

## M-O Valve man triumphs on stage

JOHN Stevens, (right) of the M-O Valve Company, Hammersmith, has a busy working life supervising the production of grids, heaters, cathodes and other similar components. But, outside the sphere of electronic tube production, he is known professionally as Ivan Stepanov, a bass-baritone with his own group of balalaika players, singers and dancers. The group specialises in Russian music and has made many successful appearances at the Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and over 50 theatres in England and abroad.



# LIFELINE FOR JOBLESS YOUNGSTERS

## Hubble bubble goes electric

EMPLOYEES at Redring Electric, Peterborough, are busy with an unusual export assignment — converting hubble bubble pipes to electricity.

The pipes were originally fired with charcoal, a commodity lacking in modern hotel rooms. Now travelling Arabs can simply plug in and have a smoke.

The company is producing 750 pipes a month for an anonymous Saudi Arabian customer.

An electric heater keeps the temperature automatically controlled and an accessory kit converts the heater to an incense burner or, for the more Westernised, a bedside tea-maker.

ANOTHER export with a Middle Eastern flavour, won by Claudgen, involves the supply and installation of all signs at Tripoli International Airport, Libya.

These include 160 illuminated information and directional signs inside the terminal building, all traffic signs on the approach roads and two large roof signs reading "Welcome to Tripoli Airport" in Arabic script. The signs utilise Cleora long life cold cathode lamps.

The order was placed by the Consortium of National Companies in Tripoli after a visit to Libya by Russell Williams, Claudgen's sales director.

AT the end of last year Jennifer Park was one of nearly 50,000 jobless school leavers facing an alarmingly bleak future. Now, thanks to GEC-Marconi Electronics, she has a permanent job on production control with Marconi Communications Systems at Chelmsford.

Jennifer came to the company via a scheme called the Work Experience Programme. This gives unemployed youngsters the chance of six months' experience in various kinds of work.

The programme, organised by the Manpower Services Commission, was prompted by growing concern over the high level of unemployment among the young. It was launched last September to provide jobs for young people at a time when they might otherwise become depressed and disillusioned.

At GEC-Marconi Electronics, 60 young people will receive practical experience of working life within factories in the Chelmsford area. Twenty trainees, aged between 16 and 19, have already been taken on since last November.

Although there is no guarantee of permanent jobs it has been hoped, from the onset, to place some trainees within the company.

Company training officer Charles Rex explained: 'We are delighted that, in Jennifer's case, this had happened so soon. It is a great morale booster to all concerned.'

GEC-Marconi Electronics was one of the first manufacturing companies to take part in the scheme.

Other participants range from individuals to large international concerns. BP, Fords, Marks and Spencer, a farmer in Suffolk, an Estate Agent in St Albans and a Zoo in East Anglia are among the participants who have joined GEC-Marconi Electronics to cope with what could become a serious national problem. Between them they are finding occupation for some of the 10,000 applicants who have already asked Manpower Services Commission for help.

The GEC-Marconi scheme starts with a short introductory course covering safety, communication and office procedures. The trainees are then attached to departments where they work for the supervisor or foreman on a wide variety of

tasks. Training officers provide assistance and advice.

Trainees are given a chance to gain self confidence and learn about different types of work at first hand.

TO PAGE 6



## It's an honour



Sir Kenneth Bond



Dr Rizk

THREE GEC people received awards in the New Year's Honours List.

GEC's deputy managing director, Kenneth Bond, was knighted for services to export.

Sir Kenneth is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and took his articles with the City firm of Messrs. Cooper & Cooper, of which he later became a partner. In this capacity he had a close connection with the electrical industry and in 1957 he became financial controller of Radio and Allied Industries Limited. He became a director of the company at the beginning of 1958.

After the merger of Radio and Allied with The General

Electric Company Limited in 1961 he played an increasing part in the affairs of GEC, and was appointed financial director in 1962. He became deputy managing director in 1966.

Sir Kenneth was born in London in 1920. At the time of the Munich crisis he joined the Territorial Army and served in France until Dunkirk. Later he saw service in the Middle East and the Aegean.

He was married in 1958 and lives at Gerrards Cross with his wife, Jennifer, and their family of three boys and three girls.

His outside interests include golf and the provision of facilities for sports for young people.

Sir Kenneth sits on the Department of Industry's Industrial Development Advisory Board and was recently appointed to the committee, chaired by Sir Harold Wilson, set up to review Britain's financial institutions.

Awarded OBE's were Dr Rizk, managing director of GEC Gas Turbines of Whetstone, near Leicester, and William Hobbs of Marconi Elliott Avionic Systems Limited.

Dr Waheeb Rizk (55) who lives at Rugby, was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he graduated in mechanical sciences and gained a doctorate for research into combustion engines. He continued to research at Cambridge until 1954 when he joined English Electric, later to merge with GEC. He has worked at Rugby and Whetstone and became general manager in 1967 before becoming managing director of GEC Gas Turbines in 1971.

Since the merger of GEC and English Electric he has been much concerned with seeking large overseas contracts and has travelled to many parts of the world.

Two-and-a-half years ago he was elected president of the International Council for Combustion Engines and was recently re-elected for a further term.

Married with three children Dr Rizk once held a private pilots licence and enjoyed flying. He is now interested in photography.

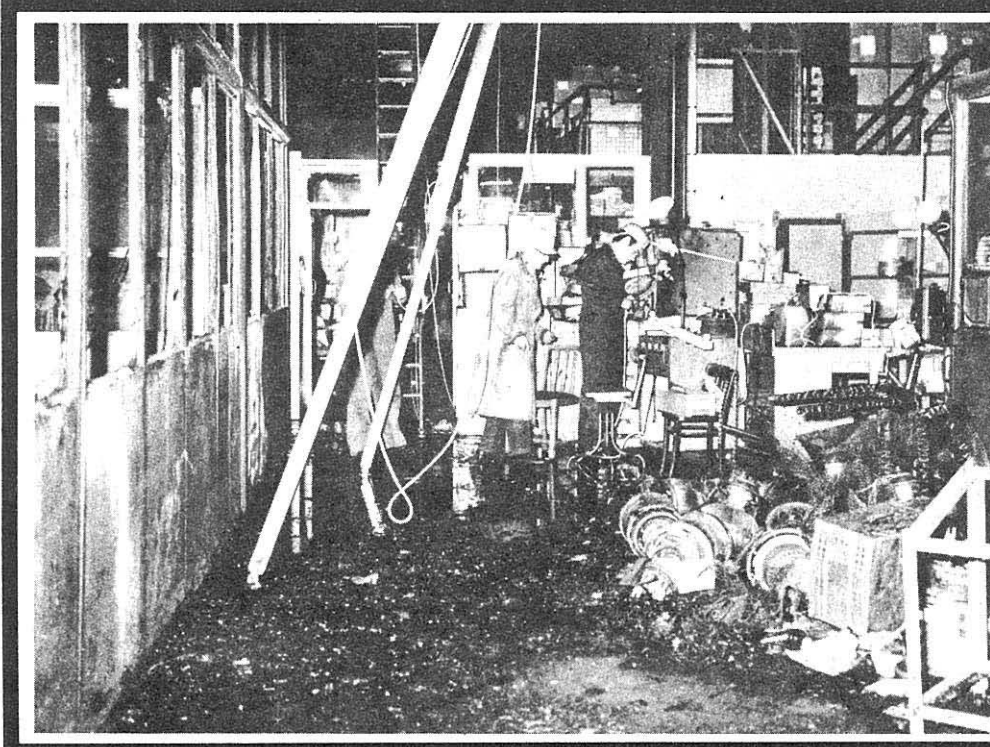
See "OBE for Marconi TV pioneer" on page 3.

## Mrs Thatcher at Hotpoint

DAVID Roberts (left) explains a tricky point to Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, during her visit to Hotpoint, Llandudno. David works on the 1701 tumble driers line.

Mr Wynne Roberts, MP for Conway, is also pictured.

Mrs Thatcher talked to many people about their jobs.



## Arson not suspected in £1m blaze

A FIRE in the early hours of December 31 at the Marconi Communication Systems premises in Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford has caused damage estimated at £1m.

The alarm was raised by the security patrolman, and five fire appliances attended the scene. Firemen, wearing breathing apparatus, had the fire under control within an hour.

The big, single-storey stores building was partly burnt out, and in the blackened section lay the remains of valves — each costing £2,500 — camera testing equipment and radar components.

A number of employees volunteered to give up part of their New Year's holiday to assist in sorting through the wreckage and clearing away the debris.

Arson is not suspected, although the cause of the fire is still a mystery.

## Hotpoint in major promotion

A £20,000 competition will feature on twelve-and-a-half million Persil and Persil Automatic packs now going into the shops.

Five winners will each receive Schreiber kitchens complete with Hotpoint Liberator washing machines, tumble dryers and de luxe fridges and second and third prize winners will receive Hotpoint Liberator washing machines and tumble dryers.

The competition, which is based on eight kitchen items to be placed in order of importance with the tie-breaker "I think Hotpoint recommend Persil because . . . . .", closes at the end of November 1977. The promotion will be backed by television advertising.

## It's Marconi again for USA TV market

THE penetration of the United States' television market by the Marconi MkVIII automatic colour camera continues with the completion of a new contract placed by the KTVQ station in Billings, Montana.

Nearly one-seventh of all MkVIIIs exported have been purchased by US users, and there are now more of these cameras in use there than in

any other country in the northern hemisphere.

The contract, which followed an on-site demonstration, was placed with Marconi Electronics Inc., of Northvale, New Jersey. They supplied two cameras and a range of ancillary equipment manufactured by Marconi Communication Systems.

KTVQ is part of the Gary Owen Group. It serves Billings, with a population of 100,000, and neighbouring communities in Montana and Wyoming. The station previously operated with the highly successful Marconi MkVII colour camera. It will use its new MkVIII for inserts in programmes like "In Montana Today" and for commercials. There is much cattle-ranching in the region and many commercials will be for agricultural equipment and services.

It has set new standards in television camera performance and operational simplicity, allowing automatic line-up and colour balance inside three minutes from "switch-on" — a time saving of over half-an-hour compared with other equipment in general use.

## More P.C.M. for Eire

MORE Marconi P.C.M. (pulse code modulation) equipment has been purchased by the Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs for use in Eire's telephone system.

Under the terms of the latest contract, Marconi Communication Systems is to supply two additional 24 channel systems for use on the Cork-Middleton route to supplement six existing systems. Delivery of the equipment will start soon and is scheduled for completion by June 1977.

Starting with an initial order in 1970, Marconi Communication Systems has supplied all of the equipment for Eire's present network. With the signing of the present contract the value of Marconi P.C.M. sales at home and abroad is approaching the £21.5 million mark.

## MP at Liverpool

ERIC Ogden, member of Parliament for West Derby, recently visited GEC Distribution Equipment, Liverpool.

Mr Ogden toured the drawing office, design and commercial departments, machining and fabrication shops, switchgear assembly and transformer manufacturing areas. He had short discussions with management and staff and was particularly interested in the problems currently affecting industry and in the extent to which GEC Distribution Equipment were compensating for the shortage of home business with export achievements.



## Flying visit

AIR Chief Marshal Sir Neil Cameron (above right), Chief of the Air Staff, made a "flying" visit to Marconi Radar Systems, Chelmsford, in December.

Accompanied by John Sutherland, managing director of Marconi Radar Systems, Sir Neil arrived by helicopter on a playing field at the rear of the company's Writtle Road establishment.

He visited the factory and was given a series of presentations on the company's major air defence projects.

This photograph shows John Sutherland with Sir Neil.

## INTRODUCING THE GEC CHRISTMAS HAMPER BROCHURES for 1977

Christmas Hampers which contain only high quality food and drink are packed for GEC people by

**CLEMENT HAMPERS LTD of SMITHFIELD, LONDON**

and are available to all GEC employees, their families and friends on an easy payment system.

