



CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



IRIS Robins is a member of the very happy team of ladies who work in the Rolled Plate despatch office. Whenever the Recreation Club holds a party or an outing Iris is bound to be there and she particularly enjoys participating in the Choral section's concerts.

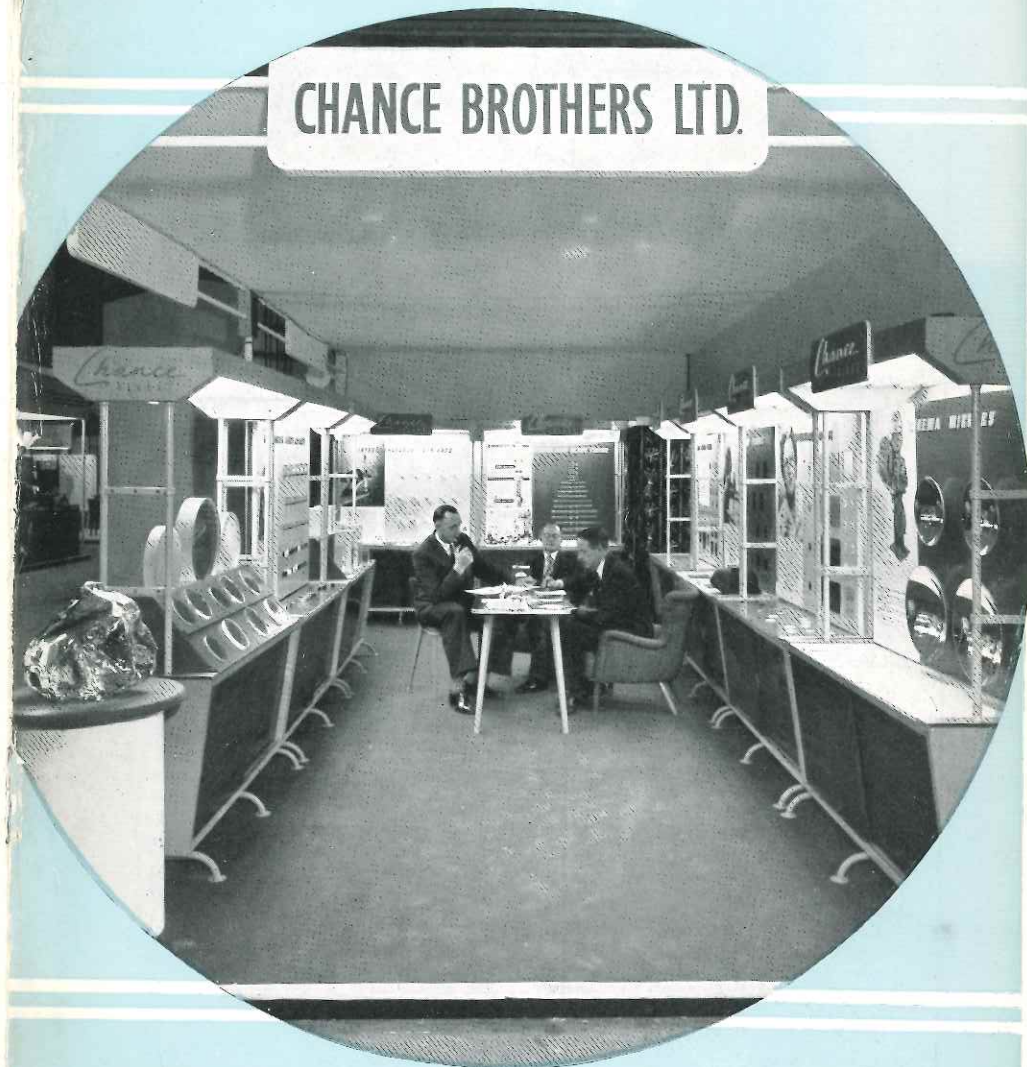
S.H.C.T.

Entry No.E2001/.....

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Chance COMMENTS

CHANCE BROTHERS LTD.



NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 1955

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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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Warehouse	A. SUTTON
Warehouse	MRS. A. KEYS
Buying and Stationery	MRS. M. CANTY
Cost Office	MISS J. HEATH
Export	F. TAYLOR
Flat Glass	
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Old Hall	MRS. N. O'RIORDAN
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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Our stand at the British Instrument Industries Exhibition, London.

S.H.C.T.

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VOL. 8, No. 5

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1955

ANNUAL MEETING OF DEPOSITORS

THE Annual Meeting of Depositors, which had been postponed from July, was held on the 16th September, 1955, with the Chairman of the Company, Mr. D. V. Phelps, presiding.

He referred to the reason for the postponement and said that this had not delayed the announcement about interest for the year. That it had been possible to pay a higher rate was as welcome to the Board as it must have been to the Depositors because it meant that the Company had had a really good year. Whilst the general conditions of the country were partly responsible for this, much of the credit was due to the Directors and Management.

Mr. Phelps referred to the activity in the P.B. Group generally. The demand for plate and sheet glass had exceeded all previous requirements, whilst the manufacturing capacity for rolled glasses had had to be extended by the bringing into operation of the No. 1 Tank at Spon Lane.

Tubing had now become firmly established at Spon Lane, but on the Cathode side of the Blown and Pressed division some changes had taken place with the introduction of soft glass cathodes.

The actual manufacture of these had been concentrated in one unit at St. Helens whilst the sealing was being done at Spon Lane.

On the Optical side, Mr. Phelps mentioned that we had a team in America studying the continuous optical process for which we had taken a license from Corning, and went on to say that we must in this country keep our native inventiveness going and develop our own new ways of manufacture—we must in fact get better and cheaper glass, and more of it.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Phelps offered congratulations to Dr. Hampton and all the way down the ladder for the year's good work, and wished all the best luck in the present year.

Dr. W. M. Hampton said that in the Optical division the results had exceeded the budget, and although we knew that the new American process would be coming on, we had been obliged to put down a new furnace. Progress was being made all the time with rolling, automatic control of furnaces, and in the platinum section with bigger and bigger pots.

Malvern had recovered after a bad start to have its best year so far.

As a result of all this experience the budget for this year had been stepped up.

