



Machines left running unnecessarily
waste power which wastes fuel which
wastes money which is really rather silly
when you think about it, isn't it ?

Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar

Chance

COMMENTS



MARCH—APRIL 1954

Chance

COMMENTS

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

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EDITOR A. OGDEN

CORRESPONDENTS

Accounts Office	J. ALLEN
Blown and Pressed	
Inspection	F. O'CONNOR
Process	R. TURTON
Making	S. STOCKIN
Warehouse	A. SUTTON
	MRS. A. KEYS
Buying	
Stationery	MRS. CANTY
Engineering	
Drawing Office	J. FISHER
Electrical	J. THOMPSON
Grinding	MRS. HASTINGS
Machine and	
Fitting	F. CARTWRIGHT
Commercial Staff	F. W. G. BEAUMONT
Sumo Office	S. BROWN
Sumo Works	T. PICKEN
Welding and	
Blacksmiths	D. EDWARDS
Works Staff	A. SLEIGH
Export	F. TAYLOR
Flat Glass	
Making and	
Warehouse	R. E. EVANS
Sales	R. PALMER
Seven Storey	A. FARDELL
Laboratory	MRS. RUSSELL
Maintenance and	
Construction	
Boiler Shop	G. ROWE
Building	S. BEARDSMORE
Electricians	E. A. WHITEHOUSE
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Millwrights	W. JOHNSON
Old Hall	MRS. O'RIORDAN
Stores	D. KIRKWOOD
Mixing	N. GREEN
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VOL. 7, No. 1.

MARCH—APRIL 1954.

INTO OUR SEVENTH YEAR

THIS issue of Chance Comments is the first of Volume Seven and we go forward with confidence into another year. Nowadays, there are few firms of our size who do not publish a works magazine or news sheet, as there is a sincere belief that such publications can, if used intelligently, be one method of creating team spirit and mutual understanding.

The magazine can explain the policies of the Management in easily understood terms; it can remind its readers from time to time of the welfare and social schemes which operate for their benefit; it can tell them of the firms products and problems of production; it can show them how important each job is and how they fit into the firm, not as many teeth in a gear wheel, but as individual human beings with likes and dislikes and opinions and characters of their own.

But of course, a magazine such as Chance Comments does not appear out of the blue. Since the first issue, just six years ago, some 321,500 words and 1,100 photographs have been published. As a comparison, the novel "Forever Amber" consists of 110,000 words, and of course, no photographs.



Ken Perks at work on another cartoon.



Victor Thompson in Action.

As this is a birthday issue, it seems an appropriate occasion to give a brief report of the activities that go on behind the scenes during the preparation of each issue.

Making blocks and setting up type is a lengthy business and all material has to be in the hands of the printers a full month before the issue day. This means the Editor has to start planning the magazine at least six weeks in advance and he takes this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the many people who contribute articles. There has not been a single occasion when a member of Chance Brothers has failed to answer an appeal for an article. The Departmental Correspondents help considerably by providing domestic news and our Cartoonist, Ken Perks, always does a good job of work.

Most of the photographs have been taken by members of the Personnel Department staff, but from time to time we have engaged the services of professional photographers including Mr. and Mrs. Darby of West Bromwich, and Victor Thompson who is a well-known press photographer. We have also received a great deal of assistance in this direction from our London Office.

When we have collected the material and photographs, we hand them over, with a rough indication as to how we want the layout, to Leonard Bates of Pitmans in London, who is a specialist in the publication of industrial magazines. Mr. Bates and his layout artist

prepare a format which gives us an exact picture of the layout and this is submitted to us for approval before being sent to the printers and block makers. During the past few years we have reached such a high pitch of understanding with Mr. Bates that the layout is almost invariably prepared exactly in accordance with our wishes and it is seldom that we have to ask for any alterations.

Once the layout is approved, the photographs are sent to the block maker's studio where they are reduced to the requisite size and engraved upon copper for reproduction purposes. Block making is a highly technical process which calls for a marked degree of skill from the engraver.

The approved format and the material for printing is sent to the Cradley Printing Company where the necessary type is set. As soon as the blocks have been completed they are dropped into position and a set of rough proofs are run off and sent to us for checking.

Once the corrected proofs have been returned to the printers, our activities

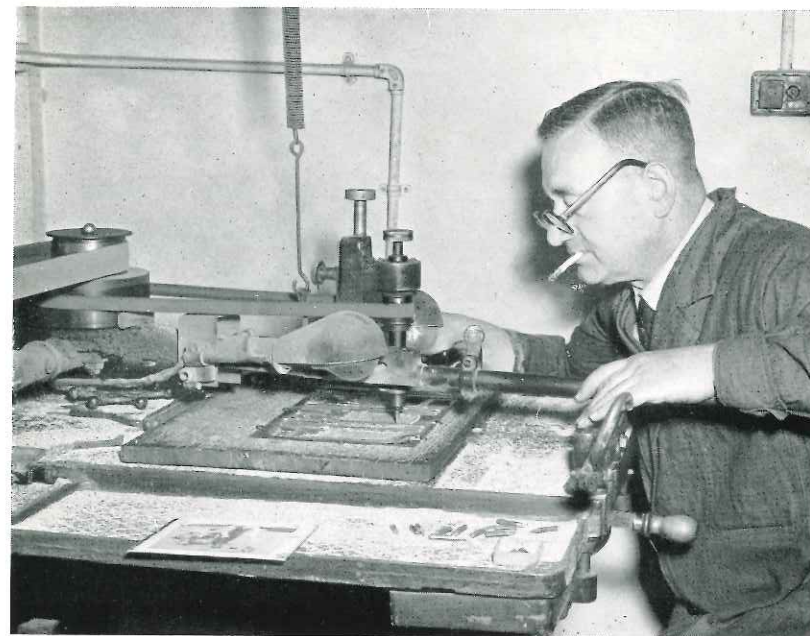
are at an end and we leave the printers to get on with their job, whilst we start planning the next issue. We have always insisted that the magazine is issued on the 25th of each alternate month and so far we have not failed. There was one occasion when the magazine was printed in Leeds when it was obvious that the finished copies were not going to arrive at the Works by the appointed day. To keep our end up we insisted that the printers rushed the job down from Leeds in a taxi and the magazines were on sale five minutes before normal finishing time.

