



## Danger Boards

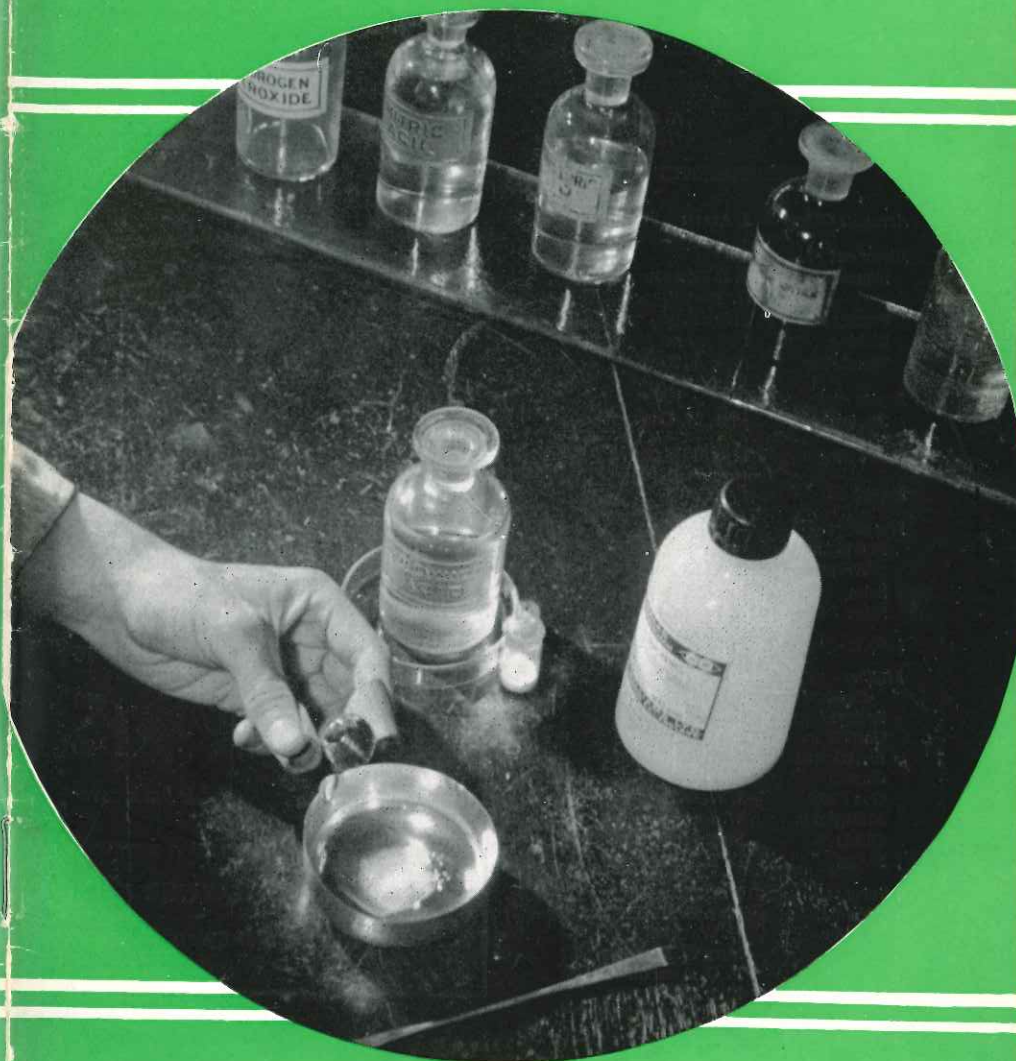
Never, under any circumstances, remove a Danger Board from a switch unless it is your own. To do so may be fatal to you—or to a friend.

*Extracted from Pilkington Brothers' Safety Calendar*

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# Chance COMMENTS



MAY—JUNE 1955

3<sup>D</sup>

# 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

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| Making and            |                   |
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| Construction          |                   |
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| Electricians          | E. A. WHITEHOUSE  |
| Garage                | H. F. COSNETT     |
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| Old Hall              | MRS. N. O'RIORDAN |
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#### THIS MONTH'S COVER

A Chemical Laboratory routine.

VOL. 8, No. 2.

MAY—JUNE,

1955

# Glass:

## 22,500 TONS MADE

# Coal:

## 2,500 TONS SAVED

by

**DR. W. M. HAMPTON,**  
Managing Director.

THE greater proportion of the coal used at the Smethwick works of Chance Brothers is taken by the firing of continuous glass-melting furnaces. Furnaces of this type consist of a bath, the bottom and sides of which are constructed of large blocks of refractory material. Rising from the walls of the furnace proper are the upper walls and covering it is an arched roof. The furnace holds several hundred tons of molten glass and the raw materials are continuously filled in at one end. At the other end the finished glass is continuously withdrawn.

Firing is by producer gas and regenerator chambers are used to recover part of the heat carried away by the products of combustion. In common with all systems

depending on the combustion of primary fuel, such furnaces are not thermally efficient, not more than between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of the heat supplied being used in the glass-melting process. The remainder is lost by radiation and convection from the structure and in the heat carried up the stack by the waste gases. The search for fuel economy, therefore, consists of an endeavour to obtain higher figures for the percentage of the total heat input which is actually used in glass-melting. How far we have succeeded in this search can be seen from the following.

#### Ten-year Comparison

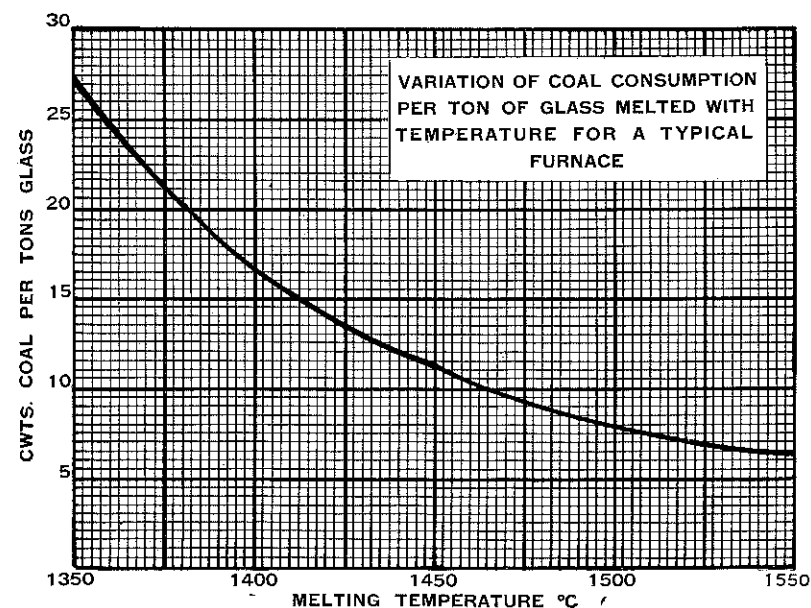
Ten years ago our most efficient furnace making rolled glass was

using  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of coal for every ton of glass melted, and a furnace of older design making the same kind of glass was using 15 cwt. of coal per ton glass. The former furnace is now producing a ton of glass for the expenditure of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cwt. coal. The older furnace has, of course, been superseded. Since the furnace produces approximately 22,500 tons of glass a year, the difference between  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. and  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cwt. coal per ton glass represents a saving of about 2,500 tons of coal a year in making the above quantity of glass. The ways in which this striking fuel economy has been achieved may be summarised as follows:—

