

**MOTTO OF THE MONTH**  
 A greengrocer is one whose just started

**NEW YEAR MESSAGE**

from  
**J.E. PATEMAN CBE**  
 Managing Director

*I should like to take advantage of the opportunity which Jess Griffiths has offered me of wishing all members of Marconi Avionics and in particular to readers of Marconi Avionics News and their families a very happy New Year. The general economic climate, not just of this country but of the whole world, has made the past year a difficult one for us all and it does not look as if next year is going to be very much easier. Nevertheless the efforts which everybody has put into acquiring new orders, to delivering from existing orders, a high quality product in a timely manner and in developing new and better equipments for sale to the world marketplace have at least ensured that we enter the New Year with an order book not substantially different from last year's and barring any unexpected disasters we do not have hanging over our heads the threat of mass redundancy which has affected so many other companies in this country. Thank you all for your efforts over the past year. If we can continue to improve just a little bit each year I believe we shall be able to look forward to a good many more happy New Years.*

**Marconi Avionics opens new hydraulics facility**

Further investment in production and new products

To meet an increased production demand and to speed the development of an entirely new range of products, Marconi Avionics Limited has opened a newly-equipped Hydraulics Facility at its Airport Works factory, Rochester, England. The facility, which was formally opened by Mr. C.R. Robinson, Editor of the magazine "Design Engineering", has the skilled staff and equipment needed to compete more effectively in world markets.

Although best known as Europe's leader for aviation electronics, Marconi Avionics has, for more than a quarter of a century, been designing and manufacturing hydraulic servo valves and specialised actuators, for use in its own automatic flight control systems. Applications for these range from Buccaneer aircraft to the new European Tornado.

The hydraulic equipments currently in greatest demand, however, are high-precision drive assemblies for ground-based tracking radars, used for anti-aircraft defence. These assure production through to 1985, with strong prospects for further home and export orders.

The new Facility, which is part of the company's Flight Controls Division, can support the design and manufacture of a wide range of hydraulic and electro hydraulic equipments for many applications. Products include "failure-survival" actuators, and a unique range of components for the company's new "fly-by-wire" control systems, now under development for the next generation of fuel-efficient aircraft. Applications for these are expected to include airliners and helicopters, in addition to military aircraft.

The Production facility is fully equipped with hydraulic consoles, and with equipment for testing actuators and complete servo mechanisms, and for calibrating flow. In common with

techniques widely used in the production of high quality electronic systems, every manufactured item can be environmentally tested before delivery. This can include "high and low temperature shock" and vibration tests, which are carried out under working conditions, in special test chambers.

To meet the required standards of cleanliness and safety, the Facility is air conditioned to MIN TECH 89 Category B standards. Both laboratory and production areas are supplied with hydraulic oil from a pump room, containing a pair of inter-connected pumps, with a further back-up facility should these fail.

These facilities can be used with a full range of hydraulic oils, filtered to better than 1 micron (1 thousandth of a millimetre) particle size at varying pressures and flow rates. They thus provide high laboratory standards of control and instrumentation for the production of hydraulic equipment.

Air locks separate the new Facility from the rest of the factory and from special "dirty work" areas which are located adjacent to both Laboratory and Production areas.

The Hydraulics Facility is one of a number of types of new facility recently introduced by the company, as part of its investment policy, to help sustain its international civil and military systems business. Apart from new factories, recently-announced examples are computer-aided engineering and manufacturing facilities, new products, including "spin-off" from aviation, and staff retraining.

These measures are aimed at keeping the technological leadership which has enabled Marconi Avionics to contribute more than 10% of the total exports of its parent, the General Electric Company plc.



Mr. C.R. Robinson, editor of "Design Engineering", formally opens the facility. (A)



Mr. Alan Corthorn explaining an item of equipment. (A)



The personnel who support the new facility. (A)

**Commercial Concerns**

**Rockwell International and Marconi Avionics reach satellite navigation agreement**

UK Promotion of NAVSTAR Global Positioning System

The Airadio Products Division, Basildon, England, of Marconi Avionics Limited is to promote in the United Kingdom the Collins equipment for the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS). An agreement to that effect has now been signed by Marconi Avionics Limited and Collins Government Avionics Division of Rockwell International Corporation, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA.

Rockwell International is a major multi-industry company, applying advanced technology to a wide range of products in its automotive, aerospace, electronics and general industries business.

Marconi Avionics Limited already supplies a wider range of airborne radio systems and equipments than any other company outside the USA, and now complements this range with the Collins NAVSTAR GPS user equipment.

These GPS user equipments are a range of receiver/processor units for the determination automatically of the accurate position of the host vehicle, whether on land, sea or in the air, from signals received from a network of NAVSTAR satellites.

NAVSTAR GPS will revolutionise global navigation by enabling position to be computed in three dimensions, accurate to within

16 metres, speed to within 0.1 metres per second and time to within 100 nano seconds (10<sup>-11</sup> sec), when the full constellation of 18 satellites is operational in 1988. The system has a wide range of potential users in both civil and military applications.

Airadio Products Division is to progress the development and evaluation of GPS in the United Kingdom with the option, for the future, to tailor GPS equipment for a given vehicle, modify units to suit customers' requirements, and/or manufacture the user equipment under licence.

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 Other are required for: CQD, RAS, CMS.