Brochures containing details of the large range of Hampers can be obtained from either the Secretary of your Sports and Social Club or from the staff shops at GEC Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1PR, GEC East Lanes Road, Liverpool L10 5HB, GEC Xpelair Employee's Purchases Shop, 220 Deykin Avenue, Witton, Birmingham, GEC Staff Shop, Blackheath Works, Rowley Regis, Warley, and the GEC Magnet Club, Park Approach, Erdington, Birmingham 23.

**AN EASY AND TROUBLE FREE WAY** of ensuring that you reserve and get the BEST for Christmas. Hampers carry an unconditional guarantee of satisfaction with every sale.

### HELP YOUR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB AND YOURSELF

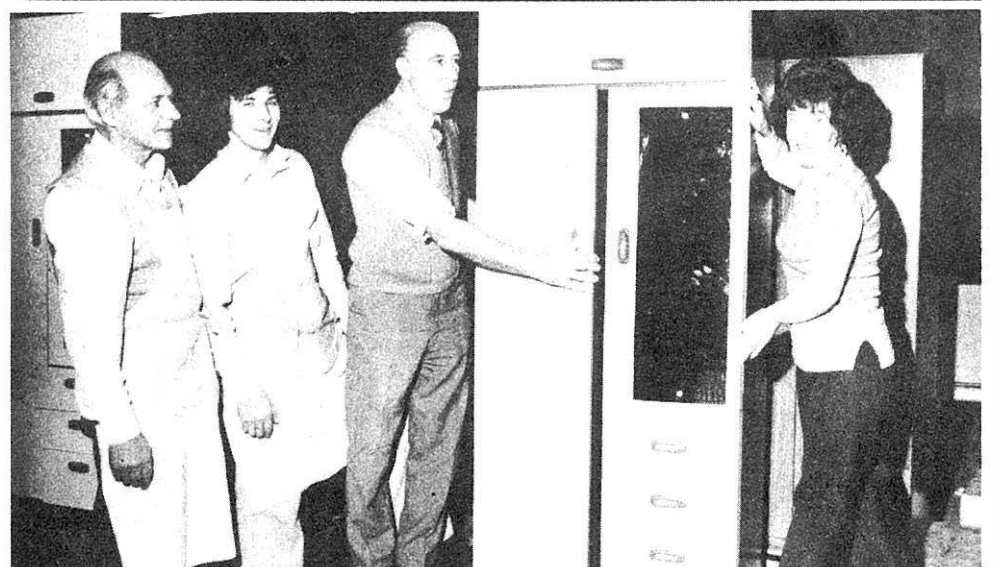
by placing your order with the Club or Staff Shop. The weekly payment scheme will be very helpful to you when it comes to Christmas, the most expensive time of the year.

**CLEMENT HAMPERS** have supplied many GEC and Marconi Units over a period of many years and their sales have GROWN consistently.

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TOPIC  
COPY DATE  
MARCH 21st

## One in a million!



THE millionth piece of Schreiber bedroom furniture to come off the production line at their Trafford Park Manchester factory since they took over the factory in 1972 is pictured above.

Schreiber Furniture decided to donate the furniture, a useful combination wardrobe from the best-selling Maryland range, to the Longford Aged Persons Home at 37 Edge Lane, Manchester 21. Pictured above is Mrs Jo Timoney accepting the wardrobe on behalf of the home. Also in the picture, from left to right, are cabinet makers Albert Fornby and David Shan and final inspector William Hardy. As in all Schreiber furniture factories there is no clocking on and a strong emphasis on personal welfare.

Schreiber Furniture took over the factory in Trafford Park from Great Universal Stores in August 1972 and invested £5 million in it, making it one of the most up-to-date furniture factories in Europe. The annual turnover of this factory is currently running at over £14 million.



**Charity begins at work**

IN these difficult times it is heartening to see that Hotpoint's Welsh factories have again made a large and varied number of gifts through the charitable fund formed approximately 18 months ago.

Money for the fund comes exclusively from workers' wages and is used to provide benefits for workers but also to help needy causes in the area.

Donations made this year cover the wide radius in which the workers live. In a mountainous area like North Wales this runs from Blaenau Ffestiniog and its slate quarries, through Bangor and its university, Llandudno, Colwyn Bay to Rhyl and the coastal areas near to Chester.

Concern has ranged over the problems faced by children, disabled adults, the elderly and a contribution to provision of expensive equipment for a local hospital. Donations totalled over £600.

THE apprentices at GEC Measurements, Stafford, have held a sponsored session of "press-ups" on behalf of the Staffordshire County Association for the Blind.

John Healy, one of the 30 participants, achieved 102 press-ups in three minutes.

A cheque for £100 was presented to Councillor George Bailey by apprentice Anil Dass, the managing director of Apprentice Enterprises, with the hope that the gift would assist the blind in a practical way.

EMPLOYEES at English Electric Fusegear's 201 and 202 sections at Liverpool have contributed to £640 which was equally divided between Park Hospital's Geriatric Ward and a Social Services Home dedicated to the care of mentally handicapped children. The money was spent in providing specialised toys, clothing for the old folks, fruit and sweets. The funds were raised by a committee supported by a shop.

A "barometer", erected in a central position, showed the growing weekly total of collections.

OLD people in the West Bromwich area received 108 food parcels at Christmas from employees of Walsall Conduits.

The food was bought and collected during two schemes organised by the firm's new social committee, formed at the suggestion of assistant managing director John Harrison.

**OBE for Marconi TV pioneer**

BILL Hobbs, divisional manager in Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems, has been awarded an OBE in the New Year honours list. As manager of the company's Basildon-based Electro-Optical Systems division, Mr Hobbs is responsible for the organisation which pioneered the use of television in industry, and made major contributions in the development and production of electro-optical systems for both industrial and military applications, a substantial proportion of which are for export.

Bill Hobbs joined the Marconi Research Organisation at Great Baddow in 1952 and, on his transfer to the advanced development group in 1954, became a member of the team which designed and developed the BBC's first colour television equipment.

In 1964 his team in Marconi's closed circuit television division supplied colour television equipment for monitoring the launch of the United States' Saturn rocket, the first ever application of

colour television in a major rocket launch. In 1965 he became technical manager of the division which, after assuming responsibility for the advanced television guidance system for the Anglo/French Martel air-to-surface missile, became the electro-optical systems division.

In 1970 he was appointed division manager of this organisation, now part of Marconi-Elliott Avionic

Systems, the most experienced company for industrial television and electro-optical systems in the world.



Bill Hobbs



**Miss Xpelair**

ELIZABETH Floyd of Birmingham is the latest Miss Xpelair. As winner of the contest held in November she receives £50 in prize money, and will represent GEC-Xpelair at promotions and exhibitions throughout the year.

**Christmas at Coventry**

MISS GEC Coventry, Asha Nath (22) joins in the fun at one of the Christmas parties at the headquarters of GEC Telecommunications. The three parties were attended by 2000 children aged between five and 10 years. Employees children between 11 and 13 years old received a gift voucher.



**Party time for director**

IT'S not all work and no play for John Blackwood, financial director. English Electric Valves. Mr Blackwood helped serve tea for 270 employees children at the annual EEV children's party held Saturday, January 15th. The children's entertainment included comedy magic and balloon bending by international entertainers.

**Another SEI success**

JOHN Egan, senior foreman in the Metallised Capacitor Department of Salford Electrical Industries, Eccles, has won his Certificate in Industrial Management.

SEI is well represented in the Institution of Works Managers, and a dozen members from the Eccles and Haywood factories have successfully sat for the Institution's Certificate or Diploma in the past few years.

**Satchwell**

ON January 7 Satchwell Control Systems held their annual buffet dance at the Excelsior Hotel near London Airport.

About 650 people attended and a Tombola competition raised over £100. The money will be used to finance Satchwell's annual outing for senior citizens who are housebound.

**Retirement**

BERT Brennan, chairman and convener of the works committee, Trafford Park, has retired after 49 years with the company. Full details will be published in the next issue of TOPIC.

**33 1/3% discount off Hotpoint appliances and Schreiber furniture**

All GEC employees qualify for a 33 1/3% discount off the recommended retail price of Hotpoint appliances and Schreiber furniture.

Write to GEC-SCHREIBER, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 0EL for the catalogue of your choice.

One third off the glittering Iced Diamond range of fridges, fridge-freezers and combinations.

One third off Liberator automatics, twin-tubs and tumble dryers.

One third off the Schreiber furniture ranges - something for every room.

All products will be delivered direct to your home, and are covered by the Hotpoint and Schreiber guarantees.

Please tick the catalogue you are interested in.

Hotpoint   
Schreiber

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

T.3



A privilege offer to employees of GEC from the GEC-SCHREIBER COMPANY.



Rita Hunt

## Technical careers for MCSL girls

THE intake of apprentices in September included three girls who wish to train for technical careers in Marconi Communication Systems, Chelmsford.

Rita Hunt from Eltham took 'A' levels in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at the Haberdashers Askes Girls' School. She is training to be an electronics engineer and hopes to go to university later on.

Kathleen Rhind from Billericay gained her 'O' levels at the Mayflower

School, and is following a mechanical apprenticeship with a view to becoming a draughtswoman.

Tina Mitchell, who lives in Chelmsford, gained her CSEs at Chelmer Valley High School. She is the first girl craft apprentice and is training to become an instrument maker.

The training department hopes that more girls leaving school will be encouraged to enter technical careers with the company.



Tina Mitchell



Kathleen Rhind

## GPO hopes to save millions

THE Post Office believes that savings of something like £10 million per year can be achieved by using aluminium conductors rather than copper in telephone cables. Now Telephone Cables, Dagenham, has installed a major new production plant at its Dagenham site to produce aluminium alloy wire: many years of research and development activity have gone into the

project, which is an integral part of the Post Office's cost-cutting plans to change over from copper.

The first aluminium conductors started to appear in telephone cables some ten years ago. At present about a quarter of the Post Office's telephone cable purchases use aluminium: and by the early 1980s it is estimated that only five per cent of new cable will have the copper conductors.

## Export boost for Hotpoint

A NEW agreement has opened the doors of Europe to domestic electrical appliances made by Hotpoint of England.

The name Hotpoint is well established throughout the United States, the UK and Europe. Until now Hotpoint of England, a GEC Schreiber company, has only held the UK rights to the name.

The agreement with General Electric Company of America means that Hotpoint of England can now market its range of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, tumble dryers and other appliances in Europe under its own name through the outlets already established by the American company.

Coupled with Hotpoint's growing share of the UK market, this big new market will provide the platform for the significant economies of scale and the improved technical facilities envisaged in the £22m development programme recently announced.

As a result of the new prospects in Europe, plans are already in hand to extend the distribution and promotion throughout Europe.

## Marconi on test at EEV

A NEW Marconi Radar S2020 transmitter/receiver has recently been installed in the microwave beam tube section at English Electric Valve, Chelmsford, for the testing of EEV's high powered K347A klystron.

The K347A is a 3-cavity klystron amplifier giving a peak pulsed output of 600kW at frequencies in the range 580MHz to 610MHz and was developed by EEV in the late 1950's to power a new generation of 50cm airport approach radars required to cope with the advent of jet aircraft and rapid increase in air traffic.

## More people and proceeds

THE Annual Electrical Industries Ball held at Grosvenor House on November 12 was an unqualified success both socially and financially. Attendance was 18% up on 1975 at just under 800 people and net proceeds appear to have been increased by 40%.

Music for dancing was provided by George Jay and his orchestra. Entertainment was provided by Della and Bobby, Caribbean Limbo dancers who insisted upon volunteers participating — much to the amusement of onlookers. Among the guests were: Richard Belling, Frank Chapple, Sir Peter Menzies, Sir William Ryland and Gordon Yardley.

The draw for the annual prize of the "500" Club was made by Mrs John White and the winner of the cheque for £1,000 was G. B. Sheldon of Staffs. The draw for the "500" Club monthly £100 was also made, the winner being W. B. Knox of CFGB, Guildford.

Lady Hawkins wife of the EEIBA president, Sir Arthur Hawkins, drew winning tickets for the 12 raffle prizes which included a £300 holiday for two, a Christmas hamper, flowers for a year, a refrigerator and a tumble drier. Proceeds from the ball are expected to net £4,500.

