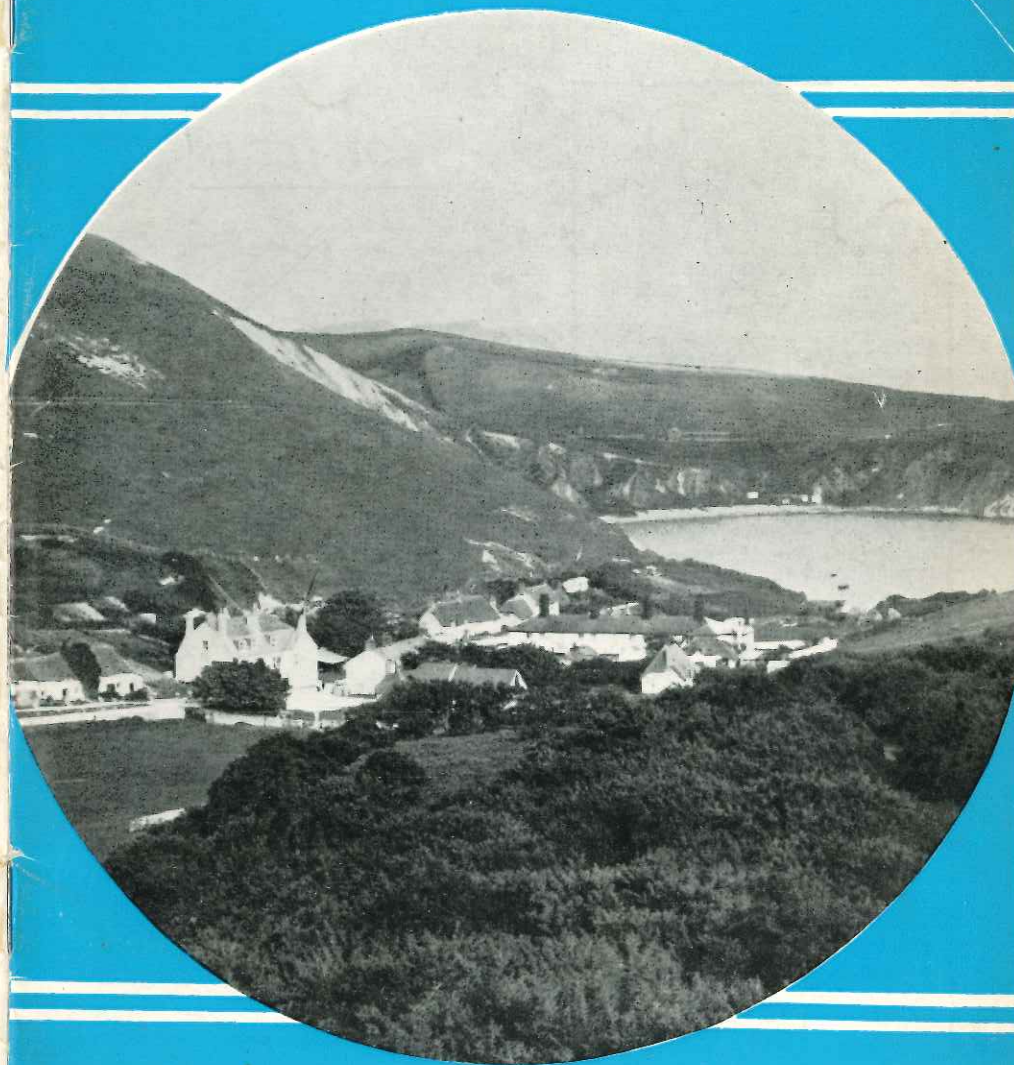
1. Photographs, in black and white only, should have been taken by employees since September 30th, 1961.
2. Entries should be sent to the Editor by September 30th and each entry should be accompanied by a slip giving the sender's name and department, and if possible a title for the picture should be added.
3. Entries will be classified by the judges into four groups:
  - (a) Landscape
  - (b) Architectural
  - (c) Personal
  - (d) General

Do not bother about the classification yourself.

The best photograph in each group will be awarded 10s. 0d. and the best photograph in the competition will receive a prize of £1. 1s. 0d. All winning photographs will be published in *Chance Comments*.

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



JUNE — JULY 1962

3<sup>D</sup>



# Chance

## COMMENTS

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

EDITOR A. OGDEN

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### THIS MONTH'S COVER

A prize of a book of the Fete raffle tickets will be awarded to the sender of the first correct identification of the cover picture. Entries must be in writing addressed to the Editor c/o Personnel Department. The picture in the last issue was taken at the Manifold Valley, Derbyshire. There were no claimants to the prize.

## SOUTH AMERICA

### was my Business Assignment

MY journey started well! After a terrific argument at London Airport which lasted until after midnight, I was finally allowed to board the plane. All this because I did not have an entry visa for Venezuela, even though at least half a dozen officials had assured me that this document was safely waiting for me at Schiphol airport.

In desperation since the plane and the other passengers were kept waiting. I was hurriedly issued with an improvised tourist visa and so at one o'clock in the morning on a Saturday late in 1961 I was on my way to South America. Within an hour we touched down at Munich—surprisingly fast these modern super-jets. More surprisingly still, since we were not supposed to go there in the first place, but after the Captain had obligingly explained that this was merely connected with technical failure of some electrical equipment we were comforted no end.

We made a fresh start after two hours and fortunately without further mishap, via Lisbon, Santa Maria and Paramaribo I finally found myself on the tarmac at Caracas airport late on Sunday afternoon. The big hop was over and I had arrived at my first destination.

I thought it was a delightful touch of courtesy when my arrival was hailed over the loudspeaker system. My proud admission that I could well be "Senor van Beek" changed however to apprehension when six uniformed officials, lovingly stroking their sabres, carried me away in triumph muttering the dreaded word "visa."

