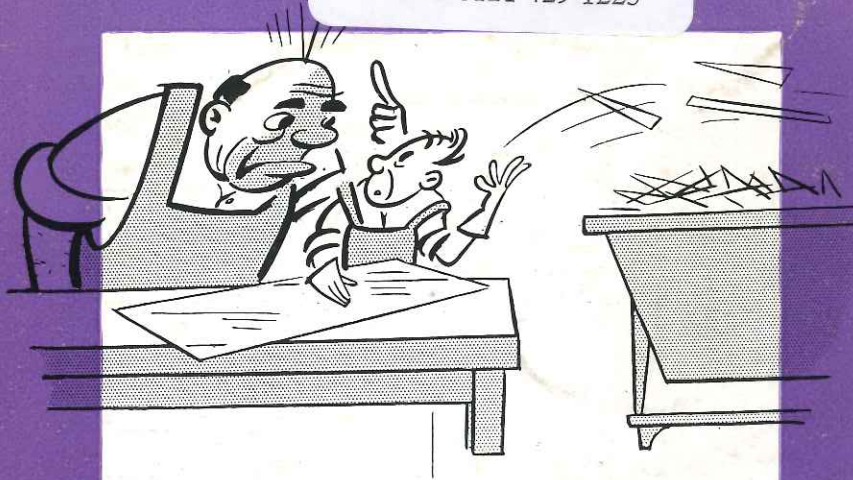


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This is the property of
Smethwick Heritage
Centre Trust
Tele 0121 429 1223



Look out for flying glass!

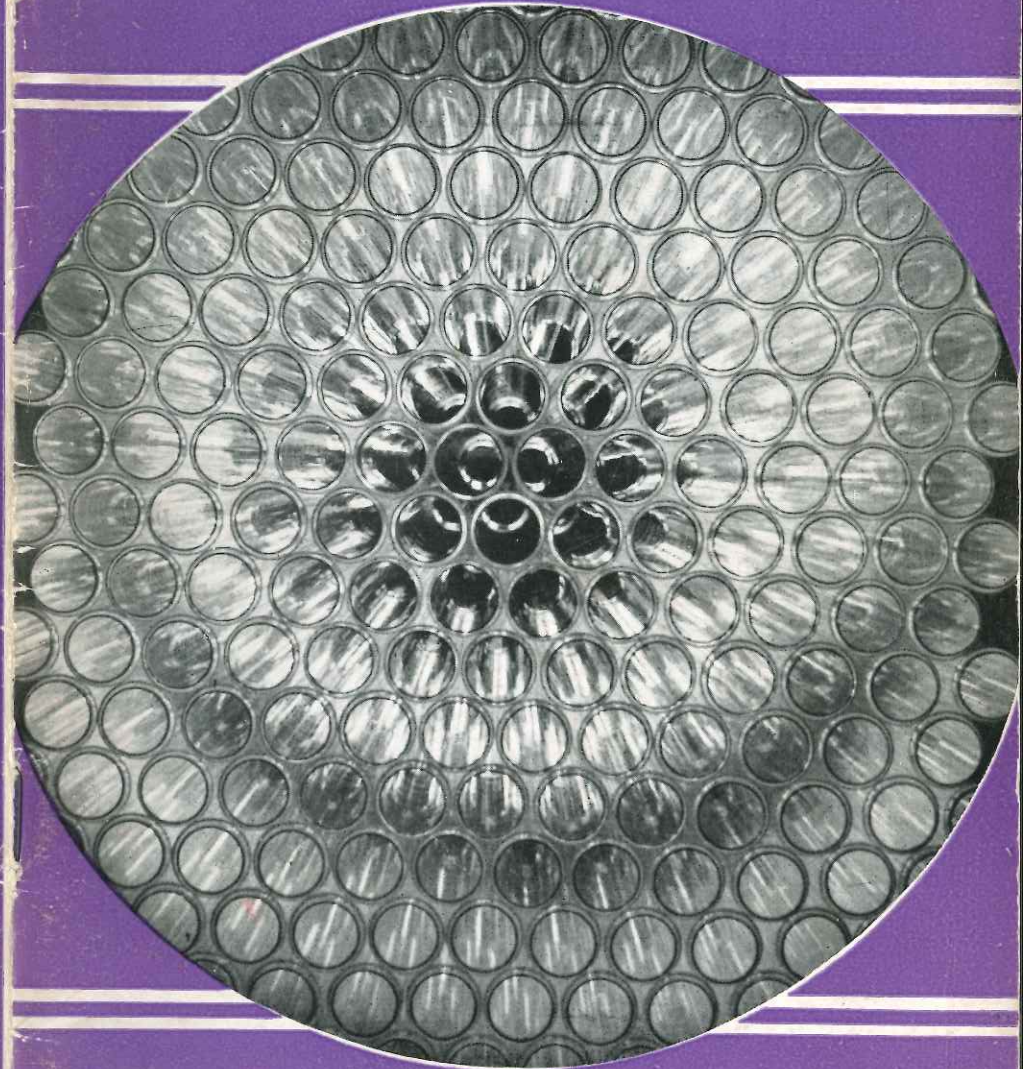
Never throw glass or cullet about—even if you have to deal with it every day.

Take care when near glass-cutting operations—glass splinters fly farther than you think.

Get cuts and bruises attended to at once.

Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar

Chance COMMENTS



MARCH—APRIL 1952

3^D

THE Magazine of Chance Brothers Limited, Smethwick, published in alternate months for the interest, entertainment and information of all employees of the firm.

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EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office J. ALLEN

Blown and Pressed

Decorating F. CHAMBERS
Inspection F. O'CONNOR
R. TURTON
B. PATRICK
S. STOCKIN
F. TATTON
Process MISS L. RATLIDGE
Sales MRS. A. KEYS
Warehouse MRS. CANTY
Buying & Stationery

Engineering

Drawing Office J. FISHER
Electrical J. THOMPSON
Grinding MISS MUGLESTONE
Machine and Fitting F. CARTWRIGHT
Commercial Staff F. W. G. BEAUMONT
Sumo Office J. J. WHITE
Sumo Works J. T. HALL
Time Study A. HEATH
Toolroom and Mould Shop W. B. COX
Welding and Blacksmiths D. EDWARDS
Works Staff A. SLEIGH
Export H. V. SKAN

Flat Glass

Making and Warehouse R. E. EVANS
Sales S. RAY
Seven Storey A. FARDELL
Laboratory MRS. RUSSELL

Maintenance and Construction

Boiler Shop D. HILL
Building S. BEARDSMORE
Electricians E. A. WHITEHOUSE
Garage V. COCKSEY
Millwrights W. JOHNSON
Old Hall E. BREENS
Stores D. KIRKWOOD
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Stonemasons H. ARMSTRONG
Traffic MISS FELLOWS
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Typists' Pool MRS. STAPHNILL
Wages, Pensions MRS. MOUNTFORD

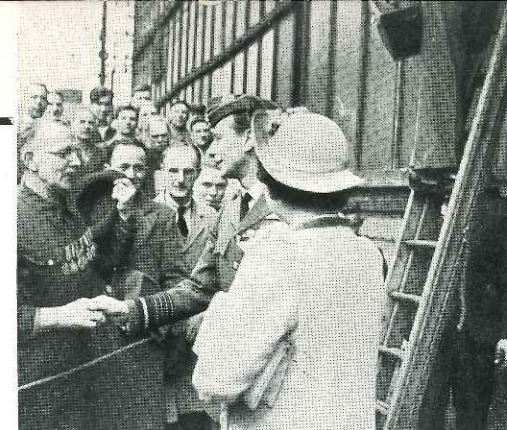
BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow J. A. AITCHISON
London J. W. CHANCE
Malvern MISS D. CLARE
P. ROBINSON
St. Helens K. W. APPLETON

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VOL. 5, No. 1

MARCH—APRIL 1952



H.M. KING GEORGE VI

THE news of the death of His Majesty King George VI was received while this issue of "Chance Comments" was being prepared. All associated with Chance Brothers Limited have joined their fellow citizens throughout the British Commonwealth in mourning his passing and in expressing their profound sympathy with the Queen Mother, Queen Mary, our new Queen Elizabeth and the other members of the Royal Family.