In the Blown and Pressed division, a change had been made as mentioned by Mr. Phelps, from borosilicate to soft glass because the quality now being demanded in television could no longer be obtained in hard glass.

No. 15 House had been equipped for fabrication of cathode ray tubes and this had helped to fill the gap which had been created by the cessation of the manufacture of hard glass. This was a very good example of the value of the close co-operation between P.B. and C.B.

Tubing was still expanding and machinery for the manufacture of bigger tubes had been introduced.

Hand and semi-automatic production was also doing well.

The Maintenance and Construction department had been very busy indeed with the bringing into operation of No. 1 Tank and the reconstruction of No. 15 House.

Last year had been one full of problems which had been conquered and in this the Laboratory, Mixing, Buying, Accounting and Secretarial departments, as well as the Production divisions, had all helped by playing their parts well.

Mr. C. J. S. Newman began by making reference to the starting up of No. 1 in which the Personnel department had done a good job by getting the necessary labour. He also mentioned that we had now about fifty Jamaicans working at Spon Lane. They had become an integral part of the labour force.

On rolled glasses, record outputs had been obtained time and time again, and the increased loading and warehousing arrangements at Spon Lane to which reference was made last year, were now being carried out. This would greatly assist in the handling of the increased production. Considerable improvements had been made at Glasgow.

Mr. Newman again made reference to the importance of training. The slogan of the Suggestion Scheme—"There is always a better way"—was one which all should constantly have in mind, and he felt that greater use might be made of the Suggestion Scheme. A full training programme had been drawn up by the Personnel department with a great emphasis on the importance of Job Methods.

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Directors which was proposed by Mr. G. K. Coulthard and seconded by Miss M. O. Cole—an innovation to have at this meeting a woman allowed to say anything.

L.G.H.

From your COMMITTEE ROOM WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Wages envelopes

IN our last issue we reported that at a meeting of the Works Consultative Committee, Jack Hill of the Boiler Shop voiced several criticisms in regard to the envelopes used for wage payments. Following recommendations made by the Committee, the envelopes have been changed and the type now being used has a method of gumming to prevent opening and resealing, is made of a stronger paper to prevent splitting, and is of a larger size to ensure improved visibility for checking Treasury notes.

Safety footwear

The committee secretary reported that the Sales Director of Totector safety shoes called at the works recently to discuss with workpeople's representatives the complaints that had been made at the previous meeting about the quality of safety footwear. In regard to charges, it was stated that some time ago there was an increase consequent on the withdrawal of Government subsidy of approximately 11s. 0d. per pair. In regard to the complaint that cardboard was being built into the boots, this was denied and it was contended that the stiffeners are made of specially prepared composition of fibre which had proved more effective than leather. All manufacturers of safety shoes worked to the appropriate British Standard specification which laid down quality requirements. In examining the footwear at present used by certain employees, the representative stressed that the type of shoe generally being worn was designed for executives and persons employed on light work and a more suitable working boot with a heavy chrome leather which incorporated strong stitching would be better for heavy work.

The representative gave certain advice in regard to the preservation of safety shoes and an article will appear in the next issue of Chance Comments on this matter.

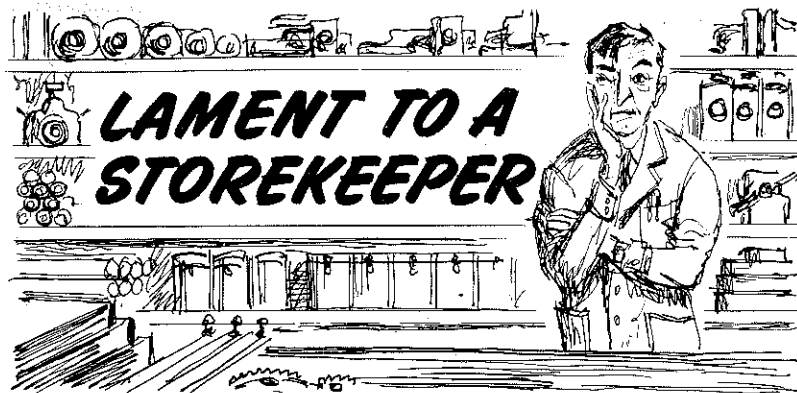
Samples of the heavier type of boot have been submitted for trial by maintenance workers and arrangements have been made to stock the heavier working boot in the Stores.

Review of production

In a brief review of the present position in regard to production, the chairman, Mr. C. J. S. Newman, stated that the Optical division was extremely busy both at Smethwick and St. Helens and "we don't know which way to turn" to keep up with orders. At the same time there was serious competition from Germany. During recent weeks, Mr. S. T. Pickering had visited America to investigate a new process for manufacturing optical glass and at the November meeting he would speak to the committee about his visit.

On the Flat Glass side, Mr. Newman said that in general all the rolled plate glass being made was being sold and it was most encouraging to be able to report that the tanks had made output records in recent weeks. The Coloured section was also busy but there was a shortage of labour for flattening cylinders. The production of Micro glass was being held up consequent on technical troubles and this was unfortunate as the orders were there.

In the Blown and Pressed division the activity on fabricating television tubes was building up to encouraging numbers and satisfactory orders were coming in for pressed lenses for use on motor cars. The Vello tubing tank was at present down for repair but would re-start early in November.



IF there is one person I feel for in this world it is the storekeeper. All day and every day he is abused, threatened, cajoled and cursed by multitudes of people who ask for or demand a variegated number of items, some of which he has and some of which he has not.

It is the vague customers who really take the biscuit. Have you ever heard them? "I want a milling fixture! I don't know the number but I can describe it to you. It has a square base about this long and this wide." Here we are treated to a fairish imitation of a tic-tac man at a dog track. "It had a round piece on top about this size." More tic-tac. "There's a set-



ting piece on this side." He points a grimy finger at an imaginary point in mid-air. "There's a slot each end and two tennons underneath." Of course, this makes it all wonderfully clear to the storekeeper. He has two million fixtures all of which could be just as adequately described by the self same words and hand waving, but he is not the least bit impressed. After all this highly technical information, from a fellow who has so obviously really studied his subject, he says "Go find the number!"