One thing is certain, when I was finally allowed to pass through immigration and customs, mothers threw protecting arms around the shoulders for their daughters and neatly dressed gentlemen eyed me with a lack of respect which can only come from a sadly tarnished reputation. As for Venezuela, I can be no authority. I spent precisely a week there in the capital Caracas. The town itself is extremely modern

and well built. Somehow in the planning however, no provision was made for pavements and to move from A to B on foot is impossible unless you are unusually well insured. To go on one's rounds was further complicated by the fact that streets have no names and houses no numbers. To know the way you must start with some basic knowledge of well known landmarks, such as "Wimpey's Snack Bar" or "Jose the bullfighters' Sports Shop." Having achieved this prime object battle can commence.

Vivid memories remain of the swimming pool of the Tamanaco Hotel. My room overlooked the pool and report writing at the desk in front of the window proved something of a problem since invariably I started comparing the relative merits of the dozen or so bikinis which were permanently on show.

On Friday night I left for Buenos Aires, at least so popular belief had it. By that time the country was on the brink of a revolution. Let me hastily state that Chance Brothers were not to blame, but it so happened that after months of bickering over a number of Cuban refugees in the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana, the culmination came that particular Friday when in an official speech President Betancourt announced the breaking-off of Diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Fidel Castro, however, has a certain amount of following here, chappies called "Fidelistas" who were in no mood to let this go by unnoticed. Feeling had already been running high during the week with riot police and the army clubbing innocent bystanders and bursts of pistol fire being let loose from speeding taxis at nobody in particular, but always hitting the wrong one. For reasons particularly suited to local mentality this sort of situation calls for the seizing of tramcars, turning them over and setting fire to them.

continued ▷

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Page One

I had engaged a taxi to take me to the airport at about 10 o'clock that evening. Much against the driver's wishes who preferred to stop safely home that night. He was right! When we reached the city centre we were caught in a crowd bent on fun and treated to a spectacle of tram baiting. It is a rule of the game that the police watch this from a safe distance and only interfere when everybody has gone home.

After an hour or so we were allowed to slip away and at breakneck speed continued our journey to the airport. By that time of course I had fears that I would miss the plane altogether, but this proved groundless.

The airport, after midnight, was in a sound slumber. Seasoned travellers like me, always go to the extent of obtaining confirmation of onward flights. It came as somewhat of a surprise therefore when a KLM official assured me that the Company by which I was travelling, Transcontinental Airlines, had been bankrupt for more than 2 months and there certainly was no plane of any description to Buenos Aires. I still cherish a hope that one day I will meet again the official who confirmed this flight but with the help of my driver, a lifelong friend by now, I returned to the Tamanco.

The renewed attempt on Saturday night proved more successful and with a sigh of relief I found myself aboard a Pan-Am jet on the way to Rio-de-Janeiro. Not as you might have guessed to Buenos Aires, but then I had been assured that it would be a simple matter to get a connecting flight at Rio.

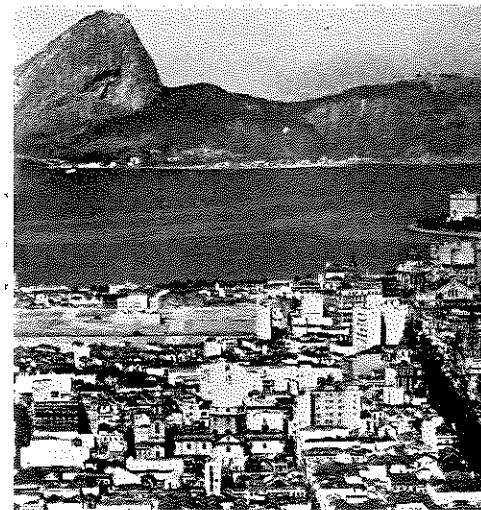
It is perhaps worth relating that we touched down at Sao Paulo first, but when I was definitely told that there were no flights out to Buenos Aires I carried on to Rio. Needless to say that the subsequent plane I caught in Rio, called at Sao Paulo first on the way to Buenos Aires.

It remains a mystery why I had to spend two hours in Rio to go through customs and immigration to get into the country and then another two hours via the same officials to get out again. Since I tried to reason with them we didn't altogether part as the best of friends but at least they now know about Parkinson.

Sunday evening at last, I arrived in Buenos Aires and part two of the serial had begun.

During my stay in the Argentine I managed to keep out of trouble and the days passed relatively uneventful in the routine of meeting existing customers and creating new ones. Enrique Oliver, an agent, was recovering from a slipped disc and he proposed that we should leave Buenos Aires on Friday night instead of Sunday so that we could spend the weekend basking in the sun on Capacabano beach. This had some far reaching effect. Tuesday morning papers in Rio could have read "Disaster strikes again. Sales Manager forced to partake of evening meal in stockinged feet" and all because of the tropical sun. Upon arrival we had settled ourselves comfy-wise in our hotel, which faced the beach. Early next morning, armed with suntan lotion, sun shades and at least as far as I was concerned a sublimely white skin, we set out for the beach. My fair skin was so conspicuous that I had offers from the Municipality to be installed as a permanent landmark. The derision of the locals for a fish so odd, penetrates even a white skin and it still brings tears to my eyes when I think of the way those beautiful bronzed Eyes eyed this shiny white frame from the North. To acquire a tan in a day takes some doing, and even though I followed the instruction on the bottle my feet didn't get their fair share of the lotion. Anyway, who would think of putting sun tan on heavily sanded feet. It could hardly be claimed as wise to enforce oneself to an initial dose of 6 hours of tropical sun. The sequel was clear, by Sunday I felt I had perhaps overdone it a bit, by Monday morning I was overdone and at nightfall my shoes had shrunk or my feet had put on weight. Either way it seemed to indicate that the two had to part company for a while. And so the spectacle could be observed of an otherwise immaculately clad business figure entering a renowned restaurant in his socks, bright purple at that.

