Vision

Jan/Feb 71 No 65 ● House Magazine of Rank Xerox Mitcheldean Plant

The Christmas party arranged for children of employees by the Sports & Social Club on December 12 gets the 'thumbs up' sign from an expert. Most of the others can't take their eyes off the stage (our picture on page 12 shows why). The party followed the usual pattern of films, food and fun, but the 'fun' part was different this year; it was provided by Winship's Miniature Circus.

There was a great reception too for Father Christmas when, sleighbells drowned by decibels, he arrived to dole out presents to the boys and girls, with the aid of some hard-working assistants. Thanks from the club go to all those who helped to make sure the crowd of over 600 had a good time.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

The end of 1970 saw the start of yet another major building project at Mitcheldean.

Work started on the new International Distribution Centre during the second week in November. With a covered area of 350,000 square feet, it will be by far the largest building on the site to date. Just how big and complex the new IDC will be is explained in the article on page 8.

The need for a new IDC is paramount. During the next four years, our warehousing requirement will double. Even if all the buildings at present leased on the Gloucester Trading Estate were converted to warehouses, they would not provide enough space. Furthermore, the leases on these premises are due for renewal in June 1972 and, if renewed, would have to run for a period of seventeen years. In any case, the buildings at Gloucester are the wrong shape and too low for us to improve significantly our methods of handling.

Clearly, a new IDC building, designed specifically for Rank Xerox activities, is essential in order that we can have both the flexibility and the advantage of latest handling techniques to cope efficiently with the steep rise in workload expected during the next four years.

The national bill for industrial fire damage has been rising rapidly over the last few years, and insurance companies are becoming increasingly concerned about the suitability of buildings to be used as warehouses. The new IDC will incorporate up-to-date devices to enable us to meet the most stringent fire insurance requirements.

The decision to establish the new IDC at Mitcheldean followed an intensive and careful investigation. A survey was carried out into the practical alternatives. These included sites near docks, airports, and at strategic points on the British motorway network. The costs and the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives were evaluated.

The analysis showed that there are many advantages in having a new IDC at Mitcheldean, not the least of which is the fact that our team at the Gloucester IDC has built up great expertise in progressing both the machines and the considerable amount of paperwork necessary when so large a proportion of the output is being exported. It was not just a question of money. The human factor came into the analysis.

This new development provides further tangible evidence of the Company's determination to expand, and to use modern techniques and equipment in order to compete effectively in all the Rank Xerox markets throughout the world. It endorses Mitcheldean's position as the hub of the Rank Xerox Production and Supply Operations, and increases even more the Company's commitment to the Forest of Dean and to the future prosperity of the area.

The new IDC is indeed a significant milestone in the history of Mitcheldean. We have a great future here, and can enter 1971 with confidence.

I wish you all a prosperous and happy New Year.

D. R. Poulson

Deputy Director of
Production and Supply Operations

FIRST FLOOR TRANSFORMATION

It's the season for transformation scenes — and Facilities Planning have stage managed a very effective one on the first floor of Administration Building 23.

The floor is now mainly shared by Purchase and Accounts departments. Each has the same open plan layout, with deep green carpet tiles from wall to wall, and further touches of colour provided by occasional screens, troughs of plants and orange drapery round the pillars.

The Purchase Department picture (top) looks across the main area to the corner office of Mr W. Beech, Chief Buyer; the general view of Accounts, taken from near the office of Mr K. J. Taylor, Works Accountant, shows in the far left hand corner the glassed-in offices of management accountants and internal audit, with the comptometer and typing sections to the right.

COMPUTER CHANGE-OVER

Jack Bonney, Data Processing Manager, explains all about it

Early this January a new computer is being installed at Mitcheldean. Its name — G.E.425 — may not be impressive, but it will be powerful enough to replace the two Honeywell machines currently operating in the Mitcheldean Plant and to take on additional work both for Mitcheldean and Welwyn.

The two present machines have given good service and, between them, run for some 700 hours each month working day and night. A wide variety of tasks, some very complex, some straightforward, are performed, including the control of current and future machine build design specifications, parts requirements planning and scheduling, stock records, machine shop scheduling, payroll preparation and analysis, collection of union subscriptions, costing, and preparation of parts issue schedules for the assembly shops.

If the equipment at present on rental can handle these important aspects of factory control, you may ask why a new machine is required. The need is a dual one. With increasing volumes of data and a wider range of products envisaged, the present installation will soon be unable to cope.

Furthermore, the present computers are magnetic tape based machines and limit the capability of integrating our systems. This means that each system has its own master files and much information, being common to several systems, is held more than once, with the possibility of error due to the frequent changes in a busy plant.