Next year's ball will again be held at Grosvenor House, on November 11. Further information and enrolment forms for "500" Club are available from: Laraine Venning, EEIBA, 8 Station Parade, Balham High Road SW12.

## DIARY NOTE

THE Golden Jubilee dinner of the GEC Trafford Park Production Staff Association will be held on April 22 at Pavilion Suites, LCCC, Old Trafford. Please note the date in your diary.



## The finishing touches

DESIGNER Miss Dolesch (above) gives the finishing touches to a neon sculpture. Claudgen produced the sculpture — and another in coloured stainless steel — in conjunction with Miss Dolesch for Laporte-Industries. They will be displayed at Laporte's Hanover Square office.

## Peak of success for SEI

SALFORD Electrical Instruments, in conjunction with Endeavour Training, organised its first weekend for personnel of all ages and occupations from both the Eccles and Heywood factories.

A selected group of 40 (product manager, clerks, shop floor operators, personnel staff, secretaries, development engineers, chargehands and union representatives) along with workers from the "Endeavour" organisation set off for the Derbyshire Peak District for a residential weekend.

Response was remarkable. Christian names were exchanged, for the first time between many personnel, and from the first instant observers were slightly taken aback by the ease of the atmosphere. People, rather than personnel, exchanged ideas uninhibitedly on a wide variety of subjects.

Formality was kept to a minimum and it was quickly evident that the group themselves were enthusiastic enough about the venture to keep it moving along without prompting from the organisers.

At the Glenbrook Activity Centre, which is situated in the Hope valley in Derbyshire, the group launched themselves into the many varied activities on offer. It was obvious from the outset that this was going to be a weekend to remember.

On the Friday evening the group was split into four and driven into the darkness and cheerfully dumped, with maps, torches and compasses into the wilderness of the Derbyshire Moors. From then on it was either team spirit or a long cold night. At least two good map readers were

in each group, however, and those who couldn't contribute technically added enthusiasm and a steady hand on the torches.

To the great relief of Colin Sherwin, personnel training officer and organiser of the weekend, each group drifted happily into the camp at various stages of the evening and early morning. One group had found its torch batteries to be damp, and unable to read the maps, gave the best performance of the expedition by coming in on sense and sound only.

On the Saturday the group took part in activities which to them were totally new experiences, and covered canoeing, rock climbing and abseiling, there were also craft sessions where they had the opportunity to try their hand at sketching, jewellery making and pottery.

In the evening there was a drama session which was followed by a social and buffet. Sunday's activities included caving, archery and a walking tour. The course was rounded off by a film and discussion session which provoked a good deal of thought and suggestion.

Theoretically, the basis of the "adventure weekend" was one of "smoothing down barriers", self-development and building of personal confidence. This hopefully should result in better working relations, improved communications, and greater team spirit in the company.

However, SEI is not resting on its laurels, but will be holding further courses, based upon the experiences gained by the early 'pioneers'. It is also hoped that they will be involved in the administration and organisation of these courses.

# It's the good new days at Ruston

PARENTS of Ruston Gas Turbines' first year craft apprentices who accepted the invitation of the company to visit the Lincoln training centre on Saturday, December 4, were pleasantly surprised at what they saw, for the environment in which their sons are working must have differed considerably from what some of them, with memories of the past, expected to see.

There have been great changes in working conditions since some of the visiting fathers were learning their trade: what they found in the training area was a far cry from the era of dim lighting, dusty atmospheres and far from pleasant conditions which existed in years gone by.

Today people worked, and young people learned, in light, airy conditions in a well-planned lay-out, all of which make their own contributions to the end product — an efficient job worthy of the name of Ruston.

In a brief talk to the parents, the training manager, W. J. R. Stocks touched upon these points, emphasising that the training area is in no way a show-piece. "It is a place where work is actually done and the conditions here are typical of the factory as a whole."

On recruitment, Mr Stocks said: "To some extent it is true that today there is not quite the same keenness among young people to enter the engineering industry, but I am sure this disinclination is based on a mistaken idea of what engineering is really like and what prospects it can offer."

He went on to explain that in the first year an apprentice received a broad base training which included fitting, machining using all types of equipment, metal joining processes such as welding, soldering and brazing, an introduction to electricity and electrical equipment and a familiarisation training

programme to introduce him to the company's products — gas turbines and turbochargers. "This training is essential to give him the full range of skills he will use in his future employment as a skilled man."

Some of the apprentices, he said, were already expressing an interest in becoming out-workers — installing and commissioning gas turbines on site. They would not only travel the world but would carry a very high personal responsibility as representatives of the company.

Academic education continued alongside practical training — "We have engineering graduates in the company today who started in the craft apprentice stream, justified transfer to the technical stream where educational standards are higher and did so well that we sponsored them to go to University to take Higher National diplomas or degrees," said Mr Stocks.

Mr Stocks spoke briefly about the training centre's "Horizon" scheme which gives apprentices a sense of community involvement. He defined the scheme as, broadening their personal horizons by endeavour in terms of learning how other people live, community services work and developing their own potential of initiative, co-operation and leadership.

After refreshments parents toured the centre and rounded the visit off by seeing a film about the company.

## PRODUCTION CONTROL MANAGER LONDON SE20

Londex — responsible for production planning, purchasing, material control and customer liaison. Will preferably be aged 28-38 with qualifications to HNC level, and should have experience in small batch production control in a medium sized company. Experience in the implementation of systems using EDP would be an advantage. Reporting to the Works Manager. (Ref. 1077)

## CHIEF QUALITY ENGINEER KIDSGROVE

GEC Industrial Controls — to lead a team engaged in all aspects of quality engineering. Preferably have degree or HND in Electrical/Electronic Engineering and relevant experience. (Ref. 1078)

## DIESEL SALES REPRESENTATIVE LONDON

Ruston Diesels — covering the territory of London and South East England. To carry out sales negotiations for range of Medium Speed Diesel Engines for Industrial applications for UK and overseas. Experience in negotiating with consultants, engineers and users necessary. Experience of Industrial Diesel Engine applications useful and background in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering/Sales. (Ref. 1064)

## ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS CHELMSFORD

English Electric Valve Co. — interesting work on electronic equipment associated with high technology manufacturing. Some circuit experience and qualifications towards HNC preferred. (Ref. 1079)

## INDUSTRIAL SALES ENGINEERS NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

Ruston Diesels — to work on preparation of Tenders, and carry out sales negotiations for range of Medium Speed Diesel Engines for Industrial application. Initially UK based appointments, but familiarity with overseas sales would be an advantage. Minimum qualification ONC/HNC Mechanical/Electrical Engineering or equivalent. (Ref. 1072)

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS CHELMSFORD

English Electric Valve Co. — for electrical and mechanical plant draughting work in Plant Department. For special purpose equipment, electrical services, factory lay-outs, building services, tools and gauges. Experienced people, preferably with apprenticeships and ONC or appropriate City and Guilds qualification. (Ref. 1060)

## RESEARCH ENGINEER NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

Ruston Diesels — for Stress Analysis/Thermodynamics Department, for calculation and theoretical prediction of engine thermodynamic and stress phenomena. Preferably aged 20/40, with Degree (Hons) and experience of thermodynamics and/or stress analysis work. (Ref. 1073)

## SALES REPRESENTATIVES S.E. COUNTIES

GEC-Xpelair — looking for representatives preferably with experience, for the following territories: North West Kent, North East Surrey, Brighton, Horsham and Chichester, also central London and north and south of the river. (Ref. 1080)

## TRAINING OFFICER BOREHAMWOOD

GEC-Elliott Traffic Automation — to take responsibility for all aspects of training within the Company, and within GEC General Signal. The position covers both organisations.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN GEC

The following vacancies, open to both men and women, are among those which have been circulated during the past few weeks. If you wish to be considered or to obtain further information, you should approach initially the personnel manager of your own establishment.

employing 900 people. Responsible to the Personnel Manager for the formulation of standard training programmes, maintenance of record system and advice on overall training needs. Previous relevant experience and familiarity with all aspects of EITB grant/levy scheme essential. (Ref. 1082)

## SENIOR DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER GRAVESEND

GEC-Henley — to head laboratory Section responsible for the development of high voltage jointing and terminating for 3kV working voltage. Should be a Chartered Engineer, preferably with B.Sc. (Hons) in Electrical Power and/or Electronics, with at least five years industrial experience. Promotional prospects are good. (Ref. 1071)

## PRODUCTION ENGINEER BIRMINGHAM

GEC-Xpelair — aged 25+, should have served an engineering apprenticeship and have several years practical experience in the tool room. (Ref. 1081)

## ASSISTANT RESEARCH ENGINEER NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

Ruston Diesels — to work on Thermodynamics Section involved with calculation of engine performance, turbocharging specifications, heat transfer and combustion studies. Probably a graduate aged 20/40 with 1-2 years experience. (Ref. 1073)

## DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER GRAVESEND

GEC-Henley — to join an established team concerned in the development of high voltage joints and terminations for 33kV working voltage. Should hold a B.Sc. in Electrical Power and/or Electronics and have some experience of laboratory techniques required in testing components. Facilities would

be provided for career development by training and project involvement. (Ref. 1071)

## ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS PORTSMOUTH

Marconi Space and Defence Systems — required to join design teams, responsible for maintaining 'in service' operations of a wide range of weapon systems currently in operational use. Degree or HNC required, with at least two years relevant design or development experience. Excellent career prospects. (Ref. 1091)

## DRAUGHTSMEN/WOMEN CHELMSFORD

Marconi Research Laboratories — for detailed mechanical design and drawing of precision microwave mechanisms and components, antennae, reflectors and feeds in a team of electrical and mechanical engineers. Liaison with production, workshop and testing areas. Should have C&G Technicians Certificate plus apprenticeship, but some training in D.O. School could be arranged. (Ref. 1083)

## SENIOR QUALITY ENGINEER CHELMSFORD

Marconi Research Laboratories — responsible for a group of quality engineers. Must have design experience on electronic equipment and be capable of original approaches to QA problems in R & D environment. Job involves quality planning, design and production quality assurance on wide range of projects. Degree or HNC required. (Ref. 1083)

## PRODUCTION CONTROL MANAGER GATESHEAD

Marconi Radar Systems — responsible to the Works Manager for the purchasing, stores and production control function of the mechanical, electrical and electronic manufacturing facility. Responsibilities include preparation of production and purchasing

documentation, cost control, ship loading and monitoring schedules, capacity appraisal, sub-contracting customer and supplier liaison. Preferably HNC/Degree standard in an engineering discipline, and familiarity with the use of computers in these three functions. Age 28/35. (Ref. 1085)

## MICROWAVE ENGINEERS STEVENAGE

Marconi Instruments, Sanders Division, have vacancies for young Microwave Engineers. Experience with active and passive systems, and with CAD would be an advantage. Designs involve the use of Microwave Semiconductors, strip line techniques, and ferrite devices. HNC/Degree or equivalent standard. Salary negotiable. (Ref. 1084)

## ACCOUNTANT SLOUGH

GEC Radio and Television — a qualified accountant to work closely with the Financial Director. Some industrial experience is essential and computer experience would be especially useful. (Ref. 1086)

## ENGINEER LINCOLN

English Electric Valve — job involves the design, development and production of gas filled valves, spark gaps, cold cathode devices and triggered vacuum gaps and halogen gas detectors. Qualified engineer with relevant product experience required. (Ref. 1087)

## PROJECT ENGINEER COLCHESTER

Paxman Process Plant Division — to work on design of continuous process filters and allied plant for wide range of industries. Preferably an experienced mechanical or chemical engineer. (Ref. 1088)

## SALES ENGINEER COLCHESTER

Paxman Diesels — to deal with enquiries, preparation of tenders and discussions with clients and customers. Preferably with a good engineering background and some commercial experience. ONC or full technological certificate. (Ref. 1089)

## ELECTRICAL DRAUGHTSMEN/WOMEN COLCHESTER

Regulateurs Europa Ltd. — experience in control gear circuitry and knowledge of electronics required. Education to at least ONC level in electrical engineering. Preferred age group late 20's — early 30's. (Ref. 1090)



## Helen is top trainee

THE 1976 Trainee of the Year award (senior section), presented annually by Southend Chamber of Commerce, has been won on behalf of Marconi Elliott Avionic Systems by Helen Rowe, a trainee draughtswoman in the electro-optical systems design office at Basildon. Encouraged by her husband Dave — a member of the test engineering department of the same division — she won against competition from over 100 entrants from firms in the area.