Well, here it is. The thirty-seventh issue of *Chance Comments* is now in your hands. Five or six weeks ago we set the wheels in motion and they have been rotating ever since. Photographers, layout artists, block makers, and printers have all been playing their parts. Let's hope that the result of this joint effort meets with your approval.

Editor's Note: This article was inspired by a similar one which appeared in M. & B's magazine *Deerstalker* and certain photographs were kindly loaned by M. & B.



The rough layout is prepared for another "Chance Comments" issue in our Publisher's studio.



Some of the blocks are machine engraved.



The Magazine comes off the press.

“YOU MAY BEAT THE BOY— SHORT OF DRAWING BLOOD”

IT is good sometimes to look back and see how we did things long ago. The duties a boy in the fourteenth century was expected to perform, and the relationship between the apprentice, his parents and the ‘Master,’ or employer; the apprentice and the journeyman, or semi-skilled craftsman, of the middle ages, was much the same then as now.

What is the origin of the apprentice? The first we hear of it is in the thirteenth century when the arrangements, of course, for a boy to be taught his trade at the hands of a ‘Master’ or employer were very simple. In those days it was more or less a gentleman’s agreement between the boy’s parents and a craftsman or Master who might be willing to take their son and teach him the secrets of his craft. The word ‘apprentice’ means ‘learner’ and comes from the old French word ‘*aprentis*’—apprentice, which in turn comes from the French word ‘*apprendre*,’ to learn.

As time went on, and industry flourished, heralding the birth of the craftsman class, craftsmen in each trade formed a brotherhood or ‘Guild.’ These craft guilds were interested in the training and welfare of their members, as well as in the quality of work done and the apprentice contracts, resulting in firmer father-son-master relationship of the thirteenth century, now became the responsibility of the craft guild concerned. Craft guilds did not mean equality of members. The Middle Ages was not an age of equality. Each guild divided its members into three grades; Masters, journeymen, and apprentices, corresponding to the employer, craftsman and apprentice to-day.

In the fourteenth century, when a guild member wished to put his son to a trade he asked the guild to find a ‘Master’ prepared to take his son. The Master had to be a man of “good life and character, endowed with patience and approved by the masters of the guild.” The father of the boy and the prospective Master were then brought together, and if agreement was reached, a contract was entered into, either verbal between the two, or before a lawyer.

Once the contract had been signed the period of apprenticeship was fixed, and varied widely in different trades between six, eight, ten or even twelve years. There was a trial period, as there is for our apprentices, during, or at the end of which, Master or apprentice could terminate the agreement.

Apprenticeship in the Middle Ages was by no means free from expense. The boy’s father had to pay a retaining fee annually in corn, bread, and money, and in return the child received his lodging, food, clothes, washing and light (a rush lamp in those days!) and was supervised and taught in the Master’s house. The apprentice of the middle ages usually started his training when he was ten, but there was no fixed age limit as to-day. In exchange for the benefits he was to receive at the hands of his master, the apprentice had to swear on oath that he would be industrious, and obedient, and **WORK FOR NO OTHER MASTER.** The Master, for his part, promised to teach the boy the secrets of his craft “to treat him well and decently in sickness and in health”—

provided that the sickness did not last more than one month. These duties of the master carried certain rights. The master might beat his apprentice—provided that he did it himself, and, as one contract said—“short of drawing blood.”

But young people were well understood in the Middle Ages, and generally speaking, were treated with tolerance. As today, it sometimes happened then, that an apprentice would leave his job in a fit of temper and run away. A time limit, thereupon, was set for his return, and his place kept for him. One boy was away for as long as 26 weeks. If he returned within the time limit, he was punished but taken back; but if he committed three such escapades he was dismissed.

If a boy’s father was sensible he would have inserted in his contract with the Master, a minimum time which must elapse before his son might earn a wage of his own, otherwise it was likely that an able boy (‘a well begotten youth,’ as they called him) would be kept trailing behind his master when he should have won independence.

The apprentice of the Middle Ages drank small beer, not water, which was unsafe. Though he was in constant danger of being beaten by his master he continued to amuse himself in his spare time exceedingly well, acting in small plays, eating sweetmeats, taking part in angling, wrestling and archery matches on feast days and holy days, organised by the Church, which knew well her business and catered for the requirements of youth.

Reproduced by permission Newton Chambers & Co. Ltd., Sheffield.

Apprenticeship in 1954.





BADMINTON

This year many of the Badminton Section players are new to the game, but despite this the Club has at last won its first competitive game, and looks forward to more wins in the next two or three months.

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

The Billiards Team is now heading for the League Championship in spite of strong opposition.

The Section congratulates Arthur Sleight on being selected to play for the Langley League.

The Snooker "A" Team started the season well, but lately seem to have been deserted by luck and deciding games have been lost on the black. The Snooker "B" Team also struck a bad patch but is now improving.

CHORAL

The Choral Section presented concerts in the Pavilion on the 11th and 12th February. On the first night the audience consisted of Pensioners of the Company and on the second night the proceeds were towards the Works Disaster Fund. The Section is to be congratulated on excellent performances.