The file holding design specifications of machine structures contains over 100,000 records and is brought up to date with changes each day, and this is only one of several such master files.

The new G.E. computer is to be a magnetic disc machine and was chosen because this type of storage device — coupled with a special computer language, known as Integrated Data Store — will enable all master information to be held in one common data bank instead of the separate tape files now employed. This means any piece of information is held once only, no matter how many jobs may need to refer to it. The advantage is obvious: time in updating files is saved and accuracy is improved since all systems use the same file.

It must also be obvious that the need for accurate basic data being fed to the computer to create this data bank is now more important than ever. In other words, no matter how powerful the computer, the power of the lead pencil must never be under-estimated.

The use of a data bank as intended will call for a complete review and revision of all systems and the design of new ones to provide a wider service. This will take many months and will progress step by step. Even then, the successful design and implementation of systems will only be made possible by the co-operation and participation of the user departments at all stages. This involvement of people as well as a machine cannot be over-emphasised.

Today, when a computer is installed, there is often a loud call for 'Management Information'. Too rarely is there a similar call for 'Information Management'. Only the right degree of teamwork between man and machine will provide both.

Mr V. I. Zharov and Mr Molotkov of the USSR Trade Delegation talking to Barrie Izatt of 3600 Assembly with the aid of Rank Xerox interpreter Miss Kziezopolska. They were accompanied by Mr Gordon Planner, General Manager, East European Operations, and shown round our Plant by Mr Vic Parry and Mr John Hankin.

Spotlight On Courses

The attentive audience waited expectantly as the spotlights were trained on the new model about to be introduced. But the organisers were not, on this occasion, after orders — they were seeking enthusiastic support from a gathering of the very people who will be involved in making the Rank Xerox 4000.

This presentation of the product — the first of its kind at our plant — was all part of a comprehensive pre-production induction course on which the Education and Training Department recently embarked.

The two-week course covered all facets of the launching of a new model and, by means of talks, films and demonstrations, participants were made familiar not only with the assembly work involved but also with the way in which the work of other departments — Supply Planning, Quality Control, PED, Work Study — was interfaced with actual assembly.

A talk by Mr Mike Jukes, Manager, Competitive Intelligence from Rank Xerox House, aimed at making the participants alive to the competition already existing in the market, while Mr Bob Rosdahl of Xerox Corporation familiarised them with the assembly of the 4000 in the USA by means of films, slides and practical work.

Associated with this induction course was a week's supervisory course on instructional techniques, and a long-term supervisory training course for potential supervisors to replace those transferring to the 4000 department.

The courses followed a presentation given in November to acquaint Mr Horace Becker, Vice-president, Xerox Corporation Research Laboratories Division, with progress at the plant concerning the 4000 and this was repeated later for managers of all departments.

Training has become an important aspect of life at the Plant today. A whole programme of courses, some short-, some long-term, is now gathering momentum. The motive is not simply to inform and instruct: it is to help the individual develop his potential and to create a feeling of total involvement.

One new departure has been the provision of an 'Introduction to Management' course organised specially for us by the West Gloucestershire College of Further Education; this is intended to introduce the graduate, as a recent entrant to industry, to the responsibilities and skills of management and at the same time give a clearer concept of the total management function to those who already have some supervisory experience.

November saw the start of another innovation — an evening course on 'Factors in Physical Distribution', run by and for the staff of the International Distribution Centre. Held once a fortnight at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Gloucester, it consists of two-hour lectures on air, land and sea transport, insurance, banking, Customs procedure, legal aspects of contract and sale of goods, budgetary control, and warehouse layouts and equipment, given by specialists in their field.

The 4000 machine, flown over from the States, was introduced by Mr John Dennis, Assistant Design Manager (Business Products) — that's him facing the camera. And of course everyone wanted to get on closer terms with the model afterwards.

Another important visitor to our plant towards the end of 1970 was Mr C. H. Baylis, Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, our biggest single customer. He was accompanied to Mitcheldean by Mr Arthur Hughes, General Manager of our UK Company. Here Mr Baylis (left) is seen in the Machine Shop with Mr David Willday, Assistant Production Manager (Manufacturing).

ROUND BRITAIN WHIZ

He could have had a good holiday abroad, eating exotic food, sleeping in a comfortable bed and relaxing in warm sunshine. But Stuart is a rally enthusiast . . . . .

by Stuart Harrold/Design Engineer

Having come second in the Welsh Rally Championships two years ago, I and my driver Bob Bennett felt encouraged to have a shot at this year's RAC Round Britain Rally held in November.

The route covered 2,300 miles, 400 of which were divided into 80 special stages for which a target time was set, and most of these stages were Forestry Commission roads, unsurfaced and single track.

