

est sense, the Society has a number of individual branches whose membership is open for a small fee to anyone from the youngest to the oldest who has interest in any type of aviation. The Medway Branch is happily one of the more flourishing. The first Chairman was very anxious to try to make known to the many people working in MEASL the ultimate destination and use of all the equipment and systems which are

# in the beginning...



PHANTOM II designed and built by Mc DONNELL for the Royal Navy.

It is a surprising fact that many people do not realise we live in the area which is the 'cradle of the British Aircraft Industry', so it is with great pleasure we print the article below, contributed by our Director & General Manager Mr. P.A. Hearne.

The Royal Aeronautical Society is the oldest Society in the world concerned with the science of flight. It was originally founded in January 1866 by a group of scientists, investigators and enthusiasts who felt that the achievement of powered heavier-than-air man-carrying vehicles was a realistic objective to which they wished to devote their efforts. 1866 was the middle of the Victorian age and it was almost exactly 38 years from the date of the formation of the Society before the Wright Brothers achieved their well-earned successful first flight at Kittyhawk, North Carolina in December 1903.

Despite the intense scepticism of that time regarding the physical possibility of man-powered flight by heavier-than-air machines, the Society established by means of its papers and the work of its members an outstanding reputation as the leading body in the development of the new science of aeronautics.

From the small group of intelligent and devoted individuals (65 in number) at the end of 1866, the Society has grown to its present membership of some 14 000 members. Although in size it is now somewhat over-shadowed by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics whose birth the Royal Aeronautical Society helped to bring about in 1932, the Royal Aeronautical Society's world-wide reputation as a centre of learning and professional skill

in all aspects of aviation, remains second to none.

Over the years Presidents have included, since the very first President, the Duke of Argyll, such names as Lord Brabazon, Sir Frederick Handley-Page, Sir Roy Fedden of Bristol engine fame, Sir Sydney Camm, designer of Hawker Hart, Hurricane, Hunter and Harrier, Sir George Edwards, designer of the Viscount and Valiant and many other distinguished members of the aeronautical community. Its importance to the world of aviation is recognised not least by the fact that HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh is the Patron of the Society.

One of the abiding challenges of aeronautics is the immensely wide range of technology and interests which are involved. Today the Society encompasses such activities as aerial law, aerospace medicine, agricultural aviation as well as the more traditional areas of interest such as propulsion and aerodynamics and aircraft design.

Of particular interest to us at Marconi-Elliott is the fact that since something like a third of the design of modern military aircraft is made up of the equipment and systems which we build here at Rochester and at our factories at Basildon and Borehamwood, our involvement in the type of aeronautical activities centred on the Royal Aeronautical Society is of course very real.

The Society offers to suitably-qualified engineers professional membership grades which include the essential chartered engineering qualifications which are becoming increasingly important to those in the engineering profession. Additionally, to encourage the development of interest and knowledge in aviation in the broad-

put together at this factory, and consequently the lecture programme includes a large number of lectures which describe the design and operation of the many different types of aircraft in which our equipment plays a major part.

The interest so far is first class, and of equal interest are the many lectures on historical subjects such as wartime RAF operations which evoke nostalgia amongst the older and younger members alike.

Complementary to the programme of lectures are the equally popular visits which are paid to the more interesting museums and flying displays such as the vintage Shuttleworth aircraft collection at Biggleswade.

If, as it is hoped, you feel that you would like to know what ultimately happens to Part No. XXXX from your Division, or why the particular unit with which you are associated is tested in some unusual way, you may find the answer in becoming a member of Medway Branch and hearing about the way in which the aircraft to which it is fitted was designed and is operated by Air Force.

Membership is still only 50p a year which entitles you to attendance at all the lectures and to take part at the lowest possible rate in the very wide visits programme which is operated. Please apply to your local Divisional representative shown on your notice boards or to Malcolm Moulton, the Branch's Secretary.

**Immediate programme:-**

- 8 March "Buccaneer Operations" by RAF Strike Command.
- April "Manned Space Flight" by NASA.

## A Guide (?) ~For would-be Journalists

- (1) Don't use no double negatives.
- (2) Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent.
- (3) Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.
- (4) Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
- (5) About those sentence fragments.
- (6) Try to not ever split infinitives.
- (7) Its important to use apostrophe's correctly.
- (8) Always read what you have written to see if you any words out.
- (9) Correct spelling is esential.
- (10) When dangling, watch your participles.

(Newsman's English by Harold Evans, Editor, Sunday Times)

## SOME MORE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DUKE OF KENT'S VISIT



His Royal Highness tries out for himself the new demonstrator helmet mounted display sight developed by the Company. Specially adapted to suit any wearer, the helmet enables images to be seen representing the readings of instruments, and other data, regardless of where the wearer happens to be looking. With the Duke is Mr. D.W. Hussey (foreground), Marketing Executive, Airborne Display Division.



HRH Duke of Kent meeting the ladies on his tour around the works.

# Junior News

Dear Juniors,  
 You all seem to be so very quiet and I wonder why? I would like to hear from you to know something of your hobbies — of the things you like to do and why — of your pets, you may have one that does special tricks! or your ambitions.  
 Let me know what sort of competitions you would like to see, and what articles you would like to read. We want to make this section of MEA News one of interest to you all and something very special.

So get writing — I shall be glad to hear from you.

Yours sincerely, The Editor



The 'Colouring Competition' in the November issue proved very interesting. The entries were of a very high standard, and our judges — Mrs. Marion Moon and Miss Diane Firth had a difficult task to choose the winners.