Volunteers should offer their services through Divisional Administration Officers or direct to the Editor



## Atlanta Activity Recreation club update

It has been almost one year since our first article about Rec Club activities in Atlanta appeared in Marconi Avionics News. Have we been busy since that time? Our usual activities of bowling leagues, flea markets, T-shirt and jacket sales, etc. are continuing. Also, we have held two very special functions which we would like to share with you ... so read on!

### 1st Annual Henry Hanron Dart Tournament

It was to be a hot evening in late summer for our first Dart Tournament ... but it wasn't. In fact, it was cool, gray and quite rainy! (A little like England, perhaps?)

The tournament is to be an annual event in memory of our former President, Henry Hanron. During the 60's and 70's, Mr. Hanron was a part of the Atlanta Marconi family and a very special person to all who knew him.

And who won this tournament? Three transplanted Englishmen, of course! But not without some serious competition from three dozen challengers. We are already looking forward to a bigger and better tournament next year.



The winners! Harry Eagles (3rd from left) presents "Henry Hanron" Darts trophy to (1. to 4.) Brian Sturdy, Jim Farrer and Larry Jones.

### Halloween Horrors

From Dracula to George Washington - each costume was funnier (or uglier) as more guests arrived. Approximately 125 Rec Club members and guests convened to celebrate this scary holiday. The food, music and good company made this a delightful evening for one and all. The highlight of the evening was the parade of costumes and selection of the winners. The accompanying photographs show what a great job the judges did in their difficult task.

Plans are underway for many exciting events in the coming year. You'll be hearing from us again soon ...

Lynn B. Roberts



What a gruesome pair! First place costume winner on the left is Bob Burrow, Fourth place winner, David Farquhar.



Aren't they a lovely couple? Our Second place costume winners, Jon and Linda Byers.

## Marriages

Mick Jarrel, an Electrical Inspector in FCD, was married on 4th December 1982, to Linda Kidd, an employee of Loyds Bank in Chatham.

The marriage took place at St. Stephen's Church, Maidstone Road, Chatham. To express good wishes and hopes for a long and happy partnership, Mr. M. Ridgely, Shop Floor Superintendent, on behalf of many colleagues and friends handed over an Electric Toaster, Electric Carving Knife and Table mats.

## Congratulations

We extend our congratulations to Paul Moon, of CMS Loading Bay who attained his 21st birthday on 6th January 1983.

To help him celebrate, his friends and colleagues made a collection. On being presented with the cash, his surprise was such, that it all fell out around him!

## FOR SALE

Ferrogaph tape recorder series 7, model 724D. Four track mono/stereo, Dolby B, built-in power amps, "portable", Semi-professional specification. With handbook and 25 reels 7" DP tape. Very good condition. £300.

Contact: Geoff. Gosling, Int 2863 or Medway 724508

**CASTAWAY**

For the monthly victim, on this occasion, we go into the Towers and call in the Model Shop of ADD, where we found Derek Avey, a Prototype Wireman. Derek has been with the company for 14 years, and is an ex-Royal Marine, Dockyard Worker and Aerial Rigger. Married with family responsibilities he indulges in sports whenever possible, his chief categories being Archery, Cycling and Photography.

**MUSIC**  
 "Piano Concerto for the Left Hand" by Ravel — This work has a noble theme and is notoriously difficult to play. The manual dexterity required to play it is incredible.  
 "A Masque for Dancing" by R. Vaughan Williams — If a catastrophe were to overwhelm the world and we were left with one work, it would have to be this one.  
 "War Requiem" by Benjamin Britten — Probably the greatest choral work of the 20th century.  
 "Puccini's Opera Turandot" — The composer regarded this as his finest opera, and so do I.  
 "Tone Poem" by Sibelius — Night ride and Sunrise. A great pity it is so seldom performed.  
 "A Work" by Miklos Rozsa — The greater part of his work is music for Films. I can only describe his music as Mindbending, Magnificence and Beauty.

**BOOKS**  
 "The Iliad" by Homer (English Translation) — A beautifully written Greek Classic which sets out to glorify war, but admits to the futility of it.  
 "The Eye of the Needle" by Ken Follet — A very well written and compelling novel.  
 David Niven's "The Moon's a Balloon" — A cover to cover side splitting laugh.

## Letter to the Editor

Sir,  
 On opening my December pay slip I noticed an entry saying "10 years Service" and one days pay (taxable). It does not seem very long ago that the Annual Holiday Entitlement was TWO Weeks for employees with up to FIVE YEARS Service. This was increased to THREE Weeks after FIVE YEARS, and to FOUR Weeks after TEN YEARS.

This meant that an employee with over Ten years' service was entitled to two weeks' more holiday than a fairly new employee. Perhaps the company thought that long service loyalty merited some reward. This ten days has now been reduced to ONE DAY'S pay (less Tax) without ever the option of taking this day as a holiday.

Is this what is meant by erosion of differentials? Perhaps someone could explain how this came about, as I am sure many long-serving members of the company feel that they have lost out somewhere along the line.

