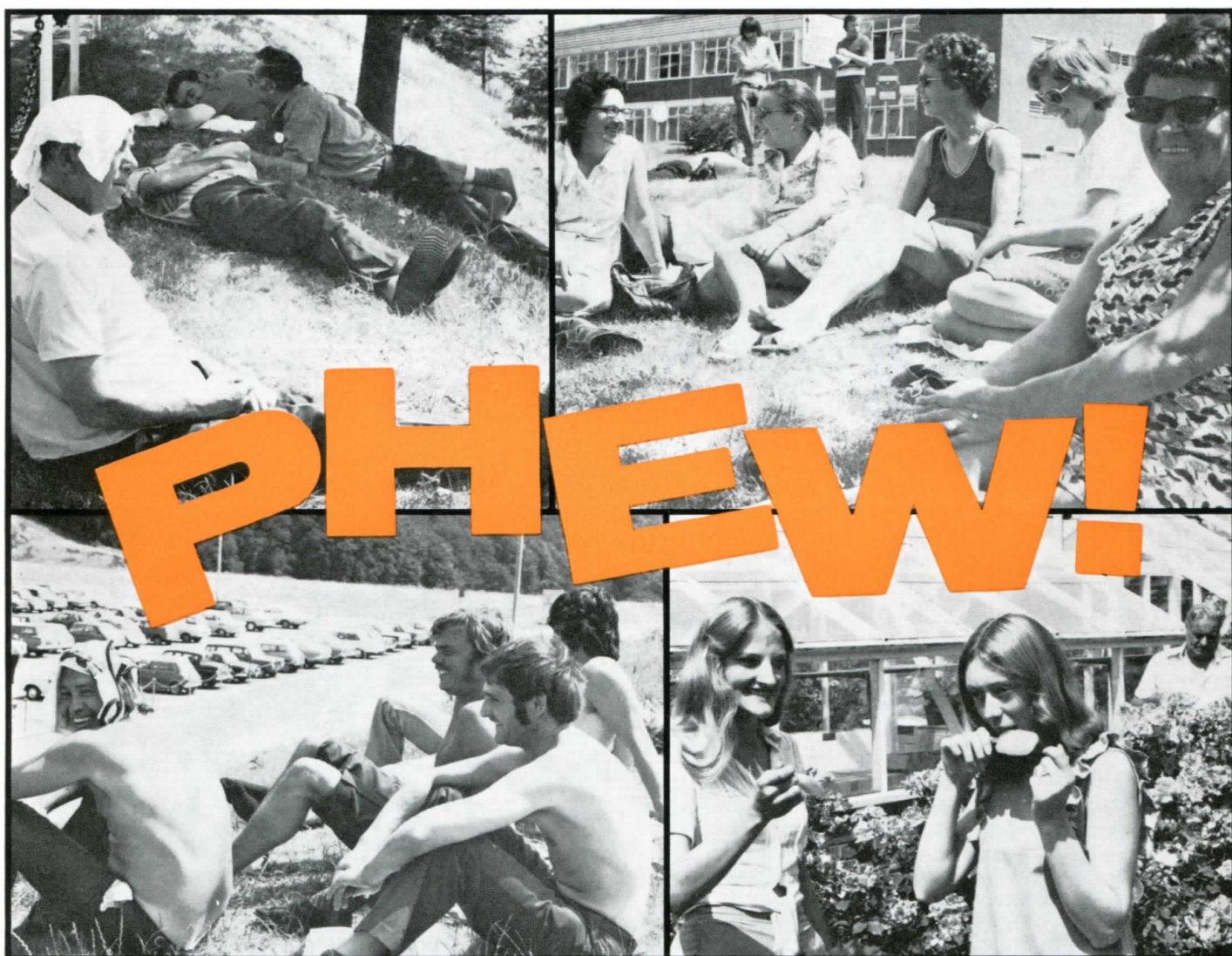


July/August 76 No. 120

VISION

THE HOUSE MAGAZINE OF RANK XEROX MITCHELDEAN



Girls blossom in sun tops — men discard their jackets to reveal racy holiday shirts — excessive heat triggers off some fire alarms and Cinderford brigade rush to the rescue — tropical plants shrivel in the greenhouses (where it's pushing 120°F.) and gardeners administer thirst aid — greenfly invade Building 24 and tins of flyspray are issued like Coke — gallons of drinks on "free-

vend" flow down parched throats — 'If people drank hot instead of cold beverages they might feel cooler', says catering manager Bill Broome, he lived in Africa for 18 years so he ought to know — Jack Brooks, just back from Social Service there, says the heat stops him feeling homesick for Sierra Leone — dripping drivers cover seats before leaving their cars to broil — lunchtime loungers make

for the nearest shady tree, or sprawl in the sun to build up their Mitcheldean tan . . .

As we write this by the (literal) sweat of our brow, the heat is still on. By the time VISION reaches you, things may have cooled down. But we felt we should record Britain's longest and hottest heatwave ever while it was still topical — and tropical.

Peter Hayes and Gerald Kidd of the GCC examine prints produced by the 9200, newly installed in its own special room.

SHIRE HALL CENTRALISE WITH 9200

'Basically, what we wanted was a machine that was cheap, fast, and could be operated by relatively unskilled labour — and out of the blue came the 9200!'

So said Peter Hayes of Management Services when we called in at Shire Hall to take a look at their newly installed 9200 system.

Gloucestershire County Council were the first in the county to place a firm order for a 9200. As far as they are concerned, the machine couldn't have happened at a more opportune time.

They were planning to centralise their copying facilities in one reprographic centre, in the interests of economy and efficiency, and were considering purchasing an offset system when they heard of our latest product.

So they deferred making a decision on the competition and took some senior officers along to see the machine in a work situation.

The demonstration convinced them that, from the operational and financial point of view, it was the most suitable machine for them, and so, at the end of May, a zoom lens machine was duly delivered to Shire Hall in Gloucester.

We asked Mr Hayes what were the factors that influenced their decision. 'We liked the Rank Xerox rental scheme — we didn't want a purchase commitment, which was all the competition could offer,' he told us.

The other big 'plus' was the machine's ease of operation, the fact that it could, in an emergency, be operated by virtually anybody after short instruction. With offset machines, on the other hand, two skilled operators would have been required, with all the bother of re-training if one left.

