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GREETINGS

for Christmas and the New Year
TO ALL MEMBERS
..... AND ASK YOU
TO BOOK THIS DATE

FRIDAY, 12th FEBRUARY

GALA BALL

at

T.I. BALLROOM, OLDBURY

DANCE TO BOB CARTER'S ORCHESTRA

**THIS IS THE SOCIAL
EVENT OF THE YEAR**

Produced and published by Teamwork Magazines (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.), 25 Catherine Street,
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Chance
COMMENTS



DECEMBER — JANUARY 1960

3^D

Chance

COMMENTS

The MAGAZINE of Chance Brothers Limited, published in alternate months for the interest, entertainment and information of all employees of the firm.

Contents

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Blown and Pressed

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Pressed Process S. STOCKIN
Cathodes A. SUTTON
Vello O. McKENNA
Warehouses G. GRIGG

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Old Hall MISS V. HICKLING

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow H. MACLEOD
London J. C. PERKINS
Malvern MISS D. CLARE

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Every year we try to introduce a little of the Christmas spirit into the December/January issue of *Chance Comments*, and this year we have again included several features with what we hope is a seasonable flavour. It is in keeping with this that the cover photograph was chosen; a Christmas morning scene which will bring back happy memories to many of our readers.

Christmas Message

I HAVE again been given, by the Editor of *Chance Comments*, an opportunity of wishing you all the compliments of the season.

The year just closing has shown less change than we have become accustomed to seeing in recent years. It has therefore given us all a chance of consolidating the progress made and the developments produced in earlier years. That this time has been usefully employed is shown by the marked improvements in efficiency that have taken place.

Material improvements, though important, are second to the continuance of happy relations between all those people whose working day (and night too!) is spent at "C.B." Very many thanks to all my friends who make this possible.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you, A merry Christmas and a very happy '1960.'

W. W. Hampton
MANAGING DIRECTOR

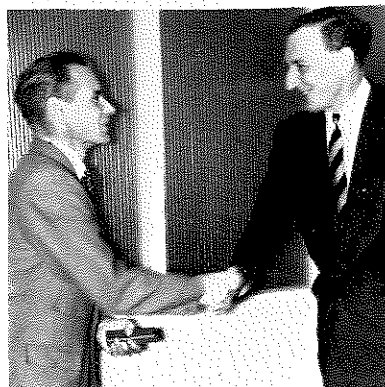
VOL. 12, No. 5

DECEMBER—JANUARY 1960

Long Service Awards



● Joseph Deeley, Blown and Pressed, displays his 45 years award of a wrist watch to Mr. Bernard Patrick.



● George Hadley of Rolled Plate receives a 25 years service award from Mr. C. J. S. Newman.



● Twenty-five years service awards are received. Left to right: W. C. Hynd (Technical Development); J. C. Boardman (Blown and Pressed); Dr. W. M. Hampton, Managing Director, who made the presentations. A. J. Brown (Blown and Pressed); and F. W. Davies (Blown and Pressed).

A STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IS FORMED

A STAFF Consultative Committee has been inaugurated the objects of which are to provide a recognised and direct channel of communication between members of the Staff and Management on matters directly affecting their joint or several interests, including the consideration of questions affecting the interpretation of official orders or notices, and to help maintain a spirit of co-operation between the Staff and Management.

These objects are similar to those of the Works Consultative Committee which has operated so well since it was formed seventeen years ago.

For purposes of representation the departments in which staff are employed were placed in nine groups based on location.

The result of the election was as follows:—

Group	Departments	Representative
1	Flat Glass Division	CYRIL LESLIE BULLOCK
2	Blown and Pressed Division	JACK PRICE
3	Maintenance and Construction	KENNETH GEORGE HILL
4	Laboratory, Personnel, C.P.O.W.	WILLIAM H. D. LILLEY
5	Old Hall	VERA WYNN HICKLING
6	Main Office Block—Ground Floor and Traffic	ALAN JAMES COWLES
7	Main Office Block—Second and Third Floors	IRENE GROVES
8	Glasgow	JOSEPH CRAWFORD
9	Malvern	CHARLES W. WINTERFORD

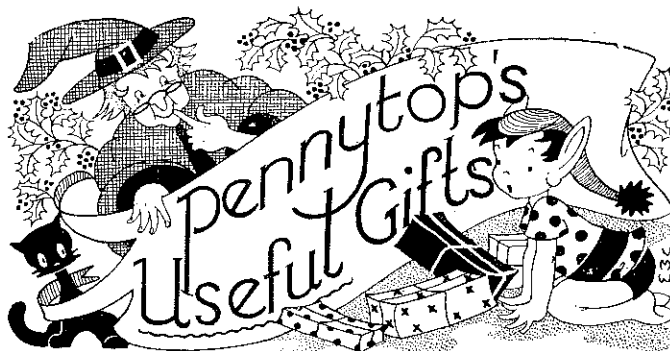
The Managing Director will be the Chairman of the Committee and Management representatives appointed by the Directors are:—

T. A. S. Green—Sales Manager

L. G. Hinton—Company Secretary

A. Ogden—Personnel Manager, who is also appointed as Secretary of the Committee.

Short story for the Children



by VIOLET M. WILLIAMS

"EVERYTHING is ready for Christmas in good time this year, Pennytop," said Pip, the elf, to his friend.