Yours  
 Rick Lurcock  
 ADD Engineering

## Ode to a 'Cordial' chap

This is the tale of a draughtsperson - Ha Ha!  
 Who is renowned for his actions peculiar,  
 For example, I quote  
 So please take note  
 Who but he, would own a clapped out M.G.?  
 When it comes to sport, if that's the name  
 His choice is Rugby for a game  
 The evidence is clear  
 As he draws near  
 Of his scars and other failings,  
 Caused we're sure,  
 Not by war  
 But by continual nailings  
 In dress he fares no better  
 No dandy he  
 It's plain to see  
 The Squire gear makes him wetter  
 Than, what can I say?  
 Oh, I know the way  
 Than India in this monsoon season;  
 For let's face it, a much better reason.  
 With girls he reckons, he's The Stud,  
 To us who know him he's a dud!  
 In truth it is too late  
 To try to equate  
 A five star Casonova contender  
 With a guy and his Donald Duck calendar

Anon

## News from afar

Once again, we have had a letter from Bill Kemp in Australia. Among other things he reports that both he and his wife are well, and that 1982 was not a bad year as regards the health of either of them. That the weather is good, but rain is needed. They have been without rain for many weeks — and that we do not have a cold winter.

In sending his greetings and best wishes to all who knew him, he informs us that his son and daughter gave him a surprise party for his 80th birthday, when his family and relatives from all over Australia attended to make it a celebration to remember.

Concluding with the season's greetings to all employees, he expresses the hope for a continuing successful year for the company and its personnel in 1983.

## To Pastures New

John Goodnew a Tester in CACD, for the past five years has resigned, in order to work nearer his home in Brighton. On leaving, he was presented with good will tokens of an Electric Kettle and Cocktail glasses by Mr. J.F. Smith, on behalf of friends and colleagues.

## Answers to Quiz for the Sportsman

Issue 47, page 4

Were you right?

- Name the sport for which the following cups are played.
1. Kings — Air Race and Tennis
  2. Calcutta — Rugby Union Football, England v Scotland
  3. Coronation — Horse Racing
  4. Curtis — Women's Golf
  5. Davis — Lawn Tennis
  6. Europa — Athletics
  7. Nations — Equestrian
  8. Ryder — Golf
  9. Stanley — Ice Hockey
  10. Walker — Golf

### Personalities in Sport

1. Eusebio played for Benfica.
2. Richard Fosbury famous for High Jump.
3. John Barrington has been world champion in Squash.
4. Sir Francis Chichester's boat was Gypsy Moth.
5. The Female aviator who flew twice round the world-solo, was Sheila Scott.
6. Tamara Press' main event is Shot.
7. The better known name of Edson Arantes Do Nascimento is Pele (footballer).
8. Juan Fangio excelled in Motor Racing.
9. Stanley Matthews got his Cup Winners Medal in 1953.
10. The Olympic event of Mark Spitz was Swimming at Munich.

Page 5 - Issue 47

Answers to Double Acrostic and Very Fishy unavoidably left over until next issue.

## WORK EXPERIENCE WORKS

On the 19 July 1982 these young people started out on a Work Experience scheme at Rochester. Now they have all obtained full time jobs here.

All of us know of the unemployment problem today, particularly amongst school leavers. Most of us are aware, to some extent, of the many Government sponsored Youth Opportunities Programmes which are designed to provide these unemployed youngsters with a period of useful work experience and training.

The Work Experience scheme here is just one of these schemes. Each year 50 young people receive 6 months work experience and training in various departments of the Company.

Marconi have been participating in this scheme for the past two years, and thanks to the co-operation and hard work of all those involved, we believe we run a successful scheme.

Many things are said of these schemes, not all good. Many youngsters start out on them feeling they will be used only as cheap labour with no hope of a job at the end of it. Although at MAv a full time job is not guaranteed, to date we have taken on approximately 70% of those who come to us.

What does the scheme involve? Trainees are usually taken on as General Clerks or Progress Chasers. The type of work they do varies but they receive as broad a work experience as is possible within their section and the time available. Wherever they are,

Back row, left to right: Alison Dorral (MASD), Debbie Harridge (CACD), Karen Penley (AS and RD), Jill Sharp (IND). Front row, left to right: Gary Clements (ICMS), Jeanne Peddie (ATED), Tom Williams (ISD).



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Marconi Avionics Ltd, is again sponsoring the Young Enterprise movement, which seeks to train young people in the art of being shareholders and executives of a small company.

This sponsorship involves not only monetary help, but the provision of personnel to act as advisors and teachers.

We are glad to report that for the present season, which began prior to November 1982, no less than 11 persons have come forward from the company to act as advisors. They are:-

Mr. C. Matthews	Senior Buyer, PSD
Miss M. Bristow	Draughtswoman, ISD
Mr. D. Brown	Foreman, PSD
Mr. A. Carr	1st year Apprentice
Mr. D. Cummins	Cost & Budget, MAV
Mr. M. Fillon-Payoux	Production Engineer, ISD
Mrs. C. Bridges	Contracts Dept, IND
Mr. S. Mayes	Design Draughtsman, MASD
Mr. I. Brimelow	Contracts Dept, ISD
Mr. M. Meakin	Production Manager, PSD
Mr. M. Porter	Post Design Services Officer, ISD

For further information, or offers of help in future seasons, contact should first be made with Mr. D.O. Short, Training office, Rochester.

## Appointments

Mr. R. Ruggles has been appointed Divisional Manager of Inertial Navigation Division.  
Mr. Ruggles will take up his appointment as from Monday, 10th January, 1983.

We have pleasure in announcing the appointment of Brian Tucker as Engineering Manager responsible for the Engineering activities of FCD in the United States, particularly with regard to the McDonnell-Douglas C-17 programme.