Ever see the fastidious type? He wants a half-inch drill. Not for this boy the common or garden half-inch drill, he has been used to shopping at Woolworths, he wants to pick 'em over. This one is dull, this is too short, that one is too long. Anybody can see at a glance that that one is two thou. undersize, and who the heck would use this one with the scored shank?

Fifteen minutes before quitting time. This feller doesn't want to start another job and the answer is simple. He beetles off to the stores and hovers around at the back of the crowd. Never gets too close to the window, never sees the attendant who gives the nod to say he is next. Multiplied by three he makes it look as if the stores is the

absolute last word in bottlenecks. The best approach to him is to slip out of the door, buttonhole him suddenly and quick-sharp say "Whaddya want?" That fools him. You're not supposed to do that.

His pal is a star player in the Stores Drama. One minute before quitting time he arrives from out of the blue. What has he got? A truckload of fixtures, reamers, drills, turning tools, odd nuts and bolts and "Gimme a clean wiper for this dirty one!" You are not allowed to shoot him, you can't even throw something at his head.

For a real "Dennis the Menace," take the feller who gets a drill out and then shortens the shank to suit some operation or other. In shortening said shank he cuts off the size marking. Does he re-mark it? Not on your life. His first cousin is the guy who needs to grind a flat on the shank of an end mill. Where does he grind the flat? You guessed it! Right where the size was marked.

Of course, there's always the new member sent up by the shop jokester. He wants striped paint, a glass hammer, four half-inch holes, a left handed screw-driver or a pair of "T" slots. Him the stores man takes in his stride, but some of the others . . . !

What about the musical trio. First the bloke who has a 6" rule and 10" Stilson. He bangs and taps away like a crazy calypso tympany section. Next to him is the feller who sings (?), and next to him the chap who whistles in a very shrill, off-key screech. Between the three of them they emit a series of discordant blasts which would make the noises of Bedlam sound like the murmurings of a babbling brook.

The ding-dong-dandy of them all is the moron who arrives when there is a

queue of seven or eight people. This boy is really in a hustle. He spends all his waiting time there beefing about the stores crew, their relatives, ancestors, antecedents, the firm, the boss, the guy who works next to him, the guy behind him and, in fact ninety per cent of the human race. Then what? Comes his turn—he forgets what he came for.

Then there's the phone. You are counting a box of about a billion infinitesimally small washers. "Two million, two hundred and nineteen thousand, three hundred and forty-one—two million, two hundred and nineteen thousand, three hundred and forty-two—" Everybody else is at lunch or washing their hands. Ninety-six people in ten minutes have interrupted you. You've just got back on to counting again and off goes the phone bell. Who is it? Some nut wants to know if it's raining outside! ?—O!

I have never been a storekeeper but one thing's sure, I takes me 'at orf to 'em. God bless 'em and I hope they don't hoard the food in the pantry or refrigerator, the way they hoard the stuff in the stores or they'll starve.

(Reproduced from Lucas Reflections by kind permission).





£17 for seven ideas

£5 5s. 0d., goes to Jim Jewkes

The best suggestion award during the last two months went to Jim Jewkes of the Blown and Pressed division. His idea was that extension arms be fitted to the rotary table with platforms attached so as to enable large rods to be machined on cathode plungers and bodies. This idea resulted in the present tools being made more versatile.

Harry Care wins an appeal

As far back as 1952, Harry Care, Pressed Mould shop, received an award of 7s. 6d., for a suggestion concerning steel jigs for polishing mould bodies. It was learned recently that he was dissatisfied with the amount of the award and he was persuaded to lodge an appeal. The appeal was upheld and the award increased from 7s. 6d. to £4. This is an opportunity to remind employees that the Suggestions Scheme rules provide for appeals and if and when any suggestor feels that his suggestion has not received due merit, an appeal should be made.

Great care is taken in assessing the merits of suggestions but even so there

can be occasions when the usefulness of an adopted idea goes beyond the original expectation. It is in such cases that an appeal is justified and the committee secretary, Mr. A. Ogden, is always willing to help suggestors to prepare appeals.

An idea for the polishing machines

A. Floyd of the Blown and Pressed division put forward the suggestion that a "T" feed pipe should be introduced to the auto-polishing machines in the cathode section. The main virtue of the suggestion is that it saves about twenty feet of rubber hose each month. £2 15s. 0d. was the award.

"Dear Suggestion Committee"

Alfred Hayfield, Optical division, made this endearing opening to his suggestion for dealing with the problem of tar in the remoulding furnaces.

A drain point on the C.P. gas mains supplying the Optical department often became blocked with tar and consequently trouble was experienced at the mixers of the remoulding furnaces. Alf submitted a sketch for an idea to

solve this problem and he was awarded £1 2s. 6d.

To make a tricky job easier

Fred Styles of the D.R.M. shop was awarded £1 2s. 6d., for his suggestion that a gauge be supplied to check oil seal faces on the oil burners in No. 1 tank.

Two ideas for saving water

J. H. Poulson of Rolled Plate reported that the water used for cooling the bearings on the stack fans at No. 1 tank was being run into the drains and he suggested that it should be directed into the Visco cooler where it would help to keep the Visco water cool and reduce the cost of water supplies. This was well worth an award of £1 2s. 6d.

Another water saving idea came from S. G. Lawrence of the Coloured department who suggested that waste water from the Coloured department's hot water system should be run into a Visco cooler and he received 10s. 0d.

10s. 0d. for a reminder

R. Acton of the Millwrights suggested that portable ramps should be supplied to lorry drivers to assist in the handling of loose loads of rolled plate glass. This was not an original idea as

such ramps had been supplied in the past, but had been lost. More ramps are to be made and the Suggestions Scheme Committee made one of its 10s. 0d. "reminder" awards.

Two Merit Awards

Two suggestions received were not adopted, but because of the time, thought and trouble taken by the suggestors, the committee awarded 10s. 0d. each to C. Lowe, Electricians and J. Payne, Rolled Plate.