"Not everything," replied Pennytop, glumly. "I haven't bought all my presents. I just can't think what to give you and the Wise Woman."

Pip patted his shoulder.

"Never mind," he said. "Just give us something—er—something *useful*."

Pennytop brightened up.

"What a good idea!" he said. "I had been thinking of un-useful things but there are so many more useful things about, aren't there? Such as—er—scrubbing brushes and soap and things."

"Why didn't I keep quiet?" groaned Pip to himself. "Now I shall get a *scrubbing brush* for Christmas?"

"The Wise Women will be glad of a useful present," Pennytop chattered on, happily. "Now let me think . . ."

Pip didn't wait to hear any more. He went to see the Wise Woman. As he shared a cup of cocoa with her she asked why he was looking miserable so near Christmas.

"I am afraid that you and I are going to have *useful* present from Pennytop," sighed the elf. "And it's all my fault."

"I don't want a useful present," frowned the Wise Woman.

"I think I am going to get a scrubbing brush," said Pip, glumly.

"Oho! We'll settle this before it starts!" chortled the old lady. "Stir up the fire, Pip. Pass me the bottle of pink Pollygumillytea from the top shelf and the Froggyferndiddywater from the second shelf."

The Wise Woman had Pip running all over the kitchen handing her this and that and helping to pop all the things into the big cauldron she was stirring over the fire. Large bubbles began to climb out of the pot. The Wise Woman popped each one with her magic wand and whispered something.

"The spell is ready," she cried, when all the bubbles had been popped.

"I hope you are not going to *hurt* Pennytop," cried Pip, looking scared. "There is nothing wrong with giving useful presents."

"No, except that we don't want them," grinned the Wise Woman. "We won't hurt Pennytop but *he* will get the useful presents instead of us!"

When Pip got home Pennytop was out shopping. He came in with an armful of gay packets which he hid away.

The Great Day

When Christmas Day came the two elves found their stockings full of sweets and games from Father Christmas. Then Pip gave Pennytop his present which was a lovely red fountain pen.

"That's a *useful* present," smiled Pennytop, "And such a lovely one, too. Now here is mine to you, Pip dear."

"We really do need a new scrubbing brush, Pennytop," Pip sighed, as he opened the parcel. "It's a very useful . . ."

Then he stopped. His gift from Pennytop *wasn't* a scrubbing brush. It was the biggest and best and brightest paintbox that he had ever seen!

"It's just what I have always wanted, Pennytop," cried Pip. "But I thought"

"I decided that a *useful* present wasn't such fun," grinned Pennytop.

There was a knock on the door and in came the Wise Woman. She had a big box in her arms.

"This is for you, young Pennytop," she said. "Here is yours, Pip. Happy Christmas, both of you."

Pip's present was a very little packet but when he opened it he gave a squeal of delight. It was a wristlet watch. The elf danced for joy until he remembered the spell he had helped the Wise Woman to make.

"Poor Pennytop," he groaned. "We have made an awful mistake. The Wise Woman should have given him a super present, too."

Meanwhile Pennytop was lifting the lid from his box. He almost jumped out of his skin.

"Yap-yap," said his present.

Inside the box was the dearest little puppy dog you ever saw; just the kind Pip knew that Pennytop had *always* wanted. Pip looked at the Wise Woman with a grateful smile but she was staring at the puppy as if she had not known it was in the parcel. She hurriedly opened the parcel Pennytop had given her and she gave a groan. It was a scrubbing brush, a clothes line and some clothes pegs!

Pennytop stared at them.

"I didn't give you those," he cried. "I thought of it, but *useful* presents are no fun. Where has my real present disappeared to?"

"It's my own fault," wailed the Wise Woman. "I made a spell to change the *useful* presents into the person's heart's desire and the *un-useful* presents into *useful* ones."

The elves stared at her openmouthed. "Pennytop *didn't* give me a useful present, after all, so it has changed itself into a useful one," she groaned. "I gave him a useful bar of soap which has changed into his heart's desire . . . a puppy dog!"

Of course, the Wise Woman's magic wand soon changed her *useful* presents back into the enormous box of chocolates which Pennytop had really given her and after that they had the loveliest Christmas Day they had *ever* had.



WHAT THE POSTMAN OF THE FUTURE MAY BRING

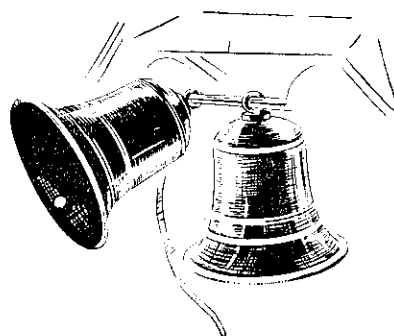
Possible effects of Mechanisation

by SIDNEY R. CAMPION

IS some of the romance of Christmas threatened with doom by the match of automation and mechanisation? The present trends seem to point to a day, not far ahead, when the excitement and glamour of the Christmas mail will have vanished for ever.