The appointment will take place with immediate effect. Brian Tucker will report to the Technical Manager.

they have a supervisor who is responsible for their work and job training in conjunction with both a Personnel Officer and a Training Officer.

Another part of the MAV scheme is attendance at a "Life and Social Skills" course one day a week for 10 weeks. Many strange rumours abound about this course — what are they doing playing with ligasaws, building castles and making mobiles? The aim is to improve such skills as communication and organisation. They visit Mote House Cheshire Homes and learn from working people about the problems of coping with disability. They are given time to improve their job hunting tactics and skills of being interviewed. And it seems to work —

"I've learnt to plan and co-operate with people and to listen more."

"Visiting the Cheshire Homes helped us to communicate with people in all sorts of positions."

"I have become much more confident in myself."

Although there are problems and pitfalls, it all seems to add up to a successful scheme.

And this month, of those who started with us back in July, nine have obtained full time jobs and a good start to their working lives.

Perhaps the last word should be from one of the trainees —

"I have learnt a great deal in the office I am working in. I am thoroughly enjoying it and I know that I am benefiting from the scheme a great deal."

## New laser development ordered for rangefinding through smoke and mist

Marconi Avionics CO<sub>2</sub> Laser Rangefinder for Evaluation in new UK Tank Sight

Marconi Avionics Limited has won a contract to develop and supply new prototype laser rangefinders as part of a study to prove their advantages in penetrating smoke and mist.

The prime contract has been placed by the Ministry of Defence (Procurement Executive), on Vickers Instruments, York, England, to produce prototypes of the new tank sight unit. The CO<sub>2</sub> laser rangefinder is to be designed and produced by Marconi Avionics' Applied Physics Division, Borehamwood, England, who were chosen by the Ministry of Defence, after keen competition.

The CO<sub>2</sub> TEA laser (transversely-excited laser, operating at near atmospheric pressure) transmits very short pulses of radiation at high peak power, an ideal characteristic for rangefinding. The early research was pioneered in Europe by SERL, now RSRE, and development and production has been carried out at Marconi Avionics.

The 10 micrometre wavelength of the CO<sub>2</sub> TEA laser rangefinder is compatible with that of thermal imagers, which offers advantages in operational use and in optical design. This wavelength is also "eye-safe", a factor which is essential for realistic training exercises. Perhaps the greatest military advantage of the CO<sub>2</sub> laser is its intrinsically superior penetration of battlefield obscurants, smoke and mist, compared with the currently used Ruby and Neodymium-YAG lasers.

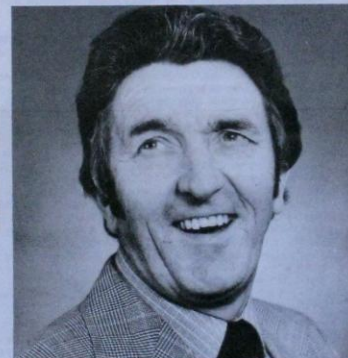
The new development is therefore in the forefront of tank rangefinding technology, and can have an important bearing on the capabilities of UK manufactured tanks, as well as on future exports of sighting systems.

In 1980, the company was selected to supply a number of CO<sub>2</sub> transmitter units to the United States, for use in the CO<sub>2</sub> laser rangefinders currently under development for the prototype M1 Abrams tank.

Marconi Avionics, Applied Physics Division, a world leader in CO<sub>2</sub> laser technology, is also developing systems operating at greater power and higher pulse repetition rates for other military applications.

Note: RSRE is the Royal Signals & Radar Establishment  
SERL was the Services Electronics Research Laboratory

## SUCCESS



Ken Trafford of ADD, winner of the 'Jimi' Award for Best Musical Actor of 1982.

Doing what comes naturally, and being able to do it well, earns its own rewards, as Ken Trafford of ADD has found out during the past days. Ken has been given a "JIMI" Award (the Medway local equivalent of an Oscar!) for his portrayal of a lovelorn Frenchman in "South Pacific". The performance with the Kentish Players earned the Best Musical Actor award for a performance described as "an outstanding portrayal".

As most people who have seen Ken perform, or just sing know that he puts his whole self into his work. He is also a member of Chatham Operatic Society and was a member of the one time Elliott Dramatic Society for 12 years, sometime as its secretary. Without formal training, however, he got the "bug" for singing and performing in public as a "choir boy" when he must have been quite a studious and hard working "cherub".

Our congratulations for being the winner of this difficult class, together with his partner - as a US Naval Nurse in the same production - who received the Best Musical Actress Award.

A Gala night on Saturday, January 8th was the occasion for trophies and certificates to be presented

## DONATION TO THE WISDOM HOSPICE



'Happiness is helping others'. Mr. W.H. Alexander receives on behalf of the "Wisdom Hospice Appeal" from Mr. Alf Harrison (President) and Mr. Martin Polley (Secretary) of the Marconi Brass Band, a cheque for £350, the proceeds from two concerts given by the band in October and December 1982. Mr. Alexander thanked them for the generous donation and commented that during the last three years many helpers from Gravesham, Maidstone, Medway and Swale areas have devoted time and effort to organising activities which have raised the magnificent total of £430,000. The total required for the building, which has now started, is £700,000 so contributions are still urgently required to avoid having to borrow money to complete the work of providing compassionate care at a local hospice for those so desperately in need.