These suggestions are under consideration

53252	H. Price	<i>Vello</i>
53382	B. Jones	<i>RolledPlate</i>
53385	E. J. Gardner	<i>Blown and Pressed</i>
53396	E. A. Whitehouse	<i>Electricians</i>
53411	W. S. Robinson and A. Morson	<i>No. 7 Bending</i>
53418	R. Harvey	<i>Mixing</i>
C53461	C. Lowe	<i>Electricians</i>
53462	F. Styles	<i>D.R.M.</i>
53475	A. Moore	<i>M. & C.</i>
53476	R. Goodall	<i>Mixing</i>
53477	R. Goodall	<i>Mixing</i>
53478	J. Hadley	<i>Optical</i>
53482	E. J. Gardner	<i>Blown and Pressed</i>
53485	H. Lloyd	<i>Millwrights</i>
53488	J. T. Keys	<i>Mixing</i>



★
Mr. C. J. S. Newman
pays out a suggestion
award.
★

HOBBIES?

MINE IS CAR BUILDING

Writes A. B. R. STEELE
(DEVELOPMENT)

MY dictionary defines hobby as "an occupation or interest to which one devotes spare time." Now, I cannot truthfully say that I devote my spare time to building motor cars, but I did build one to which was devoted every spare minute of fourteen months and I have been asked to describe for this feature WHY? and HOW?

It started back in 1947. Remember? Petrol rationing—tyres on permit—new cars for "export only." Old cars fetching ridiculously dishonest prices and invariably sold by equally dishonest padded shoulders gentlemen.

Due to force of circumstances (this is a polite way of describing state of being broke) I found myself accepting one of these ridiculous offers for my 1938 Minx and the same F of C made me the rather unhappy, at first, owner of a 1930 Austin Seven. I say at first, because, in the years that followed we had more enjoyment, more fun, unflinching service and reliability from that seventeen year old Baby Austin than from any car (and they have been many) before or since.

It took myself and family on three occasions the 800 miles London-Edinburgh-London and on one of these trips carried all but five gallons of its own petrol for the entire journey. These and other jaunts plus every day use of this little car developed in me such an admiration for its willing heart, its tremendous guts and as a Scot, its amazing economy that I decided that it was deserving of a more modern and better appearance. (I saw this particular car the other day in Bearwood, 25 years old now!) However, there you have the answer WHY?

So we come to 1951 for the answer to HOW? I had now been two years in Birmingham and had found it remarkably easy, in this the birthplace of Austin cars, to get together a collection of various components and "bits and pieces" which would be required for the mechanical face lifting now contem-

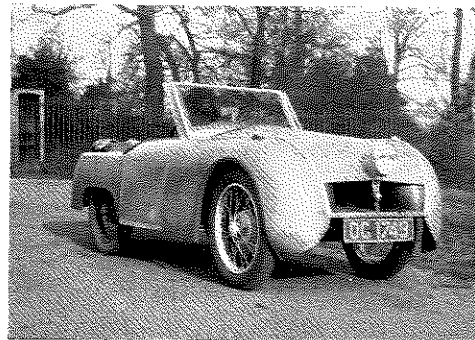
plated. I further purchased another 1930 Austin Seven.

Approximately five months were spent stripping down the chassis (for the benefit of the young this is the item that motor cars were and still are built around and on). During this period every nut, bolt and washer was examined, much was discarded, much required renewing and replacement, and many alterations were made to strengthen and adapt the original chassis for its new function. The building up began and every part was treated with either bitumastic, zinc chrome or metal paint as the type of metal required. Extensions were carried up and over the rear axle and outriggers were fitted to side members, the slightly modified engine was put back (it now revolved somewhat faster than the late Lord Austin had intended when he personally designed this unit).

All we needed now was something to sit on, it was also considered expedient to have a body and further considered desirable that said body be as light as possible. For this reason 18 alloy sheet was selected for panelling and alloy angle and Dexion metal for frame and scuttle.

Since I was no "panel basher" and was well aware of some snags in this highly skilful trade I decided to make the panels before the frame and to make them in pairs so that, if any mistakes were made at least, they would

The car in prototype form. Note the curving of the panels.



appear on both sides and they would be alike.

That winter I borrowed from our Boiler Shop a nine foot length of 9 inch diameter steam pipe which had a convenient bend in it just the shape I had drawn up (I burnt these drawings in disgust a short while after).

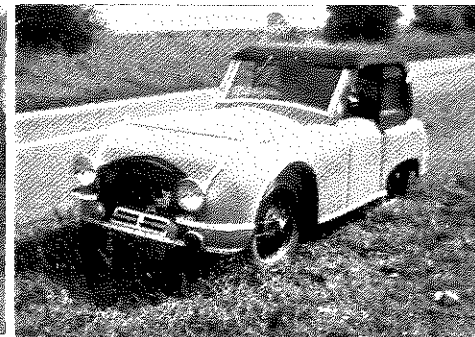
I fondly imagined that all I had to do was bend and fold my 18G alloy round this former and hey presto! there were my panels, well I wrestled with this "pipefitters nightmare"—and sheets of alloy using the snow which covered the lawn as a cushion and all to very little effect.

Fortunately my struggles were observed by my neighbour who manages a metal spinning works and he kindly offered to bring me two scrap spinnings of quite large diameter which he thought might be useful. This proved an understatement for, by cutting and joining them to panels I had managed to make I achieved quite a smooth and pleasing appearance.

The panels were then presented to their approximate positions and as mentioned earlier the framework constructed to suit. This may seem like putting the cart before the horse but it is quite obviously easier to make a frame to match panels than panels to match a frame, unless of course you are a skilled panel beater.

I now had what for the requirements of the law and M.O.T. was a complete vehicle. It was inspected by the M.O.T. inspector (He had made two previous inspections at different stages) and passed OK for registration. I recall now, that so great was my eagerness to get on the road for the first time, that it was only on return from Coventry that I discovered I had been there and back without number plates and there they were on the bench in the garage!

The finished car has all the appearances of up-to-date design.



Many teething troubles were eventually tackled and rectified; after repeated attempts to utilize an aircraft oil cooler in the cooling system I spent three weeks building a suitable radiator by hand and tube by tube. Experiments were carried out with a variety of different types of rear springing and hydraulic shock absorbers and the final compromise was successful in keeping the car on the road. (Two hundredweights had been knocked off what was already a light car).