Bob providing the first essential — the car, a Ford Escort — the next was a service crew, and we managed to talk Design engineer Vernon 'Hammer' Brookes and draughtsman Alec 'Fantastic' Davies into coming along. Car preparation started about three weeks before the event and was finished on the day before — how about that for advanced planning!

The start was at an hotel situated at the end of one of London Airport's main runways; it was very cold, wet and noisy with jumbo jets taking off every four minutes, and we were all rather overwhelmed by the might of the 'works' entries.

Then it was our start time, and we moved on to the ramp to be flagged away by a very wet Miss United Kingdom. The first special stage was not until about 100 miles north of London and the intention was that the service car, crammed with food and car spares, should follow us to it. But the Saturday traffic came between us and when we pulled off the A1 to have a meal, the service crew missed us and were waiting, cold and hungry, when we eventually met up with them.

Our progress at first was quite uneventful and our crew got very efficient arriving at the end of each stage to see that all was well; there was even time for Vern to turn chef and cook up baked beans and lumpy chicken soup in the car park of an hotel.

The first night spent in the car (we took turns to drive) was very chilly and we all agreed that the east coast of Yorkshire was the coldest place on earth. Sunday morning saw us in Scotland with ice and snow on the higher ground and here we had our first bit of trouble: the head gasket started to leak and we decided to replace it at the midday main control.

On a twin cam Escort this is quite a job but the service crew were ready for us. At times there must have been five people under the bonnet but after about an hour and a quarter, a lot of burnt fingers and some fine old Forest language, the job was done and we were on our way again.

Around the Perth area the stages were covered in snow and very, very slippery, the ground dropping steeply away from the edges of most roads. We survived the second night and the weather changed once again to heavy rain, but cleared up for the breakfast stop in Dumfries, which gave us all a chance to dry out.

On Monday we headed south to the Lake District and spent the time admiring the views from stage roads that were about 800 feet up with sheer drops at the edge. We kept the service crew busy as they had to change a dynamo and keep on adjusting the back brakes which were giving us a lot of trouble.

The route then went to Blackpool for the only night's rest. In our opinion Blackpool is not the place to go in mid-November, but anyway we were all too tired to spend a night out on the town.

Off again next morning we were heading for Wales and home ground. The day kept fine but once it started to get dark, down came the rain and it kept on all night. At the main control at Machynlleth our service crew got soaked right through in a very few minutes and one of them came up with the bright remark 'It ain't arf raining!' We were glad when morning came and with it local Forest of Dean stages.

On the Speech House stage we had the misfortune to hit a log which badly knocked the steering out of track; but we called in at Watts garage at Lydney, a hoard of mechanics descended on the car and in no time we were on our way again.

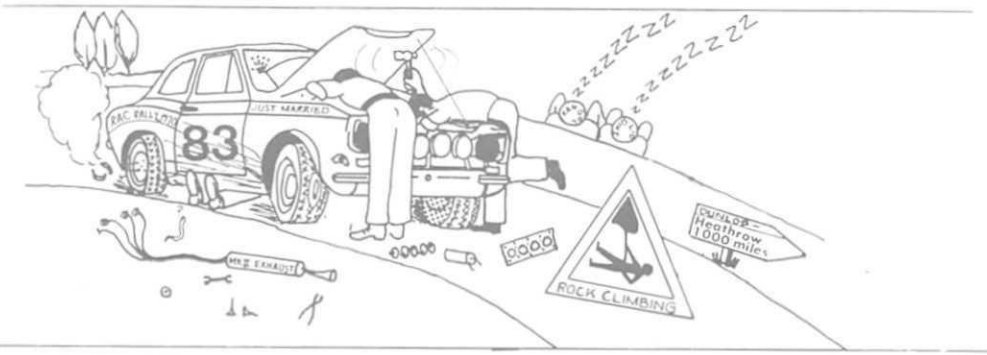
Breakfast was at the Severn Bridge service area and then it was off to North Devon for the last stages. On the third from last, trouble struck — we lost bottom gear. The next stage was approached by steep hills and, because of the number of spectators around, we had to end up reversing to the stage in the stop-start traffic! All this took well over an hour and then, on the stage itself, one cylinder on the engine went on strike.

We arrived at the stage finish with no bottom gear, three cylinders, and three hours in which to cover the 100 miles to the finish. As if that weren't enough, we had to cross Salisbury Plain and attempt another stage, it was getting dark and had started to rain again.

We set off and eventually reached the last stage near London. Owing to the heavy rain this was flooded and had been cancelled so we made our way direct to the finish at London Airport and mounted the finishing ramp with just ten minutes to spare. We parked the car and with the service crew made straight for the bar to celebrate.