King George VI succeeded to the throne in December, 1936, in unprecedented circumstances. He reigned during a period in which the nation faced exceptional dangers and difficulties. Nevertheless, he enhanced the prestige which the monarchy had enjoyed in his father's reign. His love of family life earned the affection of his peoples, while his devotion to duty commanded their respect.

Before and after his accession King George VI took a personal interest in industrial conditions. When he was Duke of York he was President of the Industrial Welfare Society and in this capacity he made many tours of industrial areas.

The late King, accompanied by the Queen, visited our Smethwick Works on 19th April, 1940, and we reprint a photograph taken on the occasion.

In mourning the passing of a well-loved King, our thoughts turn to his daughter. We trust that the new Queen will be sustained in her future responsibilities by the loyalty and affection which she has already earned as Princess Elizabeth.

Opening of the New "Vello" Tubing Plant in Glasgow

THE 16th January was a great day for the Glasgow Works as on that day The Right Honourable James Stuart, P.C., M.V.O., M.C., M.P., the Secretary of State for Scotland, opened the new "Vello" Tubing Plant in the presence of the Right Honourable The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir Hugh Chance, other Directors of the Firm, and many prospective customers, one of them being Mr. Jules Thorn of Thorn Electrical Industries, Ltd.

All the people on the Works are to be congratulated on the magnificent show that was put up as the tubing plant was working to perfection.

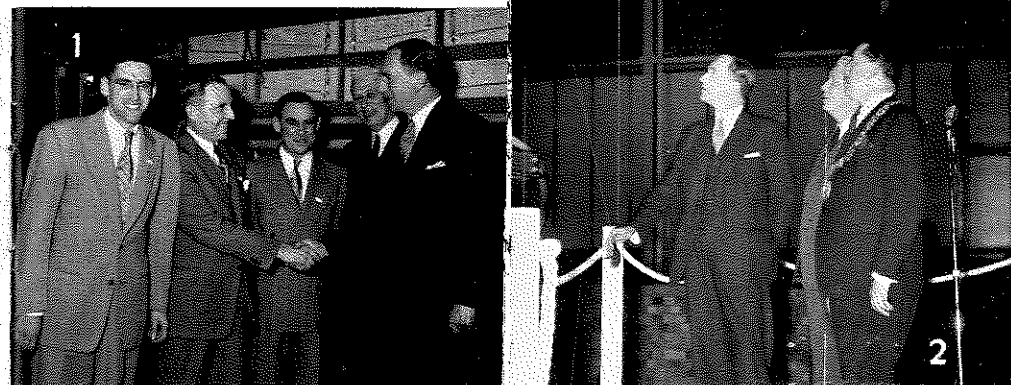
This plant is unique in the United Kingdom. The principles on which the "Vello" process is based were conceived in France and developed in America. The installation of the plant in Glasgow has been achieved by co-operation between British and American skilled glassworkers and engineers. Although most of the original designs for the process machinery were American, adaptation has been done by the engineering staff of Chance Brothers who also designed the furnace, and the machinery was made by British firms, some of it being designed and constructed by our Engineering Department.

The new plant is fully automatic and will make Great Britain self-supporting in glass tubes for fluorescent lighting. Up to now only limited quantities of tubes for this purpose have been produced here and supplies have had to be imported, mainly from America. The output from the new plant will more than fill the gap so that export markets can be fed as well.

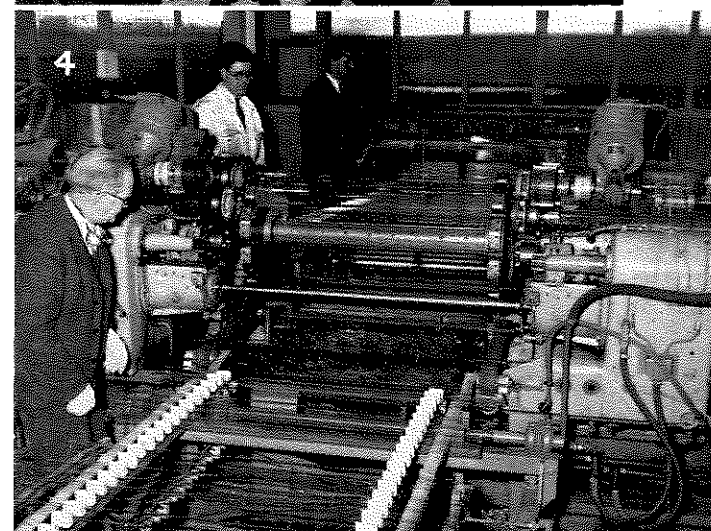
Sir Hugh Chance, in speaking at the Opening Ceremony, thanked especially Government Departments and Nationalised Industries which had given active support to making the opening possible. The Scottish Gas Board had even gone to the extent of putting in a new eight-inch gas main nearly a mile long, and the Transport Authorities had organised a special trunk service of vans to take the tubes direct from Firhill to lamp manufacturers over the length and breadth of the United Kingdom.

It is a long step from the time when the Glasgow Plate Glass Company was bought by Chance Brothers in 1907 to this great day in the history of the Firm when the most up-to-date plant in Europe was opened—and opened successfully—through the hard work put in by everyone concerned.

R. W.



1. Left to right: J. Connelly, G. Lilley and H. La Rue of the Corning Glass Works America, with Sir Hugh Chance and the Rt. Hon. Sir James Stuart.
2. The Rt. Hon. Sir James Stuart, P.C., M.V.O., M.C., M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, Sir Hugh Chance, Chairman, and Sir Victor Warren, M.B.E., Lord Provost of Glasgow after unveiling the plaque.
3. A group of directors and guests at the opening.
4. Tubes going through the end forming machine.



CIVIL DEFENCE

"WE can't be certain, we can be ready" is the motto of grey-haired burly Mr. H. L. Newey, recently appointed Civil Defence Officer, who is now becoming a familiar figure in the Works and in the Lecture Room. Mr. Newey was a Head Warden, Divisional Warden and Zone Commander at Wolverhampton during the war. Since then he has been an instructor for Staffordshire and last year obtained a specially-proficient instructor's certificate from one of the Home Office Civil Defence Schools.

A few months ago the Company, in common with all other large firms, was asked by the Home Office to take certain precautionary steps to revive its C.D. force. Mr. Newey was appointed C.D. Officer to advise on training, organisation and training plans were made, heads of services recruited, the training of volunteers started in January and has been running full-swing since. The present aim is to train about 200 volunteers—or a third of the numbers that would be necessary in the event of war—by the middle of the summer.