For the first time in weeks it rained that night. Picture yourself shuffling along Regent Street in your socks and



AN AERIAL VIEW OF RIO-DE-JANEIRO.

it starts to rain and never a taxi in sight. However, the show must go on and after having made the necessary calls I moved on to Sao Paulo, having invested in the meantime in a pair of sandals, five times my normal size. Tommy Thompson of P. B. Brazil took pity on me and after taking a look at where my ankles ended he insisted on calling a doctor. Said gentleman came at once and there I was in bare feet with trouser legs rolled up and under medical scrutiny. At this precise moment there was a knock on the door, a face appeared, blanched and hurriedly withdrew. One could feel a ripple of excitement spreading through the P.B. organisation "I hear there is a chap in the Director's office washing his feet." As if I would!

Friday night I left for Santiago in Chile. I stopped in my room for 48 hours and this did the trick for by Monday morning I could once again get my shoes on.

By now the pattern and the drill had been established and Santiago proved to be little different from the rest. Young readers will no doubt bear in mind also that I was not exactly on a sight-seeing tour and business places are the same the world over. The only thing of note

was my departure expertly executed and my subsequent arrival in Lima, Peru on Saturday afternoon. By now I had covered four countries in four weeks and at that stage of the journey thoughts of the ultimate return loomed heavily.

Peru provided a change. It never rains in Lima. At least it hadn't rained for some 80 years. I had a dip in the sea and it was like plunging in an ice box. The Humboldt stream touches the coast here bringing in water from the Polar region.

There still remains fascinating signs of the once dominant Inca Empire. As a race they are now virtually extinct and it is staggering to realise the damage a handful of Spaniards inflicted on them. I would have liked to delve a little deeper in this civilisation especially around Cuzco, but on Saturday I was on my last lap. Lima to Mexico City takes 8 hours by jet and it was a rather tired Van Beek who prepared himself for the final roundup.

Mexico in comparison with the others comes off best. A high standard of living, beautiful buildings, gay and polite people.

Looking back over the whole trip I think I was disappointed. I always imagined South America as gay and colourful, beautiful dark maidens anticipating ones every wish, while guitars strum softly. In reality it is rather the lack of colour which strikes one first. If anybody ever did sing it was generally a variant of "How much is that doggie in the window" with the addition of a sudden and painful end for the dog.

It was very hot at times, especially in Brazil, but certainly mixed with dark skins and rain.

Another ten hour flight by jet brought me back to the point where I had started and to re-capture the thrill of the opening phrase, it ended as it had started, namely with an argument. This time my wife was the sufferer as I accused her of having written to me only twice, whereas I had been trying so hard to remain faithful. Denials didn't help her a bit, but even now, after all this time, letters are still coming back from all over the place marked "Gone Away" and so indeed I had.

# Recreation Club

## The Rules are Changed

During a recent period special general meetings of members of the Recreation Club have been held to change the rules. What was the reason for this somewhat panic urgency and how do the changed rules affect the members? The answer is that the new Licensing Act, which extended the hours at our favourite local, has several applications to Clubs which sell alcoholic drinks.

Under an Act of sixty years ago our Club enjoyed the right to serve drinks in that the Club was registered with the Clerk of the Justices but the old Acts were not able to prevent the setting up of bogus or ill-conducted clubs many of which gave rise to social mischief. Anybody could have a club registered. The old Acts enabled the Company to have a bar under the Seven Storey building and this particular privilege was enjoyed by a registration of Chance Brothers Social Club—a club without rules and without a Committee (the Recreation Club in Oldbury was a separate registration). The old beer Canteen registration was of course genuine in that it existed to provide cooling drink for hot workers but one can appreciate that there was, under the old Acts, a loop hole whereby undesirable "clubs" could be registered.

The Licensing Act 1961 lays down certain requirements before a club may now be registered by the Justices. It must be established and conducted in good faith; the rules must permit all members to vote in the election of the Committee; the Committee thus elected must control the purchase and supply of alcoholic drinks; the profits from the sale of liquor must stay in the Club, members only may purchase drinks but may offer hospitality to a limited number of his personal guests who have signed the visitors' register; persons may not enjoy the privileges of

membership without an interval of at least two days between their application for membership and their admission.

The Recreation Club Rules did not conform entirely with these requirements and accordingly certain amendments were necessary. One change was that the Committee be entirely elected whereas in the past it consisted of departmental representatives and Management appointments. Another necessary alteration was the method of electing non-employees to associate membership without voting rights. A new rule now enables any employee to nominate his friends for full membership and the General committee will decide on acceptance or otherwise. Another important rule alteration was the extension of the bar hours.

## The new Committee

Consequent on the above alterations to rules the election of the Officers and General Committee had to be brought forward and at a general meeting held on 25th April the following were elected:

*Chairman:*  
*Treasurer:*  
*Secretary:*  
Miss W. M. Walker  
Mrs. I. Palfreeman  
Mr. J. R. Cheatham  
Mr. E. L. Bates  
Mr. B. Launchbury  
Mr. P. J. Anderson  
Mr. H. J. Larner  
Mr. S. W. Round  
Mr. B. Cumberlidge  
Mr. H. Helsby  
Mr. J. Stockin  
Mr. E. J. Gardner



MR. J. FOSTER

Mr. J. Foster  
Mr. A. Wood  
Mr. A. Ogden  
Rolled Plate  
B. & P.  
M. & C.  
Seven Storey  
Internal Transport  
D.R.M.  
Security  
Flat Glass  
Laboratory  
Old Hall  
Transport Repairs  
Millwrights

## WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT

### No More a Belshazzar of Bubbly

Night Club denizens and debutantes may know what a magnum of champagne is, and perhaps—if they can afford it—even a jeroboam. But the extinct rehoboam and methuselah are specimens within the ken only of wine trade veterans—or crossword puzzle geniuses.