Helen joined the company on leaving school in 1972 and is now taking her final year of the City and Guilds Technicians course at Thurrock Technical College.

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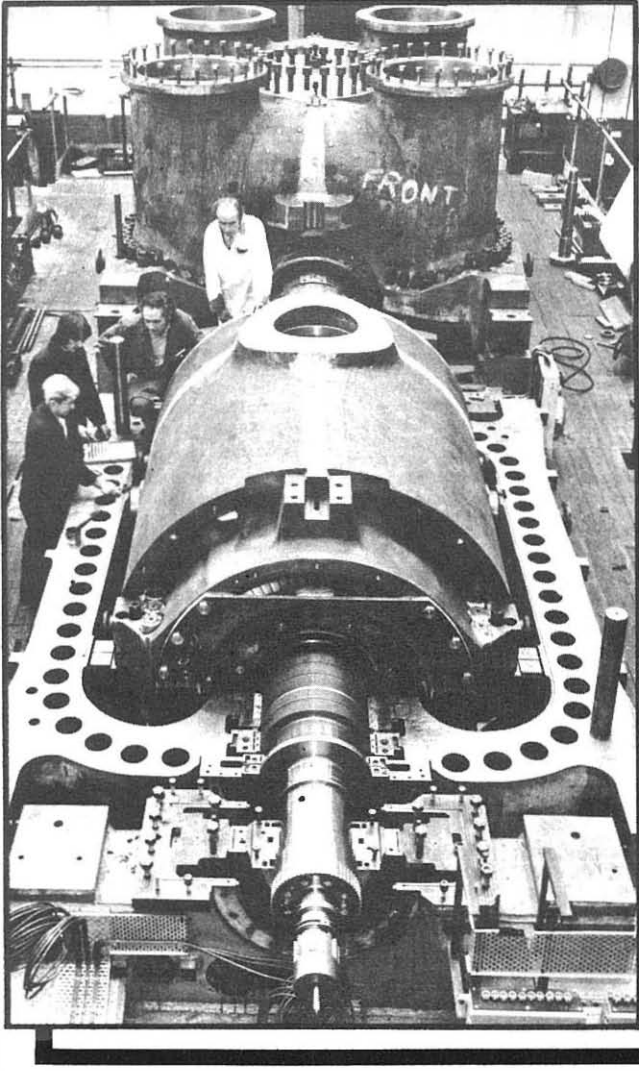
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## TIME FOR PRAISE

LEFT: The first of two 660 MW steam turbines ordered by the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board for Peterhead Power Station, near Aberdeen, has been manufactured dead on schedule at GEC Turbine Generators, Rugby.

The picture shows the shop erection of the high and intermediate pressure cylinders prior to testing at Willans works. Included in the picture is foreman, Fred Green, who has been with the company 26 years, 10 of them as foreman.

With him is John Wills, an inspector with 23 years' service, responsible for quality

during the turbine build. Leading hand, Johnny Harris, is fitting locating keys, assisted by fitter, Mick Moore.

R. J. Davidson, managing director, GEC Turbine Generators, paid tribute to his men for the good work they were doing in completing the turbine programme on time.

"So often progress is hampered by factors beyond our control, so it is gratifying to say that everything is going according to plan," he said.

Commissioning of the Peterhead sets is planned for 1978 and 1979.

## Marconi in Tokyo

MARCONI Communication Systems has received an order from the Tokyo Electron Laboratories for eight Mk V black-and-white television cameras and associated equipment. They are to form part of a system on order from TEL by the Turkish Radio-Television Corporation. Delivery will take place during December 1976 and January 1977.

## The right treatment

GEC ELECTRICAL Projects has received an order worth more than £1.5 million for electrical plant and control equipment for the new waste water purification and sludge treatment plant to be built for the Southern Water Authority at Peel Common, Fareham, Hampshire. It will be constructed in two phases, the first of which is scheduled for completion by 1979.

Hawker Siddeley Water Engineering is the main contractor for the Hampshire Drainage Division of the Southern Water Authority.

The electrical plant and control equipment to be supplied by GEC Electrical Projects for the first phase of the scheme includes 11kV switchgear, motor control centres, complete instrumentation, power transformers, closed-circuit television, a 2MVA diesel-generator set, telephones, power-factor correction equipment, batteries and chargers, cabling and lighting.

The equipment to be supplied by GEC for phase 2 is basically for the secondary treatment plant, and includes dc motors and thyristor converters as well as switchgear, transformers, control gear, instrumentation and cabling.

The whole plant will be highly automated and will be controlled from a console with mimic diagram located in a central control room. A computer will be used for data logging and plant control. Closed-circuit television will be used to observe parts of the plant remote from the control room.

The major items of electrical equipment will be built in GEC factories at Kildgrove, Rugby, Manchester, Broadstairs and Coventry.

MARCONI Communication Systems has won another export order for its television picture standards conversion equipment, DICE.

The order, placed through Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) is for the supply of Australia's foremost television stations — the Sydney-based ATN 7 — with one basic DICE and a range of ancillaries and spares. This follows the announcements in August of the contracts to supply DICE to the USSR and the Yugoslavian television station RTV Belgrade. In both of these instances, DICE was used to relay the Olympic Games beamed out from Montreal to European television viewers.

## CABLES FOR NIGERIA

TELEPHONE Cables Limited has won a £33m contract in Nigeria. The contract, placed by the Nigerian Ministry of Communications, is for the supply, installation and conversion of local telephone cable networks in six towns situated in Northern Nigeria — Kano, Kaduna, Maiduguri, Jos, Bida and Minna.

This brings the total amount of work being undertaken by Telephone Cables in Nigeria to £44m. During 1975 it was awarded an £11m contract by the Ministry of Communications for similar work in the Greater Lagos area.

The current contract requires TCL to expand and modernise the existing networks which will provide facilities for about 150,000 telephone subscribers. It will be a complete turn-key project with TCL having overall responsibility for the supply, installation and commissioning, together with all civil works associated with the networks.

Work on the contract is expected to start soon with completion scheduled within three years — about 100 engineers will be involved.

Telephone Cables is currently negotiating for further work in Nigeria where the government is rehabilitating its telephone system under the Third National Development Plan 1975-80. Initially the overall investment was put at some £250m but in practice is expected to be much higher. The company hopes to win the contract for one of the six zones, involving a total of 147 towns, in another scheme within the overall plan to be undertaken in northern Nigeria.

## Just what the golfers ordered

AS part of the £5m expansion and modernisation of the Oldbury works of Accles and Pollock Ltd., orders worth more than £600,000 have been placed with Birlec. The TI Steel Tube Division subsidiary plans to re-organise and expand to maintain its position as a principal British supplier of high quality cold drawn steel tube. The two heat treatment furnaces to be supplied by Birlec will play a major part.

Accles and Pollock produce golf club shafts and a critical phase is the heat treatment, which gives them a necessary combination of strength, flexibility and resistance to fatigue. The company has for some years used specially-

designed Birlec heat treatment plant which produces shafts having these properties and free of distortion — golfers will readily appreciate the vital importance of the latter point.

To cope with a planned increase in shaft production, the company has ordered another similar, but larger, installation. The new plant, costing almost £210,000 will heat treat 200,000 shafts a week, completely automatically, using novel transfer equipment designed specifically for the job.

For the processing of tubes up to 100ft long a Birlec gas-fired roller hearth furnace will be used, valued at £425,000. Again this furnace will be used to a 400ft long Birlec furnace already in operation at Accles and Pollock.

## AN EXPORT EVERY 14 DAYS

A Finnish contract means that export sales of the Marconi colour telecine have reached 75 — an average of one every 14 working days since the equipment was introduced.

The company is to supply one telecine with automatic options to Oy Mainos-TV-Reklam Ab (MTV), Helsinki, Finland's commercial television station. In addition to conventional broadcasting it is heavily involved in the manufacture of audio-cassettes and owns one of Finland's largest private film processing plants. The new telecine, which is scheduled for delivery by May 1977, will be used both for broadcasting and for film to tape transfer in connection with the video-cassette market.

A consortium of British Cable Manufacturers consisting of AEI Cables, BICC, Delta-Enfield and Pirelli General, has recently obtained a large export order for the Middle East in the face of severe international competition. The contract, worth over £4½m, is for the Dubai Electricity Company in the United Arab Emirates, and consists of 150km of 33kV 400sq mm 3-core HSL cable, together with pilot and telephone cables and all necessary joints and accessories.

## Deep sea order for Marconi

MARCONI Marine, a GEC-Marconi Electronics company, has won an order from Shaw Savill & Albion Co to supply a complete range of communications equipment to two 18,000 ton deep sea cargo vessels being built at Scott Lithgow, Glasgow.

Each installation will comprise the company's high powered HS high stability transmitter and Apollo main receiver which together provide facilities for worldwide radiotelephony and radiotelegraphy contact.

Marconi Marine technicians from the company's Glasgow office will install the equipment. When the vessels come into service each will have a Marconi Marine radio officer and will be provided with a complete radio traffic accounting service by the company.

## Computer control for Distillers

THE Distillers Company has placed an order valued at over £120,000 with GEC-Elliott Process Automation, New Parks, Leicester, for a computer control system for the blending and bottling plant at Shieldhall, Glasgow, for Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky.

This is the first phase in computer control of the new plant and the order covers the supply of a computer system for the bulk storage and blending section. The system will interface with measuring instruments being supplied by GEC-Elliott Process Instruments under a separate contract.

The Process Automation contract includes the supply of a GEC 2050 computer and peripherals, with MARCH 4 input/output equipment and the associated equipment to interface to the plant. The contract also includes the installation and commissioning of the whole system and the calibration of the measuring instruments.

The system will be based on the use of CONRAD, a GEC-Elliott Process Automation high level control system language which allows plant engineers and process operators to set-up, commission and subsequently monitor and control process plants. This installation will use CONRAD entirely for logic and sequencing. CONRAD has been used for direct digital and sequence

control in many varying applications reducing commissioning time by eliminating the need for programmers to be present to modify the programme as commissioning proceeds. This feature will be available for use in the future.

In all, the system will monitor and control some 200 valves, measure and monitor the level of 16 storage vessels and control and monitor the operation of pumps and airlines used to purge the pipelines.

One important aspect of the contract is that delivery, installation and commissioning is to be completed by the end of March this year.

GEC-Elliott Process Automation has supplied equipment of varying degrees of complexity for blending plants including margarine blending and the computer control of soup-making lines where the recipe can be changed at will.

### FROM PAGE 1

Training programmes have been prepared by Alan Friston, senior training methods officer, while training officers Arthur Smith (Marconi Radar) and Jim Poole (Marconi Communications Systems) have both contributed to the scheme's success.

A spokesman for the Manpower Services Commission said: 'Companies like GEC-Marconi Electronics are making an extremely valuable contribution towards alleviating this problem.'

In addition to the efforts being made by GEC-Marconi, several GEC factories are taking part in the work experience programme. Topic would like to hear from them about how things are going.

**MORE  
ORDERS ON  
PAGE 14**

**NEW  
PRODUCTS  
NEW**

OSRAM-GEC are now marketing emergency lighting as part of their standard lighting range. This means the company can satisfy requirements for emergency lighting within the full lighting needs of commercial interiors.

The range comprises 12 self-contained, non-maintained luminaires, each operating independently and automatically in the event

## Osram ready for any emergency

of a power failure. The emergency supply is provided by nickel-cadmium battery packs. The new luminaires have all been specially designed to suit commercial interiors and satisfy all current standards for emergency lighting

(Greater London Council).

The range comprises 7in diameter round and square luminaires, 10in diameter round and square, with opal diffusers and a 7in diameter round attractive clear

hobnail effect diffuser.

