

SAFETY HINTS

DON'T BE FOOLED!

Don't let "little" accidents fool you! They don't fool us! When a lot of little accidents are happening on your part of a job, something is wrong with your working methods. Accidents seldom happen on a job that is being done the right way.

Then again, those "little" accidents, or near-accidents, are "little" because someone was lucky. The same cause of an accident that results in a scraped shin might have put a man in hospital.

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Chance COMMENTS



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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	MRS. A. KEYS
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<i>Cost Office</i>	MISS J. HEATH
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THIS MONTH'S COVER

The staircase in the new office block. Spotlyte pattern is used on the staircase and rough cast in the stair side. The screen at the top of the staircase is in major reeded and fluorescent tubes are placed vertically in the small panels.

VOL. 9, No. 1

MARCH—APRIL, 1956

Employee's Assurance Scheme

THE Board are pleased to announce that it has been agreed that the Pilkington Brothers Assurance Scheme will now be available to employees of Chance Brothers.

The object of the scheme is to encourage employees to make provision for the future through the medium of assurance policies taken out with certain Assurance Societies. The firm makes grants in reduction of the tariff premium normally payable, with the result that more advantageous rates are available to the firm's employees.

Types of assurance available

There are various forms of assurance available under the scheme and the most popular are:—

(1) Endowment

Policies may be taken for periods of ten years or over. The period may terminate at the end of a definite number of years (twenty usually) or on the attainment of a certain age (e.g. at age sixty), and the policy moneys become payable at the stated age or date or on the previous death of the assured.

(2) Whole Life

This form of policy is of value where employees wish to provide for their dependents. The premiums may continue during the whole of life or may be limited to a definite number of payments. This latter form is of great advantage where the employee wishes to avoid payment of premiums during the years of retirement.

(3) Family Provision

This form of assurance will appeal to those employees who, in the event of death, are anxious that provision should

be made for their dependents. It guarantees a yearly income to dependents from the date of the assured's death until the expiration of a period of twenty years from the date of commencement of the assurance, when a lump sum payment is made, or, if preferred, the lump sum payment can be divided, a portion being paid at death and the balance on the expiration of the policy.

(4) House Purchase Policies

Generous advances on approved private house property at a low rate of interest can be secured from three of the member companies. Repayment is effected by a Life Assurance Policy, taken out against the sum loaned, premiums being payable quarterly on a with or without profits basis. This type of assurance offers unique cover in that, should the owner of the property die before the maturity of the policy, the house immediately becomes the property of his dependents without further payments. In ordinary circumstances most Societies are generally prepared to advance an amount up to 80% of the Surveyor's valuation of the property to be mortgaged.

To facilitate house purchase by employees, the Firm has entered into agreements with certain Societies whereby these Societies will advance 100% of the purchase price or the valuation (whichever is the lower) on the understanding that the Firm guarantees the difference between the normal advancement and the purchase price or valuation (whichever is the lower). Thus, unless the purchase price exceeds the valuation, no deposit has to be made by the purchaser.

* * *

Details of other forms of assurance can be obtained on request from the Personnel department.

Assurances may be taken out, either with or without profits, the former giving the policy holder the right to participate in the declared bonuses of the Insurance Company, which are valued every five years.

Sums Assured

The sum assured under the scheme must be at least £100 and not more than £2,000, or three times the annual salary, whichever is the greater. Any sum desired in excess of the ruling maximum may be taken out but this extra sum will not rank for the Firm's grant.

Concessions Allowed

Premium rates are governed by the age next birthday at entry and are much lower for young lives than for old. Therefore to obtain the benefit of the lowest premium rates, Whole Life or Endowment Assurance should be effected at as early an age as possible. As this is a period when expenses are usually high in relation to income, the Firm's grants are made on a sliding scale designed to assist young employees in the earliest stages of their careers, to provide the means of fulfilling primary

obligations ranging from family provision in the event of death to provision for their retirement.

The Firm's grants are as follows:—

until age 26—25%	} of the gross premium
thereafter up to or	
until age 36—15%	
after age 36—10%	

This means that the discount will decrease to the appropriate rate, on attainment of age 26, or 36, i.e. 15% and 10% respectively.

In addition to the above grants, employees during the first five years of marriage will receive an extra 5% of the gross premium.

Thereafter, the ordinary grant for age becomes applicable.

The Firm will also pass on to participants the commission allowed by the Assurance Companies. The amount of commission varies according to the Company, but the maximum combined discount which any unmarried participant can receive is 35%, 25% or 20% according to age, or during the first five years of married life, 40%, 30%, or 25% according to age.

Premiums

A further benefit under the scheme is that premiums are payable quarterly in advance. Higher rates are usually charged for this privilege, but the Insurance Companies waive this extra, for all policies taken out under the Scheme.