That goes for salmanazar, belshazzar and nebuchadnezzar too!

Give up? Well then, stand by for some quaint though useless lore. All the above Old Testament names concern capacities of wine, including the bubbly, containers. One dare not call them bottle sizes, since to the trade a bottle is that which contains only one-sixth of a gallon or 26½ ounces.

This measure is known as the reputed quart, two of which make a magnum, and four a jeroboam. The rest are no longer to be found, and small wonder, at today's prices. Here they are with figures to indicate their equivalents in reputed quarts: rehoboam 6, methuselah 9, salmanazar 12, belshazzar 16, and nebuchadnezzar 20.

We are indebted to the Glass Manufacturers' Federation for this offbeat data, which is included in their fascinating and beautifully produced booklet, "Glass Containers."

### Coping with the Boss

We are always reading about what makes the perfect secretary. But what goes to make the perfect boss?

One thing is sure. Most bosses are far from perfect. And the wise secretary learns to cope with her boss's faults instead of becoming infuriated by them.

Up in Carlisle they are dealing with the problem. There, the commerce department of the Technical College

have 16 pretty girls acting as "guinea-pig secretaries" while industrial and commercial executives learn, in a three-day course, how to be the perfect boss.

The bosses were all anxious to learn—in fact, they jumped at the chance. The aim was to improve their dictating technique. And they thought it worth studying in order to find—and keep—an ideal secretary. Mumbling, hesitation lack of clarity... those are the boss's most common faults. "It's time they had a lesson," said the head of the department.

### Will it be Washacade?

Cigarette machines may be on the way out, but a new type of coin-in-the-slot salesman is appearing on the London scene—batteries of machines in a washing arcade. Pilot schemes are also operating in Manchester and Brighton.

A recent survey has shown that only a third of Britain's housewives use a laundry; many of the others use the home washing machine—some have even been born to it and know nothing about laundries.

Coin-in-the-slot washing machines are visualised in batteries of 12 to 20, and can operate for 24 hours of the day. A half-crown in the slot will do the week's wash in half-an-hour, and for another sixpence the wash will be tumble-dried. Other coin-operated machines—for washing materials, refreshments, and paper-back books to read while you wait—complete the new automatic washing arcades.

And please—let us not call them "Washacades!"

### Mind How You Go

American comedians used to make much of jokes about how long it would take to cross the road in their traffic-choked cities. But now this country has achieved the doubtful distinction of possessing more vehicles per road mile than any other nation.

Our record, according to the 1959 figures just published by the British Road Federation, is 33.2 vehicles per road mile. Germany comes second,

continued ▷



Sweden fourth, and the Americans fifth. Turkey is the lowest at 3.1, although no mention is made of Japan and remoter areas of the world presumably don't come into it. The Russians refused to discuss such capitalistic status symbols.

Here at home, of course, all avenues (theoretical) are being explored to increase our avenues (arterial).

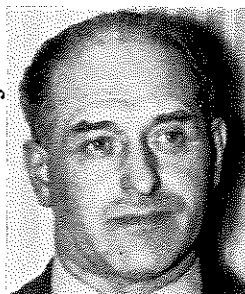
Or so Whitehall says.

#### Workers' Paradise

A Ukrainian prize-winning tractor driver, up in Moscow for a holiday,

decided to buy a pair of shoes. The building to which he was directed contained two doors, one for Men's Shoes, one for Women's Shoes. He entered the former and walked down a long corridor to another two doors: Summer Shoes and Winter Shoes. Since it was summer, he chose the first, only to find another corridor ending in two more doors.

These were labelled: Party Members and Non-Party Members. He wasn't a party member, so he went through the other door—and found himself back in the street.



DAVID NUNN



HAROLD LLOYD



THOMAS S. DAVIES



ALBERT E. WARD

### LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Long Service Awards made since the last issue and up to 2nd June were as follows:—

#### 45 Years

Albert E. Ward; Rolled Plate; 17th April.

#### 25 Years

Thomas S. Davies; Drawing Office; 5th April.

Harold Lloyd; M. & C.; 19th April.  
David Nunn; Millwrights; 3rd May.  
James Carr; Traffic Office; 2nd June.



JAMES CARR

## THE PENSIONERS' HOLIDAY

**T**he benefits for the Company's pensioners were extended this year by the organising of a week's holiday at Weston-Super-Mare at very favourable terms.

Thirty-five of the older generation formed the party which was between May 11th and May 18th.

The party travelled by coach and enjoyed its use for the period of the stay. The chosen hotel was most comfortable and the food excellent. The oldest member of the party was Mrs. Woollams who is aged 84—she really is a charming lady and much enjoyed herself. It is known that for one pensioner it was the very first holiday she had ever had—there may have been others who had this first experience.

Weather is always a most important factor and whilst we at Smethwick were shivering under dull and very cold conditions the press reported Weston as the warmest place in Britain with temperatures of 64°.

Most afternoons there were outings to well known beauty spots including Burrington Combe, Blagdon Lakes, Clevedon, Cheddar Gorge and Longleat House. There was also a Sunday evening Orchestral Concert (special price of 6d. including an interval ice) and a theatre party.

Weston is always popular with Midlanders in that it has excellent sea air and inspires a determination to have lots of fun. Despite their advanced ages the Pensioners certainly did have fun. Mrs. Long, Mrs. Darby, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. A. Smith ganged up and it is nobody's business what they got up to each evening but their excuse for not reporting back to the hotel until well after 11.0 p.m. was always "we got lost."