The diffusers and bodies are all manufactured in a self-extinguishing polycarbonate material (SEO). To complete the range there is the twin 8 watt fluorescent GEC Exit box.

Bodies and gear trays will be available separately, giving stock flexibility to the wholesaler, contractor and user.

## New systems in new option

GEC Computers and the Computer Aided Design Centre have signed a licence agreement which enables GEC Computers to sublicense GINO-F and associated software packages to their customers.

The new option will be offered as an additional feature for new and existing GEC 4000 systems and will enable users to take advantage of the powerful graphics capability inherent in GEC 4000 machines.

GINO-F is already being used on GEC 4080 computers by several users including Rutherford Laboratory and British Rail Technical Centre, Derby.



## DIGITAL COMPASS FROM MARCONI

A double-pivoted digital compass of very high resolution has been developed by the Marconi Research Laboratories of GEC-Marconi Electronics.

It uses the double pivot technique to prevent the compass card from tilting under acceleration. This, combined with the rugged design of the instrument, makes it particularly suitable for mobile use in either navigational or vehicle location systems. It has a resolution of 1 in 1024, (0.35°) and the output is displayed digitally. This feature has a number of advantages. For example, the data can be input to a computer or transmitted to a remote display, and multiple displays are also made possible.

The compass magnets are attached to a digitally encoded card which rotates under a fixed optical sensor. The information is contained on the card in the form of a pattern of reflective material in 10

concentric circles, the outermost having 1024 divisions. The sensor assembly carries 10 pairs of optical fibres, one for each circle. One fibre in each pair transmits light from an LED to the disc, and the reflection is carried back along the other fibre to a detector. The 10-bit code is then processed and the bearing displayed digitally. The entire apparatus is mounted in a silicone-based fluid to provide damping and support the weight.

**TOPIC  
COPY DATE  
MARCH 21st**

## Depth sounder

COASTAL Radio, an associate of Marconi Marine, has added the E100 depth sounder to its wide range of equipment for the small boat industry. The unit is readily available ex-stock, either from Coastal Radio or The Marconi Marine Company.

The E100 is a depth sounder for navigation and meets all the requirements for both shallow and deep water use. It is an ideal equipment for all types of harbour craft, coasters and large yachts.

## Studio lamp

THE compact CP/43 studio lamp has been introduced by GEC (Lamps & Lighting) as an addition to the quartz halogen range.

The 2000 watt lamp uses a GY16 base which reduces the size of the lamp, compared with the CP/41. This allows the lamp to be used in the smaller luminaires, which are preferred in some studios.

## GEC in Poland

THE GEC Symposium held in the National Institute of Technology in Krakow drew 35 top executives representing every manufacturing plant and refinery in the Polish petrochemical industry.

The company's 12-man team led by Neil Gardner, managing director, GEC Rectifiers, travelled to Krakow to make the presentation.

The Symposium opened with a short film outlining the main products of GEC. Four papers were read by representatives of the rectifier, transformer, switchgear and machines companies, and question time was provided in each case.

A display of photographic panels covered each company, and informal discussions were continued during the day.

Numerous contacts were established, many of which were followed up during the week by visits to prospects in Krakow, Lodz and Warsaw. Mrs Jana Corville, GEC's business representative in Poland, was largely responsible for the success of the event.

The symposium has proved an important factor in strengthening the commercial links between the two countries and it is hoped that a considerable expansion of business activity will be achieved.

A contract worth nearly £1½ million covering equipment by GEC Transformers and GEC Rectifiers has already been obtained by GEC Rectifiers from Polimex-Cekop Spolka Z.O.O., the Polish organisation buying on behalf of Petrochemia, Wloclawek.

## Save on heating with Satchwell

AN entirely new control system for saving heating fuel is being introduced by Satchwell Control Systems. It works by relating temperature changes to the programme of occupation of a building. The new system uses changes in temperature which are caused by the weather to vary the duration of the heat-up period of a building prior to occupation. In this way comfort conditions are reached only when required — and not wastefully early, as is the normal situation with a straightforward timeswitch.

Because of its unique principle, which is the subject of a patent application, the Satchwell ESS (economy start system) is simple to apply and provides a low cost installation. In commercial, industrial and public buildings, fuel savings will normally recover the installation costs in much less than one heating season.

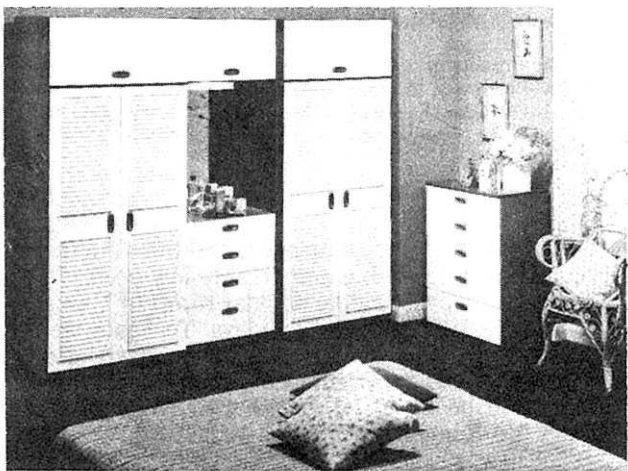
The system is mainly intended for use in buildings which have good insulation characteristics and an intermittent programme of occupation, such as local schools, shop premises and offices. However it is already proving suitable for many smaller premises, irrespective of insulation. Satchwell's Energy Conservation Service

can advise on this.

A specially attractive feature of the ESS is that it automatically takes advantage of improvements in conditions that may happen after it has switched on the plant. Such a case is solar radiation on a cold spring morning. In this case the plant is started early by the ESS, before the sun has any effect; as solar radiation begins to heat the building, the ESS compensates by appropriate offpulses during the heat-up period. This feature adds further economy to the basic principle of variable start programming.

Average fuel savings of 25% are expected by using the ESS — depending on the application.

## Furniture for the budget conscious



THIS new bedroom fitment is the latest addition to Schreiber's Maryland range. Like other items in this budget-conscious range, it has a teak and white finish, with louvred-look doors.

It consists of two wardrobes with full-length hanging space; a central dressing table unit with four drawers, mirror and diffused lighting and three top storage cupboards with lift-up, stay-up flaps.

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# Capital re-organisation means:

# EXPORT DRIVE GO-AHEAD

NINETEEN-SEVENTY-SEVEN was only seven days old when GEC announced the next move in the drive to increase exports at an even faster pace.

Exports from our British factories are already running at an annual rate of over 50 per cent greater than last year. But with GEC's present organisation, the growth of exports has eventual limits.

GEC already knows from its overseas experiences that successful growth beyond the present scale needs a bigger international organisation with enough strength to develop new business and compete with its powerful international rivals.

There are countries where you are either accepted as a major international concern or you virtually don't do any business at all. Further, some overseas markets are presently closed to GEC unless it puts together some of its goods in the country being supplied. In such cases, it is not a question of choosing whether or not to export from the UK; either GEC makes some items locally (with as many components as possible from its UK factories) or else it can forget about all the orders in that area — exports included.

So, without a more substantial international organisation, we know it will become more and more difficult to win big increases in export sales from GEC's factories in Britain.

Yet export markets are our major growth prospect. We cannot rely just on the home market. The British economy is not exactly

buoyant. And it isn't healthy to have too many eggs in the Government and public sector basket.

Nor can we expand home sales by acquiring UK businesses similar to our own. Monopoly considerations and union opposition are barriers, besides which it wouldn't help much in trying to fill our existing factories.

Furthermore, GEC is not prepared to buy businesses which operate in fields right outside its expertise.

You won't find us bidding for hotels or chains of shops.

Which brings us back to exports. It will help GEC, as well as Britain, if we can raise export sales from our UK factories to new heights. This goal is a major factor behind the capital reorganisation announced on January 7, 1977.

GEC knows that it will have to grow by selling more overseas. The question is how that should best be done?

Left to its own devices, the answer would be simple — GEC would just use some of its substantial UK cash balances in paying for the cost of expanding its overseas bases. But exporting capital is subject to exchange control restriction. It also involves paying the investment currency premium, so the funds have to be bought at an

unfavourable rate of exchange, which would be uneconomic and might add temporarily to Britain's balance of payments' problem. Exactly the same situation would exist if GEC asked its present UK shareholders to subscribe foreign currency for its international operation.

Given these obstacles, the solution is obvious. The necessary large sums of money required must be raised overseas in international currencies subscribed by international subscribers who will make more risk-bearing investment in GEC operations.

But why should existing shareholders give up part of their interest in the company? GEC's shareholders took the risk with their money when the company was smaller, less secure, and less prosperous than it is today. And what with the company's long standing voluntary dividend restraint, compounded by the Government's restrictions, they haven't had much to show for their investment.

GEC's Board agreed that it would be only fair that there should be some compensation for the existing shareholders since their stake will be shared with the new overseas investors.

The only practical and reasonable way to compensate them is to return, over a period of years, part of the money which exists in the international operation — and to pay them interest on this part of their own money for as long as GEC continues to hold it.

This is what was announced on January 7, 1977 — the prelude to the international drive.

It would have been nice to do both things together. But the international development is a complex, long-drawn-out affair and GEC felt obliged to give some indication of its intentions about the capital reorganisation in December 1976, when it announced its interim results. The international scheme will follow, and in the meantime GEC's position remains much as it was before the announcement.

The company has, and will continue to have, ample cash for its foreseeable needs in Britain. It will go on investing many millions of pounds in new plant and machinery in its British factories and will be happy to activate all sensible proposals for investment in economically viable UK activities.

These developments will strengthen the company, assist its growth in Britain and overseas and will enable it to become even more successful in world markets.

This new spur to exports will reinforce the company's future and will help secure employment prospects in GEC factories in the U

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A 2-week holiday for one

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A 1-week holiday for one

YOUR CHANCE to win a free holiday to romantic Romania, Yugoslavia or sunny Spain. All you have to do is write to the address on the advert for a "Company Holiday's" summer 1977 brochure and answer the questions on the right. You could win a £10 Premium Bond — the lucky winners will then go forward to the final for the judges to select the best three entries. "Company Holiday's"

staff are not eligible. The judges decision will be final. This offer closes on March 1, 1977.

5. From which airports can you fly to Yugoslavia?
6. What is the "Company Holidays" price guarantee?

1. Where is Poiana Brasov and name its night club?
2. Which holiday resorts are featured in Spain?
3. How long is the flight to the Costa Brava?
4. How many different types of holidays are there offered to Romania?

**TIE BREAKER**

In not more than 30 words give your comment on the "Company Holidays" scheme and a suggestion as to how it can be improved.

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In Romania we are adding the popular resort of Mamaia as well as a "Dracula" Tour to the very successful mountain holidays. To Spain we are now also featuring flights from Birmingham. And due to popular demand, we are introducing holidays to Yugoslavia from London, Birmingham and Manchester for the first time.

All flights will be by jet of British Caledonian, Dan Air or Yugoslavian National Airlines and the Romanian National Airlines.

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# GETTING THERE IS HALF THE BATTLE

I vaguely remember when I was very young (the early '30s) spending a whole day watching the ground-level equivalent of those daring young men in their flying machines roaring around the Ards circuit near Belfast in a motley assortment of racing cars. Since that time I have never been to a motor race.

Then, out of the blue, Tony Manson, who had, miraculously in my view, built himself a vintage sports car, invited me to accompany him to a race meeting. At first I was mildly interested. It occurred to me it would be nice to go back to see a motor race after all those years, especially as it was likely to be a continuation of my last live experience of the sport.

Perhaps I would recapture my youthful zest. What clinched it for me was the further information that the event was due to take place at the Nur-

burgring. I was never far enough out of touch as to be unaware of the reputation of that particular circuit.

So, in a Ford Transit, towing a trailer carrying his 1934 1½ litre Riley, we went by ferry to Zeebrugge. Followed by curious looks and smiles we proceeded down through Brussels to Liege, or Luik as the signs sometimes said, on to the German border at Aachen or Aix la Chapelle (a choice again). On to the Koln-Koblenz Autobahn to arrive eventually in a small village called Dom Esch about 30 miles from the famous circuit. Here we lodged with another motor sport enthusiast's family.