One of the joys of the Christmas post is the interest and surprise it provides for two or three weeks up to Christmas Day. During those weeks, morning and afternoon, and sometimes in the evening, come the richly coloured and variously designed cards, some large, some medium and some small, in bright envelopes bearing picturesque adhesive seals on behalf of charitable causes.

Eagerly we open the envelopes wondering what picture we shall



see, and what seasonable message we shall read.

Packets and parcels arrive fastened with decorated gummed strips or tied with coloured tapes. Some bear the message "Don't open until Christmas Day," and others which contain no exhortation, leave to you to decide when to open. Either way, packets and parcels are opened eventually and the revealed surprise gives an added delight to Christmas.

The postman brings those acceptable items, often with a broad smile, as becomes a carrier of gladsome gifts and tidings. And it has been known in times past, although contrary to all the rigid rules and regulations, for a postman to accept a glass of port or a cup of tea, for there is a genuine friendly feeling between the postman and those to whom he delivers regularly.

Science versus Santa Claus

You will remember the letters children send by their tens of thousands to Father Christmas at a variety of addresses including "Siberia," "Lapland," "North Pole," "Reindeerland," "Snowland," "Fairyland," "Toyland,"

"Happyland." Often enclosed in gay coloured envelopes and bearing toy stamps, they contain every kind of request imaginable to the dear gentleman whom they consider to be the arbiter of their Christmas wishes.



Their requests range from a "real railway engine" to a "live dolly," and it is on record that

one child, obviously unaware of the nature of the request, asked

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

MISTLETOE QUIZ

1. Christmas commemorates the birth of a Child, born in what City?
2. What great writer loved Christmas and helped to fashion the "English Christmas"?
3. By what other saintly name is Santa Claus called in many countries?
4. Who was the first monarch to have a Christmas Day broadcast televised?
5. Outdoor players and singers of carols are called what?
6. Who was the small crippled boy in "A Christmas Carol," who loved Christmas?
7. In whose reign was the first Christmas tree brought to Britain?
8. Who hated Christmas and begrudged giving his clerk a day's holiday?
9. What great navigator discovered land on a Christmas Day, and what did he name it?
10. What Christmas custom owes its origin to the practice of apprentices calling on their masters' customers for offerings?
11. An animal lover made the first Christmas Crib. Who was he?
12. What King was crowned in England on a Christmas Day?
13. What famous play written by Sir James Barrie, is usually produced at Christmastide?
14. Instead of hanging up stockings at Christmas, French children do what?
15. What church stands at the site where Christ was born?
16. What jovial character spent Christmas with his friends at Dingley Dell?
17. Scandinavian people give their cattle special Christmas fare on Christmas Day. Why?
18. The Rev. J. M. Neale gave us a popular carol about a kindly king. Can you name the king?
19. Who used mistletoe as a sacred symbol in their religious rites?
20. What popular Christmas dish did Henry VIII taste, but did not enjoy, and declared it "dry and tough"?

(Turn to page 8, column 1, for the answers to the questions).

MISTLETOE QUIZ

(See page seven)

ANSWERS

1. Bethlehem—"The City of David."
2. Charles Dickens.
3. Saint Nicholas.
4. Her Majesty The Queen, on Christmas Day 1957.
5. Waits.
6. Tiny Tim. "God Bless Us Everyone," was his favourite prayer.
7. Queen Victoria's reign.
8. Scrooge of "A Christmas Carol" who said: "You pick my pocket of a day's wages every 25th December."
9. Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese, who, making the first European's voyage to India, sighted land of southern East Africa and called it Terra Natalis (The Birthday Land)—later shortened to Natal.
10. The giving of Christmas boxes on Boxing Day.
11. St. Francis of Assisi, who called animals his brothers.
12. William the Conqueror.
13. "Peter Pan."
14. Put their shoes in the fireplace.
15. The Church of the Nativity, whose famous bells are broadcast at Christmas.
16. Mr. Pickwick of "Pickwick Papers."
17. Because cattle were in the stable at Bethlehem where Christ was born.
18. "Good King Wenceslaus."
19. The Druids.
20. Turkey.

WHAT THE POSTMAN MAY BRING—*continued*

for an atom bomb to be placed in her stocking. Where the contents of a Father Christmas letter reveals a family tragedy, as they sometimes do, kindly Post Office workers have a "whip round" and sufficient is collected to purchase for the child what it hoped to receive.

But how much longer shall we experience this human drama and joy? Science and technology are on the march. They have advanced a long way in the direction of cutting out the personal touch in the Post Office. Speed and Efficiency are the gods who must be appeased!

New Sort of Sorters

When mechanisation is completely achieved, the standard envelope will be absolutely essential. When a letter is posted in a pillar-box in the street it will not remain there until collected by a postman. It will drop on to a travelling belt and be carried underground to the nearest office where a battery of machines will do all the work now done by men. Envelopes of standard size will be necessary, and should the standard envelope have a standard colour, then it will indeed be a drab Christmas post for everybody. But this ought not to happen because the objection of Post Office sorters to coloured envelopes will not arise under mechanical sorting.

The standardised Christmas card must follow from the standardised envelope. Let us hope that this standardisation is confined to size and does not extend to the design on the card and to the message of greetings.