CRICKET

Reg Ward, the Secretary of the Cricket Section, whose office is in the Sumo Service Department, would like to take this opportunity of advising everybody that the Cricket Season is not too far away.

The coming season will be a most important one, both from the First and Second Teams' points of view. The grounds have been put into perfect condition and our equipment will be second to none.

DRAMATICS

The recently formed Dramatic Society is getting well into its stride and has persuaded Arnold Heath to become its Producer.

Rehearsals have started for a play which it is proposed to present in the early future. Anyone interested in joining the Section should contact Miss R. Donnelly, in the Old Hall.

FOOTBALL

Both of our Football Teams are doing well and each is leading its respective League Division. The First Team has reached the final of the Edward Ansell Memorial Cup.

Every player is giving of his best each week and the Club has high hopes of having at least three trophies to collect at the end of the season.

At the time of going to press C. Whitehouse of the First team had scored twenty goals, and L. Hands of the Second team had scored twenty-one.

PAVILION ENTERTAINMENTS

The high-light of the Pavilion Entertainments programme was the Children's Party held in the Pavilion in January, when some one hundred and twenty very young children were guests of the Club.

After a magnificent tea, Father Christmas presented each child with a toy.

SWIMMING

The Swimming Section hopes to resume its activities in April, and the Club is trying to obtain the reservation of the Baths at West Bromwich on one evening each week. This, however, might prove impracticable and it may be that the Club will have to remain at Rolfe Street Baths.

Any new members, either swimmers or non-swimmers will be welcomed in the Section and facilities are available for swimming instruction. Anyone who is interested should contact D. Forsyth of the Optical Department, or F. Cartwright of the L. H. Fitting Shop.

ARCHERY

THE use of the bow is centuries old and mention of it can be found in the Bible, also one of the Royal sports of Assyria was shooting lions from a chariot.

It is thought that the long bow was introduced into Britain by the Scandinavians, and later its use was made more widespread throughout the country by the Normans, who demonstrated the use of the long bow in war in 1066 'and all that.' The Yeomen of England proved their skill with the bow at Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt, where

it was said that the arrows 'fell like rain,' and considering the arrowheads of some of these missiles were reported to be five fingers in length and three fingers in width, it was certainly some shower! The weapons used by these archers of old were much heavier than the modern equipment—some of the bows being 70lb or more draw weight, whereas the bows used now are mainly between 25-30lbs for ladies and 40-45 for men.

Archery as a sport was encouraged by many of our kings and some of them became expert archers themselves, such as Henry VIII, who on the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold,' gave a demonstration of archery which we are told astonished the French nobility present. About this time Roger Ascham wrote his book "Toxophilus," and described his five points of "goode shutynge," which are adopted now.

There are so many different kinds of shooting which give the sport its appeal to every sort of temperament. There is the competitive target shooting at both short and long ranges; Flight shooting which strives solely for the longest possible distance; an arrow has been shot over 900 yards, and there is hunting for game from rabbits to lions, (the former is recommended), although Arthur Young made a trip to Africa, and in fact shot full grown lions, using a modern bow and sharp broadhead arrows similar to the old English war arrow.

The sport was not practiced on any great scale for a number of years, due to the expense of the equipment although many archers do make their own, but now there are many clubs like our own, who provide equipment for the use of its members enabling many to take up the sport who otherwise would be unable to do so because of the expense.

This season (commencing early April), we intend to arrange many tournaments with local clubs, and also tournaments amongst ourselves. All interested in Archery are invited to join us on Monday or Thursday evenings at the Recreation Ground at 7 p.m. Monday evenings this season being entirely devoted to instruction in the use of the bow.

T. W. FIELD.

From your COMMITTEE ROOM

WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

AT the January and February meetings of the Works Consultative Committee, emphasis was laid on the urgency of improving yields of all products and the great need to reduce costs. Mr. C. J. S. Newman, the Chairman stated that the Company was experiencing keener and keener competition both at home and abroad and orders were being lost because our prices were too high.

In the Blown and Pressed Division our Cathode Ray Tube customers were pressing for increased numbers of tubes but were demanding higher standards. The Vello Tubing plant was working satisfactorily but here again the customers were pressing for price reductions, and this was particularly urgent for Export trade—quite a large proportion of our tubes were at present being exported. Competition in the tube market was becoming increasingly fierce and it was known that Continental manufacturers had recently installed Vello Tubing plant and were producing tubes of high quality and at attractive prices.

In the hand pressed Soda Lime ware, the Blown and Pressed Division was determined to expand.

Turning to the Flat Glass Division, Mr. Newman reported that the Rolled Plate Department was very busy indeed, as the building programme in this country was being kept up. Unfortunately, the Coloured Department was much concerned as the order position was far from satisfactory and it was very

worrying to learn that Continental machine made drawn flashed glasses were coming into this country.

The Optical Division still had a full order book, but the possibility of American competition gave cause for concern.

All this makes dismal reading, but as Mr. Newman stressed, the growing competition is not peculiar to Chance Brothers. Most industries have a similar problem. Quite bluntly, the answer to the challenge is that yields and quality be improved and costs be brought down.

Included in domestic matters discussed by the Works Consultative Committee was that of charity appeals. For many years, charity collections have been confined to the Birmingham Mail Christmas Tree Fund and the Midland Institute for the Blind, and the only flag day held within the Works was Poppy Day.

The Company had been approached by two or three national charities with a view to workpeople contributing a penny a week by deduction from wages and the Management asked the opinion of employees. In order to get a full picture of the wishes of employees, this matter was passed down for consideration by the Division Sub-Committees and each reported back that workpeople could not agree to charity deductions from wages, and wished charity appeals to be confined to the Societies named above.

THERE'S ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

AS evidence of the maxim that a good idea pays dividends, here is a selection of suggestions which have been adopted since our last issue.

