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C

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It is doubtful if any firm can offer young people such a wide choice of careers as CHANCE BROTHERS LIMITED, of Spon Lane, Smethwick.

For many of these careers, the Company has a recognised scheme of Apprenticeship: in all cases there are training and, educational facilities.

The Company's Welfare and Training Officer is always available to meet boys and girls and their parents for the purpose of discussing careers.

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THE PERSONNEL AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

CHANCE BROTHERS LIMITED

SPON LANE, SMETHWICK

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

Chance
COMMENTS



JULY—AUGUST 1955

3^D

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

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EDITOR A. OGDEN

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Accounts Office	J. ALLEN
Blown and Pressed	
Inspection	F. O'CONNOR
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Making	S. STOCKIN
Warehouse	A. SUTTON
	MRS. A. KEYS
Buying and Stationery	MRS. M. CANTY
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Export	F. TAYLOR
Flat Glass	
Making and Warehouse	R. E. EVANS
Sales	R. PALMER
Seven Storey	A. FARDELL
Laboratory	MRS. W. RUSSELL
Maintenance and Construction	
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Old Hall	D. R. KIRKWOOD
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VOL. 8, No. 3

JULY—AUGUST,

1955



The memorial to James T. Chance in West Smethwick Park.

WEST SMETHWICK PARK

by R. FORSYTH (Blown & Pressed)

SIXTY years of good service to the public, from dawn till dusk, seven days a week, year in, year out. I think this record is worthy of mention in *Chance Comments*.

It is the record of our very own West Smethwick park, and it qualifies for mention in our magazine because it was a member of the Chance family that opened it as a gift to the public for ever.

It was on 7th September, 1895, that James T. Chance, M.A., J.P., D.L., for fifty years a partner in Chance Brothers Glassworks, Smethwick, and Alkali works, Oldbury, endowed it and opened it to the public. In those far off days the district had many open spaces and I myself think that the real value of this lovely park is just being felt.

I came to the "West End" in 1908 and in those days you could take a stroll from West Smethwick Park to Warley Woods by way of narrow winding lanes,

over stiles and brooks and through cornfields and probably pass not more than a dozen or so cottages and farm-houses. Now it is much different. With the town's ever increasing industries and over populated areas, the value of the park increases with age. At one time it was common to hear it termed as Chance's Park and Chance's own brass band used to play in it. It possesses a boating pool which gets its main supply of water from a brook which acts as a county boundary and also many natural springs. From the pool overflow the boundary brook carries on its journey through our own recreation ground. At one time it used to possess a swimming pool and one had to be hardy to stay in any length of time due to its intense cold.

There are many amenities for young and old to share alike. There are facilities for football, cricket, boating, fishing, bowls, tennis, also a children's play centre and a grand home for the

"Sons of Rest." Many of its "Sons" are Chance pensioners. One particular member remembers as a messenger at the works, having to take notices round to many people informing them of the official opening of the park. Another member used to play in the brass band. The present family of Chance's still take a very great interest in this particular home for the Sons of Rest. There is also a beautiful memorial garden laid out on the ground which was the scene of an unfortunate air crash which claimed the lives of two young airmen.

A section of the park was requisitioned by the R.A.F. during the war and used as a barrage balloon site. The pool has also been the means of the Royal Engineers training in pontoon bridge building. The park, like many other places, lost its gates and railings during the war and I fancy from that day up to the present time it must have been one great head-ache for the Superintendent and his assistants in trying to keep things straight. People were entering the park anywhere but the right place and at any time. Now it is all fenced again and looking better than ever.

By bringing the park into prominence on this its diamond jubilee it may give some budding columnist the urge to commence a continuous article in our magazine on the history of the West End and the Chance family since they came to Smethwick, as our telephone number tells us, in 1824. The gift of this park is by no means the only occasion

that Chance's showed their generosity to the public of West Smethwick. I believe they had a great deal to do with our local church (St. Pauls) and a great deal to do with the education of the borough. West Smethwick owes a great deal to the Chance family for what they have done in the past.

R.F.

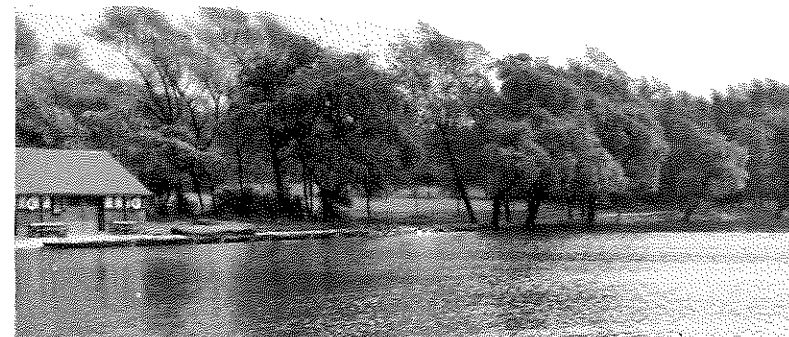
* * *

This sincere appreciation by Dick Forsyth prompted us to turn up the official history of the firm and from there we learn that James Chance, the eldest son of William who was a founder of the firm, was admitted to partnership in January, 1839. He died in 1902 at the age of eighty-seven. Eighteen months before in recognition of his national lighthouse services and his great public benefactions, he had been created a baronet.

The following is an extract from the history of Chance Brothers . . .