Let us still have the old world pictures of Regency costumes, of stage coaches drawn by teams of lovely horses, of snowflakes whitening the countryside, while through the windows of homes and coaching-inns we can see Christmas festivities in progress. May variety continue inside the envelope if not on the outside.

Longer Christmas Vacuum

The address on the envelope will lose some of its individuality because every householder will have a coded address. Thus, a Christmas card of the future may be addressed to XN.ABC.W5. The mark of the machine will be everywhere and the human touch nowhere, except when the postman pushes the standardised envelope through the standardised letter box.

There is certain to be no Christmas Day delivery in the times of which I am writing. Everything will have to be delivered by Christmas Eve. For years now the Postmen's Union has pressed for the abolition of Christmas Day delivery, and it is safe to say that in the full flowering of postal mechanisation all post offices will shut on Christmas Eve, and for all practical purposes remain shut for two days, if not longer. It is also

certain that the present recruitment of 150,000 additional men and women to help with the Christmas mail will no longer be necessary because of the speed of the machines.

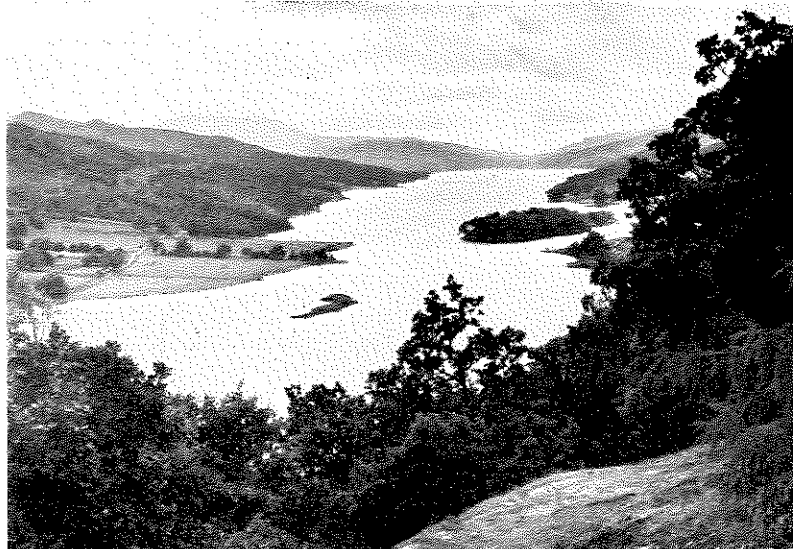
Pick Yourself a Present

Already we are familiar with the gift tokens which we can exchange for books of our choice. The growth of this voucher system will virtually end the Christmas parcel post with all its delightful expectations (and let us also say the terrible disappointment resulting from parcels smashed in the course of transit, or perhaps delayed in consequence). In these days it is possible to obtain by voucher many things besides books. Pottery, flowers, theatre tickets, cosmetics, jewellery, cameras, gramophone records and other attractive presents can be given by way of coupons. With parcel postage becoming so crippling, one can understand the increasing use of the gift voucher, perhaps saving the expenditure of many shillings.

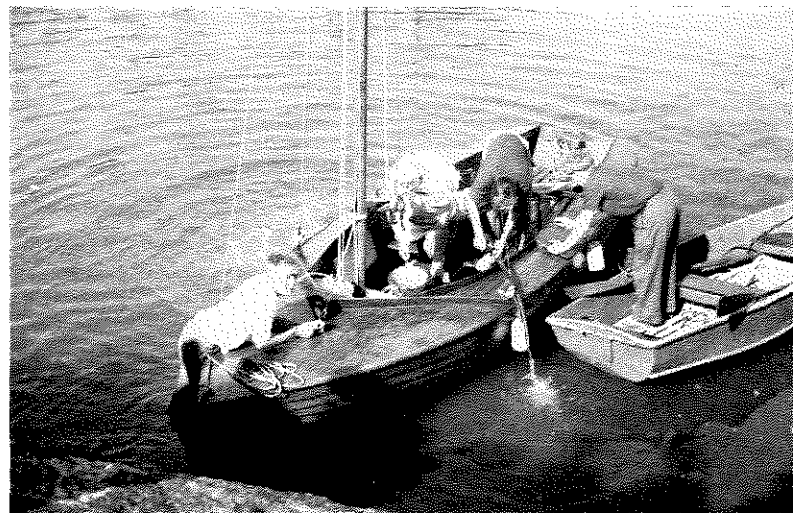
Such is the likely picture of the impersonal Christmas post which threatens us. It is part of the price of "Progress"!

Let us be thankful for the warm humanity that pervades our Christmas post today, and pray that 50 years hence, notwithstanding a wide extension of mechanisation and automation in dealing with the mails, some human sparkle will remain, if only as a reminder that Christmas, besides being a religious festival, is a very human occasion.

- Right: The best photograph in the competition was by George Radley of C.P.O.W.



- The "Landscape" section was also won by George Radley.

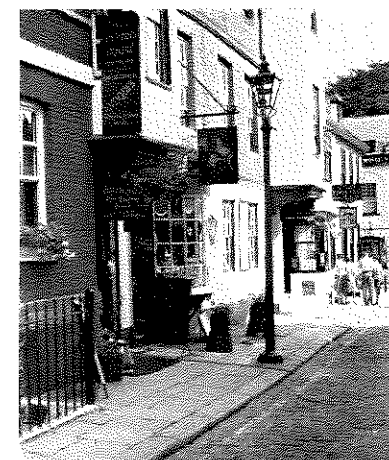


- Leonard Barton of the Old Hall is a new comer to the competition and this picture won the award in the "General" section.