The finished car I considered quite satisfactory and the performance justified the earlier confidence in a most remarkable little engine. It never failed to give 60 miles to every gallon of petrol. It possessed useful acceleration, astounding road holding for its very light weight (9 cwt) driving visibility was excellent considering its low build (8 inches lower than standard).

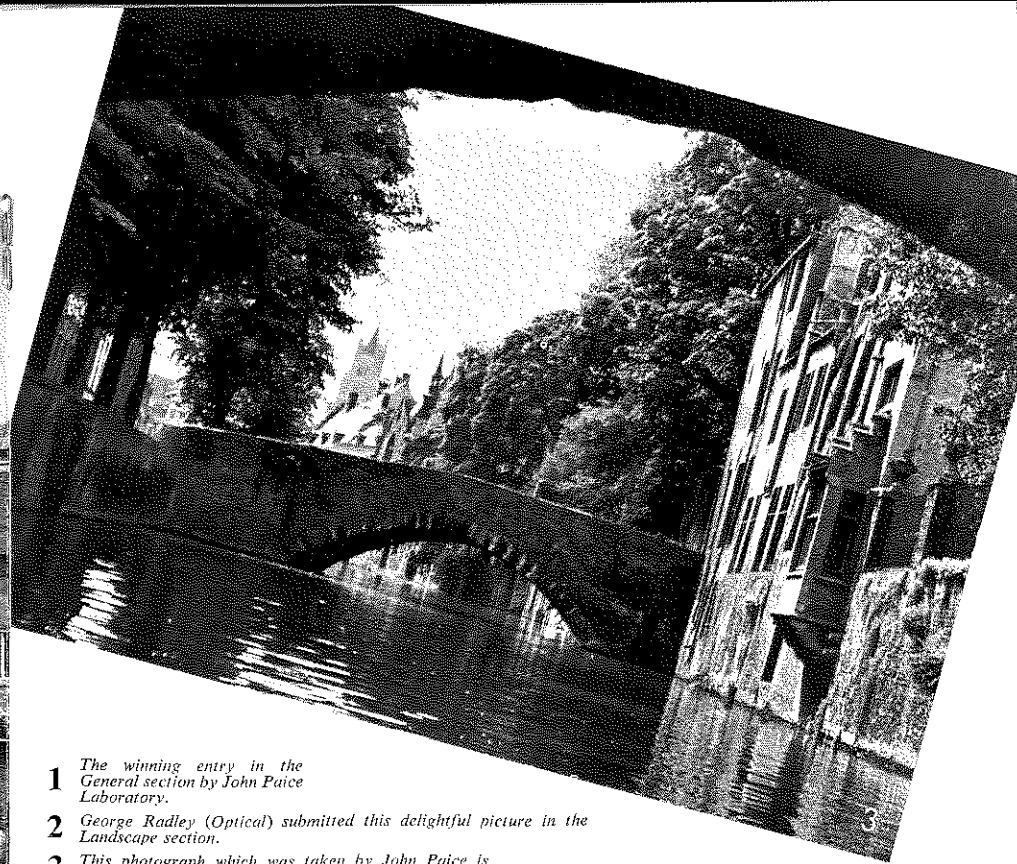
Many varied and interesting comments and enquiries resulted wherever one stopped (this could be quite embarrassing). Very favourable comments were forthcoming from the Experimental Department of Austins at Longbridge when they examined the car, but the finest compliment of all comes from the present owner—he plans to build another one.

What did it cost? In money approximately £160. In labour—if possible to calculate, a formidable figure! In worry—I enjoyed every second.

Of course the whole project could not have been carried out without a long suffering wife who permitted her kitchen to be cluttered up with pistons, cylinder blocks, carburettors etc., and the lounge to be equally cluttered up with wing panels, doors, windscreens etc., and without the confidence in a very gallant little engine and a deep interest in motor cars, the kind with chassis, with character, with ability to stay on the roads for 25 years, with engines that did not need reconditioning every 30,000 miles, that have the mark of quality and workmanship in them, yes, this includes the old Austin Seven.

So next time you pass one on the road, and there are still a great many running, bottle that smile and mentally raise your hat in respect, reflecting a while just where your current piece of mass produced tinware will be 25 years from now.

SNAPSHOTS COMPETITION



- 1 The winning entry in the General section by John Paice Laboratory.
- 2 George Radley (Optical) submitted this delightful picture in the Landscape section.
- 3 This photograph which was taken by John Paice is worthy of reproduction.
- 4 The Landscape section was won by June Talbot of the Drawing Office.





From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

The Blown and Pressed division is making final and determined efforts to raise sufficient funds to provide a New Year party for the children of employees in the division. Towards this end a concert was held in the pavilion on Sunday, 23rd October, and a dance will be held in the pavilion from 8.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. on Friday, 2nd December.

It is always difficult to arrange social functions for employees in the division because of the incidence of shift work, but with the Vello tubing being out for repairs, the opportunity was taken for the Vello personnel to get together for a dinner and concert on 28th October. This was also held in the pavilion and was a first class show.

On the personal side, Alice Derricott has left us after six years service and we wish her every success in her new job. Alice was a representative of the girls in the division on the Works Consultative Committee. Another loss was Mrs. Caddick, a packer in the Vello section, who had to give up her employment due to domestic responsibilities, after twenty-four years service.

It is with profound sorrow that we record the death of Joe Care on 3rd September, at the age of forty-three. Joe had been employed in the Inspection department for the past seven years.

FLAT GLASS

A party of personnel from the Rolled Plate Warehouse and Despatch office had a week-end trip to Blackpool early in October to see the illuminations. This was a mixed party and the Editor has been asked not to report fully as there were some rare goings on!

Making superintendent, Bob Evans, reports that No. 1 Rolled Plate tank broke two production records during September, and No. 3 tank also broke a record.

LABORATORY

Since the last issue of Chance Comments, Neil Picken who was an apprentice in the laboratory, left us and he is now taking a full time course at Birmingham University with the object of obtaining a Degree in mathematics.

Ken Price and John Gillespie have commenced their National Service and we hope they will not find service life too grim.

We welcome Alice Anson to the Physics laboratory and Bill Saunders to the Chemistry laboratory. A welcome is also extended to Ken Dorrell on the completion of his national Service.

Sincere congratulations are offered to Ron Baker on his marriage to Shirley Ralphs and to David Howes on his marriage to Yvonne Gould.