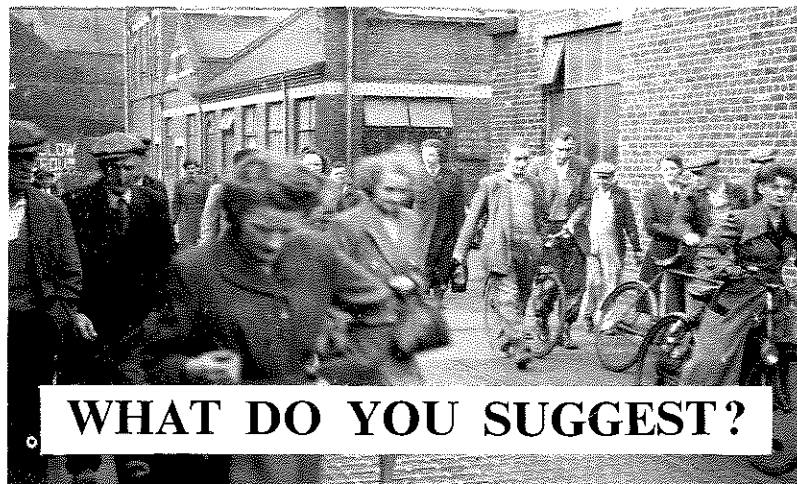
Income Tax

An abatement from income tax is obtainable in respect of Life Assurance premiums, and in this way the net annual cost of a Life Policy may be substantially reduced.

CHANCE COMMENTS *Gallery*



DORIS Farley first became deeply interested in first-aid just before the war and she holds certificates and medallions from the British Red Cross society for first-aid and home nursing. Before and during the war, Doris was employed as a process worker in the Blown and Pressed division and as well as being a member of the works first-aid brigade, she helped with relief duties at the Medical Centre. In 1947 she was appointed to whole time duty in the Medical Centre and became a State enrolled assistant nurse. Incidentally, there are five members of the Farley family employed at Chance Brothers at present.



£190 Awarded in 1955

IN the year 1955, the number of suggestions submitted to the Suggestions Scheme committee was two hundred, and of these seventy-eight were adopted and twenty-six are still under consideration. The awards amounted to £190.

In the first two months of 1956, thirteen ideas have been accepted and £42 2s. 6d. has been distributed in awards.

Charles Lowe receives £21 15s. 0d.

Charles Lowe of the electricians' department recommended that a number of existing condensers which were lying idle should be utilised for power factor correction up to 120 K.V.A. So far one such condenser has been installed successfully on No. 3 and 4 Rolled Plate tank supply lines.

For this excellent suggestion an interim award of £14 was made. Charles also received £7 15s. 0d. for his idea that a bell be fitted on the Rolled Plate plant

to warn operators when it is time for a roll of wire to be joined.



Protection against damage to cathode ray tubes

Arthur Mallin of Blown and Pressed put forward a suggestion that protective caps should be fitted to the television tube cones ex Pilkington Brothers to protect the envelopes against the risk of chipping or bruising. This idea earned an award of £5 5s. 0d.

A further £3 to W. I. Robinson—No. 7 Bending

Last November, W. I. Robinson received an interim award of £2 for having a special mould made for a Fiesta department product. This idea continues to result in increased production and last month he was awarded a further £3.



An idea to speed the loading of crates

L. Baker of the Rolled Plate department received an award of £2 15s. 0d. for suggesting that clamps should be made to fit on export cases to speed the loading on to lorries and reduce the accident risk.



Four Glasgow men get together

Four Rolled Plate warehouse carriers at the Glasgow works, namely R. Stubbins, J. Rooney, J. Burns and T. MacLeod, sent in a suggestion concerning loose loading equipment. They wrote: "As most loose loads comprise wired cast 24" wide, it would save if the felt covered pads which are about 3' 9" long and secure the glass on the stillages, were cut in half as the top half is not used."

This proved to be a sensible suggestion as the most expensive part of the pad is felt and two are required per stillage. An award of £1 15s. 0d. was made.



Five awards of £1 2s. 6d. each

Five people who accepted the slogan "there's always a better way" received £1 2s. 6d. each.

R. Goodall, Mixing, who is one of the keenest supporters of the suggestion scheme suggested alterations to the sand hopper at the general mixing department to improve loading. J. Fenton, Rolled Plate, recommended that a wire mesh guard be fitted to the dial of the weighing machine on the cranes in the Rolled Plate departments to prevent damage. A. Moore, Maintenance and Construction, suggested that the top wheels on No. 1 tank frit hoist should be moved nearer to the mouth of the skip to prevent the skip leaving the rail. H. Lloyd, Maintenance and Construction, also suggested alterations to the frit hoist in an endeavour to prevent the bucket coming off the track, and an Optical (St. Helens) employee had improved lighting installed in the booster house.



Two safety awards

W. G. James, Blown and Pressed, suggested the fitting of a guard near the Vello hot-cut machine and J. Isherwood thought of a safer method of loading crates—each received 10s. 0d.



These suggestions are under consideration

D. Nunn	<i>Millwrights</i>
H. Edge	<i>Pressed Moulds</i>
H. Mann	<i>Rolled Plate Making</i>
J. Tomkins	<i>Decorating</i>
S. Woodward	<i>Blown and Pressed</i>
F. Parkes	<i>Optical</i>
F. Bodley	<i>Rolled Plate</i>
L. Baker and	
G. Hadley	<i>Rolled Plate</i>

Basket Ball

by DENNIS HEWITT
Work Study Department

BASKET ball? Isn't that a girls' game? This is the comment that a majority of the people make when the name of this sport is mentioned, but this is now more in the nature of a long standing joke.