1.—Recent improvements in refractories have enabled much

higher melting temperatures to be safely used. A rise in melting temperature of  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$  results in an increase of about 50 per cent in the amount of glass which can be melted in a given time while the heat losses from the furnace structure are increased by barely 10 per cent. This means that the coal required to melt a ton of glass decreases with increasing temperature as shown in the diagram. Thus, fuel economy results from careful planning. Furnaces are therefore built of such a size that the required output is given when they are run at the highest practicable temperature.

2.—Improvements in the design and instrumentation of gas pro-



ducers have resulted in a supply of gas which is both more consistent in quality and of higher calorific value. The greater consistency means that the furnace operators can more easily maintain conditions of efficient combustion, and the higher calorific value means that there is less incombustible gas to be carried through the furnace as a passenger and consequently less stack loss.

3.—Improvements in instrumentation on the furnaces themselves have led to the substitution of quantitative measurements for visual judgment and thus to the maintenance of efficient combustion.

4.—A general increase in the size of regenerator chambers has resulted in better heat recovery from the waste gases and a reduction in stack losses.

5.—To ascertain when anything has gone wrong a weekly check

on the coal consumption of each furnace is made. This is done by calculating the expected coal consumption by means of a formula for furnace performance developed by the Furnace Committee of the Society of Glass Technology and comparing this figure with the actual consumption. The correct coal consumption for a furnace in any particular week is not immediately obvious since it depends not only on the size of the furnace but on the weight of glass melted in that week, the mean melting temperature, the age of the furnace and other factors, all of which are allowed for by the formula. Thus, we have a comparison each week between actual and expected coal consumption; and if there is any serious discrepancy steps are at once taken to find a cause. The figures are also displayed each week on a board near the furnace so that the operators may know how far they are succeeding in maintaining efficient combustion.

The above article is reproduced from the Birmingham Post Fuel Efficiency Supplement of March 31st, 1955.

The problem of fuel saving concerns us all for not only does it apply to Chance Brothers but to every factory and to every individual even in his own home. It is a problem of very great national importance. The Birmingham Post Supplement gives a summary of the savings that have been effected in different industries in the West Midlands area and savings of 10—50% were reported. The savings of 25% at Chance Brothers are a worth while contribution to the general effort.

Another very important aspect of the more efficient use of fuel is the decrease in pollution of the atmosphere. Smoky chimneys mean waste and dirt and there is no doubt that in the near future legislation will be introduced to deal with this unnecessary poisoning of the air we breathe.

# Let's Fine 'em!

The editor visited the Glasgow works recently and he was interested to see a framed notice of the rules of the Glasgow Plate Glass Company which was purchased by Chance Brothers in 1907. Here is a copy.

## RULES

To be observed by the workmen employed by the  
**GLASGOW PLATE GLASS CO.,**  
At their Works,  
**FIRHILL, GLASGOW.**

### I

That no Workman shall leave his employment without giving one Fortnight's previous notice of his intention to leave; and Workmen shall, in like manner, be entitled to one Fortnight's notice from the Employers of their intention to discharge them. Such notice to be given before Twelve o'clock noon on any Saturday. Workmen guilty of gross misconduct, or neglect of duty, may be discharged summarily without any notice.

### II

That no Workman employed at these Works shall go into any other part of the Manufactory, other than that Department in which he is employed, unless in the execution of his duty. That no Workman is to pass through the Glass-house or other Departments in going from one part of the Works to another, but must, in all cases, go by the Yard Road. For every offence against this Rule the party offending shall be fined One Shilling.

### III

That Workmen quarrelling with or striking each other within the Works shall be fined Five Shillings.

### IV

That Boys found loitering or playing about, or going into any part of the Works where they have no occasion to be, to the neglect of their duty, shall be punished by a Fine, or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Manager.

### V

That any Workman sending out for Beer or Spirits during working hours, without the Manager's permission, shall be fined One Shilling and Sixpence; and on the second offence, shall render himself liable to be summarily discharged.

### VI

That any Workman absenting himself from work without sufficient notice to his Manager, shall be fined Two Shillings and Sixpence; and for the second offence, shall render himself liable to be laid off work for three days, or forfeit the half-week's lying time.

### VII

That any Workman employed by the day—that is, from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m.—must be within the Works not later than fifteen minutes after the hour, otherwise he will be stopped half-an-hour; if after 30 minutes, he will be stopped a full hour. No Workman will be allowed to commence work before 9 a.m., unless he is in the Works before 7 a.m.

Breakfast Hour ... 8.30 till 9 a.m.

Dinner Hour ... 1 till 2 p.m.

### VIII

Any workman neglecting or refusing to attend to any orders or instructions, given either by Manager or Foremen, subjects himself to instant dismissal, or a fine of Five Shillings.

### IX

That notwithstanding the foregoing Rules, the Proprietors reserve to themselves every right to which they may be legally entitled, and their servants must submit to every other regulation which, from time to time, they may think necessary to make for the proper carrying on of their Works.

### X

All Fines imposed by these Rules will be deducted from the Wages of the parties incurring such Fines.



## WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

THE elections for workpeople's representatives on the Works Consultative Committee for the year 1955/56 were held in April and resulted in many changes.

During the past few years our lady employees have not been fully represented as it is understandable that men are more likely to be nominated as group representatives. The Directors, therefore, decided to introduce two additional groups for women employed at (a) the North Side of the works and (b) the South Side of the works.

The new committee which held its first meeting on 27th April, is as follows:—

### MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. C. J. S. Newman (Chairman)

Mr. W. E. Barrett

Dr. R. E. Bastick

Mr. H. Fulton

Mr. L. Gorman

Sister M. Jones

Mr. W. H. L. Nixon

Mr. S. T. Pickering

Mr. W. Sargent

Mr. S. W. Shaw

Mr. W. A. Standley

### WORKPEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

#### Group 1

Coloured, Seven Storey, Micro, Fiesta—J. Saul, Seven Storey.