Glassworks

An award of £10 5s. 0d., was made to W. Forber, St. Helens Works, for his suggestion to fit a cooling tube to the kilns to facilitate cooling.

Tom McGarey of the Blown and Pressed Division recommended that a wire mesh be fitted across the spray booths in the Decorating Department to prevent excess paint entering the fans. This idea is a money saver and Tom was given an interim award of £5 5s. 0d.

The Suggestions Scheme Committee is always particularly pleased to receive suggestions from our lady employees, and Mrs. M. J. Simpson of the Fiesta Department was awarded £1 5s. 0d., for her ideas for a device for saving some of the expensive materials used in the Fiesta processes.

Two St. Helens men each received £1 2s. 6d., S. Kelly of the Furnace Hall recommended the provision of extra lighting points to assist on furnace repairs, and J. Yates of the Trimming Section put forward an idea for the provision of a stand to hold the trimmers' scales.

A member of the Glasgow Works, J. Smyth, was awarded £1 2s. 6d., for his suggestion that the rails for loose load equipment on the Glasgow lorries be altered so as to provide room on the lorries for crates in addition to loose loads of rolled plate glass.

A design for a polishing table for use in the Pressed Mould Polishing Shop earned L. H. Cooper of the Pressed Mould Shop £1 2s. 6d., and a similar award was made to R. Clark, also of the Mould Shop. He suggested that a hole for an eye bolt be tapped in the cathode plungers to assist operators to lift plungers.

J. Horton of the Millwrights made a useful suggestion regarding the discharge door on the Mixing Plant and he received 15s. 0d.

W. Short of the Mixing and G. Waldron, Pot and Clay, each received 10s. 0d., for useful safety ideas.

C. R. Rhoades of the Maintenance and Construction Division and J. Walker of the Blown and Pressed Division, also received 10s. 0d., each, for suggestions which were not adopted, but earned Merit Awards.

Engineering Works

Some worth while awards have been made in the Engineering Works.

R. Bellinger made a suggestion concerning the pre-reeling of "B" type enclosure tubes so that reeled tubes could be fitted and removed from stators without causing scrap. He was awarded £16 1s. 0d.

£12 5s. 0d., went to J. Hodgetts for a suggestion concerning the machining of certain pump components by one operation rather than two.

An idea concerning modifications to the pump bowl to improve the quality of castings and minimize fettling earned A. R. Lago an award of £2 12s. 6d.

A combined suggestion by J. Jennings and R. Boswell concerning the details of manufacturing filters for the self-priming plugs connected with Sumo Pump outlets earned them 17s. 6d. Whilst the adoption of this suggestion had not resulted in any financial saving it had resulted in an improved product.

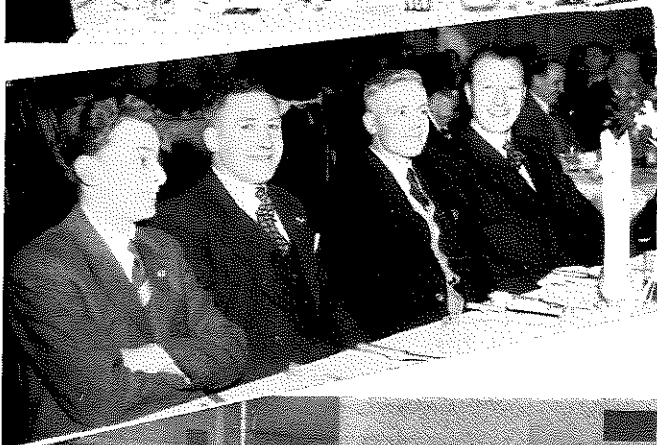
Other successful employees in the Engineering Works were:—

J. Jennings and R. Boswell—two awards of 10s. 0d. each.

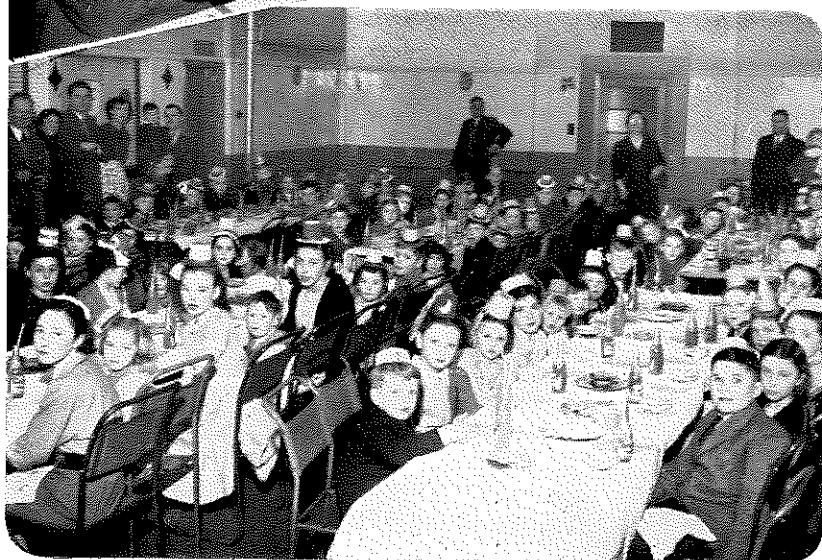
F. Woodall	—	5s. 0d.
H. Batten	—	5s. 0d.
G. Rose	—	5s. 0d.
W. F. Price	—	5s. 0d.
J. Jennings and R. Boswell	—	5s. 0d.

Chance

SNAPSHOTS



*Above and Left:
Maintenance and
Construction
Department's
Annual Dinner.*



A Children's Party in the Recreation Club.