Basket ball was invented in America by Dr. J. A. Smith of the Wisconsin University as a winter game that would demand all the qualities both mentally and physically of the more rigorous outdoor games. In America basket ball is the number one sport and it attracts millions of spectators. The professional leagues are the big attraction and some teams are very big money earners. Such a team is the fabulous "Harlem" Globetrotters, this is an all negro team and they seem to play with a spirit quite unreachable by anyone else. The members of this team earn an average of £1,600 per year but included in their circus is the basket ball star No. 1, he is "Goose" Reece Tatum and his earnings amount to £3,200. Since they started on the tournament trail they have played five hundred and forty-seven games and they have only lost twenty-one. What a record!

Here in Great Britain, basket ball is a purely amateur game, but since the war it has become more popular and the number of players has increased. I have been fortunate enough to be associated with the growth of the sport in this country and with the American forces still resident in this country British players gain invaluable experience by playing against them.

In 1946, through the untiring efforts of Mr. J. A. Clay who was then national secretary of the association, England sent a team to play in the 1946 European Championships which were being held

in Geneva, Switzerland. I had the good fortune to be chosen as a member of that team along with two other members of my local club, Smethwick. My age at that time caused a minor sensation as I was only sixteen. At the conclusion of the games I was presented with a silver goblet suitably inscribed to commemorate the fact that I was the youngest international to take part in the European Games.

I still have vivid memories of the games and although the English team did not break any records, we played as well as we knew how. The game that will always stand out in my mind was the final between Czechoslovakia and Italy. The match had reached the final period, the score read 50—50, two minutes to the final whistle and Czechoslovakia were awarded a penalty. The atmosphere was tense and electrified. Here was the moment which would decide the winner. The captain of the Czech team stepped forward, shot, and the final whistle was blown. During these breathless moments, the Italian coach was on the touchline on his knees praying for the Czech to miss. Pandemonium then broke out in the arena as the entire Italian team proceeded to cry and rave about their loss, and the usual procedure of standing while the victor's National Anthem was played was pushed aside by the Italians. These temperamental stars were too busy consoling themselves. Perhaps the teams that go from England could do with just a little of this national fervour instead of saying, "Oh well, it's just a game." It certainly is a game and the continentals mean to do one thing and that is to win.

Later the same year I was, along with another one of my team mates, chosen

to play for England against Scotland in Glasgow. After this match, the team was told of a game to be played at Turin in Italy. At the same time England was playing Italy at football.

We were present at the football match and were glad when England ran out winners by four goals to two. What would have happened to us if Italy had won I just would not care to guess. Our party of fifteen against ninety-seven thousand fervent fans! Unfortunately, the basket ball team did not carry on the good work. Out in the heat of the late afternoon before the most partisan crowd I had ever seen, we lost 45—31.

The year 1948 brought the Olympics to London and two players were again chosen from the local club. The result of the Olympic basket ball was really a foregone conclusion. Russia was not present so that left only the U.S.A. as likely winners. The Americans did win and we saw some really fast ball play. The average height of their team was 6' 7" with a centre player, Robert Kurland 7' 3".

My basket ball after 1948 was confined to playing for the Royal Air Force. I was a member of the inter-service championship team in 1948, and in 1949 I was chosen to captain the R.A.F. team. Again we were successful in our quest for honours and on this note my service life ended.

One may say that I have been very fortunate to be chosen at such an early age, and since then, but a person never derives more from something that he puts into it and apart from the odd moan or so, it has been worth it. One thing I would say and that is until the position of amateur is clarified in this country a restriction is placed on the people available for recognition. Most, or all, of the international and representative games that I and other players

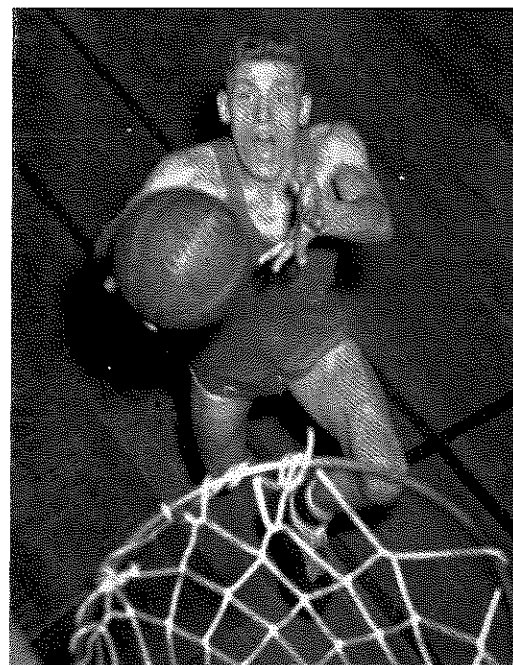
have taken part in have been out of pocket expeditions. Unless an individual is keen enough and is prepared to pay to play, he does not stand a chance.

This is the whole trouble with amateur sport in England. It is no use at all bemoaning the fact that our runners, skaters, swimmers are not good enough. Until they are compensated for their loss of earnings and have at their disposal proper facilities, they are in no position to win. Those who manage to do so deserve fullest praise. In the first letter I received telling me of my selection for the English team, it stated, "We expect you to behave in a manner befitting English sportsmen and gentlemen from the time you leave England until you return."

Fine words indeed but of little value until the participants feel they are being treated fairly by the powers that rule so very much like dictators.

Whilst playing I met many grand people and some fine personalities; this in itself is reward enough for me.

A fine action picture of Dennis Hewitt.





OUR RESCUE TEAM GETS OUT AND ABOUT



ON a recent Saturday, our rescue team paid a visit to Hilton Main Colliery, near Cannock, and as on the previous visit the trip was looked forward to with keenness and interest, and this time different workings were seen.