They based their decisions on neatness, choice of colours and appreciation of the subject. The results are:—

- Class 1** Julia Rogers age 7, 51 Coniston Close, Gillingham.
- Class 2** Patrick Castle age 11, 34 Crescent Way, Gillingham.
- Class 3** Kay Munchin age 15, Woodlands Terrace, Gillingham.

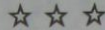
who each receive a Gift Token for £3.

In addition the following receive Gift Tokens valued £1 for near misses:—

- Class 1** Anne Rogers and Katherine Thorughood.
- Class 2** Pauline Hurley, Sonya Neat and Sandra Russell.
- Class 3** Tony Jones, Pauline Bowman and Sally Cheetham.

Well done all of you and thank you.

The picture was designed and drawn for us by Mrs. N. Ridgeway.



## ? Test Your Knowledge Competition ?

1. What is a YAK?
2. Name the highest mountain in Great Britain.
3. What is "Grasmere"?
4. Where are the Victoria Falls?
5. Who founded the Boy Scout Movement?
6. What do the initials 'B.B.' stand for?
7. In the old coinage £sd, what did the 'd' mean?
8. What famous person lived at Stratford-upon-Avon?
9. Say for what Sir Stanley Mathews was famous.
10. Name the Kent C.C.C. Captain who was succeeded by Mike Denness.

The answers together with your name, age and address please, to Mr. J. Griffiths Editor — MEA NEWS, Marconi-Elliott Avionics Limited Airport Works Rochester, Kent.

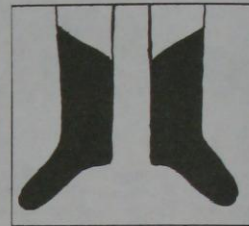
## IN MEMORIAM

We have learned of the death of S.W. Driscoll, a Project Controller in MASD. He came to Rochester from Borehamwood. Our sympathy goes to his widow and daughters.

Ron Hewitt, of FCD Stores, died suddenly on Christmas Eve. To his family we extend our condolences.

## Congratulations

To Bernard Stevens on attaining his 21st birthday on 7 February. He is a Jig & Tool Draughtsman within FCD. This year will be a special one for Bernard as we hear he plans to marry in June.



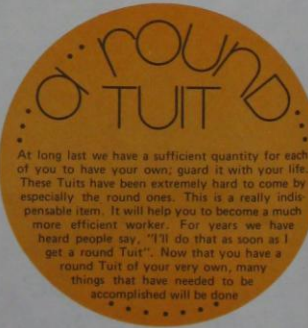
Defeat of Napoleon

## WHAT NEXT!

If King Richard had given his name to the potato instead of King Edward, you would have known what a dictator was.

## Did you know...

When certain insects, which have become immune to a particular insecticide, are attacked by an effective improvement of the insecticide, they become categorized as non-inexterminal!



At long last we have a sufficient quantity for each of you to have your own, guard it with your life. These Tuits have been extremely hard to come by especially the round ones. This is a really indispensable item. It will help you to become a much more efficient worker. For years we have heard people say, "I'll do that as soon as I get a round Tuit". Now that you have a round Tuit of your very own, many things that have needed to be accomplished will be done.

# In a lighter vein — a brief account of the Life and Death of John Shamus Lee

When it came to geniuses neglected by the world at large in their own lifetime, John Shamus Lee filled the bill better than most, for that matter he has gone on filling it better than most since his death. It is my purpose, however, to set this sorry way of things to rights, as well as I can, in this essay.

John Shamus Lee, known to his close friends as Murphy, was born, raised and educated in a small village in the wilds of southern Ireland. So small was it that I will not trouble the reader with its name, for it would not appear on any map that he would be likely to have. For some years after leaving school he was much occupied with statistical researches into probability theory and its applications to horse-racing, but he eventually became disenchanted with the mathematical sciences and turned his prodigious talents to the field of biology. Since he found himself facing considerable financial hardship at that time he immediately set himself the task of winning a Nobel prize, which he had heard was a very lucrative business to get into. Having seen several films which featured scientists charged with the salvation of the world, and having taken careful note that they usually did this by peering down microscopes at bacteria and murmuring, "I think we're onto something here", he knew that the first things he would require would be a white coat and a laboratory. When he found himself unable to get these necessities on credit he applied to the Ministry of Technology for a grant explaining that it was his intention to present mankind with a great boon in the very near future. This appeal was turned down. But John Shamus Lee was not a man to be put off easily and by return of post he made a similar application to the Arts Council mentioning in his letter that he always loved pictures and things artistic. The very next morning, his door-mat was blessed by the arrival of a buff envelope containing a cheque for £200 and an assurance that there was plenty more where that came from.

With this money he purchased a prefabricated laboratory, which he erected in his back garden, and a microscope, without which no laboratory is complete. Next, he filled all the shelves of the lab with white rats, the very best quality, £5.50 the dozen, and began to teach them to do all manner of tricks such as running through mazes or switching lights on and off. This was another tip he had picked up from films.

After that I heard nothing from him for nearly three years. His daughter, Rose, who had courageously taken it upon herself to act as his housekeeper, could neither read nor write, and he himself, being consumed with enthusiasm for his new undertaking, was not disposed to correspond. When I did finally have word from him

it was by way of a very bulky letter bearing stains which spoke of a hurried breakfast at the writing desk. This document contained an account of certain theories and discoveries so momentous in their implications that, had they been vouchsafed to the learned men of the country whilst the means of their demonstration and proof was still at hand, the world would have been changed beyond recognition. The theory contained in this letter, which is not the only evidence in existence to testify to the genius of John Shamus Lee and which I have in my safe-keeping, I summarise as follows:—

Time and space together form a continuum in which we and every other thing in the universe is trapped. (This is probably what Wittgenstein was implying when he said to Bertrand Russell, "I'll see you in the morning, Bert"). We cannot escape from the continuum even in death for to die is only to become unaware of it. It follows from this that every event which takes place in this continuum has repercussions or consequences which stretch before it into the future. For example, an event such as the setting of a time bomb will have serious consequences at a later date, or again, the drinking of a whole bottle of Scotch in an evening will usually result in an indisposition next morning. Although the consequences of events such as these are obvious, this is not true of the majority of events in our lives. This is simply to say that we cannot see into the future.