## PETROL PLUS ADRENALIN

From an early start the following morning all activity was concentrated on getting to and preparing for "Rennen fur historische Renn-und

Sportwagen". My contribution was to avoid getting in the way.

Nobody connected with car racing is so blasé that they don't experience an adrenalin response when they see a blue road sign with a white arrow and the word NURBURGRING. Everything about the place has a touch of the dramatic. As we followed the road into the deeply forested Eifel mountains, the landscape became so spectacular that it looked as if it had been designed as scenery for a mammoth open air theatrical production — which in a way it was.

For 8.0DM (just under £2) anyone can drive their car around the ring. Some adventurous types in fastish cars with the headlights on try to frighten themselves. But you are just as likely to encounter a middle-aged couple in a middle-aged family saloon negotiating the left and right handers through the Quiddelbacher admiring the view.

The contortionist twists that just avoid tying the road in a knot, the tight-banked circle whimsically called the Karusell and the roller coaster snaking straights put beyond comprehension the fact that the 14 odd miles of the circuit has now been lapped in around seven minutes. The guys that do that must be out of their minds.

The veteran cars did not have to use the whole circuit. They did the easy bit. Starting on the wide pits straight down to the south curve, a left hander that suddenly decides to swing right, on to another straight which passes the back of the pits into the north curve which feints to the left and swishes round to the right leading to the pits straight once again. A distance of just over four miles.

## OLYMPIAN PRINCIPLE

It didn't take me long to discover the peculiarity of historic car racing and probably the reason for its enormous appeal. The actual races were not all that relevant. This is a sport that truly expresses the Olympic principle. Taking part is clearly more important than winning. The really serious business is the preparation, the tinkering, the adjusting, the consulting, the measuring, the altering, modifying and resetting.

The races, 10 lap affairs, were arranged to justify this activity. It was like an orchestra whose main performance was tuning up and as an afterthought a quick clip through a couple of melodies just to show they had done it properly.

Achievement had to be measured of course, but being first in a race was merely one of a series of impressive accomplishments. Getting your vintage car to the circuit was a notable achievement. Starting the engine and keeping it going was another. Making it up to the grid was a triumph. And accelerating down the straight when the flag dropped was terrific. Completing a lap, a couple of laps — finishing — great, marvellous, congratulations all round.

I observed a celebration party in the paddock. Corks popping, champagne bubbling, glasses tinkling, roars of delight and back slapping around a spindly 1934 DKW that had managed to finish its heat.

On the starting grid, all the drivers went through the motions. Tightened the chin straps of their

HERE is Geoff Philip's impression of Tony Manson's recent visit to Germany's famous Nurburgring motor-racing circuit.

Tony Manson works for Marconi Radar Systems, Chelmsford, but is perhaps better known in the company as an active trade unionist. He manages to combine his work as a design draughtsman in Radar, with being chairman of the Joint Office Committee of AUEW TASS in Chelmsford and has been on the National Executive of TASS and its latest national general treasurer.

helmets at three minutes. Adjusted their goggles at one minute. Vroom, vrooms at 15 seconds. Just like it was for real.

## PORSCHE AND PEPSI

But the paddock was the real arena. That's where it all happened. A large open square perimtered by garages and hoardings that signify the international racing scene. Dunlop, Castrol GTX, Bosch Plugs and Pepsi. Everywhere cars that evoke the history and the mythology of motor racing — the Latin look of the Alfas and Ferraris, the elegant Bugattis. Maserati — the word is enough. The Stangeullini — the what? I thought a Stangeullini was something you played with a bow.

The ERAs, just like the ones that used to be on the front cover of Chums, the Mercedes, the Fiat Zagato, the MGs, the Amilcar, Porsche, Panhard, Aston Martin, Talbot. Dangerous looking three-wheeled Morgans. Lancia, Invicta. Then the alliterative post war greats, Coopers and Connaughts, Lotus, Lola and Lister Jaguar.

1960 is the closing year for historic racing cars. Class distinction in this game is reserved for marques and équipes. In the paddock, a wealthy European count or baron is respected if he can get his ignition timing right.

These historic cars stand to be admired and photograph-

ed. Their owners and friends and helpers hover and peer into engines. Everywhere they are bending over, crouching down or lying under their pride and joy. The noise is incredible. The chat is incomprehensible.

What with the mixture of languages and the flow of motor car-ese. I listened like a disenfranchised bingo player — thirty ninety-eights. Twelve fifties and twenty-two nineties. Not to mention twin sixes and super eights. Then there are the letters plus numbers like W196; the two five "O"; BGT; the seventeen fifty SS. I nodded blankly when told about "double wishbones" and "reversed quarter elliptics", "de Dion back-axles" and engines that are "blown and unblown" versions, flat, straight, vee'd, supercharged, twin-carbed and twinoverhead-cammed jobs. When my attention was drawn to an engine's good breathing characteristics, I assumed it got plenty of fresh air and didn't smoke.

## DER SPEECHES UND PRIZES

The fact that every participant had something to celebrate was

borne out at the prize giving. This function was held in the spacious lounge of the Sport hotel at the side of the circuit. Speeches in German, French and English congratulated everybody for their participation and in making the meeting "a good success, ja!"

The names of the drivers were called out one by one and to the sound of beery cheers they went up, shook hands or embraced an organising official and received their prize. Everyone who took part got one. There were cups and special awards for things like getting first in a race or a class. Nearly everybody managed one of these too. A Grosser Preis, a Grand Prix for each — nothing could be fairer.

Tony Manson did extremely well. His car was still running at the end of the weekend and he had finished in both events.

On yes, and he came third in both races and won the Vorkriegswagen Uber 1100CC class, but that wasn't the point.

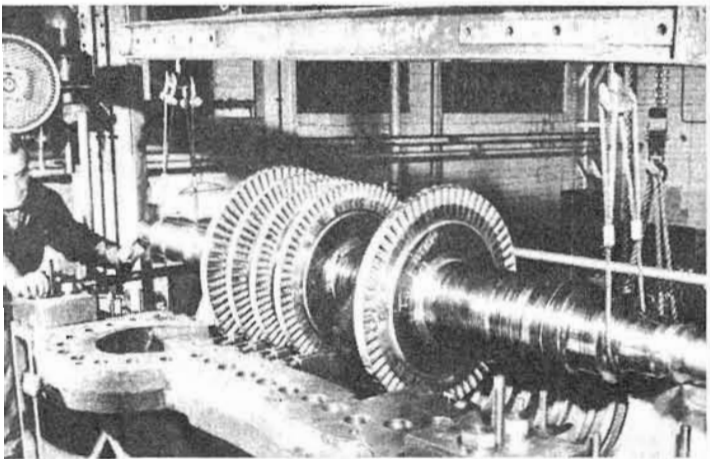
## GEOFF PHILIPS

### OWNER'S NOTE

The car is a special built only for racing. It falls in the category PVT. PVT stands for Post-Vintage-Thoroughbred, which is a rather wordy acknowledgement that some decent cars were built after 1930. The car is a Riley 12-4 and was built from a 1934 Falcon saloon, almost everything extensively modified from the original specification.

While to some extent it is true what Geoff Philips says about taking part and the Olympic ideal etc., this car was not developed to give 100bhp and have a 112mph capability to make noises in the paddock, but I know what he means!

# Turbine makes it a hat-trick



GE Ogden, GEC Turbine Generators, Trafford Park works, assembling 16,500kW turbine. This unit, together with a smaller 5,200kW set will electrical power and process steam to the Redcar Steelworks of Steel Corporation.

Industrial & Marine Steam Turbine Division of the Turbine Generator Company, Trafford Park, on three orders for turbine for widely differing applications.

The first order, placed with Compair Industrial, is for a 12,400kW condensing turbine. This will fulfil compressor duties at the experimental bed facility being built by Grimethorpe, for the National Energy Agency.

The second order is for two

30,000kW double pass-out turbines, generators and condensing plant for the petrochemical complex being built at Yeo Su, South Korea and engineered by the Lummus Company for Honam Ethylene Company. This order was negotiated in Korea by Peter Davis petrochemical sales manager, against severe competition from Europe and Japan.

Both the above orders are for delivery in 18 months.

The hat-trick has been completed by Don Nicholson, manager, naval department, Rugby. He has obtained an order from Vickers Shipbuilders for further main propulsion turbines and condensers for nuclear submarine applications.

The orders total nearly £5,000,000 and will be manufactured at the Turbine Generator Company's Works at Trafford Park, Rugby, Larnie and Stafford.

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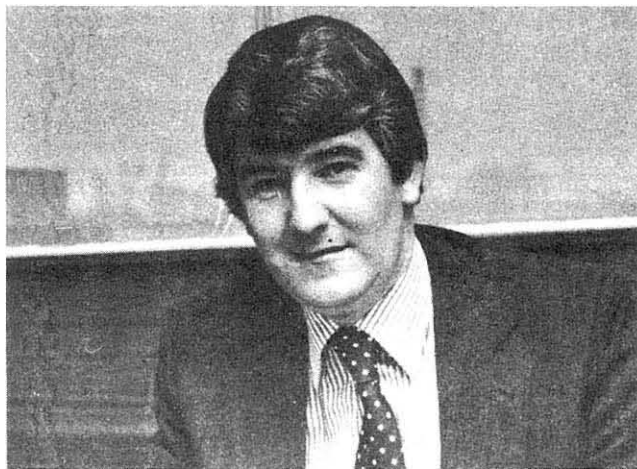
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TOP 1/77

# APPOINTMENTS At home and abroad



Keith Hodgkinson

**KEITH HODGKINSON** has been appointed general manager, GEC Measurements Stonefield Works.

Since joining the company in 1964 as a trainee accountant he has held a number of senior financial and production management positions. He took part in the first GEC developing senior managers programme in 1975.

Mr Hodgkinson is 33 years old, married and lives at Swynnerton, near Stone.

He is a keen golfer and has regularly represented Staffordshire during the past eight years.

## Managing director began as apprentice



Russell Henry

**SATCHWELL Sunvic**, has appointed **Russell K. Henry** as marketing services manager.

Russell Henry (32) has a B.Sc. in chemistry and a diploma in business administration. His post at Satchwell Sunvic will involve him in the provision of marketing services in relation to the company's existing and potential markets both in the UK and overseas. This will include market intelligence and research, statistics and forecasting, publicity and marketing.

**MARCONI** Communication Systems has appointed **Iain Ward** manager of its GEC Mobile Radio Division.

**John Humphreys** continues with the division as marketing manager and **Harry Griffiths** as sales manager. **Eddie Philips**, formerly systems group manager, has been appointed chief engineer and **Tony Baldwin** works manager.

GEC Mobile Radio has also made four new senior sales staff appointments to strengthen its market position: "**Robbie**" **Robinson** is appointed national sales manager based in London. **John Rosindale** has been appointed area sales manager for the West Midlands and South Wales based in Birmingham, and **Roger Watkins** will work from Leeds as area sales manager for the North East. **Patrick Webb** has responsibility for public transportation sales world wide.

**EDDYSTONE** Radio has appointed **Bill Cooke** as its new managing director. Mr Cooke was previously the company's chief engineer.

**Billy Orton Cooke** was born in Birmingham and joined Eddystone Radio as an apprentice when he left school. On completion of his apprenticeship he began work on development, the field in which he has

specialised throughout his career.

He joined the RAF in 1940, and, after a short spell as one of the pioneer operators of the Air Ministry's experimental radar stations, he spent four years as a radar and radio mechanic and instructor with the 'Desert Rats'.

He returned to Eddystone in 1945 as the company's development engineer. There was considerable demand at this time for professional radio equipment, and, working with a team of two, he introduced a number of successful designs. His ship-board radio receiver for the Post Office was approved at the first attempt, and his designs for the Merchant Navy were not superseded for 20 years. Many of his post-war receiver developments are still in use today.

Following his development work, Mr Cooke studied in the USA and Canada, and then went to Sweden, where he helped set up Eddystone's first organized international agency network.