A few words on the organisation. The Warden Service is the backbone of the organisation and the Works is divided into sectors, each sector being the responsibility of a Wardens' Post. The Warden Service is supplemented by the specialist services—Fire, Rescue, First Aid, Decontamination—and the whole co-ordinated by Controllers and Engineer Control Officers. The heads of services are:—

Chief Controller: Mr. C. J. S. Newman.

Chief Engineer Control Officer: Mr. W. E. Barrett.

Head Wardens: Mr. E. Andrew, Dr. R. E. Bastick, Mr. L. Gorman, Mr. W. O. Hinds, Mr. L. G. Hinton (Company Secretary), Mr. A. Reeves, Mr. N. A. W. Stacey.

Fire: Mr. T. Flook.

First Aid: Mr. A. Ogden and Dr. A. S. Pearson.

Rescue: Mr. W. Green.

Decontamination: Mr. S. J. Hinde.

Half of the training is being done inside normal working hours, and half outside. Payment is made by the Company for all training time.

It would be idle to pretend that this is not unpleasant—but the ostrich with his head in the sand is a foolish figure—and it would be equally foolish to pretend that C.D. training is not a necessity of our troubled times, from both a community and an industrial point of view. If, unhappily, an emergency arose—and we all most fervently hope it never will—there would be no time for preparations, either we should be trained and organised or chaos might ensue.

Already over a hundred volunteers have recognised this necessity and are training. More are needed. If you also see the necessity and are prepared to give up a few hours of your leisure, please fill in the form obtainable from any of the Gatehouses and leave with the Gatekeeper.

W. G. R.

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS



To the team of managers and workpeople who so ably stood up to the ordeal of the television cameras when parts of the Blown and Pressed Division were televised on the 26th January. In particular, W. O. Hinds gave an excellent commentary; Joe Deeley ably demonstrated the blowing of a cathode tube; Steve Morrall and Sam Russell got Richard Dimbleby really tied up as to who was the gatherer and who was the presser in the making of a cathode tube face.



There are still many employees who needlessly pay for medical certificates. To avoid the necessity of employees having to pay for such certificates, the Company will accept the production of the National Insurance certificate as evidence of incapacity and fitness to resume work. These notes should not, however, be sent to the Company through the post, but should be presented by the employee or his representative to the Personnel Department, where relevant extracts will be made and the note handed back to the employee or his representative.



To Jack Jordan of the Cost Office, who has been elected President of the Birmingham Water Polo League. Jack, who was a water polo player for many years, has been Secretary to the League since 1946.



Acknowledging a Christmas gift in the form of a Fiesta ashtray, a customer in Holland wrote:—

"We thank you kindly for your best wishes, we received by the entereance of the New Year and for the very nice ash-bin."



To the personnel in the Cathode Section of the Blown and Pressed Division, who organised the preparation of a New Year Gift Hamper for presentation to Albert Cooper, one of the Company's pensioners. So much stuff was gathered together that Albert had to borrow a wheelbarrow to take his gifts home.



To our Managing Director, Mr. John Raymond, who has been elected President of the Smethwick Group of the Institute of Industrial Supervisors.



To those employees—and there must be a considerable number—who have some form of disability and have not registered under the Disabled Persons' Act. Every Company is by law obliged to employ not less than 3 per cent. registered disabled persons. The Personnel Department will assist anybody who feels that he (or she) has a qualification for registration.



With this issue *Chance Comments* enters its fifth year.



Congratulations to the following who attained their majority recently: Ron Seddon, Eric Halford, Ken Garry and Jean Pitt,



BLOWING OUR TRUMPET

Chance's Recreation Club can well claim to be one of the most flourishing clubs in the district.

We are blessed with an excellent pavilion which provides accommodation for dances, concerts, dinner-parties, darts and a well-stocked bar under the supervision of Bert, our genial steward. The grounds are laid out for cricket, football, tennis, bowls and netball; Tom, the groundsman, has worked wonders in obtaining perfection with the turf and planting shrubs and flowers.

All employees are members of the Club, and those who have not yet learned the Club habit are earnestly invited to visit the oasis of pleasant green with its friendly house, which is situated in Oldbury Road.

CHILDREN'S PARTY

Early in the year the Pavilion Entertainments Committee gave a party in the pavilion to 120 children. The Committee had collected £50 for the purpose by organising all kinds of money-raising stunts, and after a bumper tea

followed by an entertainment the young guests were presented with toys by Mr. C. J. S. Newman, who acted as Santa Claus. Photographs appear on the centre page.

ANGLING

The section has been less active during the last month owing to the bad weather, and by the time this is issued the closed season—which started on 15th March—will be upon us. During this period the monthly committee meeting will continue to be held.

The dates of the contests for next season, which starts on 15th June, will be as follows:—13th July; 14th September and 26th October.

CRICKET

A full programme of league and friendly fixtures has been arranged for the 1952 season, and we hope to achieve our ambition of winning Division Two of the Business Houses' League after being runners-up for the past two seasons.

We shall have the advantage of very good wickets this season as our groundsmen has made considerable improvements to the cricket square.

Practise nights will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, commencing 15th April. The Foster Cup interdepartmental competition will start on the 28th May, and entries should be given as soon as possible to G. Woodcock in the Light-house Grinding Room.

PAVILION ENTERTAINMENT

Our Wednesday night dances and Sunday night concerts continue to attract large numbers of people and are improving in standard as the weeks go by.

Darts, "snookerette", cards and dominoes are available on Wednesdays, in addition to the dancing for one hour to the radiogram and for three hours to the resident band—all for one shilling.

We have recently engaged a brilliant pianist in Harry Green, who was for

three years accompanist to Gracie Fields.

DARTS

The Ladies' Darts Team commenced their 1952 season on 3rd March. Match nights are Tuesdays in the pavilion and the Section secretary is Miss Davies, in the Teleprinter Office.

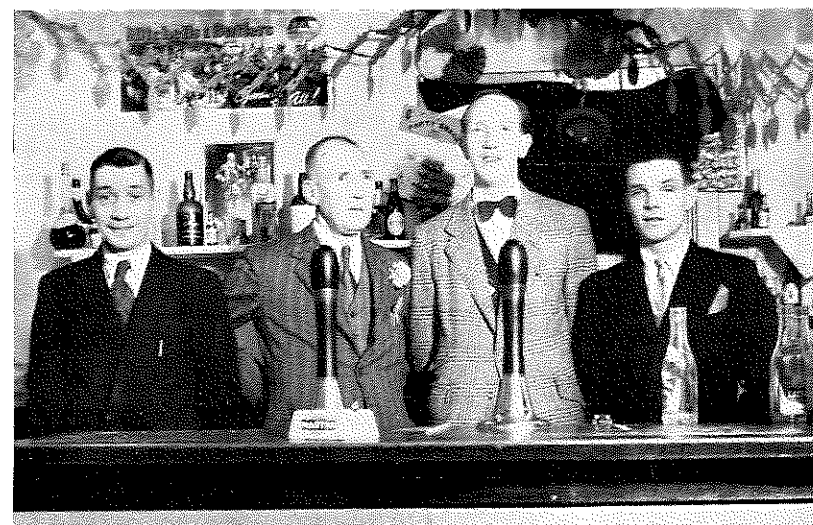
TABLE TENNIS

In recent years our Table Tennis teams have achieved top places in their respective leagues, but this year the "A" team has dropped to second place in Division I and the "B" team is holding up their Division.