The reason why we cannot see into the future is startlingly simple and is best explained by an analogy. Imagine yourself travelling along in a railway compartment and sitting with your back to the engine. If you look out of the window you will be able to see all the countryside through which you have just passed but nothing of that which you are just coming to. This is the way our minds operate, for, although we can call up in our mind's eye a picture of any event which has already happened we cannot do the same for those events which are about to happen. Our minds are moving through the continuum of space and time with their backs to the engine, so to speak. They are facing the wrong way, and that is the reason why we can call to mind all the things of the past but none of the future. If the mind's eye could be turned round, if, to use the terms of the analogy above, it could be made to sit facing the engine, then we should be able to see into the future as easily as we remember what we had for dinner yesterday.

After a remarkable series of experiments, which I have not space to describe here but of which a full

account will be given in the biography which I am currently engaged upon, John Shamus Lee succeeded in obtaining just such a re-orientation of the mind in space and time as described above. There you have it. An extension of the theory of relativity and its application that would have had Albert Einstein turning in his grave if only he had lived long enough to hear of it.

The day after I received this letter news came of Lee's death. It seems that he had gone into an underground railway station during a thunder-storm and taken up a position near the lift. When lightning struck the top of the building a faulty conductor allowed the current to pass into the lift shaft killing him instantly. A scorched note was found in his pocket saying simply, "I have seen everything I cannot go on." The verdict of the coroner, after reading the letter Lee had written me, was, of course, suicide. What became of his experimental notes I cannot say, but it may be significant that his daughter Rose, ran off with some gypsies at about that time and is now said to be making a comfortable living by telling fortunes.

Continued by W. Mills

Harry Cruttenden BEM, has joined the ranks of those who have given 25 years' service to the Company, and to mark the occasion was presented with a watch.

He joined as a fitter, Mechanical Engineering Department, on instrumentation work, and transferred to Aviation Division (MAC) in 1959 at the start of the development of Air Data Systems.

In 1963 when FID was formed the air data computer work went into that Division, and by 1967 Harry had been promoted to Foreman.

In 1971 he moved to the position of Training Centre Superintendent and since September 1975 has been Superintendent in MASD Production.

It is particularly noteworthy that in the 1970 New Year's Honours list Harry was awarded the BEM for service to the aircraft industry and for development work on the air data computer. As well as the normal work of the Divisions, he has served as Assistant Chairman of the Shop Stewards and as Stewards' Representative on the former Training Committee. He created and was Secretary of the largest engineering union branch in the district. Also, when Foreman, he served on the Committee as Chairman of the Rochester Foremen's Association.



Our photograph shows Mr. P. Rayner, Divisional Manager, congratulating Harry on this milestone, with John Goodhand, Production Manager, in the background.

We now have 3 ladies in MEA who have served the Company 25 years and over, the trio being completed in December when Miss Joyce Harris, of FCD Stores completed her silver jubilee.

She was presented with a carriage clock to mark the occasion by Mr. D.I. Jackson, Divisional Manager, surrounded by a group of her workmates and friends.

In the course of the presentation, Mr. Jackson spoke of the reliance the company placed on those whose loyalty covers a long period and of the feeling of privilege to be able to convey in a tangible manner some mark of appreciation.

Joyce was in ETR at the time when equipment for Woomera was being made, then progressed through R & R Naval Weapons, MAC and now FCD.

Her cheerful disposition and infectious gaiety makes her a popular member of the division. She admits to one hobby—dancing, which she thoroughly enjoys.



Smiles of congratulations as Mr. D.I. Jackson (Divisional Manager) presents a clock to Miss. Joyce Harris, to mark her 25 years of continual service.



George Greenfield

## 25 YEARS' SERVICE

Aircraft Service and Repair Division has honoured Ron Bushell on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of joining the company. Ron joined in 1953 after completing his war service and spent 15 years in the Gear Division before circumstances caused a transfer to AS & R where he became known as the 'Suspension Man'—from the function he performs.

Mr. H.F. Eagles, the Divisional Manager, presented him with his chosen gift of a watch to mark the occasion and in reply Ron stated how much he had enjoyed working in AS & R and hoped he would be able to enjoy many more years working in the Division.

George Greenfield completed his 25 years' service as 1977 ended having begun his career at Elliotts on 29 December 1952.

When he began his service after interviews at Lewisham, the AGWAC contract for Woomera was in being. Due to the change and growth of the Company at this time, he was successively in R & R, Naval Weapons (before the Division moved to Frimley), a short spell at Borehamwood as a Planning Engineer in TAC Model Shop, and returning to Rochester to continue when TAC was established. On the merger with MAC to form FCD, he continued until 1971 when he joined IND until returning to FCD as a Production Engineer in 1977.

George is well known for his cheeriness and friendship while his wife will be remembered as the former secretary to the Social Club Secretary.

His choice of gift on this occasion was a pair of binoculars, and the photograph shows George holding his gift after being presented with it by Mr. D.I. Jackson, Divisional Manager, together with his immediate colleagues in FCD Methods Department.



Ron Brooks with the binoculars presented to him by Mr. J. Luck (Divisional Manager) on extreme right, to mark the completion of 25 years' service, together with (L to R) P. Burrows (Production Manager) and Les Terry (Superintendent).