"James Chance in 1893, after the death of his daughter Katherine and partly thereby actuated, took it in mind to institute some large scheme for the benefit of the people among whom he had spent the best years of his life. There had recently been a movement to provide a recreation ground for the children of West Smethwick, and local manufacturers had been approached on the subject. When, therefore, George

An attractive view of the park.



A delightful picture of the boating pool.

Chance was consulted by his father in the matter, he advised the gift of a Public Park, and on this James Chance determined. Land to the southward of St. Paul's Road, high lying and with a fine outlook over the adjacent country, was purchased, and of this forty-three acres were given up to the purpose in view. Plans for laying out the ground as a Park were furnished, shrubs and trees were planted liberally, ample spaces were set apart for games, the source of the River Rea in the Park itself provided water for an ornamental boating pool, with a swimming bath, a handsome lodge and entrance gates were erected, and in the centre a band stand and a pavilion for refreshments. Shelters were provided by Robert and John Chance; other presents from various persons included seats, vases, a bell, a greenhouse, flower seeds, fish and a pair of swans for the pool. Before long purchase of more land on the Oldbury side of the Park increased its extent to well over fifty acres. New roads, "Park Road" and "Victoria Road," were made to bound and protect it on the east and west. Moreover, not only did James Chance buy the land and lay it out at his own cost, but also he provided funds for its maintenance, in order that the people of Smethwick should not be burdened therewith; his whole outlay amounting to some £50,000. The property was vested in the first place in his sons and others as

Trustees, with power to convey it at a future time to the town of Smethwick, a power exercised by them in 1912.

On the day appointed for the opening of the Park, 7th September, 1895, holiday was made. Everywhere the streets were gaily decorated, and in the new Park Road there was a triumphal arch. A procession starting from the Public Hall, headed by the West Smethwick Park Band, included members of the Executive Committee, of the Smethwick and Oldbury Urban District Councils, and of the Smethwick School Board; a company of the South Staffordshire Volunteers (a force which James Chance had taken a leading part in raising thirty-five years before) with their band; nine local Fire Brigades, and deputations from a number of Friendly Societies and Trades Unions. James Chance having declared the Park open to the use of the public for ever, illuminated addresses were presented to him on behalf of the inhabitants of West Smethwick, the Smethwick and Oldbury District Councils, the employees of the Oldbury Alkali Company, and the "Old Boys" of Chance's Schools; Music and various entertainments promoted enjoyment of the afternoon, and the festivities ended at night with a grand display of fireworks, concluding with a design portraying the donor.

Outward Bound

by YVONNE HILL, (Malvern Works)

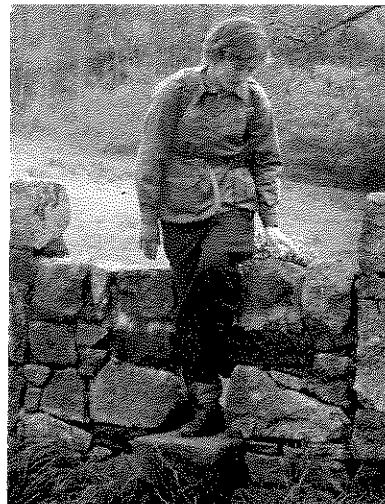
I WAS one of fifty girls who attended the Outward Bound Mountain School at Eskdale last month and I soon learned that Outward Bound was not a holiday but a tough course designed to develop self-confidence and supreme fitness.

The activities were so varied that it is difficult to write about the whole course but several features were outstanding. In particular one will remember always the walking and mountain climbing. Walking really was walking! Climbing really was climbing!

One day's task was to climb Scafell, the highest mountain in England. This meant a walk of twenty miles and a climb of four thousand feet and it certainly tried endurance. By the time the girls got back, they felt that they could not walk another step.

Rock climbing was particularly enjoyable, especially when the more difficult climbs were tackled and some got as far as an attempt on Napes Needle which is recognised as one of the

Yvonne Hill "On the rocks"



most difficult in that part of the country.

Another tough consignment was an eighteen mile walk to Coniston over the shoulder of Harter Fell and down the side of the Old Man; a night in a hostel, cooking our own food and an eighteen mile walk back the next day.

Three days were spent under canvas at Buttermere Lake for a course on canoeing. Great fun was "The Quest"—a day's glorified treasure hunt in groups of four. Twenty questions or problems were presented such as sketching cloud formation, describing signs at various map references, bringing back a choice of six living creatures, baking a cake in the open, etc. The most extraordinary collection of "proofs" were taken back to the school and during the markings for points the instructress said, "That's your lichen, your sphagnum moss, your description of a bench mark; here are your sketches, your sandstone, your seaweed, your quartz—and this must be your granite." "That" replied a voice more in sorrow than anger, "is our cake."

Not all our work was done out of doors as the course included lectures in music, drama and first-aid and on one evening we presented a concert for the villagers which included the first scene from A Midsummer's Night Dream.

All too soon the course came to an end—apart from the difficulty of getting home during a railway strike! I came back feeling terribly proud of what I had achieved, humble with what I had learned and deeply enriched by friendship with other girls from high schools and factories and offices in Birmingham, Oxford, Bristol, Liverpool and other towns—including one girl from Germany. I am most grateful to the Chance Education Trust under whose auspices I attended and I wish good climbing, good sailing and good comradeship to the three boys from the Smethwick works who go to the Outward Bound Sea School this month.

BOUQUETS

A FIRM in Dublin asked if we could supply a certain article. It was not one of our products but we quite rightly put them in touch with a possible supplier. The following is an extract from the letter of acknowledgement—"Thank you for your letter . . . this is in such contrast to the general trend of curtness which is the hallmark of the commercial correspondence nowadays that I want to express my warm appreciation of its helpfulness."