Well no — we weren't actually first. Some fellow called Harry Kallstrom driving a Lancia won. But we came 44th out of 67 finishers. Not bad really, considering that 128 of the starters never made it at all!

'That be fa-anta-astic, Vern.'
'Shadup 'n kip thee 'and on him — I be gwain a 'it 'n agyun!'



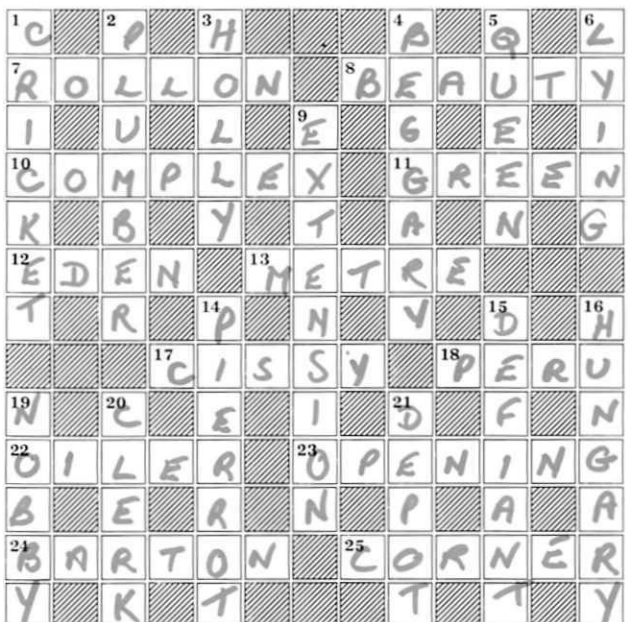
Cartoon by Lionel Fisher *redrawn by Ann Osley*

ACROSS

7 A foundation that never comes off? (4-2)
8 & 5 Down: Mother of Prince Charming. (6 & 5)
10 Intricate kind of inferiority (or superiority). (7)
11 You can go now. (5)
12 Once the Paradise of Downing Street. (4)
13 Get the measure of the Parisenne femme très bonne! (5)
17 Pansy's little sister. (5)
18 A pure mistake in Spanish America. (4)
22 A little 23 across which helps to ease friction. (5)
23 An opportunity for a leading batsman. (7)
24 & 25 A new local plant entrance from a Designer's angle. (6 & 6)

DOWN

1 By gad sir! Play the game with that little creature! (7)
2 Sounds like the Blaisdon harvester who left his tools behind. (7)
3 Ivy's inseparable companion at Christmas. (5)
4 What your neighbour is reduced to through playing cards. (7)
5 See 8 across.
6 One can't stand such deception. (5)
9 It's simply sticking out — more factory space on the way. (9)



by Paul Gregory *Solution on page 13*

14 Did his performance decompose the jetty? (7)
15 Fainted at such a belligerent change of attitude. (7)
16 A state of starvation, almost. (7)
19 Nodulated nickname for a sound 20. (5)
20 Pen-pushing parson. (5)
21 Just a small detail about a large Italian river — Americans are trained there. (5)

OUR BIGGEST SINGLE PROJECT

by Jeremy Henwood
Facilities Planning Manager

As I write, a team of excavators are at work altering the face of the earth on the hillside northeast of the Plant. This land development is the first phase of the biggest single project we have ever embarked upon — the new International Distribution Centre.

To give you some idea of the size, the additional land will almost double the total site area, increasing it from 34 to 67 acres.

Apart from the removal of the top soil, which must be done before levelling can commence, a culvert is being built through the site to carry the stream which runs along the bottom of the valley.

By the time this issue appears, levelling should be taking place, so that we end up with one major and one minor plateau. This involves moving 17,500 cubic yards of top soil and 330,000 cubic yards of rock and soil to create the levels (one cubic yard approximates to roughly one ton).

This site work will continue until June 1971, but building will start around Easter and continue for 12 months. And if you think 12 months is a long time for such work, consider these rather staggering statistics.

The building will be by far the largest that Rank Xerox has erected, extending over 350,000 square feet (that's more than eight football pitches) on one floor level. This will give a building volume of 11,224,113 cubic feet — a lot of space to heat and light when you realise that the volume of an average modern house is less than 1,000th of this figure.

The foundations and floor slabs will take over 12,000 tons of concrete to complete, the walls more than a million facing bricks; 1,350 tons of steel will go to make the framework, while the roof will need over 13 miles of purlins for support.

With 25 feet clear height inside, higher bay racking can be installed and this will permit the use of more sophisticated — and more economical — order picking equipment.