Ron Brooks of ATE has completed his 25 years unbroken service on Rochester site and was presented with a pair of binoculars by Mr. J. Luck the Divisional Manager, at a short ceremony within the division.

His career began with Swift & Swallow then continued through Fisher Valve machine shop. He worked as a fitter in MER and then R & R after a period in the wiring school.

He is now a leading hand within ATE.

# AS&R Technical Publications Hitting the "High Life" at New Road Avenue

Christmas here was the usual riotous occasion that the staff of Technical Publications has come to expect. At exactly one minute past midnight the Publications Manager, Ron Twine, conducted a Carol Service in the Drawing Office. Joyous voices were heard in harmony surging over the swollen banks of the Medway, singing such firm old favourites as: Oiveyin a Manger, The Holly and the Ivy Leaf Club and the never-to-be-forgotten Hud the Herald Angels Sing.

Later in the day, a three course luncheon was tucked into by all... and, I might add, provided by the Management... hearty were the cheers as Turkey soup, bread (two slices each) and a potato were consumed with gusto. After this, everyone joined in pulling a cracker... though, as you may imagine, with a staff of 50 pulling in different directions, there wasn't much left of the cracker. In an after-dinner speech, Chas, Clift (artful director) gave a brief address, (31, Leinster Gardens, Notting Hill Gate) but, alas, no telephone number.

With early evening descending, the festivities really began in earnest. Wine gums were passed around, like they were going out of fashion and party games ensued. To say the 'fun' was the order of the day (issued on an internal memo

in triplicate) would be a vast understatement.

Fun there most certainly was. One or two people were even seen to smile. Everywhere and in every direction were to be witnessed the twisting and twirling Terpsichorean aspects of men and women enjoying themselves. Throwing themselves, sometimes literally, into the gay, abandoned attitudes for which Technical Publications has become famous.

Naturally, and I use that word advisedly, all good things come to an end. Gradually, the evening subsided into a gently murmuring as the effects of the wine gums gave way to reality and people began to contemplate future projects to be worked on. And so they slept until morning.

Sadly, they were awakened with the news that, due to a typing error in the Admin. Department, they were a day early in their Christmas celebrations.

Weary bodies were seen to emerge from beneath drawing-boards, cardboard cartons and desks and assemble in front of the wine-gum splattered portrait of the Board of Marcrony-Elliotti, to resume the festive atmosphere of yesterday's dress-run.

Alexander Hussey - Fort New Road

### Heard in the Office - Picturesque Speech

"If eed dun that ter me, I'd av tipped is beer over is ed an it im in the clock wiv a ----- bottle!"

Overheard in the typing pool - "A mouse has been at my drawers."

### Photographs

Unless otherwise stated, all photographs in MEA News are by the Staff Photographers Susan Ruddlesden and Alan Keats.

## ODD ODE



While penning a limerick, one day on the subject of far off Cathay I was roused by the knock of a man from Porlock I, um . . . . er . . . . what was I going to say?

## Acknowledgement

We have recently received a copy of a letter and receipt sent by the Cancer Research Fund to Mrs. Muston expressing thanks for the donation of £30 in memory of the late R. (Dick) Muston.

for your  
pleasure



The Medway Opera Company  
announce their Spring production  
"Yeomen of the Guard",  
at Chatham Town Hall,  
14-18 March  
at 7.30pm  
Admission £1 (£1.10 on Saturday)  
Reductions for children

## VOLUNTEERS

A local Army Cadet Force unit has vacancies for men as instructors in the following subjects.

- ★ Canoeing
- ★ Radio Work
- ★ Air Photo Reading

One evening a week plus an occasional weekend. For further information please contact Mrs. I. Smith Int. 220

# SOCIAL SCENE

### WG-13 Team

The Production Team of WG-13 led by A. Macfadyen, have had a number of social get-togethers, the latest one being on 9 January at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Chatham.

These gatherings create and cement a closer relationship which helps to stimulate the effectiveness of working together to the common good.

1 Our photograph shows the entries and the judges of MASD 'Hat Competition' reported in issue 3.

No prizes are offered for deciding the location of the photograph, but do you know where it is?



1

2 Having fun at the AS & R Division Dance held on 2 December 1977 at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone.

3 They don't all see the joke!  
Some more employees during the party round.

The FCD Social Committee report a very enjoyable and successful party outing to the 'Brighton Centre' on Sunday 22 January 1978. Four coach-loads enjoyed the 'Vienna Ice Review' at this recently-opened arena.



2



3

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk

## AROUND THE DIVISIONS

Following the recent success of Gyro Division, against very strong competition, in obtaining the first production order for Sky Flash missile gyros (valued at £1.5 million) together with contracts for the development of a strap-down system for the next heavyweight Torpedo and a quadruplex rate gyro unit for the Jaguar fly-by-wire system, the morale of Divisional personnel has been further raised by the receipt of an enquiry from the Scottish Institute of Agricultural Engineering for suitable accelerometers to simulate ripe raspberries.

Diversification has always been a prime aim of Gyro Division and at last it appears that their efforts could bear fruit in this new field. Engineers have been asked for their views and there is no doubt that the product could be produced in that department. In fact, the enthusiasm in the whole Division has led to realistic trials being witnessed by Departmental Managers. Contracts Department are, however, not completely confident about the profitability of this product as they see profits being eaten away and an increase in the "P and T" factor.

Communications between Gyro Division and other parts of the Company have not always been perfect but this latest activity should certainly impress our critics.

### Errata

The Editor apologises for the error which appeared in Issue 3, Page 1. The name of TIM SOUTHAM, was erroneously given as JIM, and we regret any embarrassment this may have caused Tim and his friends.