#### Group 2

Rolled Plate—J. H. Wilkins, Warehouse.

#### Group 3

Optical and Special Glass—B. J. Hill.

#### Group 4

B. & P. Making, Furnaces, Moulds—H. Care, Pressed Moulds.

#### Group 5

B. & P. Inspection and Process—H. J. Llewellyn—Cathodes.

#### Group 6

B. & P. Warehouses—S. A. Clive.

#### Group 7

Millwrights, Electricians, Boiler Shop, Gas Plant and Boilers—E. A. Whitehouse, Electricians.

#### Group 8

Building, Carpenters, Crate Yard, Garage—C. Foster, Painters.

#### Group 9

Mixing, Pot and Clay, Transport, Traffic, Cleaners, Security—B. Bagnall, Internal Transport.

#### Group A—Females

Rolled Plate, Fiesta, Seven Storey, Cleaners—Mrs. G. Walker, Rolled Plate, Warehouse.

#### Group B—Females

Blown and Pressed, Optical—Mrs. A. Derricott, B. & P. Inspection.

# SUGGESTIONS SCHEME

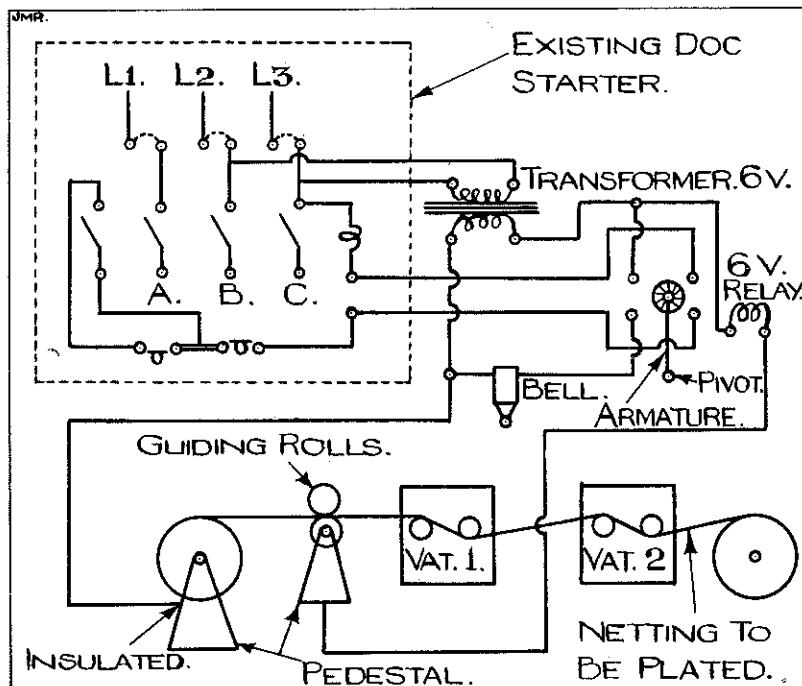
## Another £26/10/- is paid out

*During March and April, the number of ideas submitted to the Suggestions Scheme Committee was less than average but even so another £26 10s. 0d., was paid in awards.*

### Three awards to Charles Lowe

As a maintenance electrician, Charlie Lowe gets about the works a good deal and by keeping his eyes open for "better ways" he is better off to the tune of £6 17s. 6d. The best of three ideas he submitted concerns the method of operating the chrome plating plants in the Rolled Plate division. At the present time the chrome plating plant operator has to remain in constant attendance on the plant as the wire collecting drive has to collect completed rolls before new rolls are joined to ensure continuity. Charlie suggests a

device whereby immediately a roll of wire is almost completed, the collecting drive will stop, leaving sufficient wire for joining a new roll, and a bell will ring to attract the attention of the operator. This electrical device will result in the operators being free to undertake other duties during the plating process. It will, therefore, result in some saving of wire as at the present time some material is lost due to distortion when the roll is being threaded through the vats for connecting up. This sketch explains the basic idea and £5 5s. 0d., was awarded.



Charlie's other ideas concerned timing relays on the skip hoist for which he received £1 2s. 6d., and the avoidance of breakdowns on the lime stone hoist for which he received 10s. 0d.

### Jack Gardner receives an interim award of £5 0s. 0d.

Jack Gardner who is employed in the Cathode Polishing section of the Blown and Pressed division, pointed out that the present method of grinding cathode ray tube faces causes a number of cathode faces to be bruised and scratched, resulting in scrap. He suggested a re-arrangement of the machine table and jig and experiments proved that this change in the grinding operation had resulted in reduction in damages. The Suggestions Scheme Committee made an interim award of £5 0s. 0d., and it is probable that in the not too distant future a further award will be made.

### Good idea for the Seven Storey

It is strange for a glass factory to accept a suggestion which substitutes the use of a plastic material for sheet glass. When the girls in the Seven Storey Warehouse cut sheets of micro glass into small pieces for use as microscope cover slips, the material is placed on the cutting table which is fitted with a sheet of glass to provide a flat cutting surface. When the micro sheet is cut into strips the cutting diamond inevitably overrides on to the glass topped table, thereby shortening the life of the diamond and also heavily scoring the glass top. Harry Shermer suggested that the tables should be covered with Perspex instead of glass. This idea resulted in Harry receiving £5 5s. 0d.

### Roland Goodall has another idea adopted

We have mentioned that Roland Goodall is a regular contributor to the Suggestions Scheme. He has again had an idea adopted, this time in connection with a control shutter in the Mixing plant to control the flow of materials. His proposals have been in use for two months and have been proved successful. An award of £2 15s. 0d., was made.

### Another idea for the Seven Storey

J. F. Hobbs of the Box Shop submitted an idea in regard to the method

of fastening boxes in the Seven Storey. Here is his suggestion exactly as he wrote it:—

"After being here a number of years as a box repairer I think it would be a good suggestion if the Seven Storey had a machine for wiring their boxes instead of using nailed lids as at present. In my opinion, the use of nails ruins the lids for further use and a wiring machine would save timber and nails."

The use of wiring machine is not, of course, a new idea as a machine has been used successfully in the Optical division for many years. However, as a result of this suggestion, the Seven Storey will be installing a machine and the suggestor was awarded £1 15s. 0d.

### Another winner from John Horton

John Horton of the Maintenance and Construction division suggested that panels be cut in the bottom of the elevator boot with a removable plate to the cover hole so as to allow sand to be removed from under the bottom sprocket drum. The adoption of this idea is an aid to maintenance and £1 2s. 6d., was awarded.