The propping and shoring and strutting were the same as in the workings we saw before, but in addition to seeing for ourselves how this important part of mining work is carried out deep underground, we went right up to the coal face and saw the very latest circular coal cutter in action. Before leaving the pit we were given another invitation to visit them again and it was suggested that we should arrive at the pit head earlier so that more time could be spent underground and more time given to details.

This trip was followed by a visit to the Royal Air Force station at Tern Hill, near Market Drayton, where we had received permission to see the films on "Pilot Ejection," "The Ejector Seat" and "The Maintenance of the Ejector Seat." These films were most interesting and showed very clearly how important it is that those who attempt to remove a pilot from a crashed aircraft carrying an ejector seat should know just what to do, and exactly what not to do, before attempting the rescue.

After seeing these films, questions were asked for and answered in a manner we could all understand, and the instructor was anxious that we should understand everything about this seat. At the end of question time we were taken to another building where we saw the ejector seat itself. One member of our party donned the parachute and all the equipment which goes with it and sat

in the seat. At a supposed height a Barostatic time-release unit came into action, and at the given time, five seconds, all the harness except the parachute harness, was automatically released and our "pilot" would have parted company from the chair had this have happened high in the air.

We felt we had learned something very much worthwhile for whilst it is so very easy to rescue a pilot safely if one knows what to do, it is equally so very easy for both the pilot and the rescuer to get killed if one does not understand how the seat works.

We were told how very keen are the Royal Air Force Instructional staffs to teach both Army and Civil Defence personnel as much as possible about the ejector seats and the rescue of personnel from crashed planes because it is more than likely that either the Army or the Civil Defence would get to the plane long before the R.A.F. rescue squads could get there.

Here too we received an invitation to make another visit and it was suggested that our next party should be about thirty-five to forty strong. When it is decided to go again all the members of our Civil Defence will be invited to state whether they would like to join us and the parties arranged accordingly.

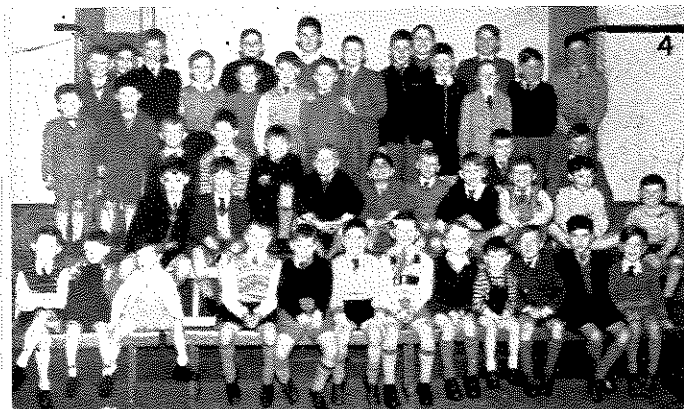
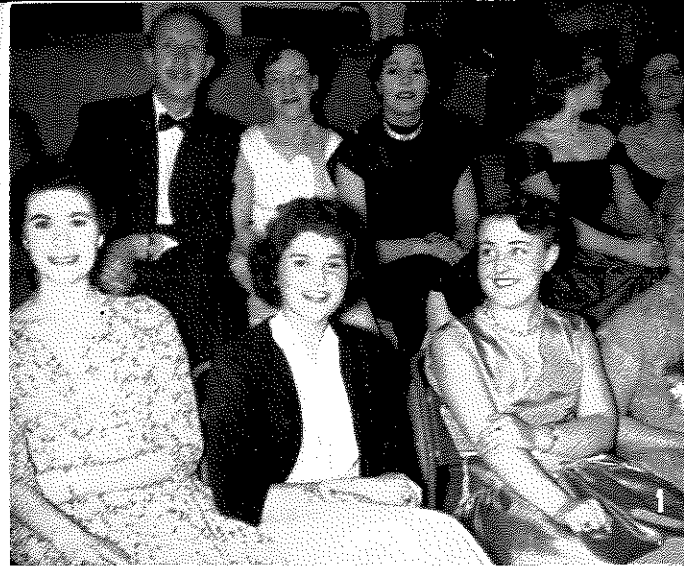
Finally, Chance Brothers may be proud of the fact that we are the first Industrial Civil Defence organisation, or indeed from the Civil Defence Corps itself in the whole of the Midlands, to have this instruction at Tern Hill.