At the time of going to press, Mr. C. E. Gould is in hospital recovering from an operation and we sincerely hope he will soon be fit and well again.

MAINTENANCE AND

CONSTRUCTION

The Maintenance and Construction division has arranged for its annual dinner and social to be held at the Blue Gates Hotel on Friday, 16th December.

During September an outing was organised to Blackpool for the illuminations and this was a huge success.

Final arrangements have now been completed for the division's children's

party which will be held in the canteen buildings on Saturday, 10th December, and members of the division have been very generous in raising the necessary funds.

Rosemary Donnelly resigned her position as secretary in the Old Hall in September to take up a position elsewhere and we wish her every success. We welcome in her place Vera Payne and trust she will be happy in her new abode.

Two wee boys straight from school are welcomed to the Drawing office, Reg Jeffries and Vic Beresford.

Don Bromwell of the Carpenters shop was married to Thelma Roberts on 1st October and we wish them every success. As far as we can remember this is the first time that an apprentice has married during his period of apprenticeship.

The Boiler shop congratulates Jack Horton and his wife on the birth of a son on 15th October. The shop is, however, extremely sorry to report that Joe Nicholls has been seriously ill and we hope he will soon be back on the job again.

OFFICE

The Accounts office has recently developed a keen interest in table tennis and have thrown out a number of challenges, the first of which was taken up early in October. Dennis Grigg's performance shows he still has a flair for the game and he has remained undefeated.

The Export department is very pleased to see Winnie Grice back again after her painful accident. A welcome to the department is offered to Sheila Humphries who came to us from the Blown and Pressed division.

The Flat Glass Sales office welcomes Jean Philpots as a new comer and wishes luck to John Shrewsbury who has been transferred temporarily to Pilkington Brothers' Birmingham branch.

Congratulations are offered to Bob Palmer on his marriage to Miss P. T. Belt.

The Cost office welcomes Jim Lovell who has come as a trainee Cost Accountant.

Joseph Tutak resigned his position in the Cost office on 14th October to take up a position elsewhere and we wish him luck.

THE ANNUAL GALA BALL

will be held

at

WEST BROMWICH BATHS

on

Friday, 6th January, 1956

From 8.0 p.m. to 1.0 a.m.

Tickets 5/-

Cynthia Jandrell married James Gough at Oldbury Parish Church on 8th October and we wish her every happiness. Congratulations are also offered to Margaret Doidge of the Pensions office on her marriage to Mr. Kennedy on 17th September.

Consequent on her recent marriage, Rita Bush resigned from the Fiesta Sales office, Hazel Jones has left the Cost office for domestic reasons and Jessica Bunn has left the Typing Pool as she is now living out of the district.

OPTICAL

The Optical division has arranged its annual dinner and social to be held in the Recreation Club pavilion on Friday, 9th December.

At the time of going to press, Joe Hearne is in hospital for a serious operation and we wish him well.

Our typist, Sheila Hodgetts, married Norman Rigby on 10th September. Her husband is in the Fire Service and his colleagues provided a guard of honour. We publish a photograph of this happy event.

An archway of hatchets at Sheila Hodgetts's wedding.



News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

Much progress has been made during recent months in the development of welfare services at our Glasgow works. The new Medical Centre is now fully equipped and Sister Duncan and a visiting doctor are dealing effectively with any injury or minor illness that may occur.

Having established the new Centre, Sister Duncan turned her attentions to the canteen and many structural alterations were made and a complete set of new cooking equipment installed. The kitchen and dining rooms have been tastefully decorated and were formally opened on 18th October.

On the recreation side, the table tennis section of the works Recreation Club has entered two teams in the West of Scotland league and the A team has been successful and has won all matches so far. They are looking forward to the first round of the Maxwell Wilson Cup which will be played on 19th October.

During the Scottish autumn holiday seventy members and friends of the Recreation Club had a successful outing to Aberdour on the Fifeshire coast.

● LONDON

The London office staff have now become established in the new office at 29, St. James's Street, and the staff will give a warm welcome to any visitors from the Smethwick works.

The Malvern works trip to Blackpool.



We mentioned in the last issue that we have a full time demonstrator engaged in selling Fiesta glass at Selfridges store. This innovation is having considerable success and our stand is quite one of the most attractive in the store.

We welcome Miss Yvonne Thuilliez who has joined us recently.

● MALVERN

The highlight in the social life at the Malvern works was a recent visit to Blackpool to tour the illuminations. Although the party did not return to Malvern until 5.30 a.m., the day was very much enjoyed. On the journey up to Blackpool, the party first called at the St. Helens Optical works where they were shown round. Lunch was also taken at St. Helens and we at Malvern would like to thank our colleagues at St. Helens for being so hospitable.

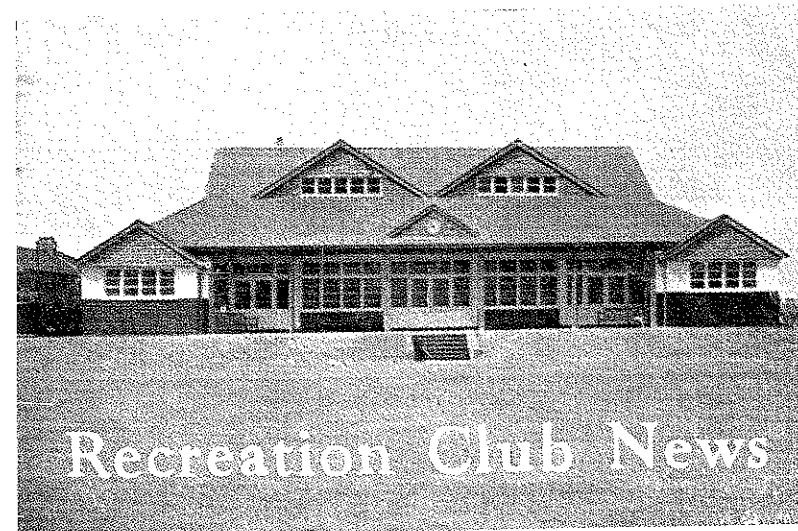
● ST. HELENS

We are all looking forward to the annual dance which will be held on 16th December, at the St. Helens town hall. For many years this has been the highlight of the works social programme.