In terms of price per copy against a given volume, the 9200 also proved to be the cheapest method; in any case the Council enjoy membership



of the local government contract with Rank Xerox as regards tariffs.

Technical excellence, performance, speed of operation, flexibility — everything they wanted in one unit — was yet another factor.

Added Mr Hayes: 'We were also alive to the fact that Rank Xerox at Mitcheldean are big ratepayers and big employers of local labour. We were glad that the machine we chose was made locally.'

All but two of the 12 departments at Shire Hall are now users of the new centralised reprographic unit, which includes a 7000 machine. The Council have some half-dozen of our machines and the 9200 has displaced one 3600.

Indications are that the customer departments will generate about two million impressions per annum with an average run length of 80 for each original.

The work handled is multi-original short-run (minutes of meetings, working party reports, etc.) and the productivity of the 9200 will obviate the need to place much of this sort of work outside.

Long-run printing and colour work are handled by the Council's own commercial printing department, whose manager, incidentally, supports the choice of the 9200 system.

To ensure the typing of the originals is of a standard of quality, new automatic typewriters of the golf-ball type have been acquired.

With six blocks plus the Quayside Wing to be served, distribution could be a hang-up.

'When we have evaluated the workload, we hope to introduce a special messenger service with two collections/deliveries a day, giving a half-day turn-round,' Mr Hayes told us.



A Soviet delegation visited Mitcheldean on June 28, accompanied by Gordon Planner, General Manager of our Eastern European Operations. The party, whose visit was arranged in connection with the recent Technical Exchange Agreement between our two countries, included Mr. G. I. Sakulin, head of the Main Department for the Export of Industrial Equipment at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade, Mr G. A.

Zarubkin, president, V/O Energomash-export, and Mr V. P. Pavlov, Deputy Commercial Counsellor at the Soviet Trade Delegation. Our picture shows them looking at the motors, obtained from Russia, which form part of the main drive assembly for the 7000 machine. With them are (third from right) Gordon Planner and (far right) Jim Mitchell, Manager, Current Products.



Bob Wright



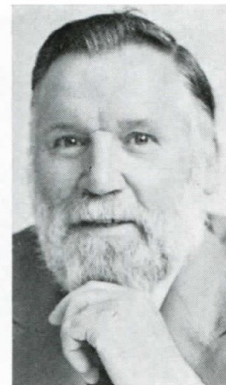
Herbie Compton



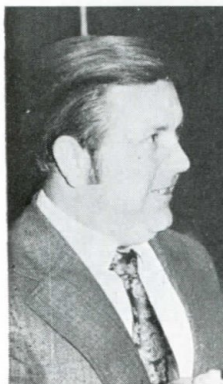
These are the faces of those who recently completed 25 years' service. Below: Derek Portman, who presented the awards, adjusts the TV set which was given to Eugenie Jones.



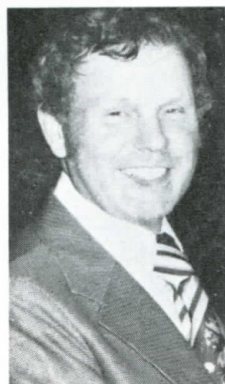
Eric Smith



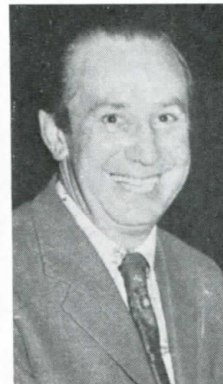
Arthur Thomas



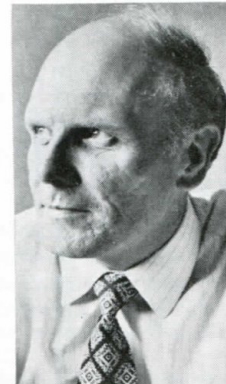
Tony East



Jeff Sleeman

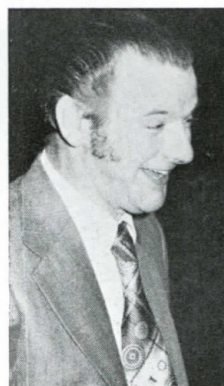


Les Bent



John Stephens

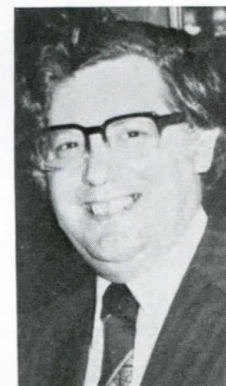
A WARM OCCASION



George Hayward



Harold Hale



John Brain

When you reach the twenty-third of any annual event, your memories of the previous twenty-two get a bit hazy. But the 1976 LSA dinner on May 7 is likely to be remembered particularly for being so warm and friendly — and we mean warm.

The view of the Chase formed a splendid backdrop to the top table (we've always had the curtains pulled before to keep out the dark, cold night); people stood in the garden with their pre-dinner drinks, and thirsts were genuine.

As Managing Director Mal Thomas was unable to join us for health reasons, Derek Portman, Manufacturing Group Director, made the presentations of 25-year awards in his place.

Commenting on how we stand as a company, he said that although we had had a less successful year in 1975 than we had been used to, there were now signs of improvement.

Unfortunately, being a rental company, this was not 'washing through to the manufacturing side immediately.'

One of the great advantages of

working for a prosperous concern such as ours was that, even in times of recession, we could continue to invest in the future; this was particularly true as regards the 9200, and it was encouraging to note that at the end of April we were 10 per cent up on planned sales of the machines.

Mr Portman's toast to the LSA was coupled with the names of Fred Wickstead and Stan Pratt, both of whom were present at the dinner.

Vice-president Frank Edwards proposed a vote of thanks to visitors, guests and friends, including retired LSA members.

The guests represented Rank Optics, Leeds; Rank Taylor Hobson, Leicester; Rank Audio Visual, Brentford; Rank Radio International, Chiswick and Plymouth; and Rank Xerox, Welwyn Garden City.

Vi Holder, Rank Audio Visual LSA secretary, effervescent as ever, replied on their behalf, and paid tribute to the work carried out by the present, and past, committee members.

Dancing followed the dinner and the Sundown Showband, led by Richard Holland (Engineering), kept people on their toes long after the sun went down.