H. L. NEWBY.

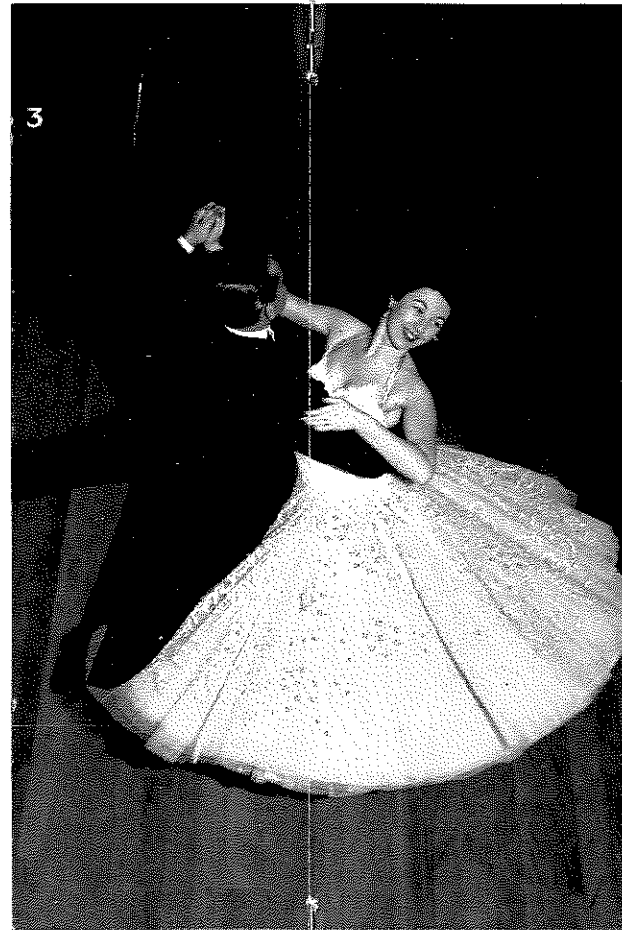
4 PAGES OF *Chance* SNAPSHOTS



*The Blown and Pressed children's party held in the recreation club pavilion.
The upper photograph is by F. Spiers, taken for the Smethwick Telephone.*



Party Time Snapshots



1, 2 and 3. The recreation club's Gala Ball.

4 and 5. The St. Helens (Optical division) children's New Year's party.

6 and 7. The Optical division's annual dinner and social.



Laboratory, Personnel and Pyrometry departments staff let their hair down at their annual social.

From your COMMITTEE ROOM WORKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

A new factory

At the January meeting of the Works Consultative Committee, the chairman, Mr. C. J. S. Newman, announced that negotiations were taking place for the building of a factory at Southport for the manufacture of certain types of optical glass. There was, of course, some disappointment that this project was not to be housed in the lighthouse buildings, but after very careful consideration, it had been decided that these buildings were unsuitable and in addition, other factors, such as the availability of labour and atmospheric conditions, had had to be considered in the determining of the site.

Wages advice notes

In the near future the system of wages advice slips is to be altered. Each employee will receive a notification detailing standard deductions from wages which include such items as National Insurance, recreation club and Provident Society contributions and pension fund deductions. These notification slips should be retained by employees as the deductions detailed will be applicable each week and a new form will not be issued until such times as a change is made in standard deductions.

Each Thursday, employees will receive a pay slip giving details of the gross wage and deductions made for income tax, special deductions, standard deductions in accordance with the notification mentioned above, and the net wage. This new system will enable the Company to introduce wage calculating machinery with a resulting saving in clerical work.

Retired Persons

The committee has given further consideration to the possibilities of providing part-time employment for Pensioners as there is a feeling that some men, after retirement, have a desire to undertake some form of light work on a part-time basis to occupy

their leisure time and help their financial position. Several possible forms of such employment were suggested at the meeting and this matter will be considered further after consultations with the pensioners.

Production

An important item on every agenda of the Works Consultative Committee is a brief review of the production position in each division and at the January meeting it was reported that it was proposed to reintroduce the manufacture of flashed drawn glass. Incidentally, it was mentioned that in the Coloured department the quality of the hand made flashed opal being made at present was excellent.

Referring to the other products, Mr. Newman stated that the Roiled Plate tanks at Smethwick and at Glasgow continued to be extremely busy as was the Optical division. It was especially encouraging to report that the Optical division was obtaining a number of orders from Germany.

In the Blown and Pressed division the Vello tubing and the cathode ray tube sections continued in full production, but due to some recession in the motor car industry, pressed lenses for car head lights were being put into stock.

* * *

In considering the minutes of the divisional production sub-committees, the chairman drew attention to the fact that several recommendations made by employees' representatives on these sub-committees could likely qualify for awards under the Suggestions Scheme and employees' representatives were reminded that any idea mentioned at a committee must, to qualify for the Suggestions Scheme, be put in writing and posted in the Suggestions Scheme boxes within a period of one month from the time when the suggestion was voiced at a meeting.



From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

BLOWN AND PRESSED

Never has the recreation club pavilion been so crowded as it was on 14th January, when the division's New Year's party for children was held. For almost twelve months the personnel in the division had been raising funds by means of collections, dances, raffles and concerts, to ensure that two hundred children would have a bumper time and this included an excellent tea followed by first class entertainment and a toy and bag of fruit for each child.

The cathode section congratulates D. Palmer and his wife on the birth of a daughter.

Foreman Jim Neenan met with a serious injury to his hand and we all earnestly hope he will soon recover.

Wishes for a speedy recovery are also extended to David Crimes, who, at the time of going to press, is away ill.

It is good to have Ted Ward back at work after his long illness.

The division learns with profound sorrow of the death of three good friends. Isaiah Partridge, who retired a few months ago, died on 18th January; Arthur Parry, who also retired recently, died on 20th February, and Raymond Nicholls of the mould shop died on 20th February, at the early age of thirty six.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to their families.

FLAT GLASS

At the end of February, Ernest Courtney, the superintendent of the Seven Storey warehouse, retired after fifty-two years service. Starting as a small boy in the gatehouse as far back as 1903, Mr. Courtney spent a period in the wages office and later went to the Seven Storey as an assorter. He was put in charge of the department on the retirement of the late Mr. Slim in 1928. There was a time when the Seven Storey handled a far larger volume of glass than it does at present, particularly extra white sheet, and several hundred persons have at some time or other worked under Mr. Courtney. We wish him a happy retirement.