We are glad to welcome Mr. S. T. Pickering back after his longish visit to America and we hope that the Editor will persuade him to write an article on his experiences for Chance Comments.

We congratulate Cathrine Henshall on her engagement to Harry Briars and our best wishes are extended to Mrs. Freeman who left us recently after six years service to join her husband in Newcastle.

We understand there are a number of Coca Cola machines at the Smethwick works and we would like to pass on the tip that at St. Helens we have placed a collecting box at the side of each machine and have successfully appealed to Coca Cola enthusiasts to drop their penny change into the box in aid of the children's Christmas party fund.



Financial assistance for Recreation Club

The Directors of Chance Brothers have decided to help finance the Recreation Club by bearing the cost of maintaining the playing fields, including grounds staff wages, and the exterior maintenance of the pavilion. For several years the Company has made substantial grants to the funds of the Club and in the last few years the donations have amounted to £600 per year. As the grounds alone cost over £800 a year to maintain, the Club will benefit considerably by having such expenses paid for them instead of receiving a donation towards general funds.

The annual expenses in maintaining our Recreation Club total some £2,200 and less than half this sum is met by members' weekly subscriptions. The Company's generous support is, therefore, very much appreciated and the Committee has thus been inspired in its efforts to ensure that the Club provides excellent facilities for social, recreational and educational activities for the employees of the Company.

The Pavilion

The interior of the pavilion has been redecorated and this plus the new dance floor which was laid down recently has made the room most attractive for dances and social functions. Dances

are held every Saturday evening and members and their friends are invited to attend. On Sunday evenings informal concerts are arranged and these are becoming popular family affairs.

The Club will assist divisions and departments to organise their particular social functions such as parties, suppers, dinners, dances and concerts. There is no charge for the use of the pavilion.

Badminton

The badminton section plays in the pavilion on Monday and Thursday evenings. Tuition is available for novices and good games for the experienced. Anybody who can play or would like to learn are invited to look in and the section's chairman, Max Van Beek, or the secretary, Robert Palmer, will be glad to fix up games.

Table Tennis

The table tennis section had been reformed and a team has been entered in the Smethwick league.

Early in the New Year an inter-departmental knock-out competition will be organised and a silver cup will be awarded to the winning team. Any department wishing to enter should contact the section's secretary, Bernard Cumberland (Laboratory). Games are played in the Cinema Room, over the canteens.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

BOUQUETS

William Walters, Cathode Process department, was sent to a convalescent home at Llandudno to recuperate after a serious illness. He wrote . . . "May I convey to the Provident Society my appreciation for assisting me to find such happiness and comfort at this home which I find to be quite the finest place that I have ever visited. The good food and excellent care I am receiving is beyond praise."

Mr. L. G. Barton, head of our Work Study department, is a member of a Postal Forum in the journal Time and Motion Study. The forum which is composed of four experts deals with questions put to them by Work Study engineers.

The Suggestions Scheme Committee has stressed often that suggestions can be made on any piece of paper and that suggestors need not concern themselves unduly on presentation as it is the idea that counts. It was, however, pleasing to receive two suggestions last month which were in excellent handwriting with clear descriptions of the problems and suggested improvements. These were from William Brannigan of Blown and Pressed Cathodes and Ben Coates from the Maintenance and Construction.

BRICKBATS

The following is an extract from minutes of the Rolled Plate production sub-committee, "Mr. . . . reported that the breakage on loose loads during August was better than in the previous month."

A big brickbat to all those readers who have not, as yet, felt the urge to make a contribution to the pages of this magazine, and to those departmental correspondents who fail to report important happenings.

A PARTY HAS BEEN ARRANGED

The Directors have again decided to encourage divisional or departmental annual social functions by making grant aid and the following functions have so far been planned:—

9th December—Optical Division Dinner in the Recreation Club Pavilion.

16th December—Maintenance and Construction Division Dinner at the Blue Gates.

16th December—Optical Division (St. Helens branch) Dance at St. Helens Town Hall.

14th January—Optical Division (Malvern branch) Dinner at Star Hotel, Upton-on-Severn.

HOLIDAY SNAPS

Excellent entries were submitted for the holiday photographs competition and these were judged by Dr. R. E. Bastick and Mr. C. E. Gould. The prize winners were John Paice of the Laboratory in the "General" section and sixteen year old June Talbot of the Drawing Office in the "Landscape" section. The successful pictures with two others that were particularly good appear in the centre pages.

IS THIS A RECORD?

Dick Forsyth who contributed the article below, has unearthed this photograph of his family. Forty-six years ago, Andrew Forsyth came to the Midlands from Sunderland to take up employment with Chance Brothers and he soon sent for his wife and children—eight sons and three daughters. Six sons found employment here and in the course of time these boys and their dependents resulted in a total of eighteen



The Forsyth family.

members of the family being employed with the Company.

This must surely constitute a record. The photograph shows Andrew with seven of his sons in the regalia of the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes. They are from left to right (top) Joe, who was employed on furnaces and lehrs; William, furnaces and gatehouse; Victor who did not work at Chance's; Richard who is still here on furnaces and making; Ernest, a sheet blower, and (front) Walter who was one of our carpenters; the proud Andrew and Andrew junior who was a sheet gatherer.

PRESSED MEMORIES

A humorous incident with a sporting flavour which occurred some years ago, is, I think, worth retelling through the medium of "Chance Comments." I am sure it will bring back very happy memories to those concerned who are still in the employ of the firm.

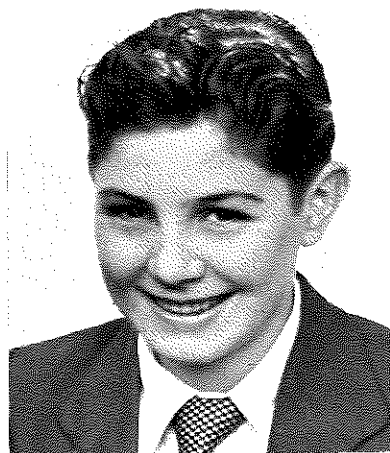
A group of Pressed personnel, returning from an afternoon's swim, decided to refresh at the Crown and Cushion outside West Bromwich park. This house was on several occasions managed by some well known footballers and when we entered, we were con-

fronted by a grand array of Welsh international caps and shirts, etc. The youngest member of our group, Bert Bagnall (Twinkle), was too young to enter a pub, and I, knowing him to be a keen footballer, got permission to fetch him in to see this grand array. After close inspection, he enquired of their ownership. Rather than tell him I said, "Go and have a look at the name above the door." Having done this, he returned and looking at the company so innocently exclaimed "Stanley Davies! Never heard of him." (Stan Davies was a well known Welsh international and West Bromwich Albion forward).