* * *

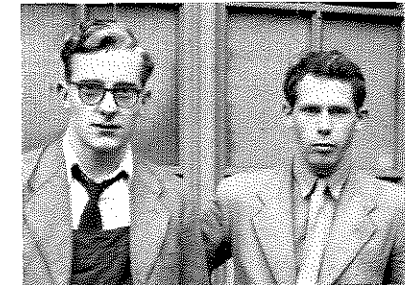
JOE Studer of the Crate Yard has again produced a delightful floral display to the works war memorial and hostel garden.

* * *



Bert Bagnall

SIXTEEN works' fire brigades took part in the Smethwick and District Industrial Fire Brigades' Association's annual competition held recently. After trying to win the one-man hydrant drill for the past ten years, Bert Bagnall succeeded when he came in first with the good time of thirteen seconds. Bert, who is aged thirty-five, and works in the Internal Transport department, has been in our brigade for fifteen years.



Alan Poulson and Ronald Winspear

RONALD Winspear of the Laboratory won the first prize of £5 and Alan Poulson, an apprentice carpenter, won the second prize of £3 in the Young Workers' Safety Competition which was organised in connection with the Safety and Factory Efficiency Exhibition held at Bingley Hall. There were forty entries and it is splendid that Chance apprentices took the honours. The prizes were presented by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

* * *

HARRY Sedgley, Frank Lines, Jack Reeves and Don Handy—all members of our Security staff, were successful in obtaining the St. John's Ambulance medallion in an examination held last month.

* * *

FOLLOWING Mr. Jack Braden's retirement from the Rolled Plate warehouse, Mr. Sid Cooper has been appointed to the position of warehouse superintendent and Mr. Ray Baynham to the position of warehouse foreman.

* * *

Mr. Tom Eggins has been appointed to the position of Chief Designer and takes over full responsibility for the Drawing Office.



WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

£9 11s. 0d. Tax free is worth having

IN the last two months, the best suggestion adopted was received from J. Sharples of the Optical division at St. Helens branch. This suggestion is for a method of marking rolled melts with the melt number by using a rubber stamp of the melt number coated with varnish and then sprinkling fine white powder such as alumine on to the varnished stamp mark. The surplus white powder is blown or tipped off and the result is a clear marking of the number. This suggestion has already been adopted and has proved satisfactory, and £9 11s. 0d., was awarded.

A better material

For many years we have used a compound of salt and mortar for pointing gas and air valves. James Carter of the building department suggested that a more durable mixture would be of bitumen, fireclay and asbestos and he proved to be right. Applying these seals to valves is an unpleasant job because of having to

work in heat and Jim's idea means less frequent pointing. For this better way the Suggestions committee paid £6 10s. 0d.

Protecting lorries against handling damage

It is doubtful if any firm has a smarter looking fleet of lorries as our easily recognisable blue painted vehicles. Certain vehicles are unloaded by the telfer overhead crane and it is inevitable that the grab should occasionally knock against the back of the driver's cab causing scratched paint and even more serious damage. Cyril Salisbury, a tractor driver, recommended that head boards made from timber should be fitted and he is now better off by £1 2s. 6d., and the lorries are afforded protection.

Another idea from St. Helens

J. Wedgewood who is employed in the furnace hall at the St. Helens works, was awarded £1 2s. 6d., for suggesting that a detachable tray should be intro-

duced underneath the furnace tweels to prevent iron scale from dropping into the pots of molten glass. A simple idea but one which has proved effective in dealing with a glass making nuisance.

Bob Goodall helps safety

The Suggestions Scheme Committee is always particularly pleased to receive suggestions towards making working conditions more safe and whilst the awards for such suggestions are seldom high, there must be some satisfaction in knowing that one has done something to prevent a fellow worker against the possibility of receiving injury. Acting on the advice of Bob Goodall, a guard has been fitted under a driving belt on the general mixing plant and 10s. 0d., was awarded. Bob received a further 10s. 0d., award for drawing attention to the need to make alterations to the exhaust on the sand drier to reduce damage caused by steam and fumes.

Two heads are better than one

W. S. Robinson and A. Morson of Fiesta suggested that improvements should be made in the method of handling small sheets of glass to avoid possible damage. The simple idea was that the material should be taken off the workshop floor and left on a table. £1 2s. 6d., was the award.

Edward Mansell gets 11s. 0d.

Edward Mansell of Blown and Pressed Inspection suggested that weather affected cathode faces should be placed under steam pressure for cleaning. This was

done for a short time but the manufacturing programme has now been changed so his idea had a very short life.

A better way

The Blown and Pressed division uses hydrogen for one of the processes in the making of cathode ray tubes. George Keys of the Laboratory recommended that two hydrogen cylinders should be coupled together in order to ensure continuity in supply and £1 2s. 0d. was the amount of the award.

Is YOUR name here?

Many suggestions are of such a nature as to require considerable time to investigate and in some instances it is necessary to conduct lengthy tests. There are many suggestions that are still outstanding and the following is a list which includes suggestions received up to 24th June.