The 25-year awards went to: Les Bent (PED), John Brain (Engineering), Herbie Compton (Finishing), Tony East (9200 Assembly), Harold Hale (Production Stores), George Hayward (4500 Dept), Eugenie Jones (secretary to Roger Haggett, Director, UK Manufacturing Operations), Jeff Sleeman (Supply Centre), Eric Smith (Optical & Electrical Laboratory), John Stephens (Engineering), Arthur Thomas (Teardown & Parts Reclamation), Bob Wright (Engineering).

Retirements

Two further names to add to those who have opted for early retirement: Harry Pearce, production engineer, who joined the Company in 1960, and Bill Carpenter (RX Cinderford) who has 19 years' service to his credit. Harry left last April, and Bill on July 3. Both have our good wishes for the future.



Harry Kirsch, Manager of Tool Engineering Department, discusses a detailed drawing with Roger Smith of the Machine Shop section. **Right:** A problem has arisen concerning a holding fixture on a milling machine; TED's Doug Broughton (far left) and Graham West (far right) carry out an on-the-spot investigation. 'Helping them with their enquiries' are operative Cyril Knight and foreman John Williams.



TED AT WORK

It's been said sometimes that engineers at Mitcheldean have little chance to do really original work. This certainly doesn't apply to the tool designer.

In the production of Xerox machines, literally thousands of tools are required, ranging from step-drills to special purpose machines. Some of these tools are standard 'off the shelf' items which are readily bought in. Where this is not possible the tool has to be specially designed. This is TED's responsibility.

The department is divided into three sections: Doug Broughton heads the section concerned with Machine Shop tooling; Colin Lees' and Alf Parker's sections deal with Assembly tools, including optical and electrical work.

When the part drawing from Engineering Design lands on the production engineer's desk, he decides how the part should be made and, after informal liaison with his counterpart in Tool Design, tool orders are raised and sent to TED.

The part drawing, along with a production method and tool orders, has now arrived on the drawing board. Ensuring he has all relevant information, the designer makes preliminary scale sketches of the new tool.

All sorts of considerations influence his design. How much money can I spend? Should it be a hydraulic, pneumatic or manual fixture? Can I design the fixture using standard pieces of equipment? If I do, can these items be supplied in time? Is the tool too heavy? Have I complied with safety regulations? And so on.



In the course of preparing a tool drawing, numerous informal talks take place around the drawing-board; seen here are (from left) Pete Evans (Tool Control), Pete Hughes (TED) and Graham Williams (Component Planning).

When appropriate, it must be considered how prior Xerox Corp. tooling experience may be applied. The scheme is finished and a lot of informal discussion goes on between the designer, his section leader, and production or quality control engineers.

Finally, after his once neat scheme looks as if a herd of elephants have trampled over it, he starts his design proper, creating a fully dimensioned and detailed drawing. Prints are taken and passed to Tool Control for decision about their manufacture.

Because of the large number of tools required, some are designed 'outside' and many are manufactured not just in our own Tool Room, but by sub-contract tool rooms all over the country.

Consequently the designer, with the aid of his Tool Control colleague, will follow through the manufacture of the tool, sorting out queries on

manufacturing problems by 'phone or by visiting the company concerned.

The tool is now complete and, having passed through the meticulous hands of our Tool Inspection department, is passed to the shop floor Tool Stores.

Now the final lap — tool try-out.

The fixture is introduced to the part it has been designed for, the machine it is to be set up on, and the setter who provides the human element. The designer and production engineer also assist with any modifications required to ensure the tool's success.

It should be said that although the bulk of our work is concerned with 'in-plant' tooling, we also design all Field Service tools, including National Workshop tools.

Various projects have been undertaken for both Welwyn and Milton Keynes, including the design of special purpose equipment, and



detailed tool costing exercises for new products.

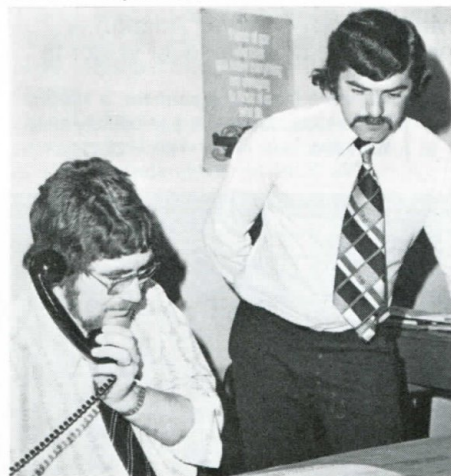
At present two of our designers are in Venray, helping in their latest tooling programme — at least, that's where they said they were going!

Some of our more spectacular designs you may recognise in your area. The SCL fixtures on the 9200 line. The optical setting fixtures. The 9200 palletiser as featured in VISION recently. The 4000 belt stitching machine.

Finally, it should be said that, of the huge variety of tool designs that pass through our hands, some are extremely successful, some adequate and others may require further development.

One thing is certain — we do our best to improve all the time.

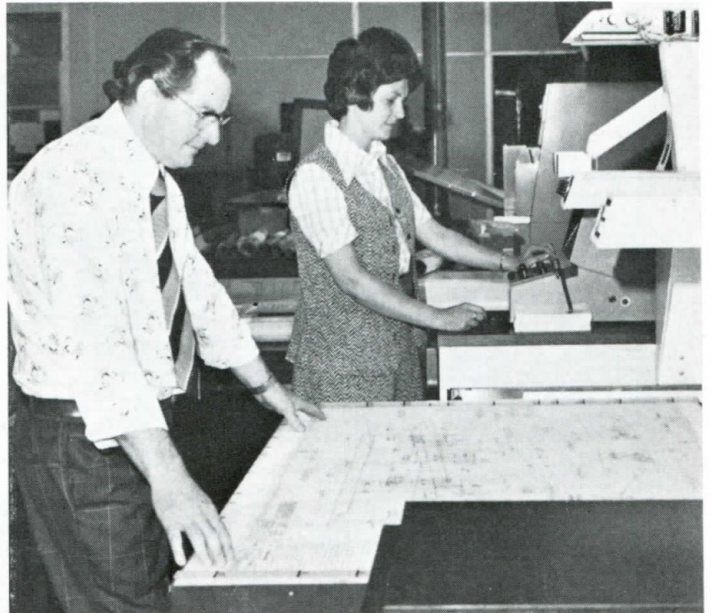
D.B.