By increasing the height of the racking and using special narrow aisle equipment we can achieve an improvement in storage efficiency of over 50 per cent compared with the present situation in Gloucester. The plan is to install a conventional storage system at first, concentrating all fast moving items in one section, and mechanising the consignment packing area as far as possible.

The space available will enable us to combine the IDC goods inwards and despatch sections into one big bay area where ten vehicles can be loaded or unloaded at a time.

Such a large building presents particular problems; for example, the main gangway is 930 feet long — quite a distance where methods of handling materials have to be considered, and the feasibility of different systems is still being studied.

Matters relating to equipment, layout and operations inside the warehouse are being dealt with by a working party, chaired by Forward Planning Engineer Eric Moore, and consisting of Henry Berry, International Distribution Manager; Maurice Harrison, Materials Handling Engineer; and Derek Lewis, Stores & Stock Control Manager in Supply Planning. Other specialists are being called upon when specific problems are under discussion.

When the building is finished we shall have an up-to-date warehouse facility of sufficient size to cope with our expanding requirements for the next five years.

Opposite page: The new access roads can be seen in this plan of the IDC project.

Below: The warehouse building and the additional 33 acres added to the existing site area are outlined in white on this aerial picture.

AWARDS REACH A RECORD

In 1969 the sum of £440 was shared between 50 people under the Company's education awards scheme; this last year the figures rose to £707 shared between 81 people.

Presenting cheques to 55 of the award winners in November, Mr Derek Portman, Deputy Director of Production & Supply Operations, said: 'The significance lies not in the money but in the increase in the number of people gaining awards.

'I get an immense amount of encouragement from the fact that people are prepared to go on studying in spite of the distractions of modern living, and I would like to congratulate everyone here on their achievements. The awards presented today are a small, tangible recognition by the Company of these achievements.'

Apart from the awards, which ranged from £2 to £15, the successful students, whose names are listed here, were repaid their course fees and the cost of books by the Company.

Shorthand and typing — Mrs K. Knight, Mrs. L. Sperring, Miss D. Tyler, Miss A. Watts, Miss O. Woodward.
GCE 'O' Level, English — R. A. Hook.
Cert. of Office Supervision — I. G. Baldwin, G. Beaven, R. Bird, Mrs M. Cornwall, B. Davies, A. Davis, B. English, I. A. Forster, L. G. Hill, M. Hirst, Mrs M. Jenkins, C. Powell, K. Rea, E. Spratley, R. Wright.
Nat. Exam. Board of Supervisory Studies — K. Horrobin.
Diploma in Office Management — J. J. Perry.
Diploma Institute of Purchasing & Supply — S. D. Fox, B. S. Hall, R. P. Knight.
Diploma Management Studies — M. Fenn-Smith.
Graduate Inst. of Materials Handling — L. E. Bennett, W. J. Evans, L. R. Jeffrey, M. Wilkinson.
Certificated stage Electrical — D. W. Brookes, R. J. Taylor, J. H. C. Watts,
Certificated stage Mechanical — R. G. Cooke, N. F. Copeland, M. O. Davies, G. A. Davis, A. J. Hart, K. L. Howell, P. A. Jennings, B. Nelmes, R. F. Pearce, R. W. Turner.
ONC — V. Dancey (*Electrical*); M. P. English (*Sciences*); B. S. Morse (*Business Studies*).
HNC — C. G. Smith (*Electrical*); K. Pritchard (*Mechanical*); B. C. Lewis (*Business Studies*).
HNC Endorsement (*Industrial Administration*) — D. M. Bendall, M. J. Brain, J. A. Jones, A. J. Newman.
HND Electrical Engineering — M. A. Read.

The remaining 26 winners were apprentices who will receive their awards at the annual apprentices' dinner to be held this year.

Women members of the staff who won awards are pictured with Mr Portman after the presentation: (left to right) Mrs Katherine Knight, Mrs Madge Jenkins, Mrs Marion Cornwall, Miss Deborah Tyler, Miss Ann Watts and Mrs Lynn Sperring.

Michael Fenn-Smith receives his award for achieving a management studies diploma.

Recent Appointments

Mr Ralph Zimmermann has been appointed Manager of the RX.4000 Assembly Department, recently set up to deal with initial pre-production planning and training problems involved in launching a new product. He reports to Mr S. J. Scott, Assistant Production Manager, Assembly Operations. Mr Roger Smith has been made Assistant Manager of the department reporting to Mr Zimmermann, while Messrs Kevin Horrobin and Eric Knight have been appointed supervisors RX.4000, reporting to Mr Smith.

Following the appointment of Mr Zimmermann, and that of Mr Graham Linley as Manager, Remodelling, Mr David Sanderson joined the Company as Manager, Spares & Sub Assembly Department, responsible to Mr Scott.