It all began on 29th September 1958, when a new-comer came on the scene at Elliott Bros (London) Ltd, at the Rochester Establishment, with the title of Production Manager.

The company had emerged from the style and title of its somewhat earlier countenance, had become stable and had embarked on producing Aviation Control Systems. This new man, Alfred J. Harrison had arrived, and a new era had dawned, which only came to an end when being several years over age, Alf decided to retire, which he did at the end of 1982.

In the intervening years, he had stamped his mark indelibly on the company, and on the people who made up the work force. At times adored, sometimes resented, followed, esteemed, supported and at times reviled, he took all things in his stride as he brought a new dimension into the production activities. He never asked anyone to do anything he was not prepared to do himself, and many stories abound of how he was with the workpeople, sharing their difficulties and inspiring to achieve the result which alone he believed, would ensure success for the company. A good product, produced accurately and on time, - whatever the discomforts suffered by the personnel.

As was stated, at the official retirement presentation in the Conference Centre before Christmas, he brought a new language - "Cuventry" and a new vocabulary, - which as time went by became Alf's hallmark.

His sincerity and devotion to the company was never in doubt, his warmth and human feelings always apparent, and his leadership rubbed off on to so many people.

Though there can only ever be one Alf Harrison, his influence will remain in the company for many years, through his influence and what he was and did.

It all began when he was born a Miners son. His father was a collier at the Craven pit, on the outskirts of Coventry. His down to earth upbringing - where a spade is a spade and not an instrument for digging the soil - left its mark to last his lifetime.

He served an apprenticeship in Engineering with Alfred Herbert Ltd, the one time British tool manufacturing and subsequently went to Morris Engines. A period at Standard Cars followed, and a return to Morris Engines, before joining Daimler Co. Ltd, with whom he went to Bangor, North Wales to work as Chief Planner in the Shadow factory. At the end of the war period he returned to Coventry and Daimler, and then went to Commer Motors. Forsaking the car industry, which had now moved from being seasonal, to an all year round affair, he broke new ground and joined Dennis Ferranti, from where he went to Plessey as a Production Manager, before coming to Elliott. He was interviewed and appointed by Mr. Jack Pateman who was the General Manager.

The Aviation Division consisted of about 200 people, and Alf became its first controller. He helped in the development of the company, into the Divisions, closed some, merged other and started new ones as appropriate.

His progress is marked by the titles he has held - through Assistant General Manager and for the past few years that of Director of Production Services.

Widely travelled, on Company business, he is as well known across the Atlantic as at home. He has been to Japan five times, China twice, Australia, Singapore etc. etc.

Of many interests his own particular absorbing hobby is Gardening, as a visit to his garden will testify.

A no mean boxer in his younger days, as a lightweight! but pays tribute to his brother, whom he says, "as a boxer, he was good", a boxing referee, cricketer, footballer and tennis player. He is proud of his membership of the M.C.C.H. and is a member of the Worshipful Company of Instrument makers. He is part owner of a race-horse, and enjoys taking full part in the many organisations of which he is a member. Alf was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours of 1982. He is well known as the President and leading fan of the Elliott Concert Brass Band.

As a generous benefactor, he is not so well known, except by those who have experienced his generosity, as he prefers to do his "Good works" by stealth!

To mark Alf Harrison's retirement, many gifts were showered upon him, and many farewell parties were arranged.

The Elliott Concert Brass Band staged a musical evening in his honour; and a large invited audience was present. Martin Polley, one of the original six of the band, presented a framed copy of a special arrangement of "The West Riding". A particular favourite. (See photograph). (Alf likes to recall the time when he sang "On likley Moor baht" at" in a Japanese Geisha House.

Basildon works presented a Scale Model of an AEW scanner. Borehamwood gave a set of crystal glasses, two serving trays, two goblets and two model AEW's.

The Production Team and Production Managers at Rochester put on a special dinner, and gave some inscribed plates.

Rochester establishment presented a Barometer, Binoculars and a Carriage clock.

CMS Division gave Rose Bushes (which were delivered in November, for planting).

## COMPANY FAREWELL



Smiles as the record is noted.



Mr. Alexander OBE, reading out telegrams from the USA on Mr. Harrison's retirement.



Mr. A.J. Harrison, MBE, with members of the Marconi Avionics Ltd., board.



On behalf of everyone, - Happy retirement!

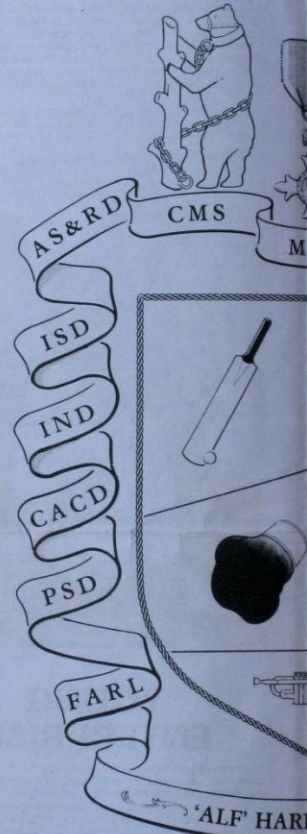


Part of the company who were there to say farewell and thanks for the memory.