George Baldock and his fellow passengers very soon discovered the lay-out of the town and decided that local brews were not acceptable and it was well worth their while to trek over half a mile to a house that served their favourite Midlands ale—the willing

and cheerful butt of this gang was Ernest Ashcroft who, being very hard of hearing, was subjected to many young at heart leg pulls. Joe Hinton was the "city business gent." His dress was always immaculate and precise; a trilby hat and neatly folded umbrella were a must. His room mate and former work colleague Jack Hawkes was appointed as his batman. Tom Plant had much fear of the power and splendour of Joe Hinton in that he had to wait outside the bedroom each night to await the unlocking of the room when it pleased Joe to do so. This could be a long wait as Joe is well known for his art in entertaining and one of his recitations ran to 92 verses!

Many past experiences were re-lived and Arthur Potter claims that the old glassmakers made sufficient glass during the holiday week to meet the home market for the next twelve months.

Harry Randle's first job on arrival was to find if Bill Standley was taking one of his frequent holidays at Weston. He was and he visited the hotel bringing with him a bottle opener and demanding to know "why wasn't I told about this party?"

The holiday scheme will undoubtedly continue in future years.

It is with regret that we have to report a sad occurrence. Late on the fifth night Edward McMahon took ill and had to enter hospital where he died due to heart failure. This was indeed a great tragedy. Ted, who was a widower was aged 77 and he retired from the Internal Transport department in March, 1957 after twenty-one years service. We express profound sympathy to his family especially his son Edward who is a Telfer driver in the Internal Transport department.

This sadness obviously upset the party considerably but Miss Phyllis Wilkes, the Almoner who was in charge, was splendid in her determination to keep everybody's chin up and the planned programme was adhered to.

PHOTO'S NEXT PAGE ●



## THE PENSIONERS' HOLIDAY



# Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

## THE GENEROSITY OF THE SCOTS

It has been announced previously that the Glasgow Works won the first prize of £50 in the 1961 inter-departmental Safety Competition. The employee representatives at the Works decided that this award should be used to make a Glasgow Fair holiday gift of £2. 10s. 0d. to each of the twenty Works pensioners.

## BEWARE OF MOONSHINE!

A clause in an old glass-painters contract discovered recently by a member of the British Glass Industry Research Association stipulates that the glass used should not be "crinkled nor spotted nor liable to injury from the moon." Of course, Pilkington Brothers have since produced "ANTI-SUN," but perhaps wisely, left the dangerous moonlight problem in the lap of the lovers.

## IDEAS FOR GLASS

The daily newspaper and technical press often makes reference to the possible new uses of glass. Here are a few extracts from recent reports:—

The suggestion that double-glazed windows be fitted in motor car windows is made by a correspondent of the magazine *Autocar*.

A million square feet of Fibreglass was used for insulation in the magnificent new liner *Transvaal Castle*.

According to a report in the magazine *Motor Transport* bullet proof glass is to be fitted to bus shelters at Totton, Southampton, as means of beating vandalism.

A U.S.A. system for killing insects uses black light fluorescent tubes and grid of electricity-charged wires.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1962

A photographic competition will be held. The rules are simple.

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2. Entries should be sent to the Editor by September 30th and each entry should be accompanied by a slip giving the sender's name and department and if possible a title for the picture should be added.
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(c) Personal (d) General

Do not bother about the classification yourself.

The best photograph in each group will be awarded 10s. 0d. and the best photograph in the competition will receive a prize of £1. 1s. 0d.

All winning photographs will be published in *Chance Comments*.

## WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IS ELECTED

The annual elections for work-people's representatives on the Works Consultative Committee held in April resulted as follows:—

GROUP	DEPARTMENTS	REPRESENTATIVES
1	Seven Storey, Micro, Fiesta, Bending	E. L. Bates
2	Rolled Plate Making	J. A. Welch
3	Rolled Plate Warehouses	H. W. Moore
4	Blown and Pressed Making	R. Cammies
5	Blown and Pressed Process Departments	V. R. Budd
6	Blown and Pressed Warehouses	M. Samardzija
7	M. & C. Fitting, Machines, Electricians	F. Gould
8	M. & C. Building, Carpenters, Plumbers, Transport Repairs	B. Manison
9	M. & C. Boiler Shop, D.R.M., Boilers, Power Plant, Stores	G. W. Watton
10	Mixing, Pot and Clay, Transport, Traffic, Security, Cleaners	L. Cottrell
11	Malvern Works	Mrs. E. Rozee

The Management representatives, appointed by the Directors are:—

Mr. C. J. S. Newman—*Chairman*  
Dr. R. E. Bastick  
Mr. J. R. Cheetham  
Mr. H. Fulton  
Mr. N. K. Hadley  
Mr. B. D. Patrick  
Mr. S. Round  
Mr. S. W. Shaw  
Mr. T. K. Sharp  
Mrs. J. Taylor  
Mr. A. Ogden—*Secretary*

## THEY WERE CAUSED, THEY JUST DIDN'T HAPPEN

In 1960 the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance paid a net sum of £47,000,000 in benefits for industrial accidents. This sum did not include such supplementary payments as hardship allowance, constant attendance allowance, hospital treatment allowance and unemployment supplement.

## THE ARITHMETIC OF SMOKING

A firm, through its house magazine, points out that twenty cigarettes a day cost £1. 10s. 0d. a week. Thus the confirmed smoker is ten years away from a new car, six months from a new refrigerator, twelve months from a new television set—at the time he gives up his smoking habits. The Company recommends this positive thinking approach rather than counting the number of hours or days since the last cigarette.