Mr H. M. 'Mike' Smith took up the position of Design Manager on December 14, responsible directly to Mr A. E. Burke, Engineering Design Manager. Mr Smith comes to us from IBM UK Ltd at Greenock, Renfrewshire.

Prize Listed

Our apprentices made the prize list once again in the Craftsmanship Competition organised annually by the Gloucestershire & South Worcestershire Productivity Association. John Martin gained third prize in Class 3 for his test piece while Christopher Barnard's entry in Class 1 was commended.

John Ingram (Standards Room QC) won third prize of £10 in the recent colour slide competition organised by Walwins of Gloucester which attracted nearly 1000 entries. Mrs Valerie Jordan, also a Cine & Photographic Club member, gained a consolation prize.

HOME MARKET

For Sale

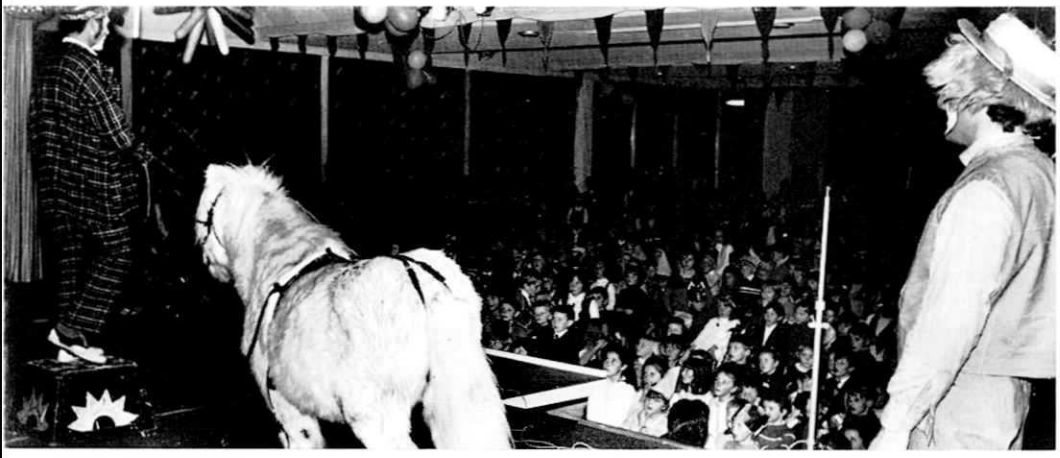
1967 Viva SL90, Brabham, red, many extras, £480. Ring: Brian Sellick. Tel. 625 int.

'Lobster pot' play-pen, in excellent condition. Cost nearly £7, bargain at £3. Also carry-cot, navy, with transporter £4. Replies to: Box no. 27, C/o Editor, VISION.

Classic style crepe wedding dress size 10 to 12, ribbon lace bodice with train, satin pillbox with short veil, £12 ono. Apply: Miller, Hillcroft, Springfields, Drybrook. Tel. 636.

CLOWNS IN THE CABARET

The lift in the Social Centre has carried a variety of things up to the ballroom but never a white Welsh pony — that is, not until the day of the children's party. Failing to live up to his name, Satan obligingly entered the lift bribed by leftover buns, climbed a makeshift ramp to the stage, and stayed quietly munching his fodder behind the piano in the wings until it was time for him to show what an educated pony he was. Here he is on stage with clowns Twinkle and Bubbles.



J. Ingram

Harold Cecil (right) and Mike Salmon with their wives at the PED dinner/dance held at the Paddocks Hotel, Symonds Yat. The impromptu cabaret featured pop group Ray Mann, Ron Caldicutt and Pete Jennings, and Louis Armstrong alias Les Humphries.

R. Evans

The Paint Shop people didn't engage a professional entertainer for their Christmas dinner/dance held at the Manor Hotel, Longhope — they already had a natural clown in workmate Sandra Palmer. That's her in the bowler, doing her thing!

Reconditioning department were among the first to get in festive mood with their dinner/dance in the Social Centre.

J. Ingram

Star of the cabaret at the Spares Assembly dinner/dance held in the Social Centre was entertainer Ron Clark of the BBC. The event was such a success another is already planned for March. Here the social committee are pictured with the department's new manager Mr David Sanderson (centre)

Salt Cellar

As long ago as last spring Works Engineer Reg Brown made sure that down in the main storage cellar there were 85 tons of Cheshire rock salt — not for use in the canteen but for clearing snow from the road systems within the Plant and the by-roads through the village of Mitcheldean. Site Clearance Officer Brian Lampshire often looks speculatively at the sky at this time of year. He's probably wondering whether it's going to be an early rise for him next day. Should snow begin to fall during the night, the Security staff contact him and he in turn alerts members of the voluntary squad who live nearby. With the aid of a four-wheel drive 'on-and-off-the-road' vehicle and an automatic salt spreading trailer they get busy clearing the snow before the factory is due to start work. Another squad goes to Painters in Cinderford to do a similar job. (We understand there is no truth in the rumour that the salt is sold by car manufacturers anxious to boost sales!)