### Another maintenance idea

Doug Hale of the Millwrights pointed out that a difficult job is encountered on the maintenance of the cathode polishing machines, namely, the raising into position of the central bearing block. This was a difficult job for three men. Doug put forward an idea which would make it a simple operation for two men. Above the polishing machine is a length of 1" pipe free to revolve in brackets fixed to the machine. By fitting a handle to the pipe the well and bucket method could be used. This device to facilitate maintenance on the polishing machines resulted in an award of £1 2s. 6d.

### A better way

Bob Harvey of the Mixing department submitted a sketch recommending a change in the position of the valve handle on the salt cake hopper with a view to improving ease of operation. This was a simple and obvious idea, but even so, it resulted in an award of £1 2s. 6d.

# *“Hobbies? Mine is CANARY BREEDING”*

**Writes JOE HINTON, Boiler Shop**

MY hobby is a small bird known as the roller canary. There are two main groups of canary breeders, the first group develops birds of beautiful form, the Marilyn Monroes of the canary world. The second group, on the other hand, breeds for song alone and ignores all else, or perhaps more correctly, subordinates every other characteristic to that of song—the Melbas of the canary world.

These roller canaries were first evolved in the mountainous areas of Germany and Austria. Because of this they have ever since been known as German rollers. Most people concede that inhabitants of mountainous countries are on average more musical and better singers than those living in low lying areas. It was with typical German thoroughness that these roller canaries were developed and they developed what is known as a water organ which was played constantly within the hearing of the young growing canaries. This mechanical contrivance was gradually perfected and soon they had permanence of roller song. Later it was found that the nearly acquired song was inherited by the young rollers from their parents. Still later it was the practice to use an adult cock roller of near faultless song as possible and these became known as the schoolmasters. That is, birds of near perfection as possible. These, of course, are beyond price and lucky is the breeder who possesses one. Roller canaries are really educated birds for educated listeners, but if one knows little of the song passages of the roller, everyone can recognise beauty of song and to hear a school of birds of really

first class ability is something out of this world altogether.

At this time of the year as the birds of the wild proclaim the advent of another spring, we of the canary world are busy with our plans for the forthcoming breeding season which by now is in full swing. So, if anyone should notice the writer of these few lines looking worried and thoroughly dejected these days as one walks about the works, please forgive me, as in all probability my favourite hen refuses to pay courtship to my favourite male bird, and my dejected appearance has nothing to do with the Boiler Shop work being behind schedule.

However, once the birds get down to business, all goes well for a time. After about fourteen days, the young chicks appear and have to be rung with a

*Joe Hinton*



closed ring about .125 inside diameter at about six days of age. This ringing on the leg of young canaries enables one to trace the owner of any bird so ringed. The young are looked after by the hen bird only which at this time receives egg food, in addition to the usual canary seed, also a plentiful supply of green food. Bird breeders as a rule are also keen gardeners and one's walk in the country lanes during the breeding season is repeatedly interrupted by stopping to pick a dainty morsel of chickweed, seedy dandelion or sow thistle, to take home for the next day's feast.

However, when breeding time at last comes to a close in late summer the most interesting part of the hobby of roller canary breeding takes place, that is the training of the young male birds (sorry to disappoint lady readers, but only the males become the vocalists). They are placed with their schoolmaster in darkened cabinets and there learn their song. One now listens very critically if at any time he hears anything that offends the beauty of the song. The offender must be tracked down relentlessly and expelled from the school immediately. Sometimes the culprit seems to take a delight bringing a fault repeatedly just to show that he is different from his fellows. These discarded songsters are sold as soon as possible. That is when my little black carrying case comes into service, and quite a few fellow workers at Chance Brothers have become the happy owners of one of these delightful little song marvels. For a moment, I was inclined to name the sum of money these birds bring, but on second thoughts I have refrained, else I shall be accused of using Chance Comments as an advertising medium. The next step in the canaries life after this training, is the singing contests which are held all over the British Isles, also on the continent. I happen to be one of the few judges of these little singing musical boxes and many are the happy memories of these events. They are

held from October till about the end of March and one meets all classes of people from the chappie in the check cap to the elite from the big cities. The one great advantage of having a hobby is this levelling of—so called—class distinction. I have personally met some grand fellows at these contests and many are cherished memories I shall always have. Only this last contest season I was honoured in being chosen to judge the Irish Grand National in Dublin. This came at a time when I was really feeling down in the dumps with life in general and this trip certainly did me an immense amount of good both physically and mentally. My good wife is bound to read the Comments, so with due respect for her strong arm I will only say a good time was had by all.

We have now gone practically the whole cycle of events during the year and it only remains to say, once more, what an important part hobbies play in the life of those people fortunate enough to recognise that having a hobby is a priceless possession, something that keeps you going when everything is dark and the clouds never seem to pass away. A retreat from a world of care, where one may safely retreat and feel secure. It amazes me sometimes when I reflect on the remarkable things that my rollers have accomplished; how they have made me acquainted with so many people and how they have cemented friendships in so many lands which I can never hope to visit and whose people I can never hope to see in person.

I hope some day, when my retirement from physical labour gives me more time to devote to the cult of my favourite, I may be able to visit some of these people in far away places, and talk and rejoice at the goodwill, the friendship and the peace that these little ambassadors of song have brought me and many others in a world so lately strained with misunderstanding and strife. These people speak many languages, but the roller canary speaks one language and they all understand it. He is only a small bird, but the song of hope, happiness and peace of mind he brings is known and recognised all over the world.