We are also advised that Tim was a cadet with 1404 (Chatham) Squadron, before joining 1039 (Gillingham), and we regret that our article conveyed a different impression.

The photograph of Hilda Booth, receiving her retirement gifts portrayed in Issue 3, was by L.R. Smeed of CMS Division.



In these days of bonus payments and productivity schemes, it may well behoove us to recall the cautionary note sounded by workers of bygone times. These words sung to the tune "So early in the morning" tell the sad tale of William Brown.

A fine young lad was William Brown  
He worked in mill at the edge of town  
He turned a wheel from left to right  
From seven in the morning to five at night.

*Chorus*  
Keep that wheel a turning  
Keep that wheel a turning  
Keep that wheel a turning  
You can do a little more each day.

Now the boss one day to William came  
And he said "look here young wots-yer-name  
Were far from pleased with what you do  
So hurry that wheel or out you go"

*Chorus* . . . . .  
So William turned, and he made it run  
Three times round in the place of one,  
He turned so fast, he was quickly made  
The lord high turner of his trade.

*Chorus* . . . . .  
The nation thrilled at the wondrous tale,  
And the news was told in the Sketch and Mail,  
The railways ran excursions down,  
And all to look on William Brown.

*Chorus* . . . . .  
So William turned with a saintly smile,  
And the goods he made grew such a pile,  
They filled the room, and the room next door,  
And they overflowed to the basement floor.

*Chorus* . . . . .  
But the sad sequel to this tale,  
He turned out more that his boss could sell,  
The market fell, and the price came down,  
Three weeks more and they sacked young Brown!

*Keep that wheel etc. (Slowly and sadly)*

Barrie Ribbens AS & RD

## INTERNAL VACANCIES

Applications are required for the following vacancies. Applications to Mr. J.D. Ainsley, Personnel Officer, Rochester.

**Production**  
Draughtsmen  
Instrument Technicians  
Service Engineers AS & R  
Testers  
Estimators  
Buyers  
Mechanical Inspectors  
Electrical Inspectors  
Planning Engineers

**Technical Publications**  
Editors  
Technical writers  
Technical Illustrators  
Technical Authors

**Commercial**  
Progress chasers

**Engineering**  
Project Leader AS & R  
Project Engineers



Vacancies are in various divisions, except where stated.

## new entrants

To recent arrivals in the Company, we offer our welcome, and trust they will have a long and happy stay within our ranks. Among these we number:

R.S.W. Allen  
R.A. Jones  
P.A. Sharp  
D.J. Linkin  
F.W. Bethel  
A.J. Fisher  
P.A. Pavely  
I.D. Hopwood  
A.D. Mistry  
R.J. Beard  
J.P. Langston  
R.J. Auger  
C.J.A.M. Willard  
C.C. Young  
M.L.H. White  
R.J. Rigden  
A.G. Evans  
A.R. Pottle  
J. Phyll  
Miss. S. Chappell  
L.G. Dungey  
J.P. Broadbent  
Mrs. J.D.A. Streten  
J.V. Hayward

QA Engineer ADD  
Senior QA Engineer ADD  
Project Engineer ADD  
Senior Illustrator AS & R  
Order Clerk AS & R  
Contracts Officer FCD  
Development Engineer FCD  
Stock Control Clerk FCD  
Development Engineer FCD  
QA Assistant CQD  
QA Assistant MASD  
Tester IND  
Tester IND  
Tester IND  
Tester IND  
Tester IND  
Tester IND  
Senior QA Engineer ATE  
Test Engineer ATE  
Tracer ATE  
Project Admin. Officer ATE  
Plant Engineer WES  
Telephonist WES  
Development Engineer PSD

## Appointments

We take pleasure in announcing that Miss Janet H. Hardboard is appointed Assistant Divisional Administration Officer within FCD.

Mr. Peter J. Hewlett has transferred to FCD Contracts Department.

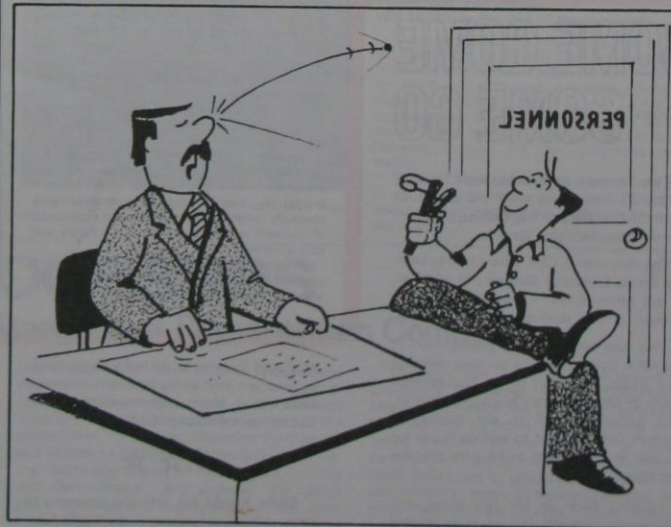
Mr. B.T. Smith succeeds Peter Hewlett as FCD Cost and Budget Officer.

A.R. (Bert) Kennett has transferred from the production team to join MASD, to provide the necessary know-how in readiness for establishing a full production unit.

## NEW PASTURES

Among those who have recently left the Company we note:

R.V. Headley Development Engineer ISD  
J. Haywood Inspector IND  
D. Andrews General Machinist IND  
R. Bull Test Engineer IND  
J.M. McDonald Development Engineer ADD  
J.R. Machin Chief Engineer ADD  
S.J. Reynolds Apprentice  
M.A. Humphrey Apprentice  
R. Griffiths Final year apprentice  
J. Haddell Senior Computer Prog. EDP  
S.D. Watts Development Engineer FCD  
D.C. Jablonski Development Engineer FCD  
W.H. Gaye Project Engineer MASD



I believe you had a bit of luck on the pools last weekend Smith . . . . .