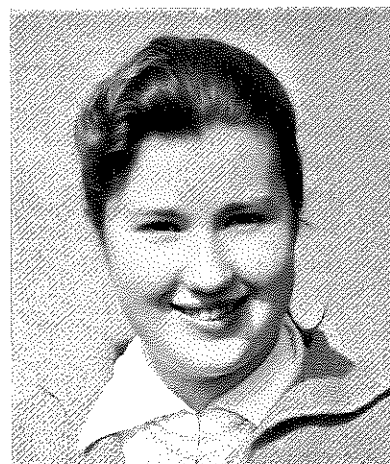
With such a company comprising of Morrall, Russell, Withers, Burford, Bott, Collins, Law, Boswell, Tonks, Roberts, Walker, Cooksey, Hollyhead, Hampson, Howard, Guest and the late W. Shipley, one would naturally expect anything to happen, and I might add that when you were in a swimming bath which we frequently visited, one had to be very much on the alert and often funny things did happen but I was reminded only the other day of one incident which was not funny to Frank Guest, in fact, it could easily have been very serious. It was when "Chubby" Hollyhead once took the plunge and

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THE YOUNGER GENERATION



Anthony Rylance.



Pamela Heath.

ANTHONY RYLANCE

"TONY" is fifteen years old and works as a junior in the Drawing office. He enjoys his present work very much and is hoping that he will be able to master sufficient knowledge of mathematics and science to learn draughtsmanship. He has no worries about the actual drawing because he has always done well at it. His favourite pastime is to draw and paint scenes.

One of Tony's regular weekly habits is to listen to the Third Programme on Friday evenings when there is usually an hour of opera. He also likes to play table tennis and before he left Smethwick Hall Secondary Modern School, he acquired a liking for chess. His other activities include country walks, football, cricket and the reading of mystery fiction.

PAMELA HEATH

PAMELA, at seventeen years of age, is the eldest of a family of five children; she has two brothers and two sisters. She came to Chance Brothers from Siviters Lane Secondary Modern School where she took a course lasting a little over three months. She has worked in the Costs department for two years as a comptometer operator and says that she enjoys it very much.

Dancing is Pamela's principal recreation. In addition to going to dances on two evenings a week she also takes lessons in the ballroom style every Friday evening.

She knits her own jumpers and cardigans, but apart from this her other activities are confined to the cinema and reading mystery stories. She says she would like to take up dressmaking but does not think herself sufficiently able. This from a girl whose father is a professional dress cutter!

IRENE BRITTAIN

WE thought that the days were gone when one could meet a seventeen year old girl who made her own clothes

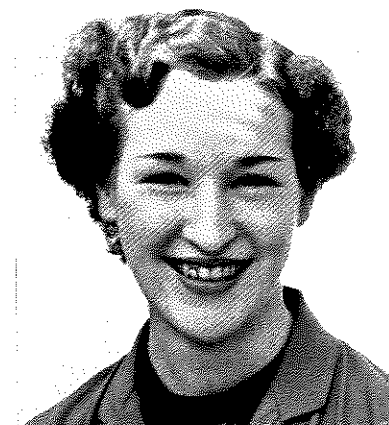
and liked cookery. However, we are delighted to report that this is not so, and our reason is that we have met Irene Brittain who works as a micro-cutter in the Seven Storey department. She enjoys her work because it is clean and light; also it is repetitive and, she says, once you get used to it, you can have a good old chinwag to your neighbour whilst working almost automatically.

In addition to furthering her dress-making ability by attending an evening class at Oldbury College of Further Education, Irene likes to attend several dances a week and is an occasional reader of romantic stories.

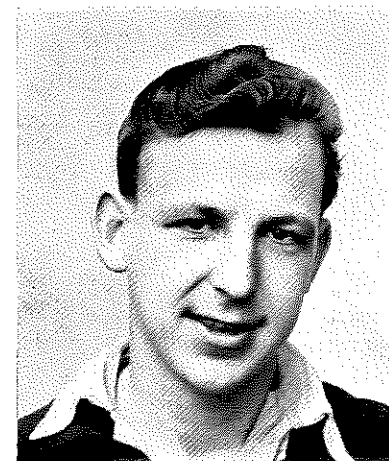
FRANK GOULD

MEMBERS of the Gould family have been employed at Chance Brothers for generations. The youngest is Frank who was born in a Company's house eighteen years ago and who is serving an apprenticeship in the Millwrights department. Relatives who are still working here are his father Harry in the Building department, Aunt Doris Farley in the Medical Centre and Elsie Farley in the Printing department and Uncle Arthur Farley in the Accounts department. His two grandfathers spent most of their lives in the glassworks and until recently he had two brothers who were employed in the Building department.

Young Frank's outside interests are centred round long distance cycling during the summer and jazz concerts in the winter plus enthusiasm for the Albion.



Irene Brittain.



Frank Gould.

continued from page 17

apart from almost emptying the bath he dived on top of Frank Guest and as one would expect, Frank had to be assisted from the water. That was Frank's last swim.

I can hardly realise that these incidents took place twenty years ago and although there was a sort of professional jealousy amongst several of

them at work, they were real live company away from it and I doubt if Teddy Boy gangsters would have been tolerated by them.

If I have left out any name who was in the "Swim," please forgive me, I almost forgot myself.

R. FORSYTH
(Blown & Pressed)



CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



IIRIS Robins is a member of the very happy team of ladies who work in the Rolled Plate despatch office. Whenever the Recreation Club holds a party or an outing Iris is bound to be there and she particularly enjoys participating in the Choral section's concerts.

S.H.C.T.