Chance



- Ron Moore of the Laboratory was the winner of the "Personal" section with this picture of his son which delighted our readers in that it was used as a cover photograph for last month's issue.



- The "Architectural" section gave the hat trick to George Radley.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



From all Departments

MOSTLY PERSONAL

Blown and Pressed

The Pressed Process and Cathodes sections of the Division are congratulated on retaining the top position in the safety stakes.

The stage is now set for the children's Christmas party which will be held in the pavilion on 2nd January. A dance to raise funds for the party will be held in the pavilion on the 11th December.

Pranas Brazelis retired in October and we wish him happiness in his well earned rest.

It was with sorrow that we learned of the death of William Walters on 30th October, at the age of sixty-six; he retired from work in February, 1958.

Barbara Horton and Jean Warhurst have left us as they are expecting happy events.

Jean Hawkes sailed to America on 5th November. We understand Jean is to be married there and we wish her every happiness.

A welcome is extended to all the newcomers to the Division.

Chance-Pilkington Optical Works

The department is very glad to have Harry Taylor and Alfred Oldacre back with us after their long absence. Valerie Bradley left us early in December as she is expecting a baby and our best wishes are with her.

We congratulate Marjorie Berrill on the birth of a daughter and Joseph Stanley and his wife also on the birth of a girl.

Joyce Nicholls has been transferred to us from the Laboratory staff and becomes secretary to Mr. Whieldon. We are sure that she will enjoy her new job.

The department plans to hold its annual dinner and social in the pavilion on 15th January.

Flat Glass

The Flat Glass Division held a first rate dance in the pavilion on 31st October, to raise funds for the children's Christmas parties. The parties were held in the pavilion on the afternoons of Saturday, 5th December, and Saturday, 12th December.

We record with sorrow that Charles Bird died on 14th October, aged eighty-three. He retired from the Seven Storey in 1949.

Glasgow

Congratulations to Bill Masson and his wife on the birth of a daughter.

James McGarrity (Lehr-end) has been on the sick list for some time, and we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back soon.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of William Anderson who had been with the Company for twenty years and extend sympathy to his family.

The Recreation Club have organised three theatre nights, and judging by the response for tickets, these nights would appear to be very popular with the members.

The following sums have recently been distributed by The Firhill Glassworks Charity Fund to which all employees at Glasgow contribute on the basis of an agreed scale:—

	£	s.	d.
Kilmun Convalescent Home	10	0	0
Glasgow District Coast Home—Saltcoats ...	10	0	0
Convalescent Seaside Home—Dunoon ...	10	0	0
Scottish Council for Care of Spastics ...	6	0	0
National Fund for Poliomyelitis Research ...	6	0	0
National Lifeboat Institution	6	0	0
Salvation Army ...	6	0	0
Little Sisters of the Poor ...	6	0	0
Mission to the Outdoor Blind Glasgow branch of Limbless Ex-Servicemens Assoc. ...	6	0	0
Scottish National Institution for War Blinded ...	6	0	0
St. Andrews Ambulance Association ...	6	0	0
British Empire Cancer Campaign ...	10	0	0
Dr. Barnardo's Homes ...	6	0	0
	£100	0	0

London Office

Each edition of *Chance Comments* brings forth a spate of glad tidings—engagements, weddings, births, etc. London office seldom has the opportunity of being in the news, but at last we can say with great pride—and of course a tinge of regret for it will inevitably lead to a wedding announcement—our Miss Birch has become engaged! Miss Birch ("Gill" to you) has a reputation for her quiet efficiency and pleasant voice which is used quite often to "soothe the savage breast." She never gets "rattled" and always has a smile of welcome for the visitor, who receives the impression that he is the most

important person on earth—and that's the way it should be. I expect this engagement business is catching and that there will be more news soon!

Laboratory

We congratulate David Evans on his success in obtaining his Ordinary National Certificate.

We also congratulate Joyce Nicholls on her engagement to Roy Berry.

Gillian Payne has returned after attending an Outward Bound School and the older generation are envious of the youngsters who have this opportunity for participating in such wonderful courses for character and fitness training.

We welcome Terence Tromans as a newcomer to the Physics laboratory.

Maintenance and Construction

Father Christmas attended the Maintenance and Construction children's party which was held in the canteen on Saturday, 5th December. The annual dinner for the department is booked for 1st January at the Blue Gates Hotel.

Personal news includes a report that at the time of going to press William Lloyd of Building has had a successful operation for an appendix and we hope that he will soon be fully recovered.

Leonard Roe is welcomed to the Drawing Office for apprentice training and John Knight has returned after having completed his National Service in the record time of eight days! Alan Davies has returned to the Carpenters on the completion of his National Service.

Herbert Taylor and William Bick of the Moulds section have retired and we wish them every happiness.

continued overleaf



FROM ALL DEPARTMENTS—continued

Roland Dickens has had to terminate his job in the Millwrights due to a serious physical disability.