## LIVING ON THE FUTURE

Hire purchase is a dominant feature of most homes in Britain. Last year British citizens bought £931,000,000 of goods on hire purchase, equal to more

than £17 for every man, woman and child in the country. By this means most of us buy our cars, refrigerators, furniture and T.V. sets. Interestingly it is very rare to find a hire purchase agreement that plainly and simply quotes the true rate of interest payable.

## LAUGHING IT OFF

A used car-dealer in the south of London has been getting rid of old crows by putting comic advertisements in the local weekly newspapers.

One reads "If you are one degree under, buy this car. You'll die laughing." Another example is "See this mature machine today. In mint condition—it's got a hole in it."

"The comic adverts," says the salesman, "have brought in a lot of business. The trouble is, I'm starting to run out of ideas."

He was hounded by telephone calls when he tried to drop the ads not long ago. The fact that the prices for these well-used vehicles are often as comical, by their "reasonableness," as the ads describing them, may have had something to do with callers' motives.

He once wrote of a little Italian car "You don't get into it. You put it on," and another advertisement for a car almost thirty years old read, "Get the most from life with this car. A push a day keeps the doctor away. Fitted with jellybone marrow mixer."

One of the most ancient bargains, a powerful machine but a heavy fuel consumer, attracted dozens of enquiries. The advertisement read "Will pass everything except a petrol pump."

(*Lucas Reflections*)

# FAREWELL

TO

# FAHRENHEIT

**R**ECENT talk about the introduction of decimal coinage, raises the question of the use of metric weights and measures, and so it is not surprising that since January 1962 the Meteorological Office has decided to publish temperature data on the Centigrade scale which is much more akin to a metric system than the more familiar Fahrenheit scale.

The Centigrade scale was first proposed in 1742 by the Swedish Astronomer Anders Celsius (1701-1744) and is in fact known as the Celsius scale in most foreign countries. On this scale the freezing point of water is taken to be 0°C and the boiling point 100°C. This simple method of defining a temperature scale has much to recommend it and it is in fact generally in use for most scientific purposes. All measurements of furnace and glass-making temperatures in this works are invariably expressed in °C.

The Fahrenheit scale was invented by Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit (1686-1736), a German physicist. In this case freezing point of water is 32°F and the boiling point 212°F. Now why should Fahrenheit have chosen such peculiar values for these two temperatures? There is some doubt as to the exact development of the Fahrenheit scale but it is almost certain it was not fixed by means of the freezing and boiling points of water. It is believed that he fixed 0°F as the lowest temperature he could obtain using an ice-salt freezing mixture, and fixed 12° for the temperature of the human body. Finding the degrees of this scale too large, he decided to adopt a new scale with the degrees one-eighth of their original size, making the body temperature 96°F. On the modern scale however this is quoted as 98.4°F.

A third temperature still used domestically in Central and Eastern Europe was invented by the French scientist de Reaumur, and was based on the expansion of the alcohol from which he made his thermometers. On this scale the freezing point of water is fixed as 0°R and the boiling point falls conveniently at 80°R.

In view of the changeover to the centigrade scale, it is useful to appreciate its relationship with the Fahrenheit scale. The methods of conversion are as follows:

- (a) To convert Fahrenheit to Centigrade,
  - i Subtract 32 from the F. value.
  - ii Multiply by 5
  - iii Divide by 9  
e.g. to convert 48°F to °C  
i  $48 - 32 = 16$   
ii  $16 \times 5 = 80$   
80  
iii  $\frac{80}{9} = 8.89^\circ\text{C}$
- (b) To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit,
  - i Multiply by 9
  - ii Divide by 5
  - iii Add 32  
e.g. to convert 24°C to °F  
i  $24 \times 9 = 216$   
216  
ii  $\frac{216}{5} = 43.2$   
iii  $43.2 + 32 = 75.2^\circ\text{F}$

To obtain a general appreciation of the two scales however, it is better to construct a brief table showing certain equivalent temperatures and this could easily be done if it is remembered that 9 Fahrenheit degrees are equivalent to 5 Centigrade degrees so that starting at the freezing point we could build up the following table:

°F	°C	
14	-10	
23	-5	Hard frost
32	0	Freezing point
41	5	Cold
50	10	Cool
59	15	Comfortable room temperature
68	20	
77	25	rather warm
86	30	Hot
95	35	Very hot
104	40	!

This table can be extended further of course, but for the air temperatures normally experienced in this country the above range is sufficient. This table is fairly easy to build up mentally, especially if you remember that the digits of any of the Fahrenheit temperatures must add up to either 5 or 14. Any intermediate temperatures can be deduced approximately by taking 1

Centigrade degree to equal 2 Fahrenheit degrees.

Although both Fahrenheit and Centigrade values are given at present in weather forecasts, it is intended to quote only Centigrade figures eventually and so it is important that we become familiar with these rather different values. The descriptions given in the table above enable this to be done, e.g. we could see that 10°C means a cool day and 25°C is rather warm.

Whatever advantages the change to the Centigrade scale may bring, I am sure that it is more in keeping with our British climate for temperatures to be expressed in terms of the lower values of the Centigrade scale.

A.H.B.

## TOM ALLARD DOES WELL IN THE LORRY DRIVER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Once again Chance Brothers vehicles competed in the "Lorry Driver of the Year" Competition which was held at Fort Dunlop, Birmingham, on May 13th when 150 drivers from many firms took part in tests which included knowledge of the Highway Code, a 5 mile road run with secret checks for driving conduct, followed by 3 tests which called for considerable skill.

Five of our drivers competed and once again we were amongst the prize winners. Driver Tom Allard was 2nd



in his class, Driver Arthur Beauchamp was 3rd in his class, and drivers Webb, Percival and Morris were highly placed. The performance of the drivers and the excellent turn-out of their vehicles justified them being selected for this photograph appearing in *Motor Transport* which covered the Competition.