The reasonable excuse for the second team's fall from grace is that several of the players have been called-up recently.

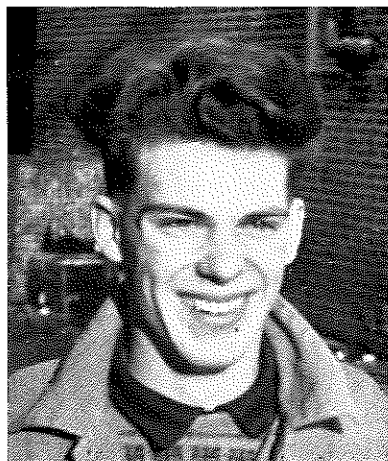
CHORAL

The newly-formed Choral Society will present a Concert in the Pavilion on the 3rd and 4th April.



The Pavilion Staff is ready to serve you

MEET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



JOHN EGGINTON

JOHN joined the Company in April 1948. He received his education at the Shireland Secondary Modern School and since joining the Company has spent the whole of his training in the Lighthouse Electrical Department.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day each week where he is studying for a City and Guilds of London Institute Certificate in Electrical Installation. His ambition is to become an Electrical Engineer.

John is a very keen sportsman with particular interests in swimming, football and tennis. He is also a jazz fan and a lover of dancing.

Amongst his dislikes are mean and selfish people and his greatest like is to wake up on Sunday morning with the thought of no work today!

KEVIN O'CONNOR

KEVIN completed his education at the James Watt Technical College and joined the Company as a Trade Apprentice in October 1947. During his period with the Company he has received training in the Lighthouse Toolroom, Electrical and Machine Shops and is at present in the Drawing Office.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day per week and is studying for a City and Guilds of London Institute Advanced Certificate in Workshop Engineering. He obtained his Intermediate Certificate in July 1951.

Kevin is a very keen basket-ball player and is a member of the Smethwick Borough team. He is also a jazz fan.

His greatest like is to be found in playing basket-ball and amongst



his dislikes in life are people who talk behind persons' backs, but are not prepared to repeat it to the persons concerned.

★

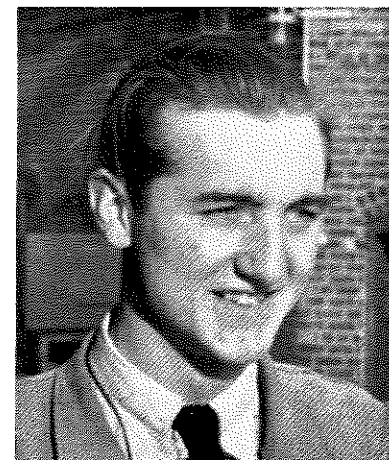
MICHAEL HINDS

MICHAEL was born in Yorkshire and educated at the Barnsley Grammar School where he obtained a Northern Universities "Matric". He joined the Company in May 1950 since when he has undergone training in the Lighthouse Toolroom, Machine, Fitting and Welding Shops. His ambition lies in the managerial side of engineering.

He attends the Chance Technical College on one day each week and is studying for an Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

Mike is a keen member of the Malt House Youth Centre, a keen pianist and a lover of popular and classical music.

One of his dislikes is people who like having jokes at the expense of



others but cannot take them if directed at themselves.

★

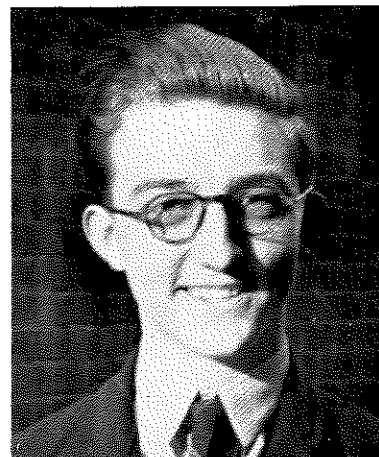
MAURICE FARNELL

MAURICE (pictured top right) was educated at Kenrick's Technical College, West Bromwich. He joined the Company in the Electrical Department and became an apprentice in August 1945. The whole of his period to date has been spent in the Lighthouse Electrical Department.

He attends the Kenrick's Technical College on one day per week where he is studying for an Ordinary National Certificate in Electrical Engineering. His ambition in life is to become an Electrical Engineer.

Maurice is a keen sportsman with particular interests in football, cricket and table tennis. In each of these sports he has played for the Works' teams.

One of his greatest dislikes is the same as that quoted by Mike Hinds.



The Work of the Press Officer

EVERYBODY knows what you mean when you say you are a glass blower or an accountant, but relatively few people know what a press officer does, because this kind of work was unknown until fairly recently. Even now there are many firms and organisations which do not employ a press officer, and they miss a great deal of publicity.

There is a technique which the press officer develops for dealing with journalists, news and stories, and the job is a skilled one, despite there being no recognised training for it and no diploma. With this technique, and knowledge and experience of the Press, the press officer can do the job for any kind of product, service or idea. The best basic experience the press officer can have is in journalism itself, so that he can understand the problems of the journalists who are, so to speak, his customers.

Basically, the job of a press officer is to keep the Press (and radio and television) informed about the activities of the Company and the people in it, in so far as those activities are likely to be of interest to the Press and its readers. No press officer can manufacture news; only when his colleagues make it will he have anything to tell the Press.

Good editorial publicity has a high value, but paradoxically, it has no price. It is not something you can buy—it is something you are given, and the most the Press officer can do is to make it easy for the Press to make the gift.

Chance Brothers is a busy and lively firm with many varied activities, so the press office is always busy. Organisationally the work resolves itself roughly into three main headings.

Of first importance is to provide information to journalists who ask for it, as promptly and as fully as possible, because journalists are always in a hurry. Their difficulty is that they are bound by rigid time schedules for going to press.

The press officer can answer many questions immediately; sometimes all that is needed is to send a photograph promptly. But often it is necessary to ask the department or person concerned for information, and the press officer's gratitude goes out to those who appreciate the impatience of journalists. Quick, full answers or reasonable explanations gain the firm many press friends.

The next main task is to tell the Press about special activities and new products, when journalists are approached not individually, but, so to speak, in the mass. Here the press officer has to exercise his judgment and draw on his experience as to how best to put the story across. His knowledge of newspapers, magazines and periodicals comes in here, because nothing irritates journalists more than to be told about things that do not interest them, unless it is to be left out of stories they would like to have written. So the compiling of Press lists is done with great care.

Exhibitions fall automatically under this heading, and the work

of the press officer has a direct effect on the amount of editorial mention gained.

A general notice is sent out to selected papers with the aim of getting them to see the firm's stand. Once there, they are given carefully written handouts, which aim to provide full information from which they can easily write their story, and enough good photographs for use as illustrations.

More exciting than exhibitions, both for the Press and the Press Office, are events like the opening of our Tubing Plant in Glasgow. This was a particularly good story. It got a phenomenal press, but it could have passed almost without notice unless the press side had been organised.

All these activities which form so large a part of the work of the Press office, can be regarded as needing action automatically. But there is a part of the work of the Press office—the third main heading—which in some ways is more creative, because it depends on direct initiative from the press officer.