# RETIREMENTS

Another well-known member of FCD has now taken up her retirement; **Violet Wray** after 22½ years left the company in January 1978.

Commencing her service in Aviation division as a capstan operator she then went to Gyro to take up coil winding and impregnation. This was followed by a period of Print Room finally arriving in MAC under Bill Harding in Scheduling and Banda.

Her many colleagues and friends in and out of the Division subscribed to a gift of an electric clock to mark the occasion and in making the presentation Mr. J.F. Smith, Production Manager, said that his task was two edged – sadness at her going, but happy to be able to give a practical token of the esteem in which she was held. In wishing her a long and happy retirement he expressed the wishes of the assembled people.

She also received an ashtray surmounted by a model of a Boeing 747 from her immediate colleagues.

Her plans for retirement are to relax completely and spend as much time as possible gardening.



The photograph by Alan Keats shows Vi enjoying a joke with Mr. Smith provided by a special 'P' Card.



The photographs show (1) L.R. Wigley, H. Bunyard, and D.C. Rickard in jovial mood after handing over the gifts and (2) Harry very pleased with what he saw.

The closing year of 1977 saw the close of a long career in Wages Department when the genial **Harry Bunyard** retired from active service.

Harry, the Assistant Wages Manager, was for many years Senior Section Leader, in which capacity he came in contact with large numbers of the company personnel.

His career in wages began with Swift and Swallow, thus spanning a period of 30 years on this site. He comes from a service family, and he himself was a member of the armed forces. First as an Infantry man then serving as Surveyor attached to the Artillery. His earlier days covered work in the Food Distribution industry, then a spell at Short Bros. as a time recorder.

Harry was a keen member of the scout movement, and though giving up active involvement, he continues his interest as Chairman of the 27th

Medway Group Committee.

His career spanned the years of change, perhaps the most striking being the introduction of P.A.Y.E. system, and reference to this and all his service was made appreciatively by Mr. D.C. Rickard the Financial Director, supported by Mr. Wigley, Chief Accountant, at the presentation ceremony within the department, when a radio cassette recorder and binoculars were handed over to mark the occasion and demonstrate the affection and goodwill of all colleagues and friends.

The spontaneous singing of 'For he's a jolly good fellow' revealed the esteem all felt.

In retirement he proposes to keep quietly active by gardening, constructing a greenhouse which he has had in hand for a long time, and continuing his delight in interior decoration.

## SOME COME — SOME GO

Two farewell ceremonies were held on Friday 27 January to mark the departure from the Company of **Reg Collins**, Manager, Central Manufacturing Services.

The first was in CMS where he has been the acting Divisional Manager, in addition to his other duties, for some time. The farewell gift he received was a brief case.

This was followed by a presentation in the MEA Boardroom of a cut-glass decanter and glasses on behalf of the Management Team by Mr. J. Pateman, Managing Director. The gatherings were to say thanks for services rendered and to express hopes for success in the future as he joins his new company.

Looking back on his 18½ years with Elliotts, he paid tribute to his good fortune in working with and under Alf Harrison (Director Manufacturing) and to being

**D.V. (Mac) McMurdo** of FCD Test Department retired from the company after a service of 14 years on 24 January, when his many friends and colleagues gathered at the Walnut Tree Club, Gillingham to give him a 65th birthday and retirement party. So popular was 'Mac' that some nightshift workers took a 'half night' holiday in order to be present.

More than forty people joined in the festive atmosphere and enjoyed the chicken buffet which was laid on.

On behalf of the friends and colleagues who had subscribed, Mr. J. Smith, Production Manager, presented 'Mac' with a 400 day clock. Mac expressed 'his pleasure and many thanks, being obviously delighted with the party and expressions of goodwill and sincere wishes for a happy and long retirement.

Mrs. McMurdo was presented with a bouquet of pink carnations in recognition of her work in ensuring 'Mac' got to work on time.



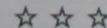
'Mac' being presented with his clock by Mr. J.F. Smith.

privileged to serve as part of a happy team, but warned that as his new venture would keep him in touch with the Company we had not seen the last of him.



**Eddie Knight** has left the company to start up his own business in the Audio field. His speciality is Audio Modules for inclusion in 'Mixers and Pop Group' Equipment.

We shall say 'FAREWELL' to **Adrian Bailey** in mid-February, as he leaves to take up a position, along the Esplanade. We wish him well, and trust his new post will fulfill his ambitions.



As we go to press, we learn that **Derek Mansfield**, Estimator of CMS, is to move to new pastures.

# NIAGARA – THUNDER OF WATERS

Anthony Trollope, English novelist, once wrote that of all the sights on Earth which tourists travel to see, he knew of none so beautiful or so powerful as the Falls on the Niagara River which are situated between Canada and the US of A, and about 22 miles from Buffalo, New York State. I believe that some people differ from him since the discovery of the Victoria Falls in Rhodesia.

Niagara can no longer claim the distinction of being the highest falls in the world, but it certainly has the scenic splendour with the most sublime of all cascades.

I am told that every minute of the day and night something like 15 000 000 cubic feet or nearly 417 000 tons of water sweep over the falls. The torrents shoot with such force over the ledge that they land some fifty feet or more away from it where they churn into a seething, swirling cauldron. The ceaseless roar of the waters explains the name "Niagara" which according to the Iroquois Indians, means "Thunder Of Waters".