Stanley Round who has been Mr. Courtney's assistant for several years has been put in charge. A further appointment in this department is that of Arthur Piper to the position of assistant foreman.

Three other retirements from the Flat Glass division are Ernest (Buff) Smith of Rolled Plate, Ernest Vaughan of Rolled Plate and Bill Timmins of the Seven Storey. Each of these three had had very long service with the Company.

The Rolled Plate despatch office congratulates Iris Robins on her engagement to Mr. W. Jackson.

A new comer to the despatch office is Angela Bingham and there are many new comers to the Rolled Plate Making and warehouse departments. We extend to them a sincere welcome.

A party of Rolled Plate warehouse and Fiesta personnel enjoyed a visit to the Dudley pantomime on 14th February.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

There has been some movement of apprentices and John Knight from the drawing office has now gone into the shops for practical training whilst Bill Bedford has returned to the drawing office from the shops.

It was good to see Geoff. Lavender at the works when he visited us recently whilst on leave from National Service.

John Hardy's many friends were extremely sorry to hear of the death of his mother and deepest sympathy is extended to him.

Joe Nicholls of the boiler shop is off from work through illness but the latest reports are that he is improving and we hope that he will soon be back.

Harry Isherwood of the boiler shop who completed his apprenticeship here, has left to take a job elsewhere and we wish him success.

OFFICES

A welcome is extended to several new comers to the staff including Mrs. Lawson (Fiesta sales), Mrs. Davies, Miss Davies and Miss Chester (Typing department), Miss Turton (Secretary to

Mr. Hinton) and George Staples (Flat Glass sales).

The typing department were sorry to lose Mrs. MacKellar and Miss Swindale.

Miss Davies has been appointed supervisor of the Typing department.

At the time of going to press, Miss Groves, secretary to the chief buyer, is in hospital undergoing a serious operation and we earnestly hope that she will soon be recovered completely.

The buying office congratulates Gordon Harris who will have completed twenty-five years service with the firm this year.

OPTICAL

The outstanding news in the Optical division is that a new factory is to be built for the manufacture of certain types of optical glass and no doubt this exciting venture will be reported on fully in a future issue of Chance Comments.

The department congratulates Sydney Paddock and his wife on the birth of a son and extends sympathy to Mrs. Poynton on the death of her mother and to Jim Smith on the death of his son.

CLEANERS, MIXING AND SECURITY

Gatekeeper Frank Lines has retired as has also Dora Allen and Mrs. Carroll of the cleaning department.

The mixing department congratulates Jack Keys and his wife on the birth of a son on 11th January.

TRAFFIC

Congratulations to Driver Peter Coll and his wife on the birth of twin boys on the 24th February. The manager of the Traffic department gives a bouquet to Peter for reporting for duty at 6.0 a.m.—one hour after having taken his wife into hospital.

Jottings *of shorter items and employees' contributions*

BOUQUETS

Congratulations are offered to the following who have attained their majority:—

Donald Bromwell	Carpenters
Ronald Winspear	Laboratory
Kenneth Fletcher	Laboratory
Alan Poulson	Carpenters

* * *

Last November Mr. J. W. Chance (London office) had his book "For Poachers Only" published. As a sign of its success, it has been reprinted.

* * *

Whilst he was off sick, John Riley of the Optical division at St. Helens, helped to rescue a man who had been trapped in a trench which had collapsed during excavations. He was awarded the Liverpool and District Humane Society certificate.

* * *

After having been appointed vice-captain of the St. Helens Y.M.C.A., Maurice Taylor of the Optical division at St. Helens, went on to win a medal in the final of the Y.M.C.A. table tennis championships.

RECREATION CLUB JOTTINGS

The annual Gala Ball was held at West Bromwich Baths on Friday, 6th January, and it was deemed to be quite the most successful event in recent years. The demand for tickets was overwhelming and some eighty people had to be disappointed. A delightful feature in the programme was the demonstration

of ballroom dancing by Sonny Binick and Sally Brock, who are international and television stars.

The many keen dancers who supported this event are reminded that the recreation club organises dances in the pavilion in Oldbury Road, every Saturday evening. The club proposes in the near future to start dancing classes if there is evidence of sufficient support. These classes will be held on Wednesday evenings in the pavilion.

At this time of the year the club is planning its summer programme and the cricket team has already arranged a full list of Saturday league fixtures and friendly Sunday fixtures.

The ladies' netball section plan to join the Oldbury league again this year and Mrs. Crimes in the buying office, who is secretary to the section, would be glad to learn of any young lady who is interested in this excellent game.

The ladies' darts team is still in the throes of cup matches and knock-out competitions and our team is in the final of the A. Cox cup. Mrs. Boden and partner are in the quarter finals of the pairs knock-out competition for which sixty-four pairs entered. The new league season will start at the end of March and anyone interested in this game should contact Mrs. Boden in the ledger office.

The badminton section has not gone too well this year and as a result the game is now played on one evening only in the pavilion, namely Monday. The section appeals to anyone interested to go along and play. Tuition can be arranged.