Tool designer John Scrivens gets on the 'phone to the sub-contractors to sort out a tooling query; working with him is Ewart Lougher (Tool Control).

Tool Control

Tool Control section are responsible for procuring the special tooling required for production and inspection of our products — together with tools and test equipment used by service engineers and Refurbishing Operations. Following completion of the design, Tool Control engineers apply their



Left: 'Seated one day at the organ' — or rather the rotary card file — is section leader Mary Davies. The file contains the aperture cards on which microfilmed drawings are mounted. Waiting for information are Don Wallace (left) and Colin Lees from TED.

Right: Office Services supervisor Jack Osborne places a drawing on the platen of the camera processor; within half a minute this unit will make a microfilm of a drawing, or part of a drawing, and issue it ready mounted on an aperture card. Using the viewer is Jean McLester.

COPYING THE MASTERS

A frontier of plan chests separates the dyeline print area (generally known as the Ozalid section) from its major user, Tool Engineering Department. Section leader Mary Davies told us that these chests contain over 25,000 tool drawings on the 9200 machine alone.

Since the tooling records for all our products, from the early 914 to the very latest model, are held in the section's files, and are constantly being added to, space problems arise.

The answer to this situation is being provided by microfilming, so that originals can be disposed of wherever possible. Reference drawings can then be produced, using the 1824 Xerox machine to enlarge from aperture cards.

The girls in the print area do their best to provide a quick on-demand service, with priority being given in cases of tooling problems on the shop floor.

Part of the Office Services function within Manufacturing Engineering, the section serves not only TED but also other areas such as the Tool Room, Tool Inspection and the Standards Room, and supplies drawings to sub-contractors when required.

expertise, gained from practical tool-making, to compiling an estimate of tool cost; this is compared with competitive quotations from sub-contract tool-making firms before a manufacturer is selected.

The decision to sub-contract tool-making, by the way, is only made following the regular loading of Mitcheldean Tool Room — this



This Ozalid machine produces same size copies of drawings — even when they run to some 6ft in length like this cableform drawing which Jill Trigg is handling.

applies to tool maintenance and modification, as well as new tools. Finally, the section has to ensure that tool deliveries are made by the required dates. Says Dennis Evans, Tool Control Manager: 'The basic control factor in our day-to-day activities is observance of the requirement for optimum quality at the right price at the right time.'



THE GREAT RAILWAY RESCUE

In the face of considerable scepticism, the Railway Society has set about creating a 'steam centre' on the site of the former Norchard Colliery. Laying track amid beautiful woodland scenery are Mervyn Thomas (left) and Ken Phillips.

The success being experienced by the Forest of Dean Railway Society almost makes one wonder whether British Rail were entirely right to withdraw steam in favour of diesel and electric power.

The Society's current operating track at Parkend is only 250ft long (the shortest railway in the world?), yet people have been queuing up to ride on it at 20p a time (children half price).

The sight of that billowing smoke issuing from the funnel of a beautifully restored ex-GWR loco never fails to thrill the young, to whom it is a novelty, or the older people, who remember nostalgically the days of the steam locomotives.

A series of about ten 'steam open days' held each year from April to October form the main source of income for the Railway Society, which receives no grants or financial aid of any kind.

It was formed in 1970 with a view to purchasing the last stretch of railway line still in use in the Forest of Dean — the branch from Lydney to Parkend — and 1976 looks like being its most important year yet.

Several times during the past six years rumours of impending closure of the branch have led to a flurry of activity by the members. But throughout, the one train a day has wended its way slowly down the valley from Parkend sidings to Lydney, carrying about 600 tons of stone and 50 tons of coal.

However, last Christmas it was suddenly announced that the Forest stone was no longer required and so the last train left Parkend on May 7.

The Society is now negotiating with British Rail to purchase the branch, with a view to operating it as an attraction for visitors to the Forest.

In addition, vacant land on the site of the old Norchard colliery and the Lydney power station has been purchased to enable a new headquarters to be built.

This will encompass a public car park for about 2,000 cars, a two-platform station, locomotive shed and workshops, together with ancillary buildings like signal boxes, booking offices, toilets, etc. — everything necessary to the running of a railway.

Ken Hirst gets to grips with a 'pannier' loco, typical of the type that worked in the Forest.

Fund-raising provides cash to rescue, restore and maintain individual locomotives.



Three more locomotives have been purchased (in addition to the one we featured in VISION September 1972) and two of these are currently being restored to full working order.

This all amounts to a massive undertaking — probably the largest development project yet carried out by a purely voluntary organisation of this kind.

You only have to call in at Norchard, as we did one weekend, to appreciate the amount of physical effort that is being expended to keep costs to a level which the Society can afford.

Mike Benbow (Works Admin.) is perhaps the most frequent visitor to

Transplanted from Chippenham, a station platform is reassembled at Norchard with the help of a crane — that's Mike Benbow at the controls.



Norchard. He heads the Saturday working party which meets every week and is responsible for much of the 400 yards of track which have been laid without using any mechanical aids. (One yard of track weighs about 400lb, so you can imagine what a mammoth task this has been.)

Mervyn Thomas (Engineering) takes responsibility for the fortnightly Sunday working parties, and deals mainly with civil engineering items such as buildings, drainage, services and fencing, etc.

He has been a member of the committee since the formation of the Society, serving as the head of the locomotive department, membership secretary, treasurer and chairman before his present job of operating manager.

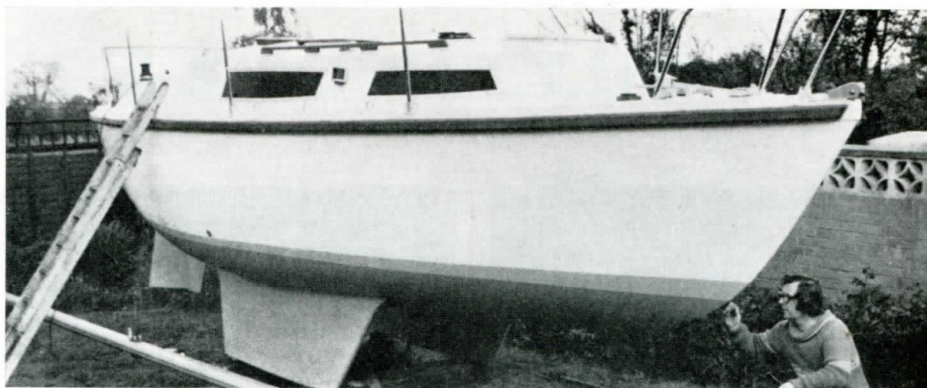
This latest post involves ensuring all jobs are properly manned by competent people, that all public safety requirements are met and that all rolling stock is in proper mechanical order.