Of course, not all the ideas which emanate from the Press office come to full fruition, since it may not be possible to carry them out for one reason or another. But there are some successes. One example was the press display of domestic glass at the London office last September, which was arranged with Christmas numbers of the women's magazines in mind. The results were so good that we hope to make this an annual event.

Still under this heading, the press officer can suggest special

articles that different papers might write, and help journalists to carry out and extend their own ideas. Sometimes in this side of the work, there is an unexpected and spectacular success, such as when the press officer's suggestion that Sir Hugh Chance might take part in a Midland Region Programme was promptly taken up and resulted in Sir Hugh broadcasting in the Home Service on one of his favourite subjects.

In essence, a press officer's success depends upon establishing and keeping friendly relations with a widening list of journalists, based upon a good and efficient service both to individuals and in major campaigns. The whole aim of the press officer, working through the Press, is to make every customer and potential customer of every one of Chance Brothers' products feel that here is a firm of standing and prestige.

Our Press Officer, Rosetta Desbrow, who contributes this article, works part-time in the London office, assisted by June Staddon. In the other half of her time she writes as a freelance journalist, and does press relations for another firm, S. Hille & Co., who make furniture, and are, incidentally, customers of Chance Brothers for new crown glass. She worked on "The Economist" for six years and was formerly Press Officer to the Council of Industrial Design.

In her freelancing she has written for all kinds of papers, magazines, trade and technical, dailies, overseas' journals, and has broadcast many times.



SNAPSHOTS OF OUR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



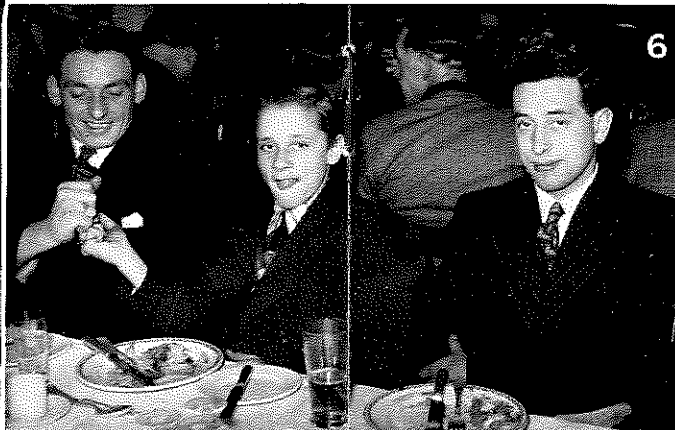
1 and 2. Children's New Year Party held in the Recreation Pavilion.

3. The Accounts Section Dinner held at the White Horse Restaurant.

4 and 5. Two back stage snapshots taken at the St. Helens Works Dance in the St. Helens Town Hall.

6. Colin Doswell, the baby of the M. and C. Division cracking a wish-bone.

7. Joe Hinton who recorded 50 years' service on 22nd February tells a priceless story at the Maintenance & Construction Division's Annual Dinner.





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

ACCOUNTS

On 23rd January the Accounts Section held a dinner and social evening at the White Horse Restaurant, Birmingham. The company was graced with the presence of Mr. and Mrs. John Raymond, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Barman, and as chief guest Mr. L. H. Cleaver. In all, 85 members of the staff and their guests sat down to an excellent meal.

After dinner Mr. Raymond proposed a toast to the Section, to which Mr. A. J. Platt made a very suitable reply. Mr. H. L. Barman, in a very witty speech, proposed a toast to the guests and here the honour of replying fell to Mr. L. H. Cleaver who, in his usual manner, had everyone's sides aching.

When the tables had been cleared, everyone settled down to enjoy the entertainment that had been organised, partly with the aid of local talent and partly with some outside help.



BLOWN AND PRESSED

The Blown and Pressed Sales held their second Annual Party in the Pavilion on 17th January, so that it coincided with the visit to the Works of the Divisional representatives.

Special thanks are due to Jack Francis, who organised almost a 100 per cent. attendance, and to the Ladies—Mrs. Brownsdon, Mrs. Coulthard, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Tomlin, Miss Cole and Miss Harris, who spent so much of their time in preparing the refreshments.

We said goodbye on 4th January to E. T. Ashton of Domestic Sales and to Ray Clarke of the Sales Office on 18th January.

The Blown Section welcomes back Stan Bowen after his serious motor-

cycle accident and the Globe Process is pleased to have Frank Tatton back after his illness.



ENGINEERING

Ernie Barratt left England on 4th February for Ceylon, where he will be engaged for the next three or four months on the installation of new light-house equipment in Colombo.

The new lighthouse, when completed, will replace the famous Clock Tower Light which at present stands in the middle of the main thoroughfare in Colombo.

Our best wishes go to Ernie, who has probably spent more time overseas than any other one person on our staff, singularly in the West Indies. This is the first time he has gone East, and it will be quite a new experience for him.

Congratulations also to N. T. Dalton and M. C. Hitchcox, who have successfully completed the first Nigeria light-house installation at Escravos, where the new light was put into commission on the 1st January.

They have now gone to Bonny River and are in the process of installing a second light, which they anticipate will be completed and put into commission by the end of April. From here they will move on to the Gold Coast, where they have five installations to complete before they return to the United Kingdom.

The Sumo Shop express sympathy with Jim Hodgetts on the recent death of his mother, and Don Howell on the death of his father.

A welcome is extended to G. Hughes and H. Hawkins on their return to work after illness.



EXPORT

Mr. H. Fulton, Export Manager, left England by air on 3rd February for a

business trip to South Africa and the Rhodesias, calling at Lisbon en route.

A dinner and social function was held in the Pavilion on Thursday, 24th January, when approximately 60 people sat down to a turkey dinner, after which a variety programme was carried through.

The highlights of the entertainment were humorous sketches by Claude Spencer and monologues by Miss Mottershead. Their performances were particularly well received as both are members of the Export staff.

Supporting items were provided by the Joe Sellmer Trio, Bob Hope (baritone) and Mrs. Judziak ("Carmen"), and thanks are due to Claude Spencer for arranging the programme.

The artistes were accompanied on the piano by Doug. Sandin of Sumo Sales, and thanks are given also to him for his able assistance.



FLAT GLASS

A party from the Rolled Plate Department had an enjoyable evening on the 21st January, when they attended the panto. at Dudley. Another party had a chicken supper at Hartlebury on the 19th February.

It is with profound regret that we report the sudden death of Alfred Cooke on the 19th February. Alfred had been with the Company as a cutter for 50 years; he served on the W.C.C. for three years.

Ted Mills has been transferred to London office to continue his training as a representative.



LABORATORY

The Laboratory staff, together with the staff from the Personnel and Pyrometry Departments, held a successful social in the Pavilion on New Year's day. The principal guests were Dr. and Mrs. Hampton.

John Gillespie proved an able M.C. for the programme of dancing, games and competitions.

Les. Bullock left Smethwick early in February to proceed to our Glasgow works.



MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

On 21st January, 160 members of the Maintenance and Construction

Division assembled at the Blue Gates Hotel, Smethwick, for their third annual dinner.

Mr. W. E. Barrett, as Head of the Division, welcomed the guests, Mr. John Raymond, Managing Director, and Mr. A. Ogden, Personnel Manager. Mr. Raymond made a speech which was of great encouragement to the Division, and Charlie Kirkham replied.

Some lively entertainment followed, and our thanks are due to the organising committee for a very good evening.

On 18th December about 40 members of the Old Hall staff met for dinner at the Talbot Hotel, Oldbury.