Adrian Evans

**ADRIAN M. EVANS** has taken over as managing director, GEC-Henley. He has been deputy managing director since joining the company in August. His predecessor, **E. W. Dixon**, is retiring but will undertake some special projects within the GEC Group.

Before joining GEC-Henley, **Adrian Evans** was managing director of British Hartford-Fairmont, manufacturers of glassmaking machinery. He is 37 years old and a graduate mechanical engineer.



Bill Cooke

**D. W. PROWSE**, formerly director and general manager of the Metals and Mining Divisions of GEC Electrical Projects has been made managing director of GEC Industrial Controls.

Also appointed to the board of GEC Industrial Controls are: **P. R. Gogerly**, marketing director; **C. M. Jones**, finance director; **J. Nixon**, works director; and **R. L. McNaughton**, engineering director.

**L. J. Roberts** is appointed general manager of the Metals and Mining Divisions of GEC Electrical Projects in Mr Prowse's place. **D. L. Hunt** is appointed divisional manager, Mining Division, and **J. McTaggart** becomes engineer-

ing manager of GEC Electrical Projects.

**C. P. Jansen** continues to be responsible for both GEC Electrical Projects and GEC Industrial Controls.

**PAUL KOPEL** has been appointed press officer for GEC Electrical Projects and GEC Industrial Controls.

Mr Kopel, who is based at GEC Boughton Road, Rugby, was formerly press officer for the Timber Research and Development Association. Prior to that he gained public relations experience with the Post Office (Telecommunications) and the National Coal Board.

## New Claudgen division

**CLAUDGEN** has installed plant and machinery for repetition mouldings of sheet plastic materials and for making precision refractor plates.

This new division is controlled by project engineer **Bill Mitford**, who was previously with Motor and Air Products, a company well known in the plastics industry.

The division is supplying thousands of mouldings for Claudgen sign applications, and GEC street lighting luminaires. Production varies from small traffic sign lantern mouldings to the large petrol signs measuring six feet square.

It can offer design and service for any size of plastic moulding.

## Appointment broke new ground



**D. R. HUNTER**, formerly group personnel manager of Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems, has left Rochester to take up the position of group personnel director for GEC Electrical Components at Slough.

At a farewell gathering at Rochester, **Don Hunter** (right) received from **J. E. Pateman**, managing director of Marconi-Elliott, farewell gifts from numerous friends and colleagues. The gifts included the document case and set of crystal tumblers illustrated.

**Don Hunter** joined the company in 1965, having been a member of the personnel organisation of British Steel from 1959. His appointment as group personnel manager was Marconi-Elliott's first ever company-wide personnel management appointment.

He took up his new appointment on December 1, 1976.

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WITHIN a couple of hours of the opening of the Electronica '76 Exhibition in Munich in November, the EEV display was visited by a party of top officials which included Herr Anton Jaumann, Bavarian Minister of State for the Economy.

This picture shows, from left to right, Dr. Ing. Georg Spinner, Chairman of the Exhibition Advisory Board, Herr Helmut Gittel, Burgomaster of Munich, Dipl. Kfm. Gerd von Hövel, Director of the Munich Fair Authority, Staatsminister Jaumann, and Mark Knight, EEV's publicity manager.

## Duke in campaign

THE Duke of Kent took part in a major export campaign organised by the British Overseas Trade Board in North London, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire on January 19 and 20.

The campaign, which was led by Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the BOTB, highlighted the exporting achievements of four companies including Marconi Instruments of St Albans.

On the first day Sir Frederick and the Duke of Kent, who is vice-chairman of the Board, visited the firms. An all-day conference, "Export Dynamics", was held on January 20, at the Queensway Hall, Dunstable, when around 250 senior management and shop floor delegates attended. At the conference, detailed case studies of the four firms, prepared by the Cranfield Business School, were presented by writer and

broadcaster, Robert McKenzie.

The conference was the twelfth in a programme of regional events which began at Sheffield in December, 1975.

## 'A new start'

THE November/December issue of *Topic* reported under this heading the launch of a new range of STARTAC a.c. motor starters by GEC Industrial Controls.

We incorrectly attributed this development to the Industrial Controls Rugby establishment whereas the starters are, in fact, designed, manufactured and marketed at the company's Kidsgrove head office and works. We apologise for the error and for any misunderstanding that may have resulted.

# Those were the days

## LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I was interested in letters which recently appeared in your magazine.

I am a retired GEC employee with 43 years' service, now 83 years of age.

In 1938 I purchased from the GEC Witton works shop a DM180 vacuum cleaner for my wife who is over 80.

This vacuum cleaner is still in daily use, and together with its attachments gives a service as good as any "modern" one.

Furthermore, we have an iron, purchased in 1939 (before thermostats were introduced). This works perfectly; the plating is in excellent condition, and when not in use is stored in the same carton as purchased in 1939!

We certainly knew how to make things.

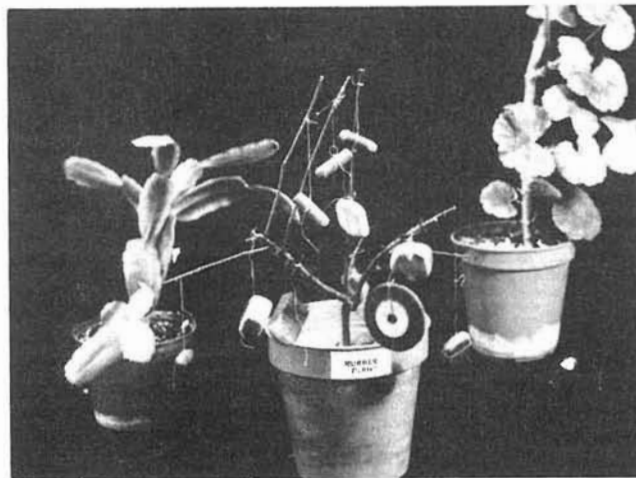
W. James,  
17 Stamford Road,  
Handsworth,  
Birmingham, B20 3PJ.

our company.

A second vessel, which will be an exact copy of the "Happy Rider" is now under construction at the Arnhemse Scheepsbouw Mij. in Arnhem, Holland, and for this repeat-vessel we also supplied three 6QTCWZ, 300 kVA generating sets.

R. Marcus,  
BV Ingenieursbureau De Roos Nautical,  
Koninginnegracht 92  
Holland.

TOPIC  
COPY  
DATE  
MARCH 21st



George Mitchell, of Marconi Radar Drawing Office, Great Baddow, writes:

"When my wife's rubber plant died I felt I should do something about it. Being a draughtsman I soon came up with a solution and was rather disappointed with the comment 'You silly old fool', when I presented it to her. As you can imagine, I had many similar comments when I took it to the office."

## Happy rider

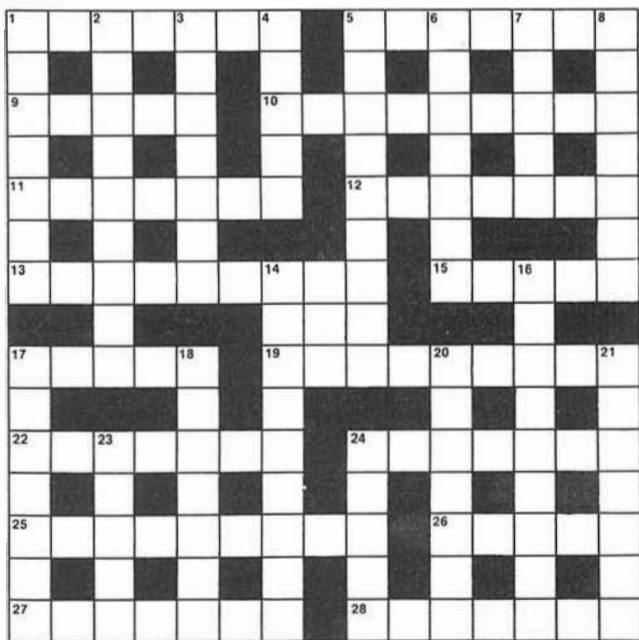
Dear Sir,

A story on the front page of the July/August issue describes the transport of a huge GEC generator from the Stafford Works to its destination at Stony Creek in Monroe County, Michigan.

We would like to mention that the heavy load vessel called "Happy Rider", owned by Mammoet Shipping (Mammoet Shipping is a 50-50 joint venture of the K.N.S.M. Group and Mammoet Transport) is equipped with three Dorman type 6QTCWZ, 300 kVA generating sets, which have been supplied by



# TOPIC



## CROSSWORD

THE three super Morphy Richards time and labour saving appliances we have chosen as prizes for this competition are either an automatic toaster, a travelling hairdryer or a steam/spray iron.

Entries should be sent to: *Topic*, The General Electric Company Limited, 1 Stanhope Gate, London W1A 1EJ and must arrive here by March 20. Please mark your envelope January/February crossword and tell us what prize you would like. The two prizewinners will be chosen by a draw.

The winners of the September/October competition were Mr W. J. Dunn of GEC Telecommunications, Coventry and Mr J. H. Line, lately GEC Overseas Services.

Solution to Sept/Oct Crossword

Across

8, Designed; 9, Orphan; 10, Porter; 11, Restrain; 12, Trinkets; 14, Dreams; 15, Isle; 17, Essence; 20, Orleans; 22, Arab; 24, Screen; 26, Beamends; 29, Bluebell; 30, Shelf; 31, Assess; 32, Semitone.

Down

1, Detour; 2, Distance; 3, Entree; 4, Address; 5, Consider; 6, Sparse; 7, Talisman; 13, Tier; 16, Lobe; 18, Sick List; 19, Canoeist; 21, Eleventh; 23, Abolish; 25, Eyelet; 27, Assume; 28, Divine.

ACROSS

- 1 Persuaded in the first place (7)
- 5 Wildly excited when the little father goes against the number (7)
- 9 One of the archers (5)
- 10 Compress with severe conditions (9)
- 11 Sticky sweetness (7)
- 12 Got his own back (7)
- 13 TURN LEAST (anag) as a consequence (9)
- 15 Rope fibre (5)
- 17 Dispose of the first part of the mountain top (5)
- 19 The clues start all mixed up in retirement (9)
- 22 Appropriate (7)

- 24 Course of action with a final kind of cut (7)
- 25 Getting smaller and smaller (9)
- 26 Rubbish burnt at last (5)
- 27 Royalty in a final fit of temper (7)
- 28 Not in a very happy state (7)

DOWN

- 1 He will urge a course of action in the first place (7)
- 2 A throng indeed has been humbled (9)
- 3 Will it be put afterwards? Yes (7)
- 4 Entice a kind of code at first (5)
- 5 A Devotee set up at the start of

- this eccentric affair (9)
- 6 A worker stays on top of the branches (7)
- 7 Nothing? No certainly not (5)
- 8 A Fortress with a kind of inner date (7)
- 14 Replying — to a phone call? (9)
- 16 METAL SUIT (anag) This will spur you on (9)
- 17 Tries to stop a relative in a kind of still (7)
- 18 Turkish title of respect for a government official (7)
- 20 Maybe not nude but certainly not marked down (7)
- 21 Lots of little nicks (7)
- 23 March over (5)
- 24 They could keep them in for a long time apparently (5)

## Obituary

IT IS with deep regret that we announce the death in October of Charles Dillon, "our man" in Venezuela, who was in his early fifties.

A well-known and well-loved personality, Charles Dillon was born in Buenos Aires and moved to Venezuela to take up a position with English Electric de Venezuela. He was appointed managing director of Marconi Venezuela.

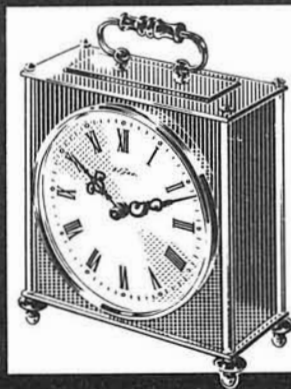
## Best yet!

EVERY Christmas GEC Telecommunications employees at Hartlepool collect gifts and toys for local orphanages.