Ken Hirst (Reliability) is an extremely hard worker in the sales department, and is seen regularly at public events manning a stand selling books, ties, etc., to swell the Society funds.

Until recently, Bob Turner (Small Batch) has been responsible for publicity. Other Mitcheldean employees seen regularly on site in old clothes getting their hands dirty are Ken Phillips (the Society's chief draughtsman) and Peter Summers (both of Engineering), Peter Ryland (production engineer) and Derek Bluett (Goods Inwards QC).

These, and others like them, are dedicated to keeping steam railway alive, and puffing, in the Forest of Dean.

(Mervyn Thomas would be glad to hear from others who 'love a loco' and would like to join the Railway Society.)



Brian Sellick puts the last touches of paint to his do-it-yourself yacht before launching date.

BOATBUILDER BRIAN

For 14 months Brian Sellick spent every spare moment working in the garden — on a boat.

Wanting a yacht of his own, and realising that the only way to get one was to build it himself, he bought a fibreglass hull, anchored it in the garden and proceeded to fit it out.

He did all the joinery work and bought what he couldn't make himself — such as the mast. His wife helped too — by making cups of tea.

Said Brian, who is a production engineer (Sheet Metal Section): 'I'd picked up a bit of know-how by watching others, and Bob Wilson of Design Engineering helped me immensely — he's got a similar craft.

An experienced yachtsman, Bob told us he has built racing dinghies but 'I would never have tackled anything as ambitious as this myself, and I think Brian has made a very seaworthy job of the Melissa I.'

Last May the 25ft twin-build sailing yacht received its last lick of paint, and was removed to Poole Harbour where it is now moored. It has five

berths and has effectively settled the family holiday problem for some time.

Brian has since been busy on another job in the garden — cleaning out the weeds that have flourished during the boat building programme.

Afloat at last — the Melissa I in Poole Harbour with Bob Wilson (left) and Brian on board.



HENRIETTA RIDES AGAIN

Would you choose to spend your holiday in an ambulance?

That's what Training Department Manager Derek Lee and his wife did. They spent three and a half weeks in one, touring Western France from Brittany down to Bordeaux.

Viewed from the inside, however, the ambulance was hardly recognisable as the one that was formerly used by Medical Department.

Having completed years of faithful service on site, the time came last autumn for the vehicle to be replaced by a more modern ambulance and it was sold to the highest bidder, who happened to be Derek.

He and his father-in-law, an ex-aircraft fitter, converted it into a mobile holiday home, putting in

two double and two single beds, a toilet, sink unit and cooker (with a fridge and shower to be added soon). 'It cost us some £500 and a lot of hard grind,' said Derek, who reckons he's now fully apprenticed in the skills of conversion.

The operation was completed with the removal of the ambulance sign up front (they had to leave the one engraved on the rear window, which rather confused French drivers), and the putting up of a new plastic one bearing the splendid name 'Henrietta'.

Derek says his most memorable experience was using the toilet when Henrietta was parked in the middle of a town — seeing all the people going by outside and knowing they couldn't see in!



Kathy Webb is one of our best known assembly workers. She's been with us for the past ten years; but her total service adds up to more than that, because she was at Mitcheldean in Bell & Howell days when she worked along with Stan Richardson on the 624 line.

Like her workmate Betty Davies, Kathy has worked on every one of our machines, from the 813 onwards, and they're both now engaged on minor sub-assemblies in 9200 Department. They've known each other for some 20 years, having worked together at Lydbrook before coming to Mitcheldean.

Says Betty: 'There's never a dull moment with Kathy around. She's famous for her laugh.'



Out of working hours Kathy's main interest is bingo — she spends three nights a week playing, but says 'I haven't won anything much yet.'

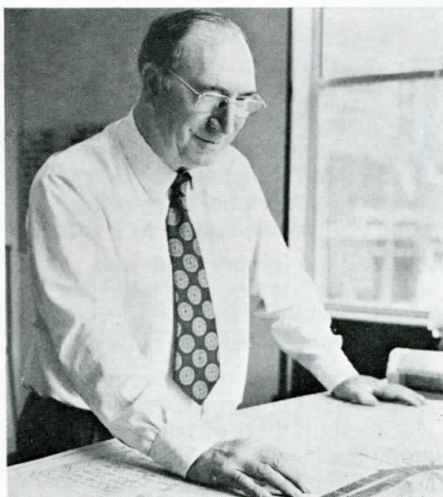
Kathy is a native of Ross-on-Wye, and you may have seen her escorting blind worker Jim Blake from the 4000 floor to and from the Ross works bus.

Though she's lived near the Wye all her life, she's no lover of the riverside, and says, 'The river is too treacherous and claims too many lives for my liking.'

Rather a different view from the popular tourist one.

The placing of the multi-coloured wiring on the cable boards, or looms, in Electrical Sub-assembly has to be worked out in an orderly pattern beforehand, otherwise the girls might find themselves with a nasty tangle of 'knitting'.

The man who creates the cable designs is **Jack Thomas** of TED; he also designs electrical and mechanical tools for Goods Inwards Inspection, in conjunction with Production Engineering.

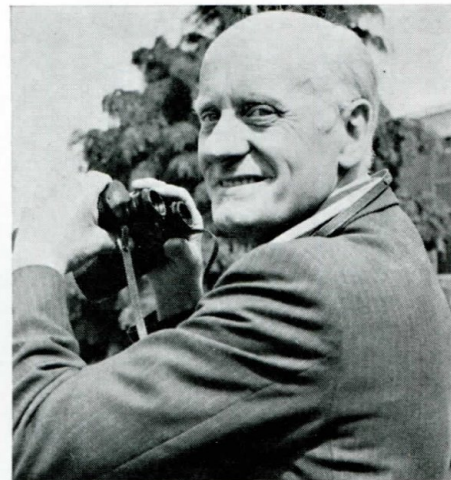


In out-of-office hours, Jack is a dedicated bandsman. He started playing a baby baritone at the age of five; today he not only plays bass but is also band sergeant for the TAVR branch of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. It's a job which entails organising all their activities — and with an engagement list like theirs, it must take some organising.