# Chance

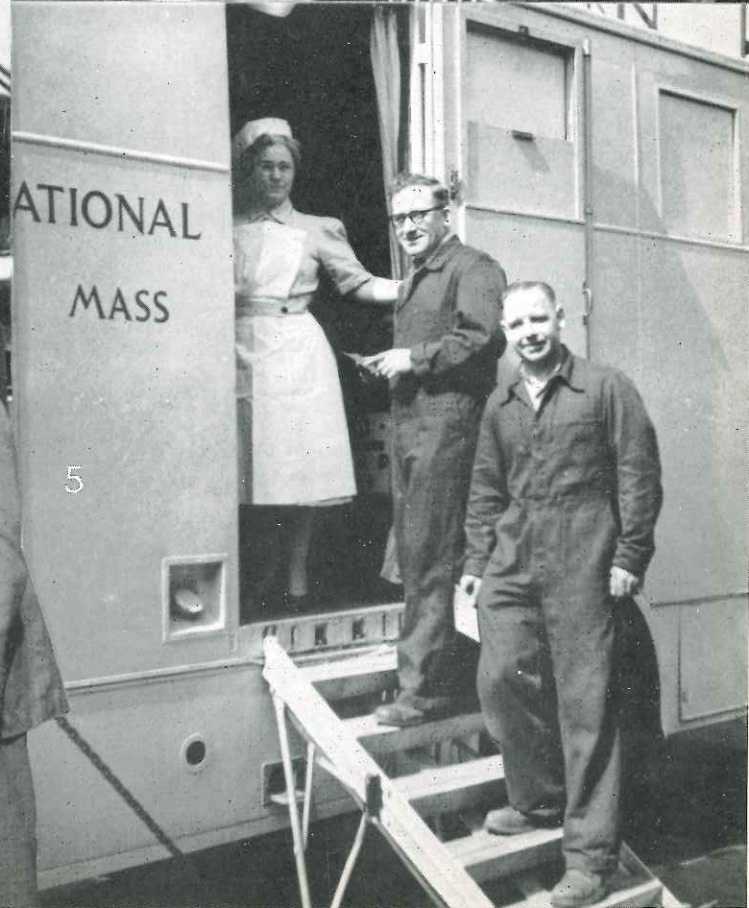
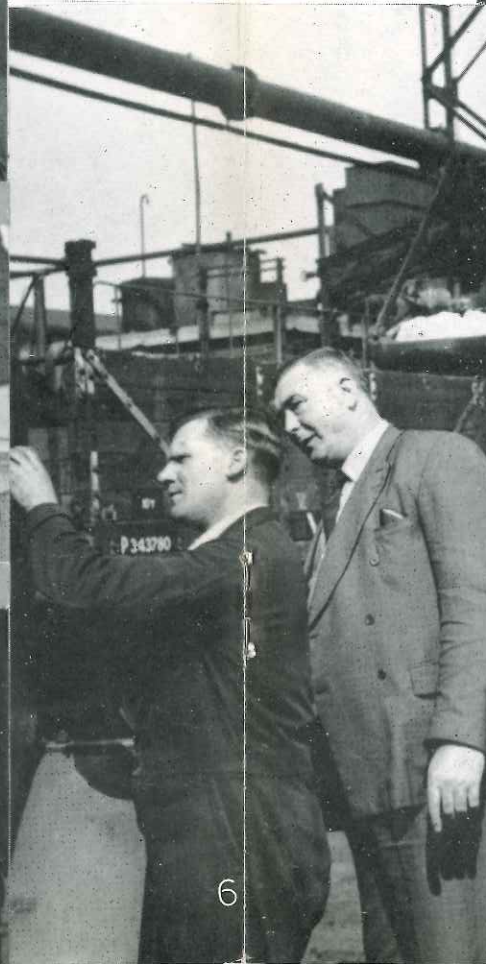
## SNAPSHOTS

1, 2, & 3. *The Blown and Pressed Division Dinner in the Recreation Club.*

4. *Joyce Nicklin and Margaret Wood, Personnel Office make 786 appointments, for—*

5. *X-Ray examinations.*

6. *W.C.C. Nomination Day.*





## From all Departments

**MOSTLY PERSONAL**

### Blown and Pressed

The highlight in the Blown and Pressed division in recent weeks was the dinner and social held in the Recreation Club pavilion on Saturday, 26th March. This was the first time the glass makers had been able to get together for a social evening due to the incidence of shift work. The evening was a great success and the organising committee congratulates the club steward Jack Kenny and his wife for providing a first class meal. It is understood that the bar profits more than justified the allocation of the pavilion for this purpose. Unfortunately, Mr. W. E. Barrett was unable to preside at the function as he was at that time in America. The chair was taken by Mr. Bernard Patrick.

On the following night, again in the pavilion, the division organised a concert for children, proceeds of which were devoted to the children's party fund.

Another event organised in aid of the children's party fund was a dance in the pavilion which was held on 29th April.

We are glad to learn that Joe Care of the Inspection department, who has been away ill for many months, is now improving and is able to get about in an invalid chair.

It is with profound sorrow that we record George King of the Inspection department died on 24th March, and Sydney Bryan, storeman in the division, died on 5th April. We extend our deep sympathy to their relations.

### Flat Glass

By the time these notes appear, No. 1 Rolled Plate furnace will be back in production after a lapse of several years. This is indeed a happy event in that it indicates just how busy the Company is in the rolled plate business. There is a real feeling of confidence that No. 1 furnace, together with No.'s 3 and 4, plus the furnace at Glasgow, will be kept going for a long time. This additional furnace has necessitated an increase in the labour force and we welcome the many new-comers to the division. We are especially grateful to the Blown and Pressed division for letting us have Fred Bodley, Jack Bodley and Harry Clarke for the key job of teasers.

The Rolled Plate Despatch welcome Kitty Sherlock and Mrs. Hadley.

Albert Thornton died on 30th March at the age of sixty-nine. He joined the Company in 1900. We extend sympathy to his brother who is employed in the division.

### Maintenance and Construction

The Maintenance and Construction division have had a hectic period in preparing No. 1 furnace, but our reward is the pleasure in seeing this tank in production.

On the personal side we are delighted to have Walter Johnson and Ron Steventon back at work after their absence due to illness. Before returning to work, Walter spent two weeks at the convalescent home in Llandudno as a guest of the Provident Society and this photograph was taken at the home.



Walter Johnson

We are pleased to learn that Sam Beardsmore is making good progress and we hope he will soon be back with us. We also wish a speedy recovery to Alex Morrison who at the time of going to press is in hospital in Warwick.

Malcolm Dunning has joined the division by transferring from the Development section and we hope he will be happy in his new sphere.

We are also glad to have Mrs. Ramsay Steele working in the Old Hall as a member of the Work Study department. A welcome is extended to Eamonn McGeough who has joined the Drawing Office as a junior.

Valerie Burgess announced her engagement recently and we congratulate her and her fiancé.

Our very good friend Albert Hand died on 30th March at the age of fifty-seven. Albert was supervisor of the Building department labourers and he came to Chance Brothers in 1929. Another sad loss was the death of Walter Shaw of the Millwrights who died on 5th April, a few weeks before his sixty-sixth birthday. Walter had been here for fifty-two years.

### Offices

The Cost office welcomes J. S. Machen who has come to us from Yorkshire in the position of Cost and Works Accountant. A welcome is also extended to Eunice Mansell (Wages), and Mrs. Keys (Cashier's office) who returned to us recently after a period with Stone-Chance Limited, Valerie Gorton (Accounts) and Margaret Wood (Personnel).