# From all Departments

**MOSTLY PERSONAL**

## Blown and Pressed

The Division gets moving early in the year to raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party Funds and recent functions towards this end included an Easter dance—with a really excellent Easter bonnet competition, a smoking concert and a Whit dance. These three events were in the Recreation Club pavilion.

We learn that Alfred Withers who has been away due to a serious illness is making good progress and we hope it will not be too long before he returns to Spon Lane.

## Flat Glass

We congratulate the following on having become recent parents; Norman Sidman (son), James Hartle (son), Clifford Southall (daughter) and Derek Clark (son).

Harold Lamb is, at the time of going to press, in hospital and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

It is with regret that we learned of the death of Joseph Fenton on 7th April aged 62. Joe first came to Chance Brothers in 1928 but had some brief periods of broken service.

## Laboratory

John Davies is congratulated on his election as a Vice-President of the Society of Glass Technology and his appointment as Secretary of the Midlands Section of the Society.

A bouquet is also presented to Dr. R. E. Bastick who has been elected to the Executive Committee of the International Commission on Glass.

Christine Garrington, a Chemistry trainee, has left us to take up a change in occupation and we wish this attractive young lady much success.

We congratulate Shirley Edwards of the Chemistry Laboratory on her success at the Tamworth Music Festival: she obtained a first award and two second awards for solo singing.

## Maintenance and Construction

Francis Sharratt retired from the Millwrights on 27th April after thirty years service and Harold Sargeant retired from the Machine Shop on 4th May with nearly thirty years service. FRANCIS SHARRATT Harold had been absent for many months due to illness. We wish these two old friends much happiness in their well earned rest and express appreciation for their long and praiseworthy services.

At the time of going to press Walter Johnson and William McCarthy are away in hospitals and we hope, most sincerely, that they will soon be fit.

Arthur Herbert has left the General Stores to accept a position elsewhere and we wish him success.

The Boiler Shop congratulates Gary Watton and his wife on the birth of a



FRANCIS SHARRATT

daughter on 26th April.

John Nock has passed his Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering—good show!

## Glasgow

The Recreation Club is now in the middle of its summer activities, and a keen interest is being shown in the bowling and darts competitions.

The table tennis tournament was a great success this year, and we offer our congratulations to the winner—Walter Elliott.

Congratulations to Phil Jacovelli and his wife on the birth of a daughter and Alex. Mann and his wife who also have a daughter.

We extend a warm welcome to Moira McLachlan and Robert Gamble who joined us recently.

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death of John McMurray after a very short illness, and Pensioner Patrick Keogh. To their relatives we extend our sincere sympathy.

## Malvern

The outing organised by the Social Committee to see the show "My Fair Lady" in London was a happy event and everybody enjoyed themselves.

We are very pleased to report back after illness Miss M. Ulett. Miss L. Heason had to have an operation to remove her appendix and she is at the moment convalescing. We hope she will be able to return to work shortly. Also absent due to illness is Miss C. Butler and Mr. A. Haggitt. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mrs. J. M. King, Secretary to Mr. Sharp, left our employ at the end of April to commence new employment locally and we wish her a happy future. We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. J. Shawcross who takes over Mrs. King's position and we wish her a happy and a very long stay with us.

There is a good reason to believe that Miss E. Perks and Mr. D. Baker are getting married in October this year.

## Traffic and Transport

Traffic department congratulates Driver Derek Horton and his wife on the birth of a son.



TOM FLOOK

Tom Flook, Foreman to Internal Transport has been elected to the office of Chairman of the Smethwick and District Industrial Fire Brigades Association.

## Offices

A welcome is extended to the following who have joined the Company in recent weeks: Henry Lewis (Cost Office); Wilfred Hadley (Sales Office); John Wilson (Export Sales Office) and Harry Gilbert (Accountants).

The Typing Department sends greetings and congratulations to Alethea Jones and her husband on the birth of a daughter on 12th April.

All the friends of Doug (rugger) Curry were delighted to hear of him becoming father to a daughter. It is pleasant to watch him with a "far away" look in his eyes murmuring lullabies to himself. Happily he has been fairly free from injury this season—just a few stitches around each eye.

We are glad to have Bill Bennett back with us after 8 weeks illness.

The Sales and General Office had such an excellent Social Evening out at the White Swan in Henley that arrangements are already in hand for a repeat. There was a lot of sympathy for the member who lost his "bottle" on the way back.

Alan (Lifeboat) Cowles has become an artist in charity collections. By the time the Fete arrives we shall all be "stripped and demented."

Bob Palmer will relish early holidays. Having got as far as West Bromwich he met fog which kept with him all the way to Scotland, using a lot of string to tie his vehicle to the lorry in front he eventually arrived with his car (borrowed) in pieces. He came back browned off.

## SUGGESTION SCHEME

by L. G. Barton, Secretary for the Scheme.

We have just completed another Suggestions Scheme Committee year and this showed progress over the past years. It is difficult to measure this progress accurately because savings resulting from many of the suggestions adopted could not be easily evaluated. We are however satisfied that the Suggestions Scheme at Chance Brothers is very much alive. Nationally results are compared on a basis of the number of suggestions received per 100 employees. During 1961/62

Chance Brothers' Works as a whole submitted 26 suggestions per hundred employees and this figure is well above the national average. As this measurement includes instances where one person may submit several suggestions of a minor character it unfortunately does not reflect the quality of the suggestions.

The following shows a breakdown into Divisions or Departments, corresponding where practicable with the W.C.C. grouping.