They recently played at the Queen's Birthday celebrations at Cardiff Castle, and performed at the Cheltenham Tattoo on July 16/17, following that with a concert in Bath the next day.

Just back from camp in Scotland when we spoke to him, Jack was making preparations for a visit on June 26 to Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, for the traditional Court and Leat ceremony, and we've asked him to write a piece about this later.

He often contributes to *Fanfare*, the journal of Kneller Hall where military bandsmen are trained, and where he himself studied the double B flat bass and string bass before becoming band sergeant for the training band.



Tom Morgan, electrician in Maintenance, knows the Plant like the back of his hand, but he's never looked at it this way before — through binoculars.

They were a gift to him on receiving his 30 years' service award. 'I live at the top end of Cinderford,' he told us, 'and with these 10 x 50's I can get a wonderful view over the Forest of Dean and across to the Welsh mountains.'

Tom has worked in Maintenance ever since he joined us from the Army, and he has worked on each new building as it has gone up, wiring it up and getting the mains in.

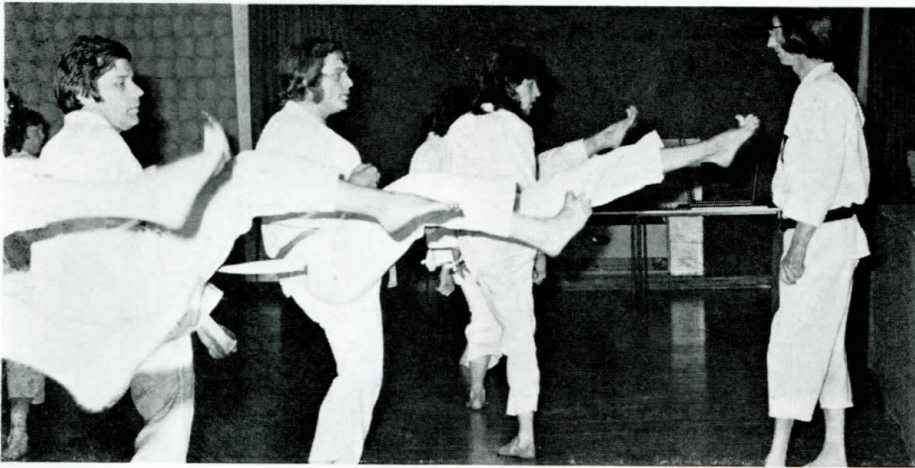
If there is anything anyone ever wants to know about the wiring on site, it's a case of 'call for Tom'.

'He's one of the hardest working fellows I know,' says his supervisor Ray Powell, 'and he's done a heck of a lot over the years to help people in his quiet, unassuming way.'

A willing member of the LSA committee, Tom was this year re-elected for a further two years' service.

Tom's son Adrian is an ex-apprentice now working in TED; and many people in Accounts will remember his daughter Angela who used to work there, and who is now married with two children.

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



Cliff Bent puts members through some basic training. **Right:** Fred Barton flies through the air with the greatest of ease. **Far right:** Albert Drury nearly got the cameraman with this 'advancing kick'.



KARATE MEN ON THE UPGRADE

Having heard from secretary Brian John that they've been regraded recently (in other words, they've got a bit closer to that coveted black belt), we went along to a practice session to see what those strong, silent men of the Karate Club have been up to.

Some, as our picture shows, have been up to 3ft or so off the ground!

Silent they still were, apart from the occasional 'ha', and the squeaking of some 44 feet as instructor Cliff Bent (he's a brown belt, one grade before the black) gave them some basic training.

Said Cliff, one of the original members of the club: 'There are 19 forms of karate. We practise Shotokai, which is a "soft style" — that means we don't make contact.' Just as well, perhaps, or the membership might drop.

Last March 12 members were regraded and now the majority sport blue belts, which is not so far from black belt status. This August they plan to attend summer school at Warwick University.

Several years ago there were two female members among the men; there are none today, but if any girl wants to learn the art of 'non-resistance', she's welcome to go along to the Social Centre on Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7.30 to 9 pm. It's 20p per session; club membership is £1 per annum, and a white suit costs around £10.

How about a cup of Dandelion Coffee?

With his recipe for this beverage, Eric Weeks of Engineering wins the first £2 prize to be awarded for an entry in our Beat Inflation Tip competition. (We reckon his drawing alone is worth a prize!)

Here's what you do to make the brew: dig up roots, preferably in autumn when they are at their fattest and most mellow, scrub well, dry thoroughly, then bake in a slow oven until they are brittle.

Grind them fairly coarsely, then use in the same way as ordinary ground coffee (measure into earthenware jug, pour on boiling water, then leave to stand for a few minutes).

As a bonus, the young tender leaves of the dandelions can be chopped and made into a salad by dressing with olive oil, lemon juice and a trace of garlic.

Believe it or not, people are catching on so fast to the usefulness of this 'weed'

that at least one firm of seed merchants has been overwhelmed with orders for dandelion seed!

How about some more entries for this running competition? They should be sent to: The Editor, VISION, c/o Reception, Building 23. Remember, every little BIT helps.



WE ARE THE



Cap'n Alec Kinnear and his Spares Galore team (Supply Centre) splice the mainbrace after beating Tool Room 'A' team by 17 pins in the men's skittles final on June 12. The runners-up (below) gracefully accepted defeat; as their captain Keith Sainsbury put it, they have been 'involved in the final many times over the years'.



Photos: J. Ingram

The finals night of any skittles tournament is traditionally a bit of a rave-up. For Sadie Pritchard, the fun of the finals this year was tempered with some sadness, for she retires in July after close on 15 years at Mitcheldean. To mark her preliminary 'retirement' as organiser of the tournaments, Group PR Manager Jimmy Bake presented her with a teaset and a piece of Wedgwood pottery on the club's behalf, as a 'thank you' for all her efforts, and for her work on the committee over the years. There were extra special refreshments on June 12 and the club provided a splendid cake for Sadie to cut.



Arts & Crafts Competition

The arts and crafts exhibition and competition takes place in the ballroom on September 27, 28 and 29. Full details can be seen on the noticeboards.