On the debit side we have lost Brenda Higginbotham of the Ledger office, Gill Ward of Personnel, Mary Etheridge of Optical Sales and Betty Price of Cost office.

We congratulate Marjorie Cole (Fiesta Sales) who married William Mann on 1st April.

### Optical

The division welcomes Mrs. Stevens who joined us recently as a typist in the Production Control department. She has replaced Mrs. Morris who has left us as she is expecting a happy event.

We congratulate Norman Stanley of the Moulding section on his recent marriage to Miss Wiggetts.

### Pensioners

We record with sorrow the death of two old friends, Harry Lloyd died on 4th April and William Richey on 7th April.

### Security

Bill Johnson and Tom Boden have been away from work for several weeks due to illness and we wish them a speedy recovery.

We record with sorrow that Alan Fletcher died on 16th April at the age of sixty-eight. Alan first started in September, 1939.

# News

## FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

### ● GLASGOW

The Glasgow Recreation Club's snooker team were entered in the Glasgow District Works' Snooker League and managed to get as far as the last of the major competitions, but unfortunately, honours eluded them. They hope to be more successful next year.

The table tennis has now finished for the season but the team have not fared so well as in the past and they also hope for better luck next year.

Mr. Paton retired after an association of thirty-five years at Firhill and we wish him a long and happy retirement. He was presented with a wristlet watch by the Glasgow staff and a table lamp by his department.

Jean Strang of the Cost Office has emigrated with her husband to Canada and our best wishes go with them.

### ● LONDON

Spring is in the air! Miss Hunt, our receptionist/telephonist, has now become Mrs. Salter and has returned to her office duties with left hand heavily laden. Miss Southwell, Flat Glass, has left to be married and will not be returning to business. Our best wishes go with her. Miss Rita Bush, teleprint, has been transferred to Spon Lane at her own request, and we were very sorry to lose her. Fortunately Sheila Griffin has stepped into the breach and the smooth teleprinter exchange between London and Birmingham continues.

We have been preparing for our special Spring Fiesta exhibition, and last week sent out over 3,000 invitations. If we reap the sowing the walls of the office will bulge!

### ● MALVERN

We congratulate Tom Standridge on his recent wedding. Two or three weeks before his great day, Tom met with a

nasty accident at work and we were especially pleased that he was recovered in time for his wedding. It is good to have him back with us.

At the time of going to press Rosa Tilbury and Hilary Goodyear are away through illness and we wish them speedy recoveries.

Mrs. Ayling has left us to assist her husband in his business. We shall miss her as she took an active part in organising works social activities. Mrs. Phillips has joined us as a replacement for Mrs. Ayling and we give her a sincere welcome.

A welcome is also extended to Miss S. Fagg who came to Pickersleigh Avenue on 25th April, as an assistant inspector.

### ● ST. HELENS

Congratulations and best wishes to Olwen Davies (Production Control) on her marriage to Edward Witter on the 12th March; Jim Firth (Technical Office) on his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Ward on 19th February and Tony Birchall (Time Study) on his marriage to June Vass on 19th March.

Our best wishes go also to Bill Owen (Time Study) who sailed for Canada on 29th April on the Empress of France; he has been transferred to Pilkington Brothers works at Toronto and he goes with our best wishes in his new venture.

Tony Birchall (Time Study) has been transferred to Pilkington Brothers works at Queenborough and he has our best wishes for the future.

We welcome to the St. Helens works John Bennet (just call me basher) who has recently joined us from the laboratory at Spon Lane.

The absence of newspapers due to

*Continued opposite*



Harry Milne

## SPORTS AND SOCIAL

### Football

By the time these notes are printed, the football season will have ended. The latest reports are that the Recreation Club's two teams are doing very well in their respective leagues. The first XI are well in the running for league honours in that they occupy third position with some matches in hand. This team won the Palethorpe trophy.

The second team has also done well and if the first XI's demands had been less it is certain that the team would have finished on the top rung of the league table.

For many years past our soccer teams have been first class and we are already looking forward to next autumn.

In another branch of football we are proud of the reputation Douglas Curry of the Laboratory has earned as a member of Moseley Rugby Club and the Birmingham Post has given permission for us to publish this photograph of him scoring a try in a recent game.

### Cricket

Cricket is now in full swing and the Recreation Club has again entered two teams in league competitions. In addition a heavy programme of Sunday fixtures has been arranged.

One match we are particularly looking forward to will be a game between Chance Brothers and Pilkington

### BRANCH NEWS—Contd.

the strike would appear to have caused a loss of form in our Furnace Hall, but who are we to blame for the absence of "The Scout," "Templegate" and other notable tipsters from our everyday life, for this occurrence.

Talent abounds in all factories, in fact in all walks of life it is merely a question of unearthing it. One who we have found this month is Harry Milne of our cutting section. Harry has been a member of the St. Helens Operatic Society for twelve years. This photograph shows him dressed for a part in "The Student Prince."

Brothers to be played at St. Helens on Saturday, 16th July.

Net practices are held each Tuesday and Thursday and anybody who would like to play is invited. The secretary to the cricket section is Kevin O'Leary, Personnel department.

### Darts

The ladies' darts team for some extraordinary reason plays in a league which arranges its fixtures during the summer season and home matches are played in the Recreation Club pavilion on Tuesdays. The secretary to the section is Miss W. Davies, Teleprint department.

### Netball

One of the most popular games with our ladies is netball which is played at the Recreation Club on Tuesday evenings. The section has entered a league and the secretary is Beatrice Crimes, Buying office.

### Tennis

The tennis season has opened and the Recreation Club can offer employees the use of two hard courts. Particulars of this section can be obtained from Joyce Nicklin, Personnel department.

\* \* \*

### CHANCE'S RECREATION CLUB'S SUMMER PROGRAMME

INCLUDES:—

Cricket  
Tennis  
Bowls  
Darts

Netball  
Archery  
Angling  
Swimming

*Douglas Curry scores a try.*



# Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

## BACK TO 1867

When the Conference room was being re-decorated last month, a crude form of cutlass was found. Sir Hugh Chance told the editor that this was one of many made in the Works in 1867 to protect the factory during the Murphy riots; they were not in fact ever used which is just as well as they were certainly nasty instruments.