Site chargehand Duff Bennett watches as 'Kink' Baldwin and Frank Duberley of Maintenance load the salt for the emergency store at Painters in Cinderford. Driver Bill Griffin waits to operate the fork-lift truck.

KEEP THESE DATES

'When's the close-down this year?'
'Oh, some time in July — it usually is.'
'Yes, but what date? We've got to book straight away.'
'Not sure. I think it's on the noticeboard but I can't remember. . .'

Ever had this kind of conversation? It might be better to jot dates down now in that brand new diary — or if you haven't a diary, cut this out for safe keeping.

Spring holiday — Tuesday June 1 to Friday June 4 inclusive (added to spring bank holiday).

Summer works close-down — from normal finishing times on Friday July 23 to normal starting times on Monday August 9.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 7 — Roll-on. 8 — Beauty. 10 — Complex. 11 — Green. 12 — Eden. 13 — Metre. 17 — Cissy. 18 — Peru. 22 — Oiler. 23 — Opening. 24 — Barton. 25 — Corner.

DOWN: 1 — Cricket. 2 — Plumber. 3 — Holly. 4 — Beggary. 5 — Queen. 6 — Lying. 9 — Extension. 14 — Pierrot. 15 — Defiant. 16 — Hungary. 19 — Nobby. 20 — Clerk. 21 — Depot.

They had a dolls' wedding in the Medical Department with a beautiful bride, attendants and a mouth-watering cake. True, the groom was missing but who cares! It was a highly successful occasion, resulting as it did in raising £70 towards the North Gloucestershire Cobalt Unit Fund — a very useful contribution to the total draw proceeds of £355. On the left of the picture Mrs Norah Miles is selling a ticket to trainee tracer Kay Cherry while on the right Mrs Hilda Baldwin writes a prescription for luck for Jack Priest of Work Study. The Medical Department plan to hold a dance in March and also to organise a handicrafts competition — all to help swell the funds of the cause.

LADIES OF RANK

Mrs Nichols places the crown on the head of the 17-year-old Miss Rank Xerox, Mitcheldean.

They're becoming accustomed to titles in the Marshall family. There was Bernice who was Mitcheldean's victory queen; there was Jean who was a local carnival queen; and now there is their sister Jill who became our Miss Rank Xerox for 1970/71 at the annual dance last November.

The pomp and ceremony of the coronation are over now, but there's still an excitement to come. As part of her prize Jill gets a two-day trip to London with all expenses paid for herself and her escort, David Byett of Wages Department, and the highlight of the trip will be a visit to a royal film premiere which Princess Alexandra is expected to attend.

It will be a case of 'Miss Rank Xerox — meet Miss Rank Xerox!' when Jill arrives at the Cumberland Hotel. For 20-year-old Jacqueline Cunningham, who is Denham's own Miss Rank Xerox, will be there too with her escort. The four of them will go together to the Odeon Cinema in Leicester Square to see the premiere of 'Murphy's War' starring Peter O'Toole.

Jill will be telling us about her trip in a forthcoming issue.

Tough Holiday

Taking a holiday the hard way, seven members of the Karate Club attended a summer school course in karate at Chigwell, Essex, last September. It was run on an international basis with Mr Mitsusuke Harada (5th Dan Karate-Do-Shotokai) as its instructor.

After a week's training, standards were assessed at a grading which consisted of a series of complex karate techniques and movements performed before a panel of black belts. Our club members' did exceptionally well, with Darryl Stephens and Martin Nolan obtaining 3rd kyu (green belt); Cliff Bent, Mike Davies, John Stephens and Roger Miles 4th kyu (orange belt); and Norman Hebden 5th kyu (yellow belt).

The Karate Club meets on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (7.30 pm to 9 pm) in the Social Centre and chairman John Hart assures anyone interested of a welcome. ●

Floor Show

Provided the audience is appreciative, the Variety Club can entertain just as well off the stage as on it; and when a 'scratch team' visited Merton House in Ross-on-Wye last November to put on a floor show for the disabled people there, they got all the appreciation they could wish for.