The falls are split by Goat Island. To the left, or west side of the Island, the Canadian falls, and to the right, the American falls. The former are also called "Horseshoe Falls" by virtue of their shape, and measure some 3000 feet around the curve, the height around 150 feet. Unlike the American falls which are almost straight and roughly 1000 feet in length and around 117 feet in height.

Caves have been formed in the rock walls behind the majestic sheets of falling water from where sight-seers, who don waterproofs, may obtain a magnificent and awe-inspiring view of the falling waters which is indeed a sight to remember.

There are other interesting factors tied in with the falls, but as writing space is limited, I would say to any potential visitor, that Freddie Laker will take you to within a bus ride of the falls for a modest fee, the distance to the falls from Toronto being about 40 miles by water and 80 by road; the journey may be completed by Greyhound Bus.



Niagara Falls

There's plenty of life and entertainment in the Niagara Township, especially at night with the added

attraction of the falls being floodlit, when multicoloured lights play in the waters. G.W.W. AS & RD

## EATING – when at work

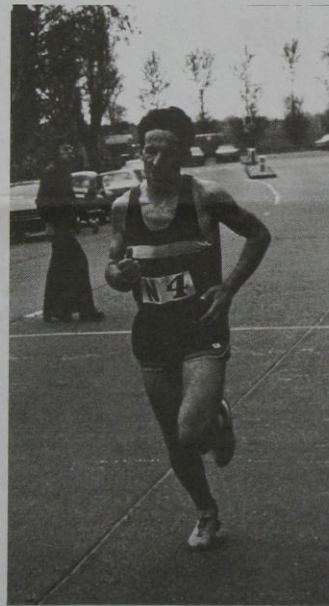
The chef-de-canteen, in the person of Alexis Antony, is too often behind the scenes and only on special occasions such as the Annual Christmas Dinner is he to be seen.

Alexis, a Swiss National, was born in Sion near Matterhorn, which is a wine-growing area and came to England in 1961. His training took place in Switzerland and on arriving in England he began to ply his calling at the Devon Hotel, Salcombe. His career has taken him around the country seeing service as a Chef in various hotels, in such places as London, Plymouth, Isle of Wight as well as Devon. He came to the Medway towns joining the staff of St. George Hotel in New Road before coming to Elliotts. This is his first industrial catering job and judging by the carving of the turkey for Christmas lunch, he retains his skill.

He continues the custom of returning to work when the night-shift have their annual Christmas meal so as to cook freshly and to help serve it personally.

We are informed he does the cooking at home too! but his own appetite for food is small and simple.

He gives his hobby as 'sailing' which probably explains his work along the South coast but now most is done on the river. Aged 39 years and 3 years at Elliotts he has a long way to go, giving many opportunities to provide gastronomic delights for an ever-expanding workforce. A fondness for English things and people he married an English girl and says he does not find a great difference in the palate between continentals and the natives.



Mike Drury, Elliott-Reed A.C. 'on the road – giving it all he's got.'

### Would it work?

Could not the worst-behaved of our young people be brought to book, under a new statute: "Conduct unbecoming a hooligan".

## Company Clash

Maidstone Junior Chamber and BBC Radio Medway.

The quiz competition for teams from industrial concerns entered its final stages on Friday 27 January 1978, when the semi-finals and final were recorded in the Corpus Christie Hall, Earl Street, Maidstone.

Marconi-Elliott Avionics had got through to the Semi-Final and were drawn against the host team, Whitbread-Fremmins. A keenly-fought contest gave MEA the edge, finishing 41 - 40 in their favour.

In the Final, however, MEA team went down to 'Kent Messenger' by 29 - 32.

The competition, which began in 1975/6, has seen the improvement in MEA team position.

1975/6 Defeated in 1st Round  
1976/7 Defeated in 2nd Round  
1977/8 Defeated in Final

Will 1978/9 be the year of total success?

The pre-requisite for success is in fielding the strongest team, in general knowledge terms, and from the employees of MEA we should be able to find 4 or 6 with good general knowledge and expertise of "fingers on the buzzer". It has been suggested we form an inter-divisional (department) league to run throughout the Spring and Summer, to find the best individuals and/or teams.

To gauge the measure of support, an indication of your interest sent to the 'MEA NEWS' office would help to establish the machinery to initiate the scheme.

## more successes

### (British Institute of Management Presentation Competition)

A team from Medway and Maidstone College of Technology, including Peter Carrington of MASD, came third in the South-East England regional final of the BIM Presentation Competition on 16 December, winning a plaque and a prize of £30.

The nationwide competition, organized by the Younger Managers section of the BIM, was run for the first time this year. The entries were judged on the presentation of skills of the team, the effective use of visual aids and the contribution to management thought of the

presentation. Each team of three prepared and presented a thirty-minute talk on a topic of current management interest, and answered questions from the judges on the content of the presentation. The subject chosen by the Medway and Maidstone College of Technology team was the "Myth and Reality of Management Training and Development", and included the results of a questionnaire conducted by the team among management course students concerning the attitudes of students and managers to management training.

The team was drawn from the second year Diploma in Management Studies (DMS) class at Medway and Maidstone College of Technology. The two-year part-time course aims to give a broad overview of management, to develop personal skills and to introduce specific management techniques to practising managers. There are currently seven Company-sponsored MEA employees on the course: Colin Boorman (ADD), Peter Carrington (MASD), Tom Egan (FCD), Simon Frost (ISD), Mark Hodges (ADD), Ian Lane (FCD) and Jim Trott (MASD).

[www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk](http://www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk)



In my opinion E.J.B. this man has the right aptitude for the new supervisor's job, don't you agree?

## Sports and social club round up

### Photographic Section

Forthcoming programme, to which any interested person is invited to attend.