Roy Mitton left the Drawing Office to take up a senior position in the motor industry.

Raymond Drury is congratulated on a happy event in his home by which he now has a "new family of nine."

The department offers very sincere congratulations to Mr. J. R. Cheetham on his promotion to the position of Works Engineer.

Malvern

Now that winter has set in it is time to think about Christmas activities. Our annual dinner and social evening will take place at the Abbey Hotel on 2nd January. We hope all employees will take this opportunity to get together and have a really jolly time.

Mrs. Iris Jones (Inspection) is now back at work after her illness but we are sorry to say that Mrs. Win Kite, Miss Ella Perks, Mrs. Sealey, Mrs. Hadley, and Mr. Jock Pearson are still on the sick list.

Offices

A welcome is extended to Jack Pye who has joined the Export Sales.

At the time of writing Frank Taylor has been away ill from work for three weeks and we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

The evening of 3rd November saw another "Sales Snooker Tournament." After several exciting matches, the final was won by Brian Vaughan who beat Jim Green. The bar did a roaring trade so much so that the supplies of "bottled refreshment" were exhausted!

The Printing office congratulates Sandra Glover on winning a silver medal in the Midlands Novice Road Walk.

The Wages office welcomes Sheila Hadley who has joined the staff as a comptometer operator.

The Personnel department congratulates Margaret Jones and her husband on the birth of their son on 28th October.

Old Hall

Eileen Bunch, secretary to Mr. L. G. Barton, married Graham Denning on 28th November, and we offer these happy people our best wishes for their future happiness.

Elsie Conachy and Roy Price have left us to take up positions elsewhere and we wish them success.

THERE CAN BE NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

Our readers attention is called to the following extract from the October meeting of the Works Consultative Committee.

"The chairman stated that at Fibreglass Works at St. Helens, there had been a very serious fire recently, and the damage was in the region of £500,000.

Investigations into the cause, indicated that the fire had been probably started by a smouldering cigarette. These works had a rule in regard to smoking and in those departments where there was a fire hazard, smoking was prohibited and notices to this effect were displayed. There was, however, evidence that the rules were not being observed fully, particularly after normal working hours. Management was determined to see that the rules in regard to smoking were strictly observed and he asked the committee to do all possible to help."

Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions

EMPLOYEES' CHARITY FUND

At a meeting of the Employees Charity Fund Committee, held on 5th October, the undermentioned donations were made.

Since this fund was formed in February, 1958, a total of £302 has been distributed.

	£	s.	d.
<i>Sick and Disabled</i>			
Midland Societies for the Blind	10	10	0
Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick	5	5	0
West Bromwich Committee for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped	5	5	0
Oldbury and District Association for Civilian Disabled Infantile Paralysis Fellow ship	3	3	0
St. Dunstan's	3	3	0
Midland Association for the Deaf	3	3	0
Smethwick Society for Mentally Handicapped Children	3	3	0
Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies	3	3	0
Smethwick Cripples Welfare Fund	5	5	0
<i>Medical Research</i>			
Imperial Cancer Research Fund	3	3	0
National Fund for Polio Research	3	3	0
<i>Social Welfare</i>			
Oldbury and District Citizens' Society	3	3	0
Smethwick Diocesan Moral Welfare Council	3	3	0
<i>Children</i>			
National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	3	3	0
Save the Children Fund	3	3	0
Dr. Barnado's Homes	3	3	0
<i>Convalescence and First Aid</i>			
Clevedon Convalescent Homes	3	3	0

St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Smethwick	3	3	0
British Red Cross Society	3	3	0

Old People

West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee	3	3	0
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£81 18 0

TO THE CHAIR

The new chairman of the British Glass Industry Research Association is our Managing Director, Dr. W. M. Hampton.

The Association, supported by the large majority of the country's glass manufacturers, operates under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Dr. Hampton succeeds Dr. L. H. A. Pilkington, who has retired after five years' service.

INCREASED SICKNESS GRANTS

For the third time within two years, the Smethwick Glassworks Provident Society has been able to increase the weekly sick benefits paid to members and the grant is now 15s. 0d. per week up to a maximum of twelve weeks in any year.

Death benefit remains unchanged at £10.

WITH HONOUR AND RESPECTFULLY!

The following letter was received recently at our London Office:—

Tijani Olowu,
6, Atiko Street, Lagos,
B.W.A.

Dear Sir,

With honour and respectfully to write a few lines of this letter to you. How are you and how are your work-shops? Are they quite well? I write

JOTTINGS—continued

this letter to you in order that you may send me the free Sample of your Plates. God will save the people, will save you too. God will let your Company be the best of all your Company in your City. I am waiting for your favourite reply. Thank Sir,

I remain here, Yours trully,
TJANI OLOWU.

£90 WON IN SAFETY COMPETITION PRIZES

For the second year running, the Pressed Process and Cathodes sections of the Blown and Pressed Division have won the first prize of £50 in the Safety Competition for the year ended 30th September. These sections completed the year without having a lost time accident.

The following groups each won £10 for their success in reducing their frequency rate compared with the previous year.