Regular performers Andy Hardy, Jack Benbow, John Earl and Gordon Davies made up the cabaret, together with newcomers John Peacey, a tenor from the Plating Shop, and Ken Farmborough of Gloucester IDC, a backstager turned frontstager whose recitation was quite a hit. ●

Wearing a maxi dress with mini concessions, Jill Marshall of Data Processing's assembly section walks past the judges — Gloucestershire County Cricket Club members Mr Ron Nichols, his wife Pat and (centre) club chairman Mr Michael Jarrett.

They couldn't all win a big prize but they all gained a shopping voucher gift for entering the competition. Seen in this line-up are (fifth from left) runner-up Sandra Crowden of 720 Assembly and (eighth from left) Heather Manns of 3600 Assembly.

Radio Club Call

How would you like to be a 'ham'? (That, in case you don't already know, is the name given to operators of amateur radio stations.) Well, now's your chance — efforts are being made to start a Radio & Electronics Club with the aim of setting up an amateur radio receiving and transmitting station here at Mitcheldean and obtaining a club call sign.

The initial announcement brought a response from around 20 people, but the instigators, John Barratt (Design) and Harry Helm (PED), want some more names on their list of applicants before they go ahead with their idea.

Said John: 'We have five licensed radio amateurs at the Plant ready and willing to operate such a station and teach new members how to do so, and to get the club going they have offered to donate the necessary equipment. Our aim would be to contact other licensed amateur operators all over the world and perhaps set up an international Rank Xerox radio net. We know there are already licensed radio amateurs in America, Canada, Sweden, Italy and Australia and there are possibly more in other countries.'

It is intended to make the club an informal one with no set fixtures, and meetings immediately after working hours. There would be three sections: one for people who have no electronic knowledge at all but who would like to learn about electronics and radio; another for members wishing to pass the radio amateurs' examination and thereby obtain a licence; and a third for those wishing to learn morse code, which you must know before you can be granted a licence.

Closing date for membership application is mid-January so if you are interested and have not yet applied, give John (ext. 518) or Harry (ext. 667) a call — and quick! ●

Putting YOU in the picture

New Arrivals
Shaun David, a son for George Manns (Press Shop) and his wife Francis (formerly of PED), on October 22.
Richard David, a son for Dave Bennett (Reliability engineer) and his wife Janice (formerly Design Department secretary), on November 17.

Engagements
Miss Grace Reece (Design) to Brian Jones (Design engineer) on October 3.
Miss Lorraine Edmunds (Personnel Dept) to Richard Barter on November 3.
Miss Sheila West (Central Records) to John Beirne on November 21.
Miss Deborah Tyler (Accounts) to Richard Holland (Design) on December 5.
Miss Patricia Milliner (Spares Assembly) to apprentice David Tuffley on Christmas Eve.
Miss Catherine Burns (Purchase) to Michael Walterhill on Christmas Day.

Weddings
Ira Griffin (PED) to Mrs Esme Roscoe at Stroud Register Office on August 15.
Miss Jackie Greaves (secretary to Mr G. Gray, IDC Gloucester) to Mike Luker at Gloucester Register Office on September 26.
Miss Margaret Anne Stephens (Purchase Department) to David Drew at St Stephen's Church, Cinderford, on November 7.

Retirements
Best wishes to the following on their retirement: Walter Crook (Works Engineering), Lawrence Moon (Works Laboratory), and Thomas Pederson (Stock Control) in January; Mrs Dora Brannan (3600 Dept), William Snook (Design) and Arthur Whatmore (Machine Shop) in February.

John S. Waite
We regret to record the death on October 13 of John S. Waite (spot welder) at the age of 47; he had been with the company six years.

Mr and Mrs I. Griffin Studio Douglas

Mr and Mrs D. Drew R. Evans

ANY NEWS FOR VISION?

If you have, then please

- tell your departmental correspondent
- leave it at the Gate House for collection by me
- post it to me at Tree Tops, Plump Hill, Mitcheldean or
- ring me — it's Drybrook 415

Myrtle Fowler, Editor

LSA LETTER

First LSA event of the year is the annual social, to be held on January 30 in the Social Centre — so make a note in your new diary right away.

As in previous years, retired members not in receipt of any remuneration from the Company were each sent £5 by the association to help make their Christmas a merry one.

SHALL WE DANCE?

The Ballroom Dancing Club has been 'sitting out' for some time, but there seems to be a chance of its getting on the floor again. Club chairman Ira Griffin (PED) is willing to try to arrange a practice night provided sufficient interest is shown, so would any couples who are learning dancing and would like a regular opportunity to practice their steps please contact him.

Incidentally, Ira has found himself a regular dancing partner at last — as you will see from our weddings column!

Printed in England by Taylor, Young (Printers) Ltd