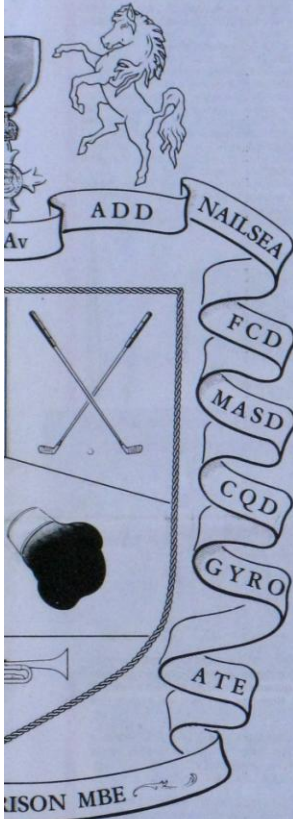
The Production Team

# End of



A 'Coat of Arms' for Alf Harrison who card' for the Production Managers'.

# an Era



ib was the frontispiece of the "Menu inner.



d Production Managers.

## MUSICAL EVENING FAREWELL



Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Harrison.



The band and the audience.



Ken Trafford and Rita Cooke in duet.



The presentation.



Mr. Harrison saying thank you for his presentation with Martin Polley (Secretary of Band) and Tom Crooks (Comperre).

## One man's view of Alf Harrison

By Ken Trafford

Have you ever attended a production progress meeting and heard someone shout "I can't build your \*\*\*\* excuses mister" or "You've got more excuses than a virgin on a park bench"? If you have then, like me, you have known Alf for some time.

I well remember his arrival at Elliotts (as it was then) in 1958. As a young production engineer involved in fuel flow systems and experiencing many problems in assembly and calibration, I first looked upon this new dynamic production manager, with a big nose and hands to match, as the saviour of all my worries. How wrong I was!

My initial meeting in his office to pour out my troubles and tribulations was quickly and effectively ended by me being told to "\*\*\*\* off" and sort my own problems out as that was what I was paid to do and, at the same time, given other problems to solve for my trouble. So I left with my tail between my legs, a proverbial flea in my ear and deciding that I didn't like this so called Coventry Kid.

So you see, his initial strategy was to let people know that he was not, repeat not, a big wide shoulder to cry on. But I soon learnt the other side of his nature, which is as true now as it ever was, that he is a man who would support me and others who worked for him with great vigour and loyalty should we be in trouble or meet an adversary. I well remember the day soon after that initial meeting. I was ridiculed by a fuel flow engineer in front of the people on the shop floor, making me look very small. On reporting this to Alf he at once had this man in his office and, in front of me, gave him the biggest dressing down I have ever heard in my life,

to such an extent that I thought the poor guy was going to pass out as he went pale with fear. Needless to say this did the trick and enabled me to pursue and solve my problems and receive all the assistance I needed from the engineering department then and on future occasions.

These early memories have never faded and the same type of support has continued through my career, especially in January 1963 when I became the production manager, firstly of FID and, in 1965, of CMS, these being very difficult years for me, being young and inexperienced in dealing with brand new divisions and all the problems associated with them.

I then had the pleasure of working directly for him in his team from 1967 until I joined ADD in 1980. It has given me great pleasure in looking back during these 24 years and realising what a happy period of my life it was and what he has done for me and many people like me.

He, of course, will be missed. The man was a one-off and cannot be replaced but I am glad in a way that he has gone because he deserves some time to himself and to pursue the other interests of his life, such as his garden and being with his grandchildren.

I wish him a long and happy retirement and hope that when it is my turn to close the office door for the last time I too can have that knowledge of leaving behind so many good friends.

I think his view of life can so well be summed up by the words of a song I had the pleasure of singing for him quite recently "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain".

# RETIREMENTS

A Welshman who never lost his accent or typical happy attitude and served the company for 29 years has retired. IS Division have bade farewell to **Philip Greening** on his retirement and to mark the occasion was presented with a carriage clock and many expressions of goodwill.

He was educated in the principality at Pontywan Grammar School, Risca, Gwent. On leaving school he went into Men's wear for about a year, and in 1940 he joined Short Bros. at Seaplane Works in the DO, staying with them until their departure to Belfast.

1947 saw him working in London, for Humphrey and Glasgow on Gas Plant Design. Coming to Elliotts in 1953 at Lewisham and after two months, arriving at Rochester, he joined the Aviation Division as a Draughtsman. In 1960 became a DO Checker in MAC until the close down of TSR2 when he joined FID and continued in the DO as checker when FID and AEI Merged to become IS Division.



Philip Greening (A)

On 2nd January 1961 MACD welcomed a new employee to the ranks of Cableformers as **Marge Roberts** began her career on this site, which ended on 9th November 1982 when she retired. After cableforming ceased Marge became a Wirewoman serving in MACD, and also in FCD When CACD split off, Marge was among those who formed CACD.

Her earlier life saw her serving the country as a wartime ATS girl on the catering side, being stationed at Kidbrook and Wainscott. At the conclusion of hostilities and return to civilian life she became a Housekeeper, until coming into the company.

In her retirement she plans to take each day as it comes, but as she likes travelling, plans to do plenty of it. Of a naturally cheerful disposition, she will be greatly missed by the many friends she has made in the division.

On behalf of all her well wishers, Mr. R. Haworth, Chief Production Engineer of CAC presented a Transistor radio as a memento of her 21 years among us.