1. Rolled Plate—an improvement of 80%.
2. Coloured, Seven Storey and Fiesta—an improvement of 63%.
3. Building, Carpenters, Boilers, Vehicle Repairs and Stores—an improvement of 49%.
4. Pot and Clay, Mixing, Traffic, Transport, Security, Pyrometry—an improvement of 20%.

Last year's accident frequency rate for the whole works was reduced by 34%—we will do even better in 1960!

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1959

Thirty-nine entries were received from seven photographers and the following were selected as the best entries:—

The best photograph in the competition
—G. Radley, C.P.O.W.

Landscape—G. Radley

Architectural—G. Radley

Personal—R. Moore, Laboratory

General—L. G. Barton, Old Hall

The judges were Dr. R. E. Bastick and Mr. S. Mallett and they considered that the general standard was lower than in previous years. Most of the authors still failed to realise that the picture must have a theme and the purpose of composition is to lead the eye and mind of the observer towards this central

idea. If the composition is right then the picture will satisfy. There were a number of cases where a judicious selection of part of the negative would have resulted in a presentable picture.

The best photograph in the competition stood out as a pleasing picture of a summer scene and Mr. Radley is to be congratulated on his success with pictures in three different classes. Mr. Moore submitted some creditable attempts in trying to tell a story but he has not yet achieved the facility of selecting the best view point. The picture chosen in the Personal section has already appeared on the cover page of *Chance Comments* and we should congratulate the Editor on his choice!

Most of the pictures had to be allocated to the General section but nevertheless many of them were of disappointing quality. The judges thought that the winning picture was an attempt on the right lines although they would have preferred to see the figures standing out more boldly from the detail of the boat.

Finally, the judges would like to see more people submitting photographs in future competitions and particularly concentrating on quality rather than quantity.

CARTOON

This cartoon from the *London Evening Standard* tickled Mr. J. C. Perkins, Manager of our London Office.



● "In this office, Perkins—everyone must be able, if necessary, to do the other person's job—"

Chance SNAPSHOTS at the Cricket Club Annual Dinner



A Merry Christmas to All . . . and to all . . . **Good Ideas!**

Since the last issue of *Chance Comments*, twenty-seven ideas have been accepted and £63 12s. 6d. has been paid in awards. Make 1960 a year in which you will cash in on your ideas. The following is a summary of recent awards:—

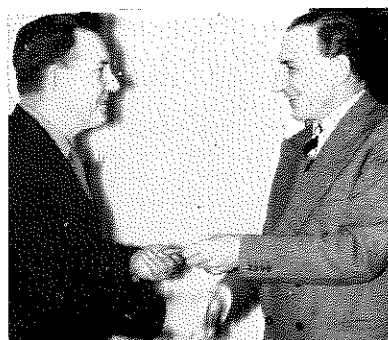
			£	s.	d.
E. Evans	Laboratory	New type of stopper for furnaces in Laboratory	25	0	0
J. McNair	Building	Method of stacking coal	1	0	0
V. J. Beresford	M. and C.	Guard on South Side crusher	1	0	0
V. J. Beresford	M. and C.	Attachment to chute on South Side crusher	1	10	0
F. Jones	Rolled Plate	Double wrapping of wire netting	5	0	0
J. Reeves	Security	Re-siting certain telephones in Rolled Plate	1	0	0
A. Jakeways	Rolled Plate	Fitting two flanges on oil burner flexes	1	5	0
J. Higgs	Millwrights	Alterations to edge-grinding machine—C.P.O.W.	1	0	0
C. Page	Traffic	A "Keep Clear" sign for Rolled Plate cranes	1	0	0
G. E. Harris	Millwrights	Modifications on ball valve system on Visco coolers	2	7	6
H. Bodley	Rolled Plate	Reversal of water cooled frame-work on No. 3 and 4 tanks	1	5	0
J. E. Simkin	Electricians	Screen at No. 3 frit bin	1	10	0
J. E. Simkin	Electricians	Safety—locking device for platform gates—S/S Gas Plant	1	0	0
J. E. Simkin	Electricians	Safety—hot pipe in S/S Gas Plant	1	0	0
G. E. Harris	M. and C.	Safety—guard for heating coil in Box Shop Cloakroom	1	0	0
J. B. Smith	M. and C.	Alteration to door	1	0	0
J. B. Smith	M. and C.	Ladder Safety	1	0	0
J. B. Smith	M. and C.	Crane Safety	1	0	0
T. H. Collier	Traffic	Trailers Safety	1	0	0
G. Smith	Work Study	Fire precautions	1	0	0
D. Parrott	M. and C.	Heating plant safety	1	0	0
R. A. Hedley	T.R.S.	Lighting on tractor	2	10	0
B. Launchbury	Transport	Wage payment arrangements	1	5	0

The following appeals were upheld:—

J. Reeves, Security, Oil drip feeds to cutting bars—Rolled Plate
Additional 4 5 0

J. Mortiboy, Security, Improved security arrangements
Additional 1 15 0

"Reminder" awards of 10s. 0d. each were made to J. Fenton, Rolled Plate, J. E. Simkin, M. and C., B. Bagnall, Transport and V. E. Norton, Mixing.



● Evan Evans receives a £25 award from Mr. C. J. S. Newman.