*The Recreation Club's Gula
Ball.*





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

ENGINEERING

TWO of our young men have successfully completed their apprenticeships and attained their majorities, namely Bob White of the Welding Shop and Michael Tregunna of the Drawing Office. We don't want to worry them but the next stage in their careers will be two years in the Forces. John Griffiths of the Sales Office has now started his National Service.

The Cost Office welcomes two newcomers—June Ingle and Mary Lang and we hope they will be happy working for us.

Sumo welcomes C. H. Bennett to the Sales Manager's staff, and the following have recently joined the Shop, Norah King, Vera Parkes, Margaret Jones, Fred Charlton, Brian Perry and Joe Gracie.

Kevin O'Connor of the Machine Shop, who is on National Service, has been awarded his Colours by the Army for basketball. Kev is Captain of his Battalion Team and has been seen on T.V. in the Aldershot Services games against the R.A.F.

The Grinding Shop regret that Mrs. Perry has had to stay away for some time due to the illness of her mother, and we all hope that her domestic worry will soon be over.

It is reported elsewhere in this magazine that Toolroom Apprentice Alan Fletcher has won the Whitworth Society prize at the Chance Technical College—congratulations Alan.

FLAT GLASS

A PARTY from the Rolled Plate and Fiesta Departments organised an enjoyable party to the Pantomime at Dudley in February and the ladies—plus two or three gate crashing men—went to the Ice Show in Birmingham.

Andy Nicoll has had much domestic worry these last few months and we extend him our deep sympathy on the death of his father.

Members of the Flat Glass Sales Division extend a welcome to Tom Andrews and Frank Tatton who have recently been transferred from Blown and Pressed Division.

Congratulations and best wishes to Maries Jones who married John Mowen last December.

We are all delighted to welcome back Betty Moore after her recent illness and would like to take this opportunity of extending to her our very sincere sympathy in the loss she has sustained.

LABORATORY

ROY Emmett and Peter Lee have commenced their National Service training and we hope that the next two years will not be too grim for them.

The Laboratory staff were very sorry indeed to say goodbye to Jim Cheatham who has left to accept a very attractive position elsewhere. Jim had served a successful apprenticeship here and we were proud of him.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

THE Division held a most successful Dinner at the Blue Gates on the 15th January. Mr. W. E. Barrett presided and the guests were Dr. W. M. Hampton and Mr. A. Ogden. Photographs appear in the centre pages.

Geoff. Lavender has attained his majority and we offer him our congratulations.

The Old Hall welcomes Rosemary Donnelly and George Savage who have come to us from the Blown and Pressed Division, and we hope they will be happy in their new abode.

Sam Beardsmore and Bill McCarthy have been absent for some time due to illness and we sincerely hope that they will return soon fully recovered.

The whole Division congratulates John Cheatham on his appointment as Assistant Chief Engineer.

By the time this magazine is printed Dora Beckett will have married and we wish her every happiness.

OFFICES

THE Annual Dinner of the Accounts and Secretarial Sections was held this year at the Red Cow Hotel, Smethwick, on 10th February. The principal guests were Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Hampton and Mr. C. J. S. Newman. In a short speech coupled with the toast to the Accounts and Secretarial Departments, Dr. Hampton expressed regret that Mr. Platt was unable to be present due to illness.

The entertainment following the Dinner was in a different form to previous years, games and dancing being the fare for the evening. Extensive enquiries since the event have failed to reveal one person who had other than an enjoyable evening.

Our Company Secretary, Mr. L. G. Hinton, married Miss Mary Nicholls on January 23rd, and we wish them every happiness.



Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Hinton.

Congratulations are extended to Howard Charlton on his engagement to Connie Guest of Blackheath.

The 29th January was a memorable day for the staff of the Export Department. The Annual Dinner was arranged for that evening and the opportunity was taken to bid good-bye and good luck to Victor Skan who has relinquished his position with the Company. The staff of the Department presented him with a Parker pen and pencil.

Reference was made to Bill Skilbeck who joined the staff of Pilkington Brothers on the 1st January. He is still, however, spending a considerable amount of time at Smethwick and we

know that when he finally takes up residence in St. Helens, he will always be with us in spirit.

An excellent entertainment was provided by Miss Mottershead, Stan Green and Doug. Sandin.

OPTICAL

THE Optical Sales Office welcomes Dorothy Edmunds who has joined the staff as a Shorthand Typist.

We are sorry that Frank Turner left us in January to accept an attractive job elsewhere. During his time here Frank worked very hard on the social side and also represented us on the W.C.C., the Suggestions Committee and the Safety Committee.

We were sorry to hear of Mrs. L. Brierley's illness and we hope she will soon be well again. Mrs. Nicholls has had to leave us for reasons of health.

TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

THE Transport, Traffic, Mixing and Works Security personnel joined forces in organising a most happy Dinner and Concert at the Blue Gates Hotel, on 5th February, when Mr. W. A. Standley presided and the principal guest was Dr. W. M. Hampton. It was especially pleasing to see Wilf Warner at the party. Wilf has had a very serious operation and is still unfit to resume his work.

PENSIONERS

THE Pensioners had a delightful social evening in the Pavilion on Thursday, 11th February, when the Choral Section gave a concert for them. Sir Hugh Chance and Sir Roger Chance generously provided donations to cover the cost of refreshments.

Recent new recruits to the Pensioners are Tom Poulton of the Millwrights who has retired after forty-two years service, and Charlie Underwood who has retired after forty-one years. Before his retirement Charlie looked after the Works Shop, but in his earlier days he was in the Engineering Division.

It is sad to report that Mrs. Sedgley passed away on the 17th February, John Scott on the 3rd February and Ernest Armstrong on the 28th February.