- B. Launchbury—Internal Transport
- B. Jones—No. 4 Rolled Plate
- E. J. Gardner—B. & P. Cathodes
- E. W. Bullen—Crate Yard
- E. A. Whitehouse—Electricians
- C. Lowe—Electricians
- W. S. Robinson and A. Morson—No. 7 Bending
- R. Harvey—Mixing
- H. Price—Vello
- S. James—B. & P. Vello
- H. Shermer—Seven Storey
- R. Goodall—Mixing
- N. Penn—Traffic

THE "OLD 'UNS"

Jack Braden



THE familiar figure of Jack Braden was seen in Spon Lane works for the last time on 20th May, this year, when he retired after fifty-three years service with the Company.

Jack joined the Company as a boy in the General Office in 1902, under a Mr. Stevens, and a short time afterwards was transferred to work under the Works Secretary, a Mr. Jobey Jenner. He continued at this job until he was twenty-one when he moved into the works under the late Mr. Bassett, who at that time was managing the Rolled Plate Warehouse.

Jack continued to work with Mr. Bassett for a number of years and when the latter was appointed as outside representative for the Company, Jack assumed more and more responsibility and finally became Rolled Plate Warehouse Manager under Mr. Walter Chance. Later, when Mr. Bassett was made a Director, Jack again became responsible to his old boss, an arrangement which continued until the outbreak of the war, when Mr. Bassett retired owing to ill health.

An outstanding personality in many ways, Jack was well known both in his home town, West Bromwich, and also

among the glass merchants and glaziers throughout the country. His knowledge of his customers was one of his proudest assets and there is no doubt that his experience of the trade helped very much in maintaining friendly relations with our many customers.

To his associates, Jack will always be remembered for his jovial personality and his remarkable fund of stories, but it may surprise some of his friends to learn that Jack in his younger days had a good voice and was a leading member of a local church choir. His interests in the West Bromwich Albion and the Dartmouth Cricket Club were well known and in his spare time, he was a very active supporter of the West Bromwich Conservative Party.

No doubt he will continue these interests in his retirement, but we hope he may spare a little of his time to visit his friends at the works, where he will always be sure of a warm welcome.

L.G.

From your COMMITTEE ROOM WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

THE subjects discussed at the last two meetings of the Works Consultative Committee covered a wide field including cycle and motor cycle parking, congestion on works roadways, disposal of inflammable rubbish, public transport, holiday arrangements, protective clothing and inter-departmental visits by employees.

Worthy of particular note is that following representations made by the Committee, arrangements have been made for certain vehicles to travel between the north and south sides of the works via Spon Lane, thereby reducing the danger to pedestrians caused by heavy traffic under the railway bridge. Cyclists and motor cyclists will enjoy improved storage facilities in the near future. The Committee is supporting the Safety Committee in encouraging the wearing of personal protective equipment; far too many injuries are sustained which could have been avoided by the use of armlets, safety shoes or goggles.

In an endeavour to encourage a wider interest in the Suggestions Scheme, the Works Consultative Committee has recommended to management that arrangements should be made for inter-departmental visits by employees.

In reviewing the production position, the chairman, Mr. C. J. S. Newman, said that the position continues to be set very fair and this condition was likely to obtain for some time ahead. There were, however, a number of manufacturing problems which were causing concern and he invited the production managers to summarise the position in each division.

In dealing with the Blown and Pressed division, Mr. Barrett stated the ever increasing demands for fluorescent tubing was very satisfactory from the

sales angle, but the increase in manufacturing speeds was resulting in technical problems which were necessitating alterations to plant and new equipment was being obtained. Further, No. 8 tank was in urgent need of repair and it was not proving possible to put tubes in stock to deal with customers' urgent requirements during the period of repair. In regard to cathode ray tubes, the new equipment was being installed and would soon be in full production fabricating soft glass tubes. Semi-automatic press work was on the increase and the amount of business had necessitated the installation of additional machines.

Reviewing conditions in the Optical division, Mr. Pickering referred to the production of interchangeable syringes which were manufactured at Malvern. He reminded the committee that these syringes were first put on the market in 1950 and at that time the demand was low as the product was new. During the last twelve months, these syringes were being used more and more in hospitals and the output had been stepped up from one thousand to four thousand a week during the last eighteen months.

At St. Helens, a new furnace is in operation and is almost completely controlled by instruments. It is probably the most advanced plant of its kind in Europe.

In all sections, the Optical division was extremely busy.

Reviewing the Flat Glass division, Mr. Gorman said that No. 1 Rolled Plate furnace was now in production again and a good start had been made. He took this opportunity of congratulating the Maintenance and Construction division on their achievement in com-

continued on page seventeen



Chance SNAPSHOTS

1. Yvonne Hill, Malvern Works (left) on her Outward Bound Course. (Photo by permission of Birmingham Weekly Post).
2. The Blown and Pressed division have a party in the Recreation Club pavilion.
- 3, 4 & 5. Three snapshots taken in the Works canteen.
6. Sandra and Robert Pickering lighting a new furnace at St. Helens.





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

The new layout for the fabricating of cathode ray tubes is taking shape and the first lathes have been installed. These machines look very exciting and we feel confident that they will be as operationally efficient as they look.

We very much enjoyed having Mr. Dufour from the Corning glass works in America with us for two weeks in connection with this new plant.

Whilst the Blown and Pressed Division is the largest manufacturing unit, the personal news in Chance Comments is always sparse and employees in the division should chase their correspondents, whose names appear on the inside front cover, to make sure that news about people gets into print.

The division learned with regret that Tom Fenton died on the 20th June, at the age of fifty-five. He had to retire three years ago due to ill health and prior to his retirement he took an active part in the casting of rings for light-houses.