My Hobby

THE ART OF MARQUETRY

by ALEX GOODWIN (Export Dept.)

THE history of marquetry or inlaying can be traced back for many centuries. Examples of this art as practised by the skilled craftsmen can be seen all over the world in museums and churches and are works of sheer beauty and craft. Marquetry is the art of inserting any piece of hard material into the surface of a different hard material, differently coloured, so as to form a decorative pattern or design.

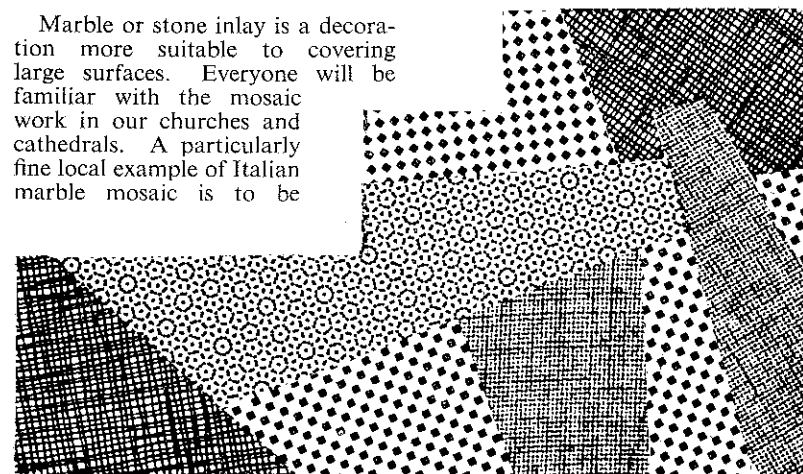
There are several varieties of inlaid work, the chief of which are wood, ivory or shell, marble or stone, and metal. The writer is particularly interested in Pictorial Marquetry whereby pictures are produced using natural colour in wood, made from veneers and burrs of selected wood. The modern method of utilizing veneers to cover an inferior or cheaper wood is exemplified in its usage in present day furniture.

found at the Catholic Church of The Sacred Heart, Droitwich Spa. This form of inlaying was used in classic times in dwelling houses and examples from Pompeii and Rome are to be found in the British Museum.

In Niello work, fine lines graved in metal are filled in with a dark

continued overleaf

Marble or stone inlay is a decoration more suitable to covering large surfaces. Everyone will be familiar with the mosaic work in our churches and cathedrals. A particularly fine local example of Italian marble mosaic is to be



THE ART OF MARQUETRY—continued

metallic amalgam of silver, copper, lead and sulphur. This type of work is produced largely in Russia today.

Damascene work is the art of encrusting gold or silver wire on iron, steel or bronze. On a metallic ground, blackened by a solution of sal ammoniac, saltpetre and blue-vitriol the pattern is graved. The graven lines are then inlaid with silver or gold.

I first became interested in Pictorial Marquetry after a period spent in hospital. A very sympathetic occupational therapist, intent on giving me something to do, chose all the wrong things that would hold my interest; she was convinced that I was a dimwit, and not likely to make a success of basket work, leather craft and sundry forms of rehabilitation, then by chance mentioned the word marquetry. My reaction was, to say the least, one of complete blankness, and I repeated a question that has been asked of me many times since—"What is Marquetry?" I am almost tempted at this stage to lapse into sentimental, artistic splurge, but feel that readers would only concur with the aforementioned sympathetic occupational therapist who to this day is unaware of the debt of gratitude I owe her for the pleasure she brought to me in her casual utterance, *Marquetry*!

It was only after the initial feeling of incompetence surveying what to me were so many bits of wood, that a determination swept over me and decided my artistic future. Yes, at last I had found a method of self expression in creating from static slivers of wood a live, warm art form.

I was absorbed by the romantic sounding names. Macassar Ebony, a dark hard wood. Laurel, the purest of white woods. Peroba, a delicate pink shade. Walnut burr, a

rich exciting wood and many more enchanting names, whose existence flourishes in remote corners of the world. Japanese Oak, American Purple Heart, Honduras Mahogany, Queensland Maple, Persian Walnut, Movenque from the forests of Malaya.

All these have individual characteristics of their own, capable of importing light and shade when placed in contra-distinction to one another. Slowly I learned to handle these coloured woods like an artists using paints, learned of the various types of grain structure; how they behaved under the skill of my fingers using the scalpel, sharp knives to shape and mould the desired patterns.

After a long, and what seemed to me an interminable time, I completed my first picture, a small sea subject—very cautiously I waited for my family to comment on what to me was a work of art. Indifference seemed to envelop my onlookers faces. "Not bad," said my wife. Oh well, all that happened ten years ago.

On a very cold evening recently a friend and my wife were discussing decoration in its widest form; flowers, wallpapers, pictures, etc., when suddenly my wife's friend said to her, "I've always been fascinated by that picture," meaning of course the very first marquetry picture that I had composed. "That," said my wife. "I wouldn't part with for all the money in the world!" After all that time I was satisfied that my artistry had been acknowledged and I had left something to posterity.



Christmas Pie



● "Where's the salt?"



● "Cheers, old boy."



● "Boy, that's what I call real cracker!"



● "I don't know what collar my husband takes, but I've a good idea of the size of his neck."