W.C.C. Group No.	Sections	Approx. Number of Employees	Number of suggestions received	Suggestions per 100 Employees
1	Seven Storey Micro Dept. Fiesta Dept. Bending Dept.	141	11	8
2	Rolled Plate Making	70	53	76
3	Rolled Plate Warehouse	151	49	32
4 & 5	Blown and Pressed Making & Process	236	31	13
6	Blown and Pressed Warehouse	50	6	12
7 & 9	Engineering Maintenance Dept., Including services	217	184	85
8	Building, Carpenters Crate Yard, Plumbers Transport, Repair Shop	99	17	17
10	Mixing, Pot & Clay, Stonemasons, Internal Trans., Traffic, Security Cleaners	177	113	64
11	Malvern Works	124	24	19
	Glasgow Works	210	nil	nil
	All Staff	509	25	5

The M. and C. Department are to be congratulated on their initiative and keenness and we are convinced that they will continue the good work. Groups 2 and 10 contributed many fine suggestions, and although Malvern Works' figure of 19 per 100 employees is not so high as those already mentioned the quality of their suggestions reflected the careful thought put into the ideas submitted. The two "wooden spoonists" are the Glasgow Works and the whole of Chance Brothers' Staff. Such a poor response is certainly not due to lack of ability to suggest improvements or to submit ideas for saving time, material or money. What then are the causes of such a poor effort? The answer lies with the persons employed

61/145	A. Rea	Malvern Works
61/104	N. Andrews	P.M. Office
62/2	J. Bill	Mixing
62/9	J. Downes	Mould Shop
62/80	W. E. Holland	Rolled Plate

on the staff and at the Glasgow Works. What are they going to do about it? Here is a challenge. Will they accept it?

Other figures worthy of note show the comparison between the 1960/61 and 1961/62 committee year awards.

During the 1960/61 year we considered 424 suggestions and paid out £355 10s. 0d. During 1961/62 year we considered 559 suggestion and paid out £522 0s. 0d. A 32% and 47% increase respectively.

Since the last edition of Chance Comments some awards were made for particularly meritorious suggestions. These were:—

Use of collapsible cartons for postal work. ...	25	0	0
Modification to drum on cullet washing plant ...	10	0	0
Receiving sand in top Mixing Room ...	7	10	0
Modification to hand operated radii turning device in the Machine Shop ...	3	10	0
Cutting wired glass at No. 4 Tank with the Vitrea Cutter ...	3	10	0

## A FETE FOR ALL THE FAMILY IS PLANNED



Saturday, 18th August will be a great day for employees and their families in that a Fete will be held on the Recreation Club grounds. Many will remember the tremendous success of a similar event held in 1951. The programme has been compiled to provide amusement and entertainments for all ages and is varied in appeal. It is expected that at least 3,000 will attend.

### Fun of the Fair

Amusements will vary from a fun-fair and pony rides for the kiddies to a choice of fifteen have-a-go attractions for the older "youngsters". The Stratford Mop will have nothing on us for this side of the programme!

### Sports

Novelty races for children and others, inter-departmental tug-of-war, tennis and bowls competitions.

### Arts and Crafts

An exhibition of arts and crafts will include classes for model making, carpentry, photography painting, sketching, dressmaking, embroidery, etc. Whatever your hobby you'll probably find a class in which to enter, and we invite your help in making an attractive show.

### Flowers and Vegetables

Mid August is a splendid time for gardeners and the support of enthusiasts is eagerly sought for the vegetables and flower show. There will be 31 classes with sections for vegetables, flowers, floral decorations and children's floral arrangements, housewives corner for cakes, jam and fruit bottling.

### For the attractive

A Summer Girl competition will attract the attractive. Competitors will wear outdoor frocks or costumes and will be judged on appearance, bearing and personality. Prizes to a total value of £10 are to be won.

For the girl toddlers there will be a Rose Bud Competition for ages 4 to 7 years inclusive. Here again the girls will be judged on appearance—a junior beauty competition in fact. Here is an opportunity for proud parents as the Spon Lane area has a reputation for pretty children.

Boys and girls can enter for the Children's Fancy Dress Parade—prizes, of course.

### Bumper Raffle

Over £100 worth of prizes will be offered for a sixpence a ticket raffle. These include a spin dryer, vacuum cleaner, armchair, transistor radio, child's pedal car and several bottles of whisky, gin and sherry.

### The Pensioners

The Pensioners' Annual party will be incorporated in the Fete and a special tea and rest marquee will be reserved for them. Pensioners will be

included in most of the games and they may, of course, enter for the Flower Show, and the Arts and Crafts.

Early in the evening the older generation will go on to Stratford for a coach run.

### Food and Drink

It is hoped that the Magistrates will grant a licence to enable M. & B. to operate a full bar throughout the afternoon.

The traditional tea marquee will be there together with an open air Barbecue—hot roast chicken sandwiches and hot dogs. For the children up to the age of 80 there will be pop and ice cream kiosks at several points.

### Well Worth Seeing

The afternoon's programme will be a full one and it is possible that many will find difficulty in getting round to see everything in the time available. However, the "outside" attractions that have been booked for you include a cookery demonstration and exhibits of the latest household electrical equipment and gas appliances.

### .....and on to a Dance

The outdoor attractions will end soon after 7.0 o'clock and thereafter there will be a dance in the Pavilion. This will be the only event that will be rationed as due to the limited accommodation the tickets will be restricted to two only for an employee's personal use and even so it will be first come first served. This will be a 3s. 6d. affair.

### How to take part

The simple rules and the entry forms for the following events are available now from the Pavilion and each of the Gatehouses:

Arts and Crafts	Summer Girl
Flowers and Vegetables	Rose Bud
Races	Fancy Dress

**THE FETE**  
SATURDAY, 18th AUGUST  
RECREATION CLUB GROUNDS  
will be the  
PARTY OF THE YEAR FOR CHANCE  
EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES  
AND FRIENDS

Admission Programmes 1/- (children 6d.)