A note on the Murphy riots appeared in "Old and New Birmingham" published in 1880 and the following is an extract:—

"Happened on July 16th and 17th, 1867. Cause—weakness of Chief Magistrate of Birmingham in refusing to grant use of Town Hall for series of anti-papal lectures to be delivered by a William Murphy. This gave the rough element of the town to understand that Murphy was not to be protected from any attacks which might be made upon him by such of said "roughs" who might feel aggrieved by the lectures. As use of the Town Hall was refused, the partisans of Murphy erected wooden structure in Carrs Lane and the first lecture was delivered on Sunday, July 16th when they found it extremely difficult to preserve peace in neighbourhood. On July 17th numbers of the lowest type of "rough," delighted at opportunity of a "row" and probably not caring at all for or against the cause, took possession of Park Street, stripped many of houses of contents and tore tiles off most of the roofs in the street and caused general destruction. Military and Police were requisitioned by nightfall and peace restored. Lecturer continued his addresses for some days but with no further breach of the peace. He was, however, subsequently attacked at Whitehaven and died in Birmingham on March 12th, 1872, from injuries received at the former place."

## GLASS AND THE ARTIST

In order to commemorate the opening of its premises at 19, Portland Place, London, the Glass Manufacturers' Federation has decided to hold a competition for art students. In the past, in spite of the remarkable visual interest of most processes of glass production, the Glass Industry has been neglected by artists, and it is hoped that this competition will have the effect of stimulating interest in a subject that offers considerable opportunities. It will also enable an historical record to be made of many processes that are, with the advance of technological development, going out of existence. Employees of glass manufacturers will be eligible.

A process particular to, or the subject of, the British Glass Industry will qualify. Generally speaking, the subjects fall into the following groups:

Winning raw materials  
Production processes  
Uses of Glass  
Landscapes

Entries will be divided into the following three classes; each competitor is entitled to submit one entry in each class:

(a) Oil painting  
(b) Water colour  
(c) Lithograph

The following prizes will be awarded for the respective classes of entry:—

Oil paintings—one prize of 35 guineas  
one prize of 25 guineas  
three prizes of 15 guineas  
Water colours—one prize of 20 guineas  
one prize of 15 guineas  
three prizes of 10 guineas

Lithographs—one prize of 20 guineas  
one prize of 15 guineas  
three prizes of 10 guineas

Entry forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel department.

## HOLIDAY PHOTOGRAPHS COMPETITION

Attention all photographers—this includes those of us whose only excursion into photography is with a box camera at holiday periods. We are holding a Holiday Photographs Competition, which is open to all employees.

### Rules

1. Photographs will be judged in three groups, "Landscape," "General" and "Personal."
2. All entries should be sent to the Editor before the closing date, September 30th.
3. Each entry must be clearly marked on the back with the sender's name and department and the class in which it is entered.
4. Each entry, which may be of any size, must have been taken by the entrant.
5. Photographs must have been taken this year.
6. The best photograph from each group submitted between now and September will be awarded five shillings and published in future issues of *Chance Comments*.
7. At the end of the competition all entries will be judged together and the best of each group will be awarded one guinea.

## OUTWARD BOUND

The Chance Education Trust has generously decided to send four of our young people to Outward Bound Schools this year and we congratulate the following who have been selected:—

Yvonne Hill, Malvern works, will attend the Mountain School at Eskdale.



Yvonne Hill

John Knight, Drawing office; Robert Steel, Laboratory; and John Price, Flat Glass Sales, will attend the Sea School at Aberdovey.

Outward Bound courses last twenty-six days and give new exciting experiences, wider outlook and supreme fitness—developing self-confidence and personality.

Including the above named, nineteen of our youngsters have had the privilege of this wonderful experience.

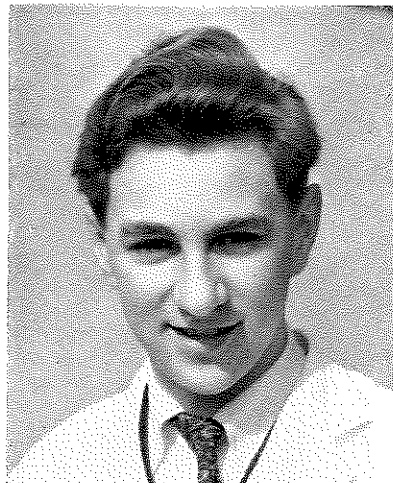
## IMPROVED SUNDAY BUS SERVICES

In a recent issue of *Chance Comments*, we reported that the Works Consultative Committee had given consideration to the problem of local bus services on Sunday mornings. We are now pleased to announce that the following new services have been introduced:—

### Depart

|                        |                |           |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Birmingham Bull Street | ...            | 5.02 a.m. |
| Villa Road             | ...            | 5.09 a.m. |
| Handsworth Boundary    | ...            | 5.15 a.m. |
| Dartmouth Square       | ...            | 5.21 a.m. |
| Carters Green          | ...            | 5.32 a.m. |
|                        | for Birmingham |           |
| Yew Tree Estate        | ...            | 7.05 a.m. |

## THE YOUNGER GENERATION



Brian Billing



Janet Cole

### BRIAN BILLING

Brian Billing is seventeen years of age and has been employed as a Junior Assistant in the Chemistry Laboratory since August 1954. He has always lived in Hamstead, West Bromwich and attended the Hamstead County Primary School from the age of five to ten and West Bromwich Grammar School from eleven to sixteen. Brian's happiest memories of school life were the games which the teachers in the primary school organised. He says that these were not continued at the Grammar School where the accent was much more on work for most of the time.

The local Education Department sponsors the Hamstead Youth Club and Brian has been a member since he was thirteen. He does not take any active part in the games or social evenings but finds satisfaction in acting as the cashier and treasurer and doing committee work. He is an avid reader of war stories, crime fiction and historical books—he particularly liked History and Biology at school and disliked French, Physics and English Literature.

Brian's ambition for the future is to join the Police Force. He has investigated rather thoroughly the set up of the Police Cadet Corps and says that he would have joined had he been a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " taller than his 5' 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Apparently successful applicants do one year on the beat from the age of nineteen and then specialise in one of the distinct branches of Police work. Brian would like to drive one of those very fast wireless patrol cars.

### JANET COLE

MOST of Janet's spare time activities are confined to her local Church Youth Club. She particularly enjoys rambling, dancing and taking part in social evenings.

Janet qualified as a comptometer operator at the Felt and Tarrant Comptometer School which she attended for three months after leaving Hill and Cakemore Secondary Modern School Blackheath in May, 1954. It seems natural therefore that one of her favourite subjects at school was Mathematics and she had a liking for History. Janet liked games in general her particular favourite being Hockey at which she undertook the role of schemer at right inner.

An ardent admirer of such members of the Womens Auxiliary Police Corps

as she has seen, Janet says that her ambition is to join the Police Force.