MONKEYS

A well known term in the manufacture of coloured glass is a "monkey pot." It is believed that the word originated from the fact that in the crystal glass industry, a small covered pot sat on top of a larger pot. It is, however, doubtful that the following advertisement, which appeared in a recent issue of *The Times*, had anything to do with glass making:—

Monkeys—Writer doing research into the earning capacity of monkeys would be glad to hear from anyone who owns or knows the whereabouts of monkeys who perform tasks normally done by humans. Write Box L.245, *The Times*, E.C.4.

GLASS TIME

A typical example of the versatility of glass is its use by the G.P.O. for their famous speaking clock service. "Tim" uses four records made of glass $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick and 1 ft. in diameter. Glass was chosen for its true and rigid surface as well as its optical qualities. It is interesting to observe that the records at London's Holborn Telephone Exchange were in use fifteen years without replacement.

CULLET

From India comes news of the last open air event attended by Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Krushchev in Kashmir, during their recent tour. There they saw a demonstration by a local holy man who lay on a bed of broken glass. Boards were laid across his body and a one-ton truck driven over him!

FOOTBALL MEMORIES

Past and present members of the works football section will have heard with regret of the death of George Morrall, ex-Birmingham City footballer.

As a youth, George played for Chance Brothers before joining Birmingham Football Club and I think he is the only Smethwick born man to have played at Wembley in that memorable 1931 Cup Final between "The Baggies" and "The Blues."

I did not meet George very frequently in recent years but when I did my mind would go back to very happy footballing days. George and I played together with Chance Brothers. We were members of the first inter-departmental team—The Sheet Tank. I well remember Major Foster having the Sheet Tank team in his office prior to the match and giving them a pep talk. The furnace was out at the time and it was difficult to hold the team together. As a matter of interest, the Sheet Tank team was as follows:—R. Forsyth, T. Tromans, J. Davies, H. Morrall, G. Morrall, J. Sargent, J. Parkes, J. Hibbert, T. Cresswell, B. Smith. The death of G. Morrall brings to my mind the names of several others who also have heard the whistle for the last time and have passed on. Such names as G. Stanford, Jock McKay, E. Southall, J. Hinton, J. Hibbert, G. Grice and J. Davies.

Then there was that grand sportsman, Major Warner, who in my opinion did more than any other to get the football section going successfully.

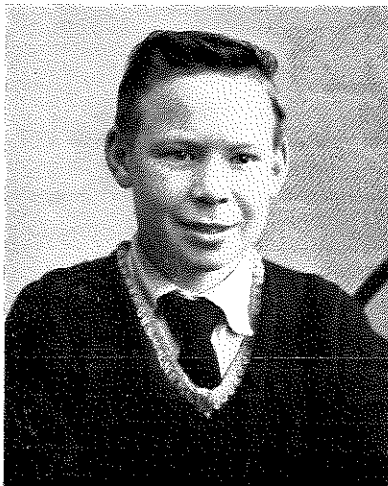
I must also mention Joe Ashley, a real utility man who was a member of the committee, linesman, trainer and the only person I can recall who refereed a football match with a bell in place of a whistle.

ANON.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION



Stanley Downing



Frederick Evitts

STANLEY DOWNING

WHEN Stan left West Bromwich Secondary Technical School at the end of 1951 he was advised by his teachers to take up clerical work. His father had different ideas, however, and insisted that he took up an apprenticeship in a skilled trade. There was a vacancy at Chance Brothers for an apprentice bricklayer and Stan commenced in this capacity on the 31st December, 1951. He is now on the last of four years course for his final City and Guilds Bricklaying Certificate.

In the evenings Stan is a regular member of the Church Army Youth Centre, Greets Green, West Bromwich, and he will be secretary of their table tennis section this summer.

He also plays football and cricket with some of the other members of the Youth Club, and they go together to ballroom dances regularly at Tipton Baths.

Stan's father has worked here since 1929 in the electrician's department.

FREDERICK EVITTS

ALTHOUGH he is only four feet eleven inches tall, Fred has made himself a reputation of being a very keen boy in the Blown and Pressed Mould shop since he started on the 22nd August, 1955. Perhaps his fiery red hair and freckles make up for his lack of inches.

Before coming to Chance Brothers Fred attended the West Bromwich Secondary Technical school where his favourite subjects were mathematics, English and mechanical drawing. He is now doing a preliminary City and Guilds Engineering course at the Chance Technical College in preparation for the time when he will become a fully fledged apprentice mould maker. He makes no secret of his liking for mechanical things and tells us that his mother bought him a book on workshop technology for Christmas.

Fred says that he spends most of his spare time either playing football or at the pictures, that is, when he is not reading technical books.

Uncle Harry Care is chargehand in the Mould shop and has been at Chance Brothers since February 1948.

MARION JEFFRIES

MARION is seventeen years old and joined the Optical sales department as a junior clerk in August 1955. Her work is principally concerned with filing and clerical duties.

On Monday mornings she attends the Chance Technical College for instruction in shorthand and typing. She says that she is not very proficient in these two subjects but that she enjoys taking English on Wednesday evenings.

In her earlier years Marion attended Saint Matthew's Infants and Primary school from where she won a scholarship to Holly Lodge Grammar School for girls. She obtained ordinary level General Certificate of Education in French, Geography and English language.

Whilst at school her favourite recreation was sport, particularly hockey. Since coming to Chance Brothers her tastes have become less active and she spends most of her leisure time reading travel books or at the cinema.