Suitable exhibits may be purchased by the Sports & Social Club for permanent display in the projected new club premises.

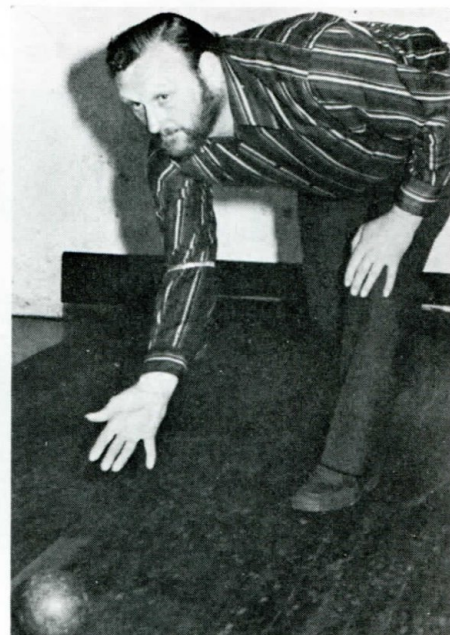
The Tennis Set

Tennis Section members are once again being offered the use of the Cinderford Tennis Club courts.

Rank Xerox club evenings are Mondays and Wednesdays (the Cinderford Club play Tuesdays and Thursdays) and other evenings/weekends are shared.

You can get an application form for membership from: Hubert Evans, Bld 41/1 (ext. 831), Mike Keen Bld 23/2 (ext. 971), or Olwyn Barnes, Bld 44/4 (ext. 574).

Membership subscriptions are £2, payable to treasurer Mike Keen, and charges for the use of the courts for the 1976 season amounting to £60 will be paid from this source.



Bernie Bennett (Materials Handling) demonstrates the style that made him the highest individual scorer in the men's tournament.

Move to Bring Back Movies

The cine film side of the Amateur Photographic Club's activities has been fading recently, and one of the aims of the new committee appointed at the May AGM is to get the movies moving again by including new cine projects in the forthcoming programme.

Also planned is an interclub photographic battle which, it is hoped, will help improve the club's own standards.

New officers and committee are as follows: *chairman* — Robin Berks; *secretary* — Chris Fitt; *treasurer* — Bob Dixon; *publicity officer* — Vance Hopkins; Bill Hobbs, Dave Payne, Chris Saywood, Mike Wilkinson.

The Golf Pilgrimage

The annual golf pilgrimage started on May 10, when 45 members of the RXGS visited Hereford Golf Club, all full of optimism about the forthcoming season.

Some had had major surgery carried out during the close season (words like 'bionics' were being bandied about), and were very anxious to see if the new swing actually worked.

But, by midday, most of us had realised that it would be back to the drawing-board for a complete re-think before the next outing.

Others — those who had mastered the course and conditions — were all smiles and brimming with confidence for the afternoon round; but by the end of the day, even though leg-weary and saddle-sore, everybody agreed it had been a great success.

CHAMPIONS!



Jack Woods, club treasurer, presents the trophy for the highest individual scorer in the ladies' tournament to one of his own staff — Julie Freeman. 'She's pretty good at figures,' he commented.

Winner of the morning round was Bill Meek (nett 67); John 'Bandito' Young came second (nett 68) and Sam Williams third (nett 69).

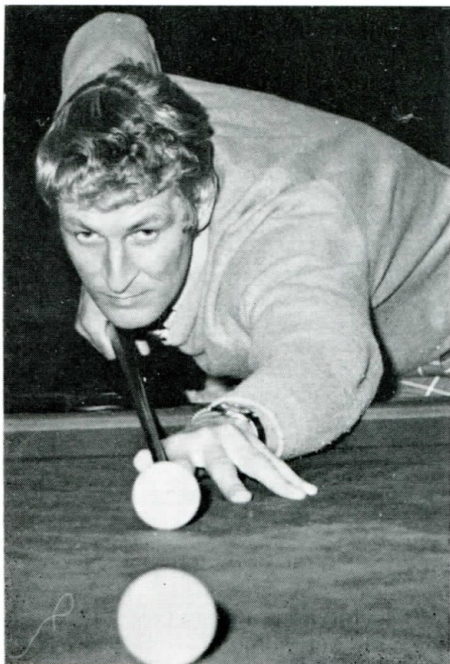
The afternoon round winner was Ken Ellway (38 points), Brian Harris was second (37) while Bill Meek and Vere Christopher made a joint third with 36 points each. Overall winner was Bill Meek, with John Young runner-up.

With many of the golfing bandits not wishing to risk their handicaps until the main competitions start, the turn-out for St Pierre on June 17 was lower than originally anticipated. Nevertheless, those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The overall winner was Frank Baker, with Sam Williams runner-up.

Morning round results were: 1st Eric Sologub; joint 2nd Frank Baker and John Spratley; afternoon round: 1st Sam Williams, 2nd Richard Matthews.

Spot Meek



Runners-up last year, and winners the year before of the ladies' skittles tournament, the Swingers from Lydney once again swung their way to victory on May 22 under the captaincy of Myrtle Savile. Bits & Pieces (Spares Packing), whom they beat by 18 pins, are pictured below with their captain, Bernice Harris — all looking anything but downhearted.



Lunchtime Listeners

Using equipment supplied by the Sports & Social Club, the Music Society has got off to a good start with well-attended Thursday lunchtime listening sessions.

Members have been allowed the use of Conference Room no. 1 on floor 2

of Building 50, and a gratifying number of people have turned up at 1.10 p.m.

New members are welcome; all they need do is apply to secretary Richard Jones (Dev. Lab), pay their 50p fee and come along, minus lunch please — the crunching of crisps, etc., does nothing to enhance the sound of a 'cello concerto.

Bob Howells of Reliability became our first Individual Snooker/Billiards Champion last May and our picture below, which just missed the last issue, shows him receiving his snooker shield from Roger Haggett who is President of the club. Far left is Dave Barnard, runner-up in the final. Billiards runner-up was John Wilks, Purchasing Manager, pictured below left 'potting a white'. The tournaments, the first ever to be held at Mitcheldean, attracted some 75 entries all told. Said organiser Barry Barton: 'I've seen a noticeable improvement in the performance of the section's players since we acquired the new tables. As runners-up in the last season in the second division of the Forest of Dean Snooker League, we have now been promoted and next season we'll be facing much tougher competition. In the meantime we have a team in the summer Billiards League.'