- 15 February **Lecture**— 'A History of Cameras', by Mr. N. Wright.
- 22 February **Practical Evening**— Glamour Photography
- 1 March **General Evening**
- 8 March **Visit**— London for night photography
- 15 March **Competition**— Judging of set subjects
- 22 March **Practical Evening**— Baby/Child Photography

### ATHLETICS

Elliott-Reed A.C. Fixtures list

Date	Fixture	Venue
25 February	Inter-club cross-country	Crawley A.C.
4 March	National Cross-country Championship (Youths, seniors)	Leeds
11 March	Schools cross-country race Dartford 10 miles	Dartford
18 March	Cambridge Harriers 6 x 3 mile road race (Juniors, youths, seniors)	Bexley
	3 mile road race (Boys)	
	All England Schools Cross-country Championship	Mote Park, Maidstone
26 March	Peter Dominic Race	Croydon A.C.

The Sports club announce a **SINGLES CRIBBAGE COMPETITION** for the **'TOM SMITH TROPHY'**, (Best of 3 LEGS 101 up). Entrance Fee 25p each.

All proceeds to the Leukaemia Research Fund. Prizes to winner & runner up. Open to all Club members.

Names please to Jim Collins, Social Club Secretary, A. Black CMS J. Crick Model Shop. It is hoped to arrange the competition for end of March.

### KARATE

The club section for pursuit of KARATE meets each Friday in the Snack Bar at 7.30pm for instruction and practice. The style taught is WADO-RYU, and the name of the club is WODO-KAI, and takes members from outside the Company.

The Instructor (named SENSAI), is Pete Jefford, who rates as a 2nd DAN, and is hard at work to get the members working as an efficient team, to enter inter-club competitions and get among the honours. Meetings are also held at All Saints Hospital Gymnasium (for ready-made attention?), Magpie Hall Road on Wednesdays at 7.30pm and on Sundays 3.0pm.

Spectators are welcome, and when the urge comes on, can be assured of sympathetic assistance to try the art. Our picture shows the Sensai, (Instructor) demonstrating a 'side drop kick to the throat' The 'victim' is Martin, classed a 2nd Kyu.

New members are sought, and if at all interested, go and see for yourself, then you can make up your minds.



### Mind Teaser

Three men, Smith, Jones and Phillips, each keep a different pet which is either a cat, a dog or a hamster and lives in either Maidstone, Faversham or Chatham.

1. The cat lives in the flat above his owner's restaurant in Chatham.
2. Jones has never been to Maidstone in his life.
3. The dog often rides in the back of his owner's car.
4. Smith always rides a bicycle.
5. The restaurant owner has never met Jones.
6. The man who lives in Faversham walks wherever he goes.

Where does the owner of the hamster live? Who owns the cat?

## OVER '50' ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY

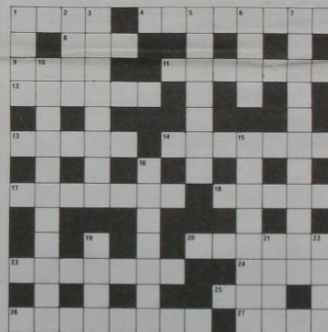
Saturday 4 March 1978  
Works Canteen 7.30pm

Tickets 75p

Social Club office or MEA News

### Crossword No. 4

Compiled by W. Mills



#### ACROSS

1. Stuff full in readiness for an examination? (4)
4. Al! gathers about him Adam's lost bone and an unsweetened wine to provide coarse humour (8)
8. Filly, that is, go to make an untruth (3)
9. Endless contact to tenacity for meadow lands? (4)
11. Changes are many, if theatrical (7)
12. Superior kind of key? (6)
13. River to be found where we lost our way (5)
14. RN oil up turns into a form of pilfering (7)
17. A part, known to be cross sometimes (7)
18. Spaghetti among other things (5)
20. By Shank's pony (2, 4)
23. Det. bung on 2 whis, no gdn? (7)
24. Name symbol in the last part of a dried fruit? (4)
26. Charles Dickens pen name (3)
26. An ancient heron (8)
27. Advertisement for pop pills producing irksome results? (4)

#### DOWN

1. Not the weather for yacht races (4)
2. Exclamation of sadness because of Greensteeves (4)
3. Light fog over decayed ironwork causes some suspicion (8)
5. Where one might take a lucky dip (4, 3)
6. One broken lira provides a home for a wild animal (4)
7. The act of fighting back (11)
10. Material that goes to pot and then gets fired (11)
15. Jump over a pond dweller for a childish game (8)
16. Horse track where bargees got the old heave-ho (7)
19. Where the Americans dance with the chickens and cows? (4)
21. Cricketer appealing for wicket, with heavy cold (4)
22. Ten old pence to look after (4)

#### FOR AMUSEMENT ONLY

Solution to crossword No. 3

#### ACROSS

1. Artichokes, 7. Offs, 8. Owed, 11. Inana, 12. Armband, 13. Err, 15. Crumpet, 17. Sepia, 19. Lyons, 20. Pinocle, 23. One, 24. Inlaid, 25. Midge, 27. Trent, 29. Pelt, 30. Helicopter.

#### DOWN

2. Runner, 3. Icon, 4. Hoe, 5. Sombbrero, 6. Mandraks, 8. Wasp, 10. Dart, 14. Red, 15. Calliope, 16. Monolith, 18. Tin, 20. Post, 21. Nemo, 22. Legume, 26. Atop, 28. Roc.

Produced by the Publicity Dept. DEC Machines Limited, Bradford for Marconi Elliott Controls Systems Limited. Text and printed by John H. Wood & Company Limited, Chichester, Yorkshire