### BARBARA GROVE

BARBARA has had several homes since she was born in Pensnett near Brierley Hill sixteen years ago. She moved to Corsham in Wiltshire when she was eight, back to Pensnett at ten years of age and finally to her present home at Blackenhall, near Wolverhampton when she was fourteen. Barbara is an only child and her mother and father are proprietors of a grocers shop. Her most pleasant memories are associated with the two years she lived in Wiltshire when she went for long country walks, and particularly enjoyed watching the wild life which abounds there. She delighted in such things as moorhens playing on ponds, pheasants in woods and multifarious wild flowers growing everywhere. On one occasion she was lucky enough to see an otter.

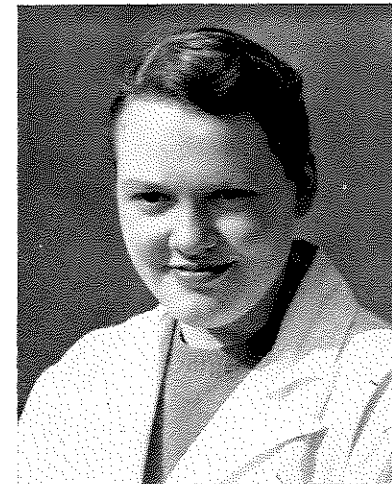
About a year ago an amateur company performed Ivor Novello's "The Dancing Years" at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, and since seeing it, Barbara has become a musical comedy fan. Books also provide part of her relaxation; she is fond of historical novels such as those written by Sir Walter Scott, Baroness Orczy and Alexander Dumas.

In her employment as a trainee physicist Barbara likes to think of herself as an applied scientist as distinct from a pure scientist. It is necessary for her to feel that the results of the work she does will be of practical benefit to people; she would not like entering into extensive calculations and experiments merely to find that they were to be shelved as complete but totally inapplicable.

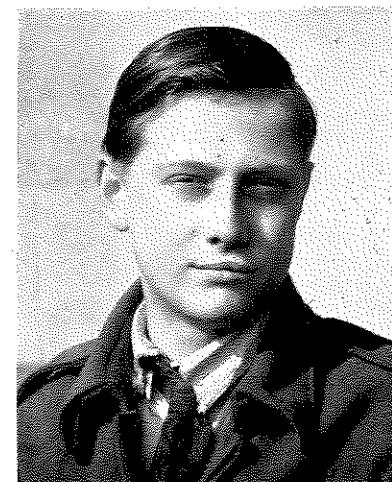
### JOHN HORTON

JOHN is the most recent member of the Horton family of Hilltop, West Bromwich, to enter the employment of Chance Brothers Limited. He joins his father who has worked in the Seven Storey for thirty-one years, his brother Bill in the Millwrights Department, and another brother Frank works for Stone Chance Limited.

John came to us on the 3rd January, 1955 from Hilltop Secondary Modern School where his favourite subjects were Physical Training, Scripture, Reading and Essay Writing. He was particularly fond of work on the vaulting horse and wall bars and is able to quote the twenty-third psalm in full.



Barbara Grove



John Horton

Now he is working for his living, John's tastes have turned to gardening and walking when the weather is suitable. He likes solving jigsaw puzzles when it is not fine enough to go out. Up to now he has been confined to helping his dad in the garden but he informs us with pride that he has been promised a corner of his own in the near future. John is one of ten children, five girls and five boys. He says that he would not like the loneliness of being an only child and much prefers membership of a large family.

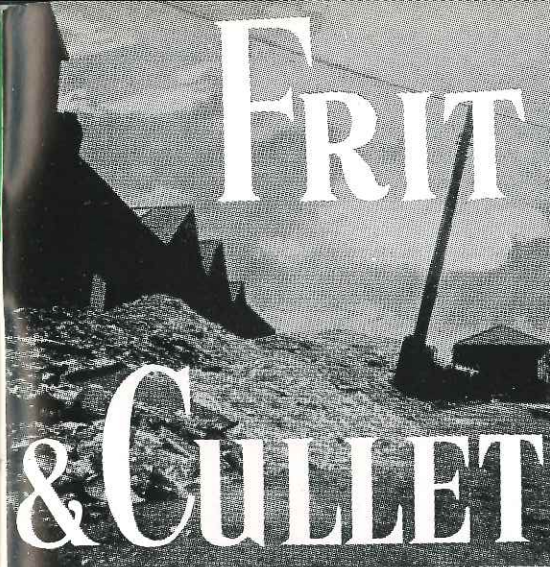


## CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



**THIS** month's "Gallery" page goes to cheerful Sheila Hodgetts a typist in the Optical Glass works.

When fire engine bells clang Sheila's heart drops as she is engaged to a fireman.



A hamlet is a little pig.

\* \* \*

The equator is a menagerie lion running round the earth and through Africa.

## SPORTS QUIZ

1. Sam Bartram of Charlton Athletic receives much publicity these days being still a brilliant goalkeeper at 41 years of age. Who were the two principal keepers who kept him out of the England team in the nineteen thirties?

### Heard These?

Soap Box Orator: Comes the revolution comrades, we'll be FREE. Comes the revolution we'll all have strawberries and cream.

Small voice from crowd: But I don't like strawberries and cream.

Soap Box Orator: Comes the revolution you'll have what you're told!

\* \* \*

This story won the award of "World Champion Liar" in a Liar's Club in America—

"Louisiana swamp rabbits are so fast that you cannot hit them with a shotgun. You have got to use a high-powered rifle.

To kill these rabbits on the run, you have to aim fast, shoot and then let out a shrill whistle. When you whistle, the rabbit stops—and the bullet has a chance to catch up with him."

\* \* \*

Cubism is the rules of very young Boy Scouts.

2. Which heavyweight boxer predicted that he would "moier" Joe Louis, but himself was "moiered" by the Champion in four rounds?

3. Which player, now a newspaper columnist, contributed largely to the revival of Welsh International Rugby after the last war?

4. Which billiards player is said to have ruined the popularity of the game by making it appear too easy?

5. If on a Pools coupon showing 50 matches there were only 8 draws what would be the odds against their being chosen together in one line, discounting the factor of skill?

6. Which woman athlete first ran a mile in under 5 minutes?

7. Whom do the Americans tip to break John Landy's one mile record?

8. Which fish is discussed more than any other by anglers?

### ANSWERS TO SPORTS QUIZ

1. Harry Hibbs, Birmingham City and Frank Swift, Manchester City.  
2. "Two Ton" Tony Galento.  
3. Haydn Tanner.  
4. Walter Lindrum.  
5. 536,999,999 to 1.  
6. Diane Leather, Birchfield Harriers.  
7. Wes Santee (U.S.A.).  
8. The one that got away.