FLAT GLASS

A party from the Rolled Plate making and warehouse sections arranged a night out recently to Stourport for a chicken supper and everybody was glad to have as their guest Bert Tandy. Bert is certainly looking fit and well and appears to be enjoying his retirement.

The most important news, of course, in the Flat Glass division is the retirement of Jack Braden at the end of May and we all wish him a long and enjoyable retirement. A tribute to Jack Braden appears on page 8.

The Seven Storey record with regret that William Bird died on 3rd May, at the age of sixty, and Walter Tanner died on 24th June at the age of seventy-one.

The Warehouse was sorry that Harriet Pace had to give up her employment due to domestic responsibilities and after nine years service she will be missed.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The Old Hall is glad to see that Alex Morrison has returned to his drawing board after a long and serious illness.

Joyce Allsop has left us to take up a situation nearer to her home. Charles Calvert has vacated his Buying Office desk in the Old Hall and Jim Pryde has resigned his position as assistant Millwright foreman to accept a more senior post elsewhere. We wish them all every success.

Congratulations are offered to June Richards who attained her majority on 14th June, and to Bill Lloyd and his wife on the birth of a daughter.

New comers include Arthur Pitchford who has been appointed assistant Millwright foreman.

The division were delighted to see Geoff Lavender, Ray Drury and Harry Isherwood during their visits to the works recently, whilst they were on leave from National Service.

Gordon Rowe of the Boiler Shop has left us to take up another job and the Editor takes this opportunity of wishing him well and thanking him for the good work he has done as a magazine correspondent for the Boiler Shop.

Douglas Hale of the Millwrights department has also left us to obtain wider experience elsewhere. A loss to the Electricians Shop was that of Bill Pugh, our armature winder, who returned to the works in which he served his apprenticeship.

Pyrometry, welcomes Geoffrey Maddams, who has joined us as a Pyrometry assistant.

LABORATORY

We offer our congratulations to David Nellist and Russell Taylor each of whom has attained his majority recently.

We welcome back Alan Giles and Ken Price who have now returned to us after spending twelve months at the College of Technology in Birmingham to complete a degree course.

OFFICES

The Export department congratulates John Gordon on his recent marriage and the department is very glad to see Mrs. Lane back on her recovery from a fractured ankle which has kept her away from work for several months. The department is unfortunate in regard to injuries as Winnie Grice is at present absent with a fractured wrist.

The department was sorry to lose the services of Wilfred Taylor and wish him every success in his new job.

The Typing Pool learned with delight that Jean Whitehouse is to marry Maurice Talbot, formerly of the Blown and Pressed division, on 13th August. Another forthcoming marriage is that of Cynthia Osborne.

Horace Newey, our Civil Defence Officer, has been off work for many weeks through illness, part of which time he has had to spend in hospital. According to his daily telephone reports he will be back by the time these notes are issued and it will indeed be good to see his burly figure at Spon Lane again.

OPTICAL

The Optical division welcomes Mrs. Stevens and Shirley Clorley who have joined the staff recently.

Sympathy is extended to Fred Rollason on the recent death of his father.

Mrs. E. Stanley has left us as she is expecting a happy event.

For no reason at all we publish this snap of Alec Nicoll, Superintendent of Vello Section.

The department learns with regret that Jim Swan died on 18th June at the age of eighty-seven. Prior to his retirement in 1946, Jim had been with the Company for forty-seven years.

OUR VETERANS LIST

The Company has always been proud of its record of long service and the following is a list of employees who have completed fifty or more years service and are still on the job:—

S. Tinsley	Coloured
W. Hicks	Rolled Plate Warehouse
A. Potter	Rolled Plate
I. Partridge	Pressed Warehouse
E. Parrish	Seven Storey
E. Clifton	Seven Storey
W. Morton	Coloured
W. Withers	Coloured
W. Bird	Rolled Plate Warehouse
E. Ashcroft	Coloured
E. Vaughan	Rolled Plate
E. Courtney	Seven Storey
J. Hawkes	Millwrights
W. F. Lloyd	Rolled Plate
F. Whitehouse	Millwrights
A. Fenton	Blown and Pressed Cathodes
F. Stanley	Blown and Pressed Cathodes
T. Clift	Boiler Shop
R. Peters	Seven Storey
D. Woodhouse	Mixing



News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

The Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Recreation Club was held in the canteen on 19th May, 1955.

The office bearers and departmental representatives for the ensuing year are:—

President: G. H. Gordon, *Vice-President:* J. Crawford, *Secretary and Treasurer:* J. McCusker, *Department representatives:* W. Elliott, W. Sutherland, A. McKnight.

A bowling tournament is at present in course of being played at Ruchill Park.

Our best wishes to Margaret Watson of the Order department on her recent marriage.

We welcome Sister Duncan who has joined us as nurse and welfare supervisor. We also welcome Charlotte Brown (Time Study) and Marion Shaw (Cost Office).

John Cunnion and James Henderson of the Rolled Plate Warehouse and Archie Gordon of the Yard, retired in May and our best wishes go with them in their retirement. John Cunnion started work at Firhill in 1906 with the Glasgow Plate Glass Company, which was taken over the following year by Chance Brothers. James Henderson came a short time later and between them they had ninety-five years service at Firhill.

It is with sorrow that we record the death of Bob Greer of the Crate Yard on 29th May. Bob had been at Firhill for thirty-six years.