Amongst the old people who have been very ill lately are Dick Lyall, Joe Digger and George Shaw, and Mrs. Povey and Mrs. Mallin. We hope that they will soon be well again.

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Recreation Club have arranged supper parties followed by a visit to the Theatre on Monday 15th February, and on Monday 1st March. Two dates fixed to accommodate shift workers. Total expected to exceed 120 Members.

An endeavour is being made to organize a Billiards section, and if successful to enter a local Snooker League.

The Annual Dance in conjunction with Fibreglass Ltd., will be held in the Ca'doro on Friday 26th February.

Whist Drives continue to be held fortnightly, and are well supported.

The football team was defeated in the Daily Record Cup by the Dalmarnock Power Station F.C.

Ina Campbell received a canteen of silver on the 5th February, with best wishes on her forthcoming marriage to Les Bullock of the Birmingham Works, and at the same time, Mr. Luke was presented with a standard lamp from the staff to mark his retirement after forty years at Firhill. A pleasant surprise was the gift of a Rolls electric razor from the Recreation Club, in appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Luke to the club over many years.

● LONDON

Miss Beryl Hixson of London Office is to be congratulated on

her engagement to Sgt. Edward D. Marsh of the United States Air Force. Her fiancé has returned to America but doubtless it will not be long before he comes back to England to take Beryl away from us.

"Black Friday," February 15th. It was on that day that Mr. Sidney Skipp left us. Sidney could be likened unto a summer breeze, invigorating and refreshing. He was never at a loss for a cheerful and kindly word, and his youthful appearance belied the fact that he has two charming, almost grown-up daughters. We often commiserated with him at having three women to cope with at home! He is continuing the task of selling, and to help him the staff of London Office presented him with a Parker Duofold pen, and we think it can be truly said that at the presentation he was, for the only time in his life, at a loss for words!

● MALVERN ENGINEERING

By the time this issue is made Mr. G. Walker and Miss D. Grey of the Machine Shop will be married and we extend them our sincere congratulations and best wishes. We also congratulate Miss E. Brassington and Mr. G. Evans on their recent engagement.

We welcome the following newcomers and hope they will be happy in working for us:—

Miss White	Miss Trigg
Mrs. Caton	Mrs. Friel
Mrs. Hill	Mrs. Carter
Mr. Knott	Mr. Smith
Mrs. Hobbs	Miss Hadley
Miss Marchant	

The Works have had courage to form a football team and through the medium of Chance Comments we challenge the Sumo team at Smethwick to a game.

● MALVERN OPTICAL

A delightful wedding took place at Malvern Priory on the 13th February when Beryl Tucker became Mrs. Jack Hudson and we wish these happy people every happiness for the future.

Bill Keyte, our Night Watchman, is welcomed back after several weeks in hospital, but at the time of going to press Bert Morris, Amy Clee and Elsie Rogers are away ill and we sincerely hope they will soon recover and return to us.

● ST. HELENS

Your Correspondent, Ken Appleton received the Editors reminder regarding the notes for 'Chance Comments' a few days ago, and subsequently took a walk round the factory looking for news. He did this because of one or two complaints that there was never anything in the 'Comments' about St. Helens. It may not be generally realised but anybody can contribute to the magazine so if you have got a short story, unusual experience, or news of any member of the Works be he or she past or present, please do let him know. Out of his scouting trip for news all he came back with was that somebody had a bike to sell.

The new Works Committees

for 1954 are now in operation. Their names are on the board on the top of the Minutes of that particular Committee meeting. The people on these committees are your representatives so do not be afraid of tackling them on any points. You will find that they are only too pleased to be of any service they can.

On 26th January Mr. Willetts, 'Old Bob' as nearly everybody called him, retired. Bob has been in the glass industry a long time and knew all the tricks of the trade. He has retired now but behind him he has left numerous gadgets all of which made a job more simple to do and yet increased the quality of the product. Originally a Birmingham man, Bob came north with O. C. Hawkes, and eventually came over to us from Pilkington Brothers Limited. We shall miss him, his vast fund of stories as well as his know-how. At a ceremony in the Works he was presented with an Electric Razor by Mr. Pickering on behalf of everybody at St. Helens.

Another well known figure who has left us for retirement, her name—Mrs. Westby, but how many of us knew her as anything but Carrie. She was, and I know she will take this expression in the spirit it is given, affectionately "Our Mrs. Mopp." Always at hand, always ready with a quick smile and a ready wit. Mr. Buckley on behalf of us all presented Carrie with an Easy Chair on her last day here. May we wish both Mr. Willetts and Carrie a very happy retirement.

Congratulations to Miss Thelma Williams on her engagement on 19th December to Mr. Gordan Freeman.

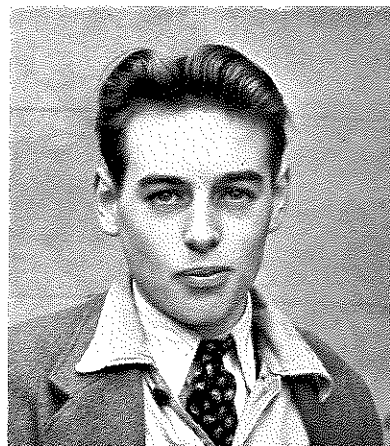
Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions

DE PROFUNDIS

Extracts from letters received by a Government Department:—

1. I cannot get sick pay. I have no children, can you tell me why this is?
2. This is my eighth child. What are you going to do about it?
3. Mrs. B. has had no clothes for a year, and has been regularly visited by the clergy.
4. I am forwarding my marriage certificate and two children, one of which is a mistake as you will see.
5. Unless I get my husband's money I shall be forced to lead an immortal life.
6. Please find out for certain if my husband is dead, as the man I am living with won't eat or do anything until he knows for certain.
7. I am very annoyed to find you have branded my eldest son illiterate. It is a dirty lie. I was married to his father a week before he was born.