Marion Jeffries



Doreen Lowe

DOREEN LOWE

DOREEN lives in Walsall and it seems a long way for her to come to work at Chance Brothers. She tells us, however, that her home is just on the other side of the West Bromwich Walsall boundary and that, in fact, it is not so far as it sounds.

She is a very new girl, so far as the glass works is concerned, as she was transferred from Stone Chance as recently as December 1955. Her present job is copy typist in the drawing office. She deals mainly with correspondence and occasionally helps out on the printing machine. Her ambition is to become qualified at shorthand and she hopes to graduate eventually to a secretarial position.

At eighteen years of age Doreen is the second eldest of a family of eight children and her elder sister, Gladys, works as a grinder in the Optical division.

When she was eleven years old Doreen went to the Joseph Leckie

Comprehensive Secondary School, Walsall, where she remained until she became sixteen.

Her present interests include knitting, embroidery, the cinema, television and reading novels by such authors as Naomi Jacob.

News

FROM OUR BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

● GLASGOW

In addition to the theatre night held in mid-January, two theatre parties have been held since to cater for the numbers wanting to attend.

The recreation club organised a successful Leap Year dance in the canteen on Wednesday, 29th February. Harry Woods of the export office provided the music.

Mrs. Davidson who amongst other duties looked after the laundering of towels, left at the end of February and our best wishes go with her in her retirement.

We welcome D. M. Jarvis who joined us at the beginning of January as plant engineer.

Smith Hadden, one of our pensioners, recently had the misfortune to break a leg and we hope it will not be long before he is able to resume his visits to see us.

We are glad to hear Jimmy Smith is making progress in Killearn hospital following his sudden illness.

● LONDON

We are sorry to report that Miss Yvonne Thuilliez is no longer a member of our staff. In her place we welcome Miss Ruth Kracko.

Mr. Wigzell and Mr. Mills have added Fiesta sales representation to their normal responsibilities. They have been conducting a special sales campaign in the north and south of England. Retailer co-operation in Yorkshire has surpassed our highest expectations.

● MALVERN

Our annual dinner and social evening took place on 14th January, at The Star Hotel, Upton-on-Severn, and was attended by about ninety people. We were very pleased to have Dr. Hampton with us, also Mr. and Mrs. Pickering from St. Helens. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hampton was unable to be there, owing to illness. It is the first time she has

missed one of our parties. After a sumptuous dinner, Mrs. Sealey, our M.C. kept the party going with games and dancing. The evening went all too quickly and everyone agreed that it was the best as yet.

Congratulations to Yvonne Hill and Gavin Henderson, R.E.M.E., on their engagement.

We hope our sick people will soon regain health and be back with us ere long. They are, Mrs. Sealey, Mrs. Corbett, Mrs. Clee, Mrs. Murney and Mrs. Low.

● ST. HELENS

Congratulations and best wishes to June Ford and Norah Kelly, both of whom got married recently.

Flu hit the works at St. Helens pretty badly during the last half of January, and we are glad to see most of our invalids, who are too numerous to mention by name, back at work.

At the last Haydock Park race meeting the ambulance men on the jumps were provided by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, from the works, both Bob Bell and Ernie Birch were in attendance at one of the hurdles, fortunately although there were a number of falls their services were not required.

In January we held our annual children's party in the Gamble Memorial Hall, Windle City. Once again the party was a huge success with one hundred and four kiddies sitting down to tea, and enjoying the antics of a conjuror, a film show, sing song, ice cream, in fact the lot. Each child was presented with a balloon, bag of sweets and a present. Apart from one five minute spell when we fused every light in the building and burnt out the motor on the projector, the whole thing went with a swing and great credit must be given to all the helpers. Included in this credit list of course must be the volunteer projector operator who after the accident with the first projector went off with Mr. Pickering and between them obtained another projector in an unbelievable short space of time.

HOW IT STARTED

Savings

ELSEWHERE in this issue are details of an assurance scheme. There are three other saving schemes in operation at the works, namely

1. Personal holiday savings

This provides for a regular amount to be deducted from wages every week for repayment at summer holiday times.

2. National savings

You can purchase National Saving Certificates by deduction from wages each week, or you can buy savings stamps from departmental representatives.

3. Deposit scheme

This was begun in 1889, with the object of helping selected employees to acquire a financial interest in the Company.

Records show that as far back as 1841 the Company earnestly encouraged saving and in that year William Chance started a saving club which was "intended to provide means to the careful and prudent, of putting by small weekly savings against the time of need. How frequently is money squandered in health,

which, if husbanded, would prevent the necessity, in times of suffering, of applying to parochial or gratuitous assistance? Any sum from one penny, but not exceeding five shillings, will be received each week. When these weekly payments have accumulated to an amount exceeding five shillings, interest will be allowed, and the members may withdraw their money at any time by giving a week's notice."

In 1916, on request from the Ministry of Munitions, a War Savings Association was established, whose object was to enable the 15s. 6d. certificates to be purchased by weekly instalments of any multiple of 3d. Results have been most satisfactory. Figures to March 1919 show 10,762 certificates bought (£8,340) and £790 invested in National War Bonds, withdrawals being under £50. Members of the Association, solely the Company's employees, number about 340. The Company rendered powerful help by the purchase of certificates to the value of nearly £2,000 en bloc, thus encouraging increase both of the membership and of the amount of the weekly receipts, since members were enabled to reserve for themselves a quantity of these securities to be paid for by instalments.