● LONDON

We are sorry to have to report "Nil" returns for staff marriages and engagements although we are pleased to announce the birth of "Swirl," the new Fiesta pattern which has had the honour of an Oxford Street window display at Selfridges with supporting special display in their glass and china department and an announcement in the evening paper. All reports indicate that the

baby is considered most attractive and likely to be very popular.

● MALVERN

The Malvern works congratulates Tom Sandy and his wife on the birth of their daughter.

We have three "21st" birthdays to report and our best wishes go to Rose Harford (16th May), Pam Bellamy (14th June) and Diana Sealey (3rd July).

Pricilla Cooper will be leaving us shortly in anticipation of a happy event.

Yvonne Hill looked very fit on her return from the Outward Bound Mountain School and we were very proud that a Malvern girl was selected for this honour.

● ST. HELENS

Wedding bells have been ringing at St. Helens again and we congratulate Maureen Chester (Packing Section) on her marriage to Richard Leadbetter.

Our congratulations go also to Joe Milligan and his wife who have recently become proud parents of a baby girl.

Iris Johnson is back with us again after a rather nasty road accident and its good to see her back at work so soon.

On the sick list we have Jimmy Dixon, Lottie Leyland and Marie Hartley. Jimmy especially is having rotten luck with his health. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to them all.

We at St. Helens are still extremely busy and the position at the moment seems to be that we are trying to get a quart out of a pint pot. Great efforts have been made by everybody to increase production, and results have proved to be very encouraging.

The new automatically controlled furnace is now working satisfactorily. Officially termed the F.56, it has also had many other names bestowed on it over the past three months. The photograph on the centre page shows Mr. S. T. Pickering's two youngsters about to perform the lighting ceremony, and if they do look a little apprehensive, who can blame them.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

Football

It is not easy to think of football at this time of the year but the football section of Chance's Recreation Club has already planned its programme for next season and two teams will be entered in leagues. For the last few years the pavilion bar has been the home of trophies won by our teams and the Palethorpe Ball now has pride of place. It is our determination to keep up our outstanding record.

Dennis Binfield (Cathode Process Section) is now secretary to the section and he would be glad to help any employee who wishes to wear our colours next season.

The section takes this opportunity of expressing appreciation to the many supporters and helpers and particularly to the Traffic Manager for his co-operation in arranging transport for away fixtures.

Cricket

Midland Works and Business Houses League:—

Division I

P. Won D. Lost P.

Chance's Recreation	11	4	3	4	14
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Reserve Division A

Chance's Recreation	7	4	1	2	13
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These are our league analyses after matches played on Saturday, 18th June. The league tables have not yet been published but we imagine ourselves to be about sixth or seventh in Division I and second or third in Reserve Division A. Incidentally, in the Second XI match against Vono II away from home, we think a record must have been established. R. Beavon (Laboratory) and B. Bagnall (Traffic) shared in a fifth wicket partnership of 109. We declared at 217 for 5 and dismissed Vono for 189. Brighter cricket indeed when four hours thirty-five minutes play produces 407 runs! The First XI had rather a sorrier time at home but they still have four good wins to their credit and we look forward to lauding their future triumphs.

In regard to twenty-over evening games, we are entered in the Mayor of

Oldbury's Charity Cup in which we beat Cuxson Gerrard Limited by ninety-eight runs to forty in the first round; we meet the winners of I.C.I. (Chance and Hunt Works) and Hughes-Johnson Limited at home on Monday, 27th June. We also maintain an interest in the West Midlands Association of Works' Recreation Clubs competition. We won against Tangye's in the first round by ninety-three runs to fifty-six and we travel to Henry Hope Limited for the second round on Thursday, 23rd June. It is worth noting that we have entered the latter competition four times and on three of these occasions we won it. This is a tradition with which we hope to continue.

Before the season began a full series of inter-departmental league games had been arranged but unfortunately the weather interfered and a knock-out competition was substituted for the league programme. At the time of going to press, the Maintenance and Construction department has reached the final with the Blown and Pressed Vello and Traffic and Laboratory are contesting for the honour of being the other finalists.

Netball

Our ladies' netball team is now on top of Division II in the Oldbury and District Netball league after winning eight games out of nine. At the time of going to press the team has a healthy six point lead over nearest rivals, Dart Social. Tuesday evening on the recreation ground is netball evening and the energetic secretary is Beatrice Crimes, Buying Office.

Tennis

The two hard tennis courts on the recreation ground are at the service of any employee and it is seldom that the courts are too crowded to spoil an evening or week-end's play.

Do you Fish? Do you play Bowls?

The crown bowling green is playing very well this season and any employee is assured of a good game.

The angling section has a full programme and would welcome new members.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

AUXILIARY FORCES AND RESERVISTS

The following facilities will this year apply to members of the Auxiliary Forces and Reservists:—

(1) Auxiliary Forces and Pre-Service Units

Two weeks leave for the purpose of attending camp or training, in addition to normal annual holiday, will be granted to both staff and non-staff who are volunteer members of one of the Auxiliary Forces or Pre-Service Units. Employees should apply to their Manager for full details as to pay and Superannuation or Pension Fund contributions.

(2) Z and G Reservists

It has been stated that it is unlikely that any Z or G Reservists will be called up for training this year, but any employee who is recalled as a Z or G Reservist for fifteen days training in 1955 will receive a disturbance allowance of £1 for each of the two weeks absence.

Well done!



No salary or wages will be paid, but the Company will pay the employee's Superannuation or Pension Fund contributions, as well as the Company's own contributions.

For the purpose of Holiday Credits non-staff will be credited with forty-four hours work for each week's absence.