Apprentice Alan Fletcher.



8. In answer to your letter I have given birth to a boy weighing 10 lbs. I hope this is satisfactory.
9. You have changed my little boy into a girl. Will it make any difference.
10. Please send my money at once. I need it badly. I have fallen into errors with my landlord.

BOUQUET

OUR Suggestions Scheme must be pretty good! The Journal of the Institute of Personnel Management has published a full description of the scheme as an encouragement and guide for other Companies.

ACCOUNTS

A CHINESE merchant, by name Tu Bad, faced a situation in 1941 which confronts businessmen and accountants throughout the world in periods of rapid changes of prices levels. Tu Bad lived in Singapore.

He was a poor man, who in 1941 locked up all his capital in a purchase of a sack of rice, which cost him \$7. A few weeks later the Japanese unfortunately invaded the country and Tu Bad, seeing hard times ahead, hid the sack of rice in the loft and earned his living tapping rubber trees.

All went well for the next three years, but then, as his sack of rice was going mouldy, he sold it. The country's currency having greatly depreciated during the Japanese occupation, he received for his sack of rice no less than \$20,000.

Famine was fairly widespread, however, and seeing even worse times ahead, Tu Bad reinvested his money a month later in more rice which, not being mouldy cost him \$25,000 for a mere half-sack, to raise which he had to

borrow the odd \$5,000 from his cousin Ung Sam.

Being an honest man, Tu Bad asked his friend, an accountant named See Ay, to draw up his accounts. His stock at cost being unsold had no effect on his profit and loss account; but the sale of the first sack of rice showed a profit of \$19,993. This put him well into the top bracket for sur-tax, and in due course he received a demand from the tax gatherer for \$19,498. "Alas!" said Tu Bad, "a twelve month ago I had one sack of rice and no debts. Now I have half a sack of rice only and I owe my cousin \$5,000. How can you say I made this vast profit, and ask me for \$19,498?"

"Ask See Ay," said the tax gatherer roughly leading Tu Bad off to the dungeons. "He drew up your accounts, not I. And who am I to question the established accounting principles of one so learned?"

GOOD HEAVENS!

SIXTEEN stone Tom Flook has become a keen playing member of our Badminton Club . . . but why on earth does he always play in carpet slippers?

THE REPRESENTATIVE'S

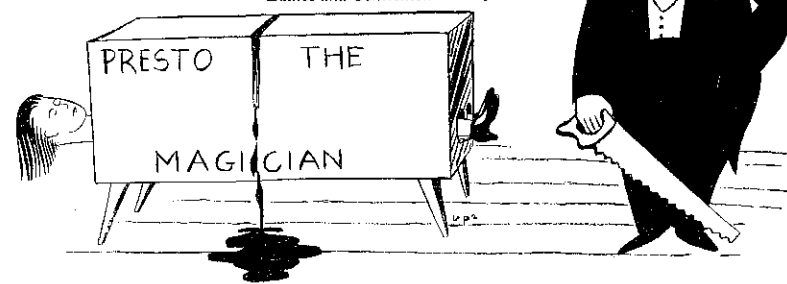
WANGLE

MR. A. E. Wright, Sales Manager to the Flat Glass Division, has unearthed a "comic" postcard he received about thirty years ago which reads:—

EXPENSES

In Birmingham she was Bessie,
She was Margaret in Perth,
In Bradford she was Jessie,
And the sweetest girl on earth!
In London she was Florence,
And the "Dearest" of the bunch . . .
But they're down in his expenses
As PETROL, OIL, and LUNCH!

"Ladies and Gentlemen—Sorry!"



SUCCESS

AT the Prize Distribution of the Chance Technical College several of our apprentices received awards and certificates for their high standard of work during the year.

Alan Fletcher, now in the Electrical Shop, deserves special mention as he obtained three Distinctions in his Ordinary National Certificate and was awarded the Whitworth Society Prize in open competition, and also the Accles and Pollock Prize for his results in Applied Mechanics.

Dennis Webb, Flat Glass Sales, received a Chance Prize and also the Union Society Prize for the best Commercial student. He is our first student to gain the National Certificate in Commerce.

The Chance Prizes for the best students from the Engineering Division went to Reginald Duller, Maurice Hill, and Michael Tregunna, all of the Drawing Office.

The best Glass Works student was Sidney Collins, Millwrights.

A number of our apprentices were present to receive certificates and also several girls from the offices who had qualified for Royal Society of Arts certificates in Shorthand, Typewriting and Commerce.

Meet your CORRESPONDENTS



ROBERT EVANS

IT was thirty-four years ago that Bob came to work at Chance Brothers straight from school. He served his time as an apprentice in the Millwrights and was soon engaged on the erection of the first Rolled Plate continuous plant. He became Maintenance Fitter and has spent most of his time in the Rolled Plate ever since.

During the war he was shift 'Key Man' and in 1943 he erected the first mechanically drawn tubing plant in No. 11. In 1945 he was appointed as a foreman.

He is a founder member of the Institute of Industrial Supervisors and holds a Certificate of the Institute of Industrial Administration.

Bob's father worked here for thirty-eight years, and the family tradition is being carried on by one of his sons who is now an apprentice on the Engineering side.

He is an enthusiastic gardener and a keen supporter of the Albion.

FRANK O'CONNOR

FRANK has been looking through glass for the past twenty years as an

inspector in the Blown and Pressed (first in the old Pressed, then in the Globe). He is now foreman inspector in the Pressed.

The war took him away for six years, four of which were spent with the Royal Signals in Burma. He just managed to escape from Kohima before the Japanese entered the town.