Entertainment was provided afterwards and an enjoyable time was had by all. We thank Mr. T. Davies and Mr. R. Taylor who did the organising.

We welcome Mr. A. G. Dawson, who has joined the Division as Assistant Chief Engineer, and Mr. W. Norris, who is a newcomer to the Drawing Office.

It is with regret that the Division records the sudden deaths of George Thompson and William Rayner.



OPTICAL

After a long period of high production the demand for Spectacle Glass has fallen to a low level and production has been reduced.

We now have two large melting furnaces in full production making Optical glass for prisms, etc., and the four electrical melting furnaces are programmed for some time ahead making special glasses for home and overseas.



PYROMETRY

We regret to report that Jack Allsop left the firm at the end of December after 14 years' service.

On 4th January a farewell dinner was arranged at the Tipton Arms Hotel. Mr. S. W. Shaw attended and about a dozen of Jack's close friends.

During the evening a pint tankard engraved with the names of the donors was presented to Jack who, in thanking those present, said that he would also like to thank the many people in various parts of the works who had been instrumental in making him the gifts of a watch and cigarette lighter.

(continued on page 17)

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Tubing Plant was officially opened at the Glasgow Works on the 16th January, 1952, by the Right Hon. James Stuart, P.C., M.V.O., M.C., M.P., the Secretary of State for Scotland, who was accompanied by Sir Victor Warren, M.B.E., the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir Charles C. Cunningham, C.B., C.V.O., the Directors of the Company, and approximately forty guests.

Sir Hugh Chance in his introductory remarks referred to the Vello Tubing Process having been perfected by Corning Glass Works of America, and said that the plant installed at Glasgow employs the latest American technique.

A full report on this event appears on page two.

Smith Hadden, after 32 years' service with the Company, mainly in the Gatehouse, has retired. His many friends in the Works presented him with a Wireless Set.

● LONDON

London office held their annual Christmas Party on 21st December and invited members of Notley's staff, Mr. Neuberger and Mr. Davis from Chance-Londex, and Mr. Holt of Pilkington Brothers Ltd. A well-laden table received immediate and worthwhile attention, and a radiogram in the

general office supplied dance music which while not of the most modern style was nevertheless enjoyable. The lady members of the staff were each presented with a pair of Nylons by the menfolk of the office. This was in the nature of a surprise and highly appreciated by the ladies. The individual sizes were obtained very discreetly and without giving away the secret!

London office is close to the route used for the King's funeral procession and staff could not reach the office owing to the crowds. Arrangements were made through the courtesy of Fibreglass Limited for several members of the staff to view the procession from their windows in Piccadilly. This generous gesture was greatly appreciated.

● MALVERN

The Malvern (Optical Division) congratulates Beryl Fordham and Richard Collingbourn (late of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry) on their marriage at Ledbury Parish Church on 17th January, and Audrey Hughes and Gordon Gillan who were married at St. Mary's Church, Madrasfield, on 26th January.

The works extend a sincere welcome to Irene Fisher, but regret that they lost Hazel Ball after nearly five years' service.

● ST. HELENS

With the reduction in remoulding orders a number of operators have been switched over to the grinding section, and now that they are settling down an ever increasing supply of glass is now reaching Raw Glass stores, and the accumulated "pools" are quickly diminishing. One of our melting furnaces has been stopped so that a new type of recuperator can be fitted, which if successful, should greatly extend the life of these production units.

We were very thrilled to view the televising of the manufacture of Television Tubes at Spon Lane recently, and we should like to congratulate Blown and Pressed on a very good show.

Congratulations to the following employees who have recently married:—

W. Craine (Technical Office) to Margaret Birchall (Cutting Section) on the 15th December, 1951.

Edward Graham to Margaret Bebe (Cutting Section) on the 29th December.

W. Roberts to Sarah Holmes (Packing Bench) on the 29th December.

W. Lynch to Joan Forrest (Packing Bench) on the 19th January.

Our annual dance on Friday the 14th December, was a really wonderful event. A grand attendance of 300 together with efficient organisation enabled the evening to go with a real swing.

The dance held in the Town Hall was graced this year by the presence of their Worships the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Helens. The Mayoress was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Mrs. A. Murphy, one of our longest serving employees.

Modern and Old Time dancing were enjoyed and the whole thing very ably compered by our M.C. Mr. J. Buckley. The dance committee under Mr. T.

Hodgson can feel proud at putting on such a good show.

On Saturday the 16th February, we held our annual Children's Party. Eighty-eight kiddies between the ages of five to fourteen sat down to a scrumptious tea in the Gamble Memorial Hall—this was followed by a photograph which we hope to be able to publish in the next issue. Then came the films, a full hour and a half of comic films and cartoons was presented much to the children's delight.

The youngsters then lined up to receive from the hands of Mr. S. T. Pickering a bag of sweets and suitable presents. The gifts which really were grand included model sailing yachts, embroidery sets, toy revolvers and skipping ropes, were received with loud whoops of joy. Everybody seemed to enjoy the party including the large band of helpers from the Works, and all the kiddies could say was "when is the next party?"

News From all Departments— (Continued from page 15)

CONGRATULATIONS

ENGAGEMENTS.

Clara Beswick (Optical) to A. Dinnigan.

Ethel Forsyth (Optical) to J. Stanley. Doreen Cook (Typing Pool) to L. Riddell.

Eileen Dwyer (Typing Pool) to A. Blackham.

MARRIAGES.

Elsie Sorrell (Optical) to F. Cox. K. M. O. Wand (Cost Office) to Rita Heckford.

Betty Egginton (Salaries Office) to David Westwood.

Dorothy Larner (Medical Centre) to T. Eccles.

BIRTHS.

A daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Francis (B. & P. Sales).

A daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Everitt (B. & P. Sales).

A son to Mr. and Mrs. Ken. Sau (Optical).

From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The last minutes of the W.C.C. available for reporting are those of the meeting held on the 23rd January, when general matters discussed included several good housekeeping subjects such as road tidiness, the elimination of dust from the Telfer grab, works signs, window cleaning and cycle racks.

The various sub-committees reported much activity at their meetings.

The Flat Glass Division's committee reported that improvements had been achieved in the manufacture of micro glass, but we were likely to meet competition from America. No. 21 furnace was being warmed-up after repair, and it was probable that flash ruby would be manufactured in the first instance in the early future. There had been a considerable decline in the demand for rolled glasses in both the home and the export markets. This was to an extent expected at this time of the year, and it was hoped that the

position would shortly improve. No. 1 tank was now out for cold repair, and it would be necessary for No. 3 tank to undergo a hot re-blocking, probably at Easter. A number of domestic matters were discussed, including breakage with loose loads and export packing. It was mentioned that a new glass, now known in the works as the pimple design, would be placed on the market soon and the Company was searching for a suitable name for this pattern.

At the Optical Production sub-committee it was reported that orders for optical mouldings had almost completely disappeared, but requirements for optical glass were still considerable.

The Maintenance and Construction sub-committee had again considered a large number of items, including sawdust stoves, lavatories, ventilation in the Millwrights' Shop and the controlled maintenance system.

The subjects considered by the Engineering Division's sub-committee included lavatories, lagging of steam pipes, various maintenance jobs and the arrangements for the summer holiday period.