Attendance at Z or G Reserve Training will not be regarded as a break in service with the Company, and will be in addition to the employee's normal annual holiday for 1955. Any cases of employees recalled for more than fifteen days will be considered individually.

(3) National Servicemen

National Servicemen fulfilling their two weeks training obligation in 1955 will be treated in the same way as Z and G Reservists (paragraph (2) above) unless they have become volunteer members of the Auxiliary Forces, in which case they will be treated in the same way as members of the Auxiliary Forces (paragraph (1) above).

AWARDS SCHEME

Professional Examinations

It has been decided to introduce a scheme of awards for certain professional examinations and the following will in future apply:—

1. All employees of Chance Brothers Limited are eligible to benefit from the awards scheme except those who attain professional qualifications by being registered under the Chance Training Scheme.
2. All employees taking a course of study, whether at evening classes, by correspondence course, or any other

method, and wishing to avail themselves of the awards scheme, must obtain the approval of the Company by completing a registration form which may be obtained from the Personnel department. The Personnel Manager will consult Managers about the suitability of courses.

3. Awards are payable after notification by the professional body of the examination having been passed.
4. The following are representative of the awards paid. The omission of any professional examination from this list does not imply that it is not recognised for the purpose of this scheme. The award may be adjusted if the qualification is gained partly by exemption.

Examination

Assoc. of Certified and Corporate Accountants
Institute of Cost and Works Accountants
Chartered Institute of Secretaries
Institute of Export
Certificate of Management
Incorp. Sales Managers' Association

Awards

Preliminary (where existing)	£5
Intermediate	£10
Final	£15

HOLIDAY SNAPS

In our last issue we announced a holiday photographs competition and as we are now in the middle of the holiday season the full rules are repeated as a reminder to our readers. The competition is, of course, 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.

£10,230 FOR HOLIDAYS!

The annual accounts of the Employees' Personal Holiday Fund show that in the past twelve months the sum of £10,230 was saved by members. This must be of great help at this time of the year and everybody would be wise in deciding now to set aside a fixed sum each week towards the cost of holidays next year. Everything is so simple; All one has to do is to ask the Wages or Salaries office to deduct a regular amount from wages and the money will be paid over at holiday time.

Since this fund was started in 1938 a total of £95,217 has been saved. The committee invests the monies in the Post Office Savings Bank and last year it was possible to donate £50 to the Provident Society from interest earned.

(Continued from page 9)

pleting the work on time. There was no doubt that the total output of the three tanks at Smethwick would be needed for an indefinite period.

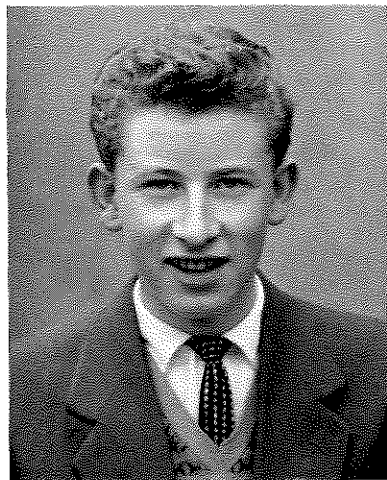
In the Coloured section, there had been a good run on pot opal and flashed glasses and the order book was full.

Bending business was also on the increase and production was behind orders due to shortage of suitable labour. Fiesta products were in considerable demand both for domestic and publicity purposes. The Rolled Plate tank at Glasgow had been doing well lately but the output was still not as good as the tanks at Smethwick.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION



Joyce Hicks



Eamonn McGeogh

JOYCE HICKS

JOYCE Hicks attended Holly Lodge Grammar School for Girls until she was fifteen when she left to take a three months comptometer course at the Felt and Tarrant School in Birmingham. She came to work in our Wages department as a junior comptometer operator and has been with us just over a year.

Joyce was taught to play the piano from the age of seven to eleven years. She used to play classical pieces but has since developed a preference for the more modern kind of music. She also learned to skate on ice at the age of eight and still goes to Birmingham Ice Rink once each week.

Whilst at Holly Lodge she played in the junior hockey eleven and also obtained a certificate for swimming the quarter mile, crawl stroke.

EAMONN McGEOGH

EAMONN McGeogh is sixteen years old and works in the Drawing Office on general junior duties; he hopes to qualify as an electrician and is eagerly awaiting his transfer into the works which will occur in the middle of August.

Eamonn's dad, as his name indicates, is an Irishman who retains not only his brogue but also his inclination towards horse racing and car driving. Eamonn's own interests however have followed a more orthodox British line; he was captain and inside left of the St. Phillips School football team and he spends much of his leisure nowadays at the Smethwick Presbyterian Youth Club playing table tennis and taking part in club activities. He is also a keen swimmer.

Books form part of his relaxation and he prefers the ones depicting true life adventure such as underwater exploration.

GLORIA NASH

GLORIA Nash has worked in Flat Glass Sales since January this year and is now fifteen and a half years old.

She feels it quite natural that she should be doing filing and general duties at the moment but has a strong ambition to qualify for secretarial and shorthand typing duties later on.

Whilst at Shireland Secondary Modern School for Girls Gloria was particularly fond of needlework and dressmaking and of the other subjects her favourite was mathematics. More recently she has taken to knitting and wears a very attractive mock cable cardigan she has made herself.