At James Watt Technical School he was School Captain, and also Captain of the Football and Cricket teams. Before the war he played Football for the Works' team as Centre Forward and Outside Left.

One of eight children himself Frank is a married man and has a three year old daughter.

Most of his spare time is taken up with gardening and looking after the house. He likes to relax with a book and in the summer enjoys a good game of tennis. Another Albion supporter!

NORMAN GREEN

NORMAN has had two periods of employment here, both spent in the Mixing department. He came to us over thirty years ago, when after ten years' service he decided to 'go west,'

Left:—Robert Evans, centre:—Frank O'Connor, right:—Norman Green.



Left:—William Cox, right:—Sidney Brown.

and emigrated to America. He spent ten years in the States and in Canada working with his brother in the building trade, and has vivid recollections of working in temperatures well below freezing point, and of the frozen rivers used as roads to bring up the building materials. Coming back to this country he continued in the building trade until he rejoined us in 1947.

He is not married ('I am my own boss' as he says) so he can spend his time on his favourite relaxation, golfing and fishing.

He is an early riser and is up by 4.30 a.m. every morning. He likes to get to work in good time and have a read before the others arrive.

WILLIAM COX

ALTHOUGH Bill Cox was born in Birmingham his accent shows that he has travelled, in fact three weeks after his marriage he and his wife emigrated to America and spent the next eleven years there and in Canada. As a skilled engineer Bill obtained a job with an aircraft manufacturing company in Pennsylvania, and soon became a supervisor, first on Production and then on Inspection. He has many stories to tell of his fishing and hunting trips and of the ten thousand mile journey he and

his wife made by car right across the States and up the Pacific coast.

He has been back in this country for eighteen years, for fifteen years of which he has been chargehand in the Toolroom. His son was an apprentice in the Machine Shop.

Bill's interests are outdoor. He likes fishing, playing golf and is interested in all aspects of natural history, particularly ornithology. Hops, he says, are his favourite fruit.

SIDNEY BROWN

EDUCATED at the Birmingham Blue Coat School, he went first to Tangyes to serve an apprenticeship as a Fitter. After successfully completing his training he volunteered for the R.A.F. and was sent to Canada for air crew training. He then returned to this country on operational flights as an air bomber.

After the war he joined Sumo as Technical Representative, and spends most of his time on the road.

He is a keen and active member of the Round Table (Smethwick Table) and most of his spare time is occupied in the varied activities of the movement. When he has time he enjoys model making.

As a result of the two years spent in Canada he wants to go back and is hoping to persuade his wife to go with him and settle there.

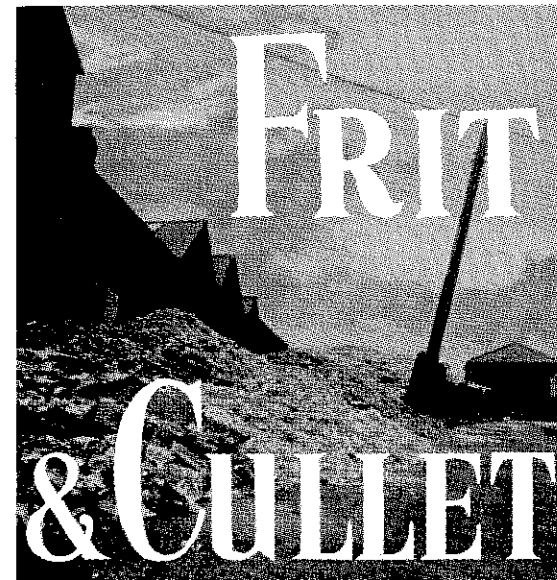


CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



HERE is seventeen years old Valerie Lowe, who is at present working in the Glassworks Drawing Office.

Valerie came to Chance Brothers in September 1951 as a Junior Shorthand Typist, but she became interested in Work Study and she is now taking the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering at the Chance Technical College—the first time the Company has had a girl studying Engineering.



Try this one :

In the following addition sum, each letter represents a different number, and similar letters represent similar numbers.

SEND
MORE

MONEY

Answer below :

Quiz :

1. Which teams have won the 1st Division Football championship three times running ?
2. When did the Football League start ?
3. Which is the oldest Football League Club ?
4. Who first flew the English Channel ?

We want to know :

- IF paper merchants are wrapped up in their work ?
- IF drill operators ever get bored ?
- IF night-workers see things in a different light ?
- IF musical families live in harmony ?
- IF boiler stokers have fiery tempers ?
- IF the wives of a Sultan are called Sultanas ?

"The motor-car is everywhere taking the place of the horse," as the old gentleman said when he found a piece of rubber tyre in his sausage.

There was once a boy in the choir,
Whose voice rose hoir and hoir,
Till one Sunday nigh it went right out of sight,
They found it next day in the spoir.

The Irish farmer was watching the rain pouring down at the end of a long period of drought, "Oi," he said, "an hour of this rain will do more good in five minutes than a month of it would do in a week at any other time."

Said the worried industrialist,
"If we don't make these goods,
nobody will buy them and they will be left on our hands."

5. Which English county is sometimes called Glorious ?
6. Who is the Old Lady of Thread-needle Street ?

Little Claude's mother had at last to allow her precious child to attend school. She gave the teacher a long list of instructions, and finished up with, "Don't ever punish him; Claude is so sensitive. Just slap the boy next to him—that will frighten Claude."

Wireless is a wonderful thing—by turning a little knob you can have absolute silence.

Quiz Answers :

1. Huddersfield Town 1923-6.
2. 1888.
3. Norths County.
4. Louis Bleriot.
5. Devon.
6. The Bank of England.

"Try this one" answer:
 1 0 6 5 2
 1 0 8 5
 9 5 6 7