Other sub-committees which made reports were the Fuel

Economy Committee, Safety Committee, Suggestion Scheme Committee and the Canteen Advisory Committee. The minutes of the latter two committees have already been displayed in the works.

Mr. John Raymond, Managing Director and Chairman of the

W.C.C., briefly reviewed the production situation in the various Divisions. He stressed that industry generally was going through a very difficult time, and our Company was not free from such difficulties, due mainly to ever-increasing costs.

Suggestions Scheme

£20 10 0 was awarded for adopted suggestions during January and February. The highest award, namely £5, went to E. G. Brown of the Malvern (Engineering) Works, who made an excellent suggestion which improved the efficiency of the Flamemaster Torch.

The Committee was very pleased to receive an adoptable suggestion from a lady member of the Malvern (Optical) Works, and Miss R. Tilbury was awarded £3 for a suggestion for shrinking capillary tubing without reducing the outside diameter.

£3 was also awarded to P. Hogan of the Lighthouse Grinding Shop, who had a sound idea for a method of distributing carborundum to glass. If his idea proves adoptable to other departments of the Works he would, of course, receive a further award.

E. Taylor, Sumo Pump Test, recommended a change in the routine of testing Sumo motors and his ideas resulted in a reduction of the time required for testing; £2 10 0 was awarded.

F. W. Davies of the Blown and Pressed Division received £1 12 6 for a suggestion concerning the water shades in Nos. 9 and 11 tanks.



A suggestion for a rack for Deck Light mould rings earned R. Clark of the Pressed Mould Shop £1 5 0.

W. A. Perkins, Optical, was awarded £1 for an idea concerning the fume extractor on No. 1 furnace.

Other awards were as follows:—

S. Matthews, Millwrights	17/6
F. A. Clifton, Millwrights	10/-
E. Hillin, B. & P. Inspection	10/-
B. Coley, Optical	7/6
J. B. Smith, Electrical	7/6
W. Hadley, Sumo	5/-
R. E. Courtneil, Fitting	5/-

★

There is one at each gate.

Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions



OUR FLAME-EATER

This *Birmingham Gazette* photograph shows Gatekeeper Walter Homer eating flames from bundles of lighted tapers. He gave a demonstration of his unusual skill at a children's party held at the Recreation Club, and he thrilled the kiddies by licking white-hot iron bars and passing flaming tapers all over his body and down his throat.

Walter has been doing this sort of thing for 25 years, and has won challenges issued by natives he met while serving with the Army in the Middle East.



FROM FIELD TO FACTORY

At the request of the Juvenile Employment Services our Education and

Training Officer, Don Chappell, toured Shropshire and Cornwall recently to lecture to schoolboys on the glass industry, and this resulted in a number of boys applying for employment with the Company as apprentice glassmakers. In the areas mentioned there is little opportunity for young people to obtain industrial training and many seek various forms of apprenticeship with reputable firms in industrial towns.

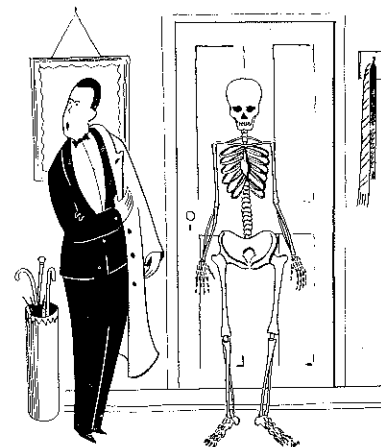
We welcomed the first intake of boys in the middle of February, and training is now being given in the Blown and Pressed Division by Joe Deeley.

To ensure that the boys are well-cared for, two of the Company's cottages at the top of the New Gate thoroughfare have been converted into a well-furnished and comfortable hostel.



THE FOREMAN'S LOT

"It is a common supposition" writes a foreman of the Swansea Vale works of the Imperial Smelting Corporation in *Discus*, "that a foreman's task is an easy one, and that given the authority anyone would be capable of executing it. I was soon disillusioned. I learned that I had to know my men, to understand them, and to vary my approach in each case to suit the individual. The days when threats were effective are gone. The fear of unemployment no longer exists, and in its place we have mutual understanding, co-operation and team spirit. These are far more pleasant and desirable methods than those so commonly used in the past, but also far more difficult of application."



"I've dug up a friend to make a four."

A CLAIM IS CHALLENGED

In Roger Barron's article on Brazil which appeared in our last issue, a claim was made that Sao Paulo Airport handled more air traffic than London Airport and Northolt put together.

Our Engineering Division Sales Manager, F. Beaumont, found this claim difficult to believe and he sought confirmation or otherwise from *The Aeroplane*. The following is an extract from the reply Mr. Beaumont received:

"The latest figures for Sao Paulo airport available to us are those for 1950 when the number of aircraft movements was 62,295. For the same year, the

CONTRIBUTORS are asked to note that the next issue of CHANCE COMMENTS closes for press on 18th April.

figures for London Airport and Northolt were 25,450 and 47,697 respectively, making a total of 73,147.

"The claim that Sao Paulo handles more daily traffic than the two British airports together may be based on the fact that Sao Paulo possibly has a steady daily traffic which, compared with the seasonal traffic at the two British airports, would occasionally give them a higher daily figure but taken over a whole year, the claim of the Brazilian airport cannot, we think, be substantiated."



PERSONAL HOLIDAY FUND

The annual accounts of the Employees' Personal Holiday Fund show that during the year 1951 the sum of £10,154 was saved by members of the Fund by deductions from wages. Since the scheme was introduced in 1938 a total of £62,593 has been saved.

Any employee may join the Fund by authorising the Wages or Salaries Office to deduct a regular amount from his or her wages for holidays.

W. A. Standley contributes this vintage photograph of a staff garden party held at the home of the late Mr. J. R. Wharton at Burnt Green in 1924.



A WINDOW IN ST. JAMES'S SQUARE

CHANCE Brothers have the only shop-window in St. James's Square, London . . . at number 28, on the south side. Behind (and above) that window they do much business—for this is London Office, with its quadruple function of Area Sales Headquarters, Information Desk, Conference Centre and Reception Bureau to the whole Chance organisation.

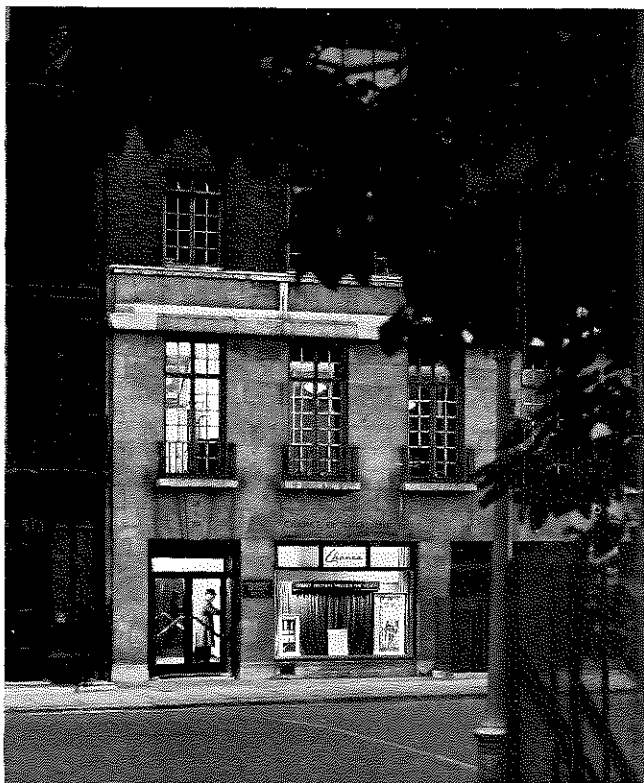
Each of the Manufacturing Divisions keeps its special representative here, in close touch with customers in London and the Home Counties, in even closer touch with Smethwick by teleprinter. Information is provided for users of Chance glass, such as architects and industrial chemists. Export enquiries from London business houses are dealt with, and every other sort of enquiry, too.