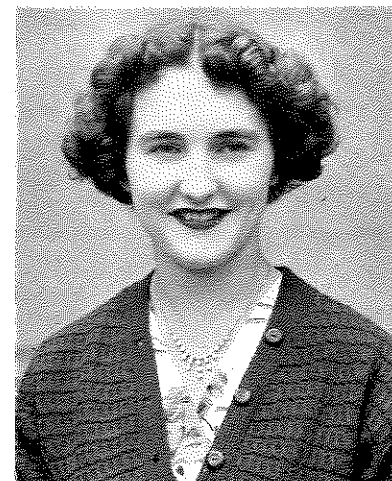
On the sporting side at school she played in hockey and netball matches. She was most proficient at swimming, being a member of the team which won the Smethwick Town School Gala and having certificates for three metre board diving and 100 yards crawl and breast stroke.

Gloria attends Shireland Old Scholars Association Youth Club for dancing and table tennis. She was a very keen member of their dramatic section when it was functioning and preferred light romance and comedy.

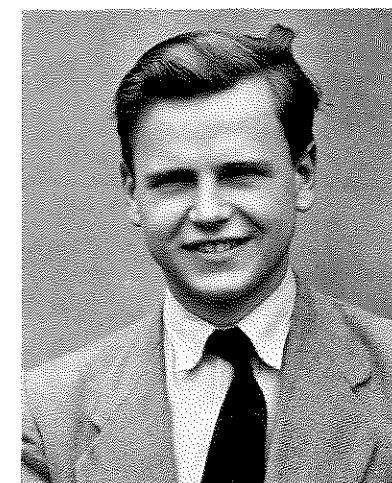
BOB STEEL

BOB Steel's home is at Thornaby-on-Teess near Middlesborough in Yorkshire. He is a trainee physicist in the laboratory and is taking his first year final degree at the College of Technology, Birmingham. Bob was a student of Richmond School, where he was a boarder, and so it was not so very different for him to be away from home whilst furthering his training. His favourite subjects have always been mathematics, physics and chemistry so that guiding him into an appropriate vocation has been much more easy than usual.

Spare time activities which interested him at school were rugby football, cricket and .22 rifle shooting. He was also a member of the dramatic society, though, to his chagrin, he was invariably cast as a leading lady. Imagine his further mortification when recently



Gloria Nash



Robert Steel

offered a part at the St. James Church dramatic society, West Bromwich, he found it was again as leading lady.

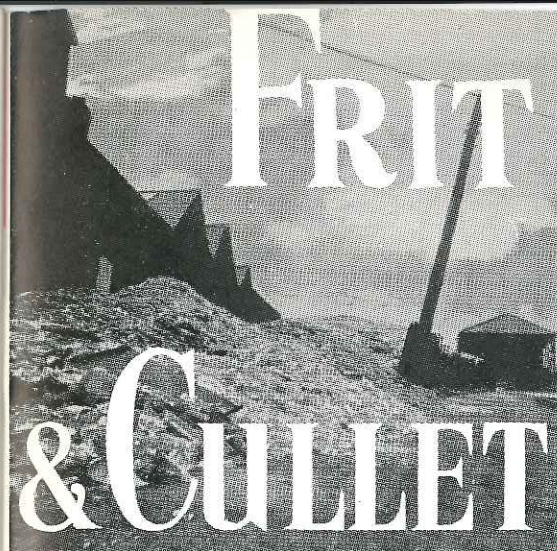
Since he has been here Bob has cycled to and from Coventry and we think this may be good training for his visit to the Outward Bound Sea School during July.

In his more relaxed moments Bob likes to read novels by Graham Greene, Steinbeck and Alan Paton.

CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



THE girls in the Fiesta department selected Nellie Kennett for this month's Gallery page because she celebrated her silver wedding recently. Mrs. Kennett is an inspector in the Fiesta department and her husband Tom has been a glass blower in the Blown and Pressed division for the past thirty-three years.



A boy applied for work. His interviewer asked:—"What's your name?"

"Bernard Shaw," replied the lad.

"That's a well known name isn't it?"

"You bet," said the boy, "I've been delivering papers around here ever since I left school."

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Boxing

Who is British and Empire light heavyweight champion? Who are the two principal contenders for the Empire title and when is the champion reputed to be defending it next?

2. Athletics

Who is currently our best quarter and half miler?

3. Association Football

Name the Manager of Walsall Football Club. Give two other clubs with whom he has had successful connections.

4. Cricket

In choosing between Lock and Wardle, what have the England selectors to consider besides their respective merits as bowlers?

5. Snooker

If a man "breaks off" and misses hitting any ball should he take the stroke again? And is he penalised?

6. Tennis

Who is reputed to be the best post-war Wimbledon men's singles champion? For what playing characteristic was he noted? What have his more recent activities comprised?

7. Racing

Which top class jockey sprang into fame as an apprentice by riding in the Lincolnshire Handicap at odds of 100—1?

ANSWERS TO SPORTS QUIZ

1. (a) Randolph Turpin. (b) Yolande Pompey and Ron Barton. (c) In September 1955 against Pompey. 2. Derek Johnson (Oxford University). 3. (a) Major Frank Buckley. (b) Wolverhampton Wanderers and Leeds United. 4. Lock's fielding and Wardle's batting. 5. (a) No. (b) He gives four points to his opponent. The idea that the pyramid must be broken before the game has commenced is a fallacy. 6. (a) Jack Kramer (U.S.A.). (b) His flat trajectory service. (c) He runs "Kramer's Professional Tennis Circus"—usually recruiting the premier amateurs each year. 7. "Manny" Mercer—the horse won Jockey Treble in 1947.