Marge Roberts with Mr. Haworth, (A)

**Chris Wallin** of CMS has retired. He desired to slip away without fuss or ceremony and his friends and colleagues subscribed to present him with a sum of money, about £30 which he has donated to a charity of his choice; this is the Helen House Hospice in Oxford.

# 25 YEARS' SERVICE

Among the recent recruits to the LSA, we report **Leonard Charles Childs (Len)** who is currently Senior Contracts officer in AS & R Division.

A Londoner by birth, evacuated to Worthing and then returned to North London area, at Hadley Wood near Barnet where he grew up. At one time a student at Watford Technical College.

His apprenticeship was served at Standard Telephones Ltd., at new Southgate, as a Telephone Installation man. On completion he was drafted in to National Service, and on his return to civilian life returned to STC first at New Southgate, and later in their Borehamwood works.

That was the time, 1957, when he joined Elliott Bros. at Borehamwood in GW Division as a Test Engineer, later joining the Hydraulics unit at Borehamwood also as a Test Engineer. On the transfer of hydraulics to Rochester, Len came with the unit, into Gyro Division in his capacity of Test Engineer. He later became a member of AED, doing various duties, Stock Control, Planning, Charting etc., and on the merger in 1970 with FID took a post of stock control ISD, until moving across the airfield to AS & RD in 1973 as Stock Controller, subsequently he progressed into the commercial world, and is now a Senior Contracts Officer.

To mark his completion of 25 years Mr. E.W. Ecob on behalf of the management presented his chosen gift of a Clock.



Len Childs with Mr. Ecob. (A)

don't get  
snowed under  
with ideas  
put them  
in the suggestion  
box  
before they melt  
away

# SUGGESTION SCHEME

The latest list of Suggestion Award winners is as below.

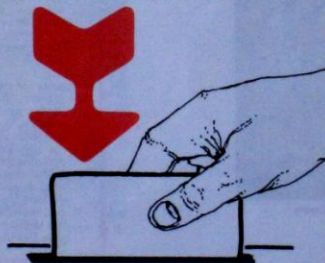
A suggestion concerning possible improvements in checking overload protection and sub-rail gen module of MRCA waveform generator in ADD, gained an award of £16.03 for Miss A. Brehony, an Electrical Apprentice in AD Division.

A suggestion concerning a possible aid to prevent damage to Boeing 747 auto throttle computers while using test set, gained an award of £33.22 for Mr. J.A. Kent a Quality Technician in AS & R Division.

A suggestion concerning a possible saving in time, labour and cost when dealing with functional test report system (Jaguar) in IN Division, gained an award of £17.69 for Mr. M.D. Owen an Electrical Inspector in IN Division.

A suggestion concerning a more efficient method of lowering finished CSU into hull, gained an award of £13.86 for Mr. D. Wiggins an Inspector in Gyro Division.

A suggestion concerning a saving on paper in clean room area of Gyro Division, gained an award of £12.57 for Mr. K.J. Taylor a Leading Hand in Gyro Division.



# ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service as usual, took place on Monday 13th December in Green St. Baptist Church, Gillingham led by the Elliott (Marconi) Concert Brass Band, conducted by Ian Walton.



Mrs. J. Collins reading a lesson at the Carol Service.



Revelers!!



Altogether now!



—and the band played on!

## REVELRIES

The Company staff dance held at the Royal Star, Maidstone on December 20th.



Quick, slow, quick, quick, slow.



Some prefer to sit it out.



Making the Prize Draw at Royal Star.

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

# Sports and social club round up

## '65 Club Annual Party

The party was held at the Featherby Road Clubhouse on December 14th. After the meal, provided by the Steward and Stewardess, the company enjoyed old time and modern dancing, community singing and party games. Music was provided by the Arthur Brown Trio, and was greatly appreciated.



That's the worst of hats—they spoil the hair do!



More table clearance.



No prizes for naming the guests.



In a party mood.



Some well known faces.

## MAv/BP Kent Club MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At the Management Committee Meeting held on 8th December, 1982, PETER J. BIRD was elected Vice-Chairman for 1983

## MARCONI AVIONICS—BP KENT CLUB Section Secretaries of Joint Club

- Angling**  
Derek Waller  
**Amateur Radio**  
Allan Ralph
- Archery**  
Leonard Stone
- Art**  
David Peils
- Athletics**  
Len Murphy
- Badminton**  
Ray Docker
- Bowls**  
Len Mortley
- Brass Band (Musicians Society)**  
Martin Polley
- Cricket**  
Bill Burke
- Darts and Cards**  
Graham Burford
- Golf**  
Allan Gillett
- Horticultural**  
Alan Morgan-Brown
- Judo**  
Jim Hinchlisse
- Karate**  
Stephen Packham
- Model Aircraft**  
Terry Medhurst
- Netball**  
Alan Springate
- Photography**  
Paul Nash
- Popmobility**  
Diana Bower
- Rifle**  
Peter Haley
- Soccer**  
Michael Harper
- Squash**  
Harry Kennett
- John Hollands**
- Sub Aqua**  
Eddie Butcher
- Swimming**  
Reg Taylor
- Table Tennis**  
Robin Sheridan
- Tennis**  
Derek Shaw
- Tug-o-War**  
Ted Herbert
- Yachting**  
Pauline Beldham
- Yoga**  
Valerie Fennell
- 39 Lingley Drive, Wainscott (Med. 78909)
- CACD Engineering
- MAV Gyro, int. 2006
- ATE Drawing Office, int. 2644
- ADD Progress, ext. 395, int. 2893
- ATED
- 23 Avery Way, Allhallows (Med. 272181)
- ADD Production, ext. 620, int. 2885
- ADD Quality Assurance, int. 2206
- FCD Production, ext. 168, int. 2836
- IN Engineer, int. 2707
- ATE Engineering, int. 2648
- Fisher Controls
- IND Test
- IN Production
- CMS Stores/Inspection
- MASD Production, ext. 276, int. 2797
- Secretary to Mr. W. H. Alexander  
ext. 621, int. 2363
- ATE  
BP
- 263 Woodlands Road, Gillingham
- MASD Cost and Budget, ext. 363, int. 2547
- 78 Reed Street Cliffe (Med. 220350)
- 16 Povey Avenue, Frindsbury
- MAS, int. 2788
- MAV Gyro, int. 2649
- IND Production, int. 2736
- Telephone Exchange Supervisor, BP
- MAV Personnel Records, int. 2222