The people at London Office undertake the reception of overseas' visitors, arranging hotel accommodation for them, visits to the Works, very often recreation as well. They provide a similar (if modified) service for Chance Brothers' own executive staff when they come up to town. They organize meetings with customers in the panelled Conference Room with its eighteenth century furniture . . . meetings over which the Founder and his partner-brother preside in benevolent silence, for their portraits hang on opposing walls, in line with the long table.

Then there is the public relations side . . . for London Office also handles publicity matters and is responsible for press advertising, printed literature, exhibition stands, etc., and for editorial publicity as well.

All this goes on at 28 St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

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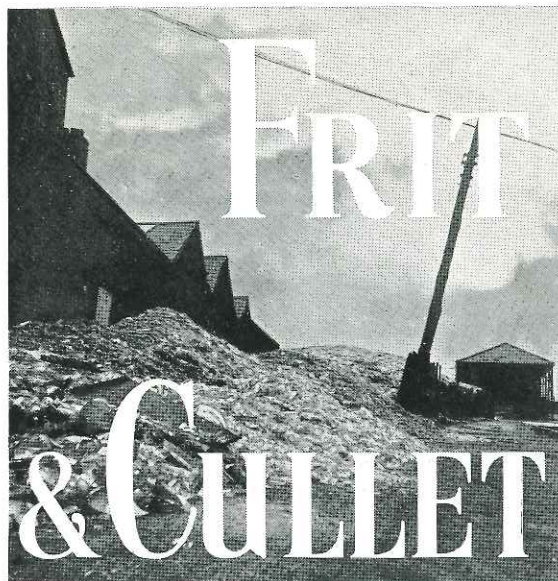


★ Woman's Feature

STOCKING CAP VARIATION

WOOL jersey goes to your head in this flattering version of the stocking cap. It's simply a tube of easy-to-drape jersey caught into a loop at the back by a ring of velvet ribbon. A matching band of ribbon frames the face. Make this jaunty cap to wear with semi-tailored clothes and, by the way, it's wonderful for keeping your ears warm! Apply to the Personnel Department for the free Penny Wise sewing directions.

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Schoolboy Howlers
Portia had a casket with a photograph of her inside.

Queen Victoria was the longest Queen of England.

A cosmetic is something that makes you sick.

Gender is how you tell what sex a man is.

A net is a thing used by fishermen. It is made by tying string round a lot of holes.

The wife of a Prime Minister is known as a Primate. The wife of a Czar is a "Czardine".

Contralto is a low kind of music sung by ladies.

Acrimony is what happens when people are married.

Quinine means the bark of a tree. In the same way, canine is the bark of a dog.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. Is there an animal who has a father a bull, a cow for a mother, and is known as a pup?
2. If four cannibals and four white men—all unable to swim—wish to cross a river, and the only boat will hold only one man, how many journeys will be necessary?
3. What battle was it at which Nelson put his telescope to his blind eye?
4. Was Baroness Orczy, the famous novelist, really a baroness?
5. Is the sun nearer the earth in summer than in winter?
6. How much cargo can a 10,000 ton ship carry?

ANSWERS

1. Yes. A seal.
2. They will never do it as each side he has to bring the boat back.
3. Copenhagen, 1801.
4. Yes.
5. No, it is further away! The sun is some 3,000,000 miles farther from the earth in July than it is in January.
6. 10,000 tons.

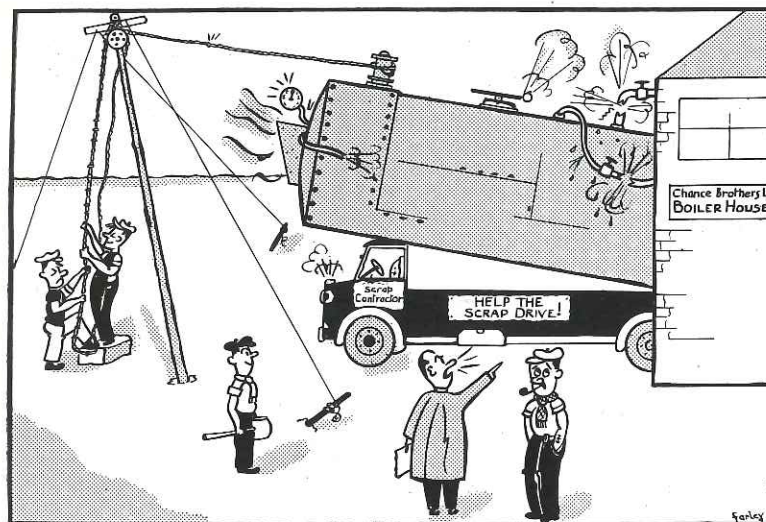
LUBRICATION CHART FOR STAFF

The following table shows the correct grade of lubricant for avoiding friction with various types of staff. Mark Spade, who devised this list in his book *Business for Pleasure*, stresses that one should always ask for the Sealed Can.

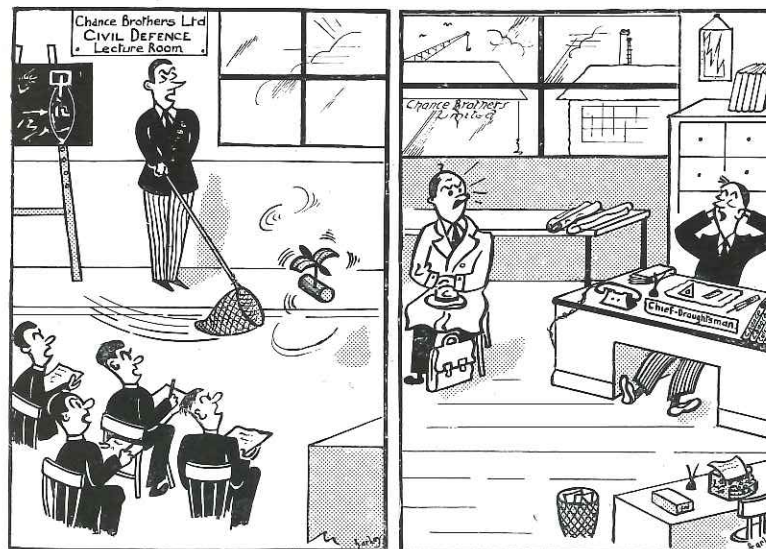
Recommended Lubricant

	Operative	Foreman	Manager	Major Executive
Summer	Palm Oil	XXX	Heavy Humour	Heavy Tact
Winter	Elbow Grease	XXX	Ethyl Alcohol	Commercial Spirit

LAUGH WITH FARLEY



"Scrap be blown, get the darned thing back!"



"And here, gentlemen, we have the common or garden—'Butterfly Bomb'!"

"The easiest way to remember our telephone number is to think of the square root of 3326976!"