PUTTING YOU IN THE PICTURE

Weddings

Jane Murray (secretary to Neville Widd, MG Purchase) to Colin Davies at Lydbrook on June 5.
Cheryl Gwilliam to Pete James (both Supply Centre) at St Stephen's Church, Cinderford, on June 12.

Births

Lisa Joanne, a daughter for Brenda and Dave Morris (Accounts) on March 19.
Renata Elaine, a daughter for Lewis Colwell (Production Control) and his wife Jeanette (formerly secretary to Manager Tony Fleury), on April 14.
Rebecca Louise, a daughter for Alan Bridges (Admin.) and his wife Ann, on May 21.
Natasha Louise, a daughter for Derek Hunt (Production Control) and his wife Claire (formerly Mechanical Stock Records), on May 27.

Retirements

Best wishes to: Clifford Reed (Works Engineering) who left in May, having joined the Company in 1973; to Vic Dawson, Buyer II Mechanical in Purchase, who retired on June 30 after 11 years with us, and to Ronald Jones (Design Engineering) who retired in June, having been with us for nearly 11 years.

IMH Appointments

Eric Real, Manager, Packaging Development, has been appointed Divisional chairman of the Three Counties Division of the Institute of Materials Handling.
Guy Bedford, Manager, Materials Handling, is now National Chairman for Education for the Institute.

Dennis Coates

We report with regret the death on July 6 of Dennis Coates (4000 Dept) at the age of 51. Our sympathy goes to his family.



Colin and Jane Davies

J. Ingram

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Rudi Engel (RX Cinderford) and his wife who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 4.

As Jack Merry (far left) said when he proposed a vote of thanks at the fifth annual Pensioners' Luncheon and Reunion: 'I believe that because of these happy occasions the friendships made during our working days with Rank Xerox will last a long time.' There was a great deal of difference, he pointed out, between officialdom doing their job for retired

people and 'the consideration shown by our past employers.' About 125 people came along to the Social Centre on May 15 for the get-together; they enjoyed an excellent meal, renewed old acquaintances, danced or discussed pension problems with the RX Pensions people present.



For Sale

1971 Austin 1300, Jamaican blue with matt black interior, white rim tyres, taxed and tested, £150 o.n.o. Joe Smith, ext. 320.

New St, Mitcheldean — end position large detached 3 bedroom house with detached garage, full C/H, fully fitted kitchen with pantry, lounge/diner 23ft 6in by 12ft, downstairs cloakroom, gardens to front and rear plus side garden useful for second garage or caravan hardstanding, £10,500. J. Herbert, ext. 808 or Drybrook 543033 after 5 pm.

Sailing dinghy, Merlin Rocket, no. 1367, £150. Also 12g O/U BSA(SKB) model 700, DTL 30in. S/T, F/F ejector, Monte Carlo stock. G. Butler, Goods Inwards Inspection, ext. 967.

1963 Hillman Minx, immaculate condition, MOT till Feb. 1977, two spare wheels/tyres, £60 o.n.o. J. A. Wiltshire, Production Control, Bldg 44, ext. 334.

Honda 90, 1970, immaculate condition, 12-month MOT, £70. Ted Bennett, ext. 685.

Baby's dropside cot with mattress, good condition, £12 o.n.o. P. Morgan, Machine Shop, or 21 Parkend Road, Bream.

1972 Austin 1300 Mk 3, teal blue, £770. V. Wintle, ext. 218.

Mobile home, 30ft Donnington, 2½ years old, excellent condition, lounge, bathroom, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, sited Forest View Park, Cinderford, £2,900 o.n.o. P. Gargan, ext. 283 or Drybrook 542655.

HOME MARKET

When sending in items please give your extension number and/or department to ensure inclusion.

Austin 1100 for spares; 3 brand new tyres, engine and gearbox excellent; also good body, seats, seat belts, lights, electrics, etc. £55 o.n.o. B. Cotton, Supply Centre, ext. 803.

'J' Austin Maxi 1500 cc, white, 53,000 miles, MOT and taxed, £650 o.n.o. R. Hesk, ext. 1316 or Longhope 830728.

Child's Britax car seat, as new, £7 o.n.o. Mrs Holder, 33 St White's Rd, Cinderford, or M. Holder, Spares Packing, ext. 1137.

Ford Escort Sport, 1972 'L' reg., good condition, low mileage (27,000), £900, HP arranged; Breda double barrel 12-bore shotgun, well looked after, £75 o.n.o. Roger Sterry, RXC, ext. 19-27, or 45 Highfield Rd, Ruardean.

Cinderford, Woodside Avenue — quiet position near shops, etc., 3-bedroom detached house, full gas C/H, nice size kitchen, lounge 19ft x 11ft, bathroom with WC, fitted carpet and blinds, good decorative condition; garage with space for second car or caravan, garden with lawn, rockery. Also 4-berth Sprite 400 with awning and other extras, excellent condition. Cinderford 22940.

Singer Vogue Estate, Nov. '66, taxed, tested and tidy, £85. D. Aston, ext. 1152 or Coleford 2467.

Mile End, Coleford — Spacious 2-bedroom bungalow, large lounge, kitchen and hall, oil-fired C/H, 2 garages, orchard, vegetable garden at rear, lawns and shrub garden at front, extensive views. G. Beard, ext. 278.

Soligor 135mm f3.5 T.4 automatic diaphragm, long focus lens, 49mm filter thread, new condition, T.4 adaptors are obtainable to suit most interchangeable lens cameras, £30 negotiable. C. A. Nightingale, ext. 621.

Wanted

Good home for Sam, one-year-old mongrel (retriever cross), very intelligent, lovable disposition (wouldn't part with him unless we had to). Sue Smyth, ext. 1248.

Towing bracket for Ford Escort 1970. R. Gardner, Design, ext. 861.

Three-wheeler car for learner driver. Mrs M. R. Thomas, TED, ext. 852.

Small refrigerator. A. Osley, ext. 534.

Opportunity Knocks!

Prospectuses for 1976/77 detailing further education opportunities at local colleges are now available in the reception area of Training Department, Bld 6. Training officers will willingly give guidance to potential students on request.