## YOGA

Start the New Year with a new approach to life  
**JOIN THE YOGA CLUB**

Classes held on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm  
Tower 1, Ground Floor, Conference Room

All details from Valerie Fennell int. 2222 Personnel Records  
or Joanna Moore int. 2257 MASD

## Photographic Sections

An extraordinary General Meeting of both the Elliott Photographic Society and BP Photographic Society was held on Tuesday, 4th January, 1983 in the Towers Conference room.

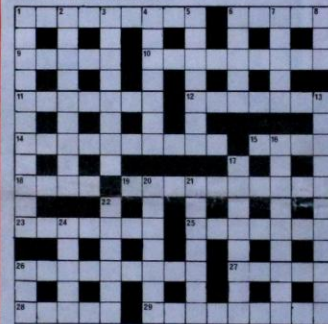
After some discussion it was agreed that the two clubs would amalgamate, to which end a joint committee would be formed.

An election for officers and committee of the joint society—was then conducted. Those elected were:

- |               |                  |           |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|
| Chairman      | Mick Wilson      | MAV—MASD  |
| Vice Chairman | Graeme Russell   | BP        |
| Secretary     | Paul Nash        | MAV—MASD  |
| Treasurer     | Tony Mager       | MAV. IND  |
| Committee (4) | — Clarke         | BP        |
|               | Bernard Smithson | BP        |
|               | Brian Paxton     | MAV. IND  |
|               | Kevin Restell    | MAV. MACD |

For the remainder of the season, each section of the society will follow its programme as arranged. MAV. Section meeting each Wednesday at 8.00 pm in the Towers Conference Room, and BP section each alternate Thursday, commencing 6th January 1983 at 8.00pm in the upstairs room of the Clubhouse.

## CROSSWORD NO. 48



### ACROSS

1. Padding a frame work for comfort (9)
5. Use day and month with year (5)
9. Very short stunted (5)
10. Solid without mobility (9)
11. Correcting the address for delivery (7)
12. An intricate interweave (7)
14. The one to put you in touch (7-3)
15. Distance from point to point (4)
18. A kiln for drying out (4)
19. Soon to cost a penny more, tip (5-5)
23. Girls best friend? (7)
25. The post goes aloft (3-4)
26. Under jacket, male or female (9)
27. Narcotic poison of great power (5)
28. Fundamentally simple (5)
29. Describes a youngster, and fire power (3-2-1-2)

### DOWN

1. In the shade without proof (5-1-5)
2. The editor makes them scream (9)
3. A seaman's refuge, when threatened (4-4)
4. Expressed in three languages (7)
5. Country of Eastern Europe (7)
6. Hinge pin (5)
7. Prohibited, not done (5)
8. Female deer (3)
13. Was wise beyond comprehension (4-7)
16. Now called appeasement (9)
20. Not outside (7)
21. Hardy undaunted type face (7)
22. Special glue, after make up (6)
24. Malfunction says she is! (5)
26. The spiers' weapon (3)

For amusement only

### SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO. 47

#### ACROSS

- 1 Shortcomings; 10 Regales; 11 Paradox; 12 Volcano; 13 Dwellier; 14 Nudge; 15 Alleysways; 17 Lord Mayor; 20 Lapel; 22 Satanic; 24 Nileport; 25 Omitted; 26 Eyegore; 27 Early closing

#### DOWN

- 2 Haggled; 3 Release; 4 Casowary; 5 Moped; 6 Nursery; 7 Sedila; 8 Driving lesson; 9 Express letter; 16 Laryngeal; 18 Ratline; 19 Monitor; 20 Lawyers; 21 Pronoun; 23 Caddy.

Photographs taken by the Staff Photographers will be acknowledged in the following way: (A) Alan Rees; (C) Nancy Bullock; (D) Alan Marshall.

The view and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or Company. Any such opinion or comment are those of the contributor alone and are printed solely as a matter of interest.  
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## Diary Dates

### Clubhouse, Four Wents, Hoo

- 5th February, 1983  
Parlour Derby Evening, Betting units 20p
- 26th February, 1983  
Discotheque — Tickets £1 each
- 5th March, 1983  
Social Evening
- 11th March, 1983  
Cricket Discotheque
- 19th March, 1983  
Country and Western Evening



No, He's not celebrating a new contract. He's left over from the Office Party.