This year excelled all others, with contributions worth about £600. Shop stewards organised raffles of hampers containing food donated by employees.

Pictured: the loaded lorry.

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and catalogues from which you can order by post. Winegartens offer a privilege cash discount of 20% to all members of The GEC.



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# OVERSEAS CLUB

**Council News**

At the 25th council meeting in October 1976, S. E. Clarke, director of International Division, GEC-Marconi Electronics, was appointed chairman elect of the council — he will replace A. T. Wright as chairman following the AGM in May.

The Manchester centre have given council many flags of the world both large and small, presented to the centre by members. Please inform the secretary if at any time you wish to borrow any of these flags for any purpose, perhaps a overseas dignitary visiting the works or a special dinner or occasion.

The following change of addresses have been notified and local Secretaries are requested to note these:

Sir Joseph Latham, 25 Badingham Drive, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9EU.

J. A. Beechey, Edmundson Electrics Ltd, 5 Thurso Street, Glasgow.

B. Wright, "Centurians", Midgham Green, Newbury, Berks.

J. F. Kissel, 22 Reading Street, Karori, Wellington 5, New Zealand.

W. R. Munt, 58 Dulverton Avenue, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff, Essex.

B. H. Becker, 12 Durnford Close, Chilbolton, Stockbridge, Hants.

P. Gladwell, 1 Peace Cottages, Badley Hall Road, Gt Bromley, Essex.

R. S. Crimp, PO Box 9195, Wellington, New Zealand.

A. Harwood, 35 Marney Street, Chapel Hill, Queensland, Australia 4069.

D. J. D. Sussex, Birch Hall, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.

H. P. Weymouth, 13 Riviera Avenue, Avalon, NSW 2107, Australia.

J. Van de Velde, Amherst Bank, Cade Street, Old Heathfield, Sussex.

W. H. Kerr, Posters Power Piping Ltd, Lea Brook Tube Works, PO Box 20, Wednesbury.

**Retirements**  
J. T. Martin (Paddy) retired on October 31, 1976 following a long period of employment with GEC.

Jack Kissel, GEC (New Zealand) announced retirement at the end of 1976 along with Jimmy Black and prior to that Ken Lark also retired.

John Van de Velde has retired from Singapore to the UK (See address above).

**Ties**  
The new single motif tie is available in wine or navy blue at £1.40 each.

Ties for members of the original clubs and associations continue to be available at the respective Centres.

**Inter-Centre Golf Competition**  
The council have agreed that the 1977 inter-centre golf competition should be arranged by the London centre who have now fixed a competition to be played on September 1, on the Sonning golf club course at Sonning on Thames, near Reading.

Many of you will remember that the late Sir Leslie Gamage, President of the old GEC Overseas Club played on this course. A sandwich lunch between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. and an evening dinner will be arranged for those members both players and non players who require either or both. The Australian Cup will be presented to the winning team together with four engraved one pint tankards, the Hugo Hirst cup to the best net and the A. S. Black cup to the best gross. Replicas of these cups will be awarded and half pint tankards to the second best net and gross scores.

Please inform the hon. secretary of your local centre if you wish to participate.

Visitors to the Club's headquarters at Stanhope Gate, during mid November-January:

Dr R. S. Mamak, India; J. W. Garvan, India; B. P. Poddar, India; I. G. Stewart, Nairobi; C. P. Van Marrelo, Netherlands; J. R. Cox, Sth Africa; C. Gronow, Iran; D. R. Nicoll, Zambia; R. C. G. Cotterill, Australia; J. M. Weedon, Hong Kong; J. Conduit, Brazil; H. Densley, Zambia; C. T. P. Horne, Ilkley; J. Grace, Exmouth; J. C. Hertz, France; N. Jackson, Liverpool; W. J. Dawson, Cairo; N. J. Pinsent, Venezuela; G. A. Mochrie, Iran; A. H. Dell, Bangladesh; W. G. Bond, Australia; P. L. Banks, Houston, Texas.

**News About Members**  
On November 11, 1976, in the Porra Taurina De Bogota (Bullfight Club), some friends and colleagues, both British and Colombian, met for a cocktail party to celebrate Reg Edwards, the GEC commercial manager in Colombia, completing 50 years with the company.

Dr Benhur Herrera hosted the party and Reg was presented with a diploma recording his years of service, signed by all present. Many members of the Overseas Club were present and, like most functions in Bogota, the cocktail party finished well after midnight.

G. R. Ford previously GEC Bangladesh has now been appointed industrial engineering manager, AEI Cables Ltd, Gravesend.

R.K.

**London Centre**

Our quarterly luncheons prove very successful — the last one held at The Royal Commonwealth Society on December 1 was attended by the following members and guests.

W. H. Hawley; F. Stedman; R. Tuftnell; W. J. Fraser; H. H. James; W. Collis; M. Possener; J. MacLaren; D. Jenkins; A. J. S. Brewer; R. H. Lacey; S. Flashman; A. Kuster; E. E. A. Richardson; Sir Archibald Hope; E. E. A. Grace; R. Kemp; J. Hart-Davis; J. J. King; M. Berlock; A. H. Dell; A. S. Robb; J. M. Saunders; E. C. Bazely; J. Wylie; J. H. Calverly; A. N. Vassilissin; J. Bissett; E. D'Costa; C. Ribar; Mr Yates.

**Obituary**

We regret to announce the untimely death at the age of 59 of our committee member Terry Proctor who passed away peacefully on December 2, following a short illness. Prior to the merger Terry was also a member of the old GEC Overseas Club Committee. He will be remembered for his work in the development of lighting and street-lighting fittings during the 1950/1960s also for the colour flood-lighting of the famous Niagara Falls, the new Olympic Stadium in Teheran, and by his many friends in Singapore, Iran and the West Indies. At the time of his death, following over 40 years with the company, he was manager of the aviation division of GEC Overseas Services.

**Leonard Short Golf Trophy**

The London centre competition will be played at Sundridge Park Golf Course on the outskirts of Bromley, Kent on the afternoon of May 27. Tee off time is approximately 3.00 p.m. The cost including green fees, sandwiches and coffee will be about £4. The 18-hole competition will be played under Stableford rules and the winner's card will be sent forward for adjudication for the above trophy. The London centre winner will retain the Arthur Wright Trophy for one year and will also be awarded the Bill Bird Tankard.

R.K.

**New Members**

The following members were elected by the London centre committee recently:

S. N. H. Jafry, Pakistan; B. T. Reilly, London; M. Jay, London; J. S. MacLaren-Whibley, London.

**Diary Dates**

Please ensure that the following dates are entered in your diary.

Luncheon at The Royal Commonwealth Society — March 1, 1977.

AGM Royal Commonwealth Society, May 3, 1977.

Leonard Short Trophy — golf at Sundridge Park, May 27, 1977.

Launch River Thames trip, June 30, 1977.

Inter-Centre golf at Sonning, September 1, 1977.

Please advise the secretary by February 25 if you will attend luncheon on March 1.

**Annual General Meeting**  
Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the London centre of the GEC Overseas Club will be held in the Council Room, The Royal Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue on May 3, 1977 at 12 noon for the following purposes:

- (1) Presentation of the committee's report to members.
- (2) Presentation of audited accounts and balance sheet for adoption.
- (3) Election and committee members and officers.
- (4) Any other business.

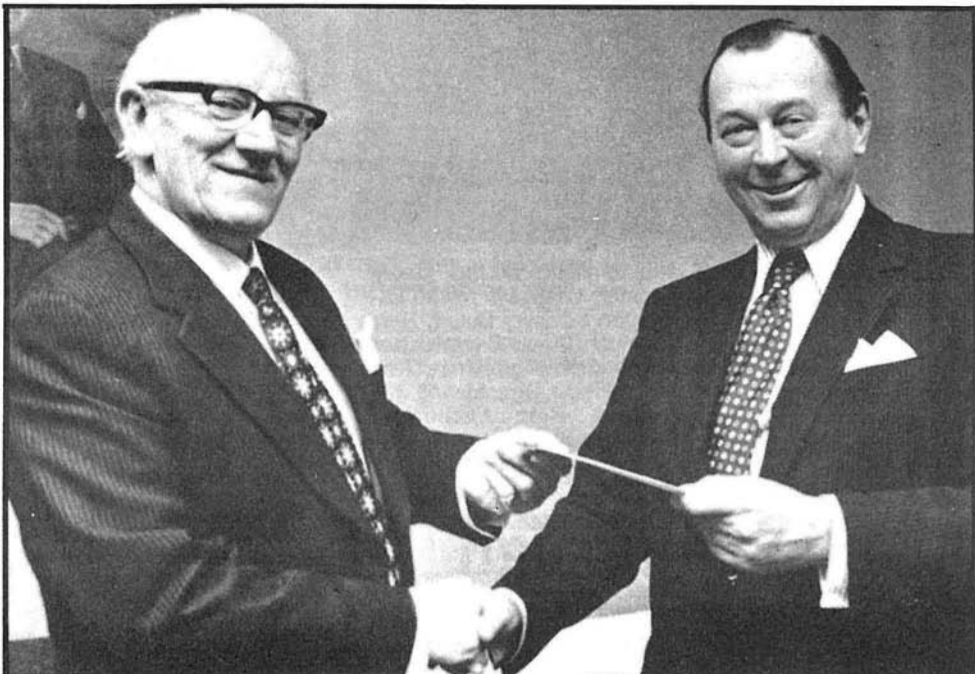
R.K.

N.B. The present committee, with the exception of A. T. Wright, Sir Archibald Hope and T. G. Proctor, offer themselves for re-election for the year 1977/78 — they are A. A. S. Baker; K. Druce; R. Kemp; J. J. King; E. E. A. Grace; H. R. Beck; T. W. Cross and A. S. Robb.

The committee have received the following nominations for committee membership:

M. H. Lane, Stanhope Gate; A. J. S. Brewer, Kemble House and D. Webb, Borehamwood. Should members have other nominations please inform the hon. secretary by April 2, 1977.

R.K.



ARTHUR Wright (left) whose work for English Electric and GEC in the export field has taken him, over a period of 30 years, to almost every country in the world, has retired. Picture shows Lord Nelson, Chairman of GEC, presenting Mr. Wright with a cheque subscribed by colleagues at Stanhope Gate, London and in other parts of the company. After the mergers between GEC, English Electric and AEI, Mr. Wright as chairman of the overseas club was very active in the task of creating one organisation from the long established overseas clubs of these three companies. Mr. Wright is the present chairman of the Council of British Manufacturers of Petroleum Equipment.

DENIS Morfe, senior mechanical consultant with Control Systems Department, Marconi Radar Systems, Leicester, has retired after over 44 years with the company. Denis was given a work-bench on behalf of his colleagues.

## MARCONI CHOSEN TO STUDY BATES

THE Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive has awarded a system definition contract for Project BATES (Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System) to Marconi Space and Defence Systems.

The MSDS study, which will be carried out in three stages, will be concerned with the use of computers to assist artillery staff in all areas of the battlefield.

The first stage, to be carried out by teams from MSDS and the MOD, will identify those areas of artillery command and control which can be aided by automatic data processing. In stage two, appropriate parts of the system will be examined to establish cost effectiveness. The final stage will be the full definition of the BATES system.

BATES is to be a computerised command and control system which will combine with the target acquisition systems to enable artillery commanders to assimilate a very large amount of information and give them the power to utilise their field resources more efficiently and more effectively.

A major feature of the BATES system will be the use of distributed data processing. This permits flexibility and power in artillery fire control systems. Each command level will have computing power appropriate to its function and call on information, via data links, from any other part of the system, mainly using radios designed and built by MSDS.

The system definition will take into account the redeployment of artillery so that each computer in the system will be able to function autonomously whenever required.

The system definition will take into account the redeployment of artillery so that each computer in the system will be able to function autonomously whenever required.

## Visitors from Peking



TELEPHONE Cables, Dagenham, was pleased to receive a visit from members of the Electrical Engineering Society of Peking on October 19.

After being received by the directors the visitors were taken on a tour of the factory to meet personnel involved in the manufacture of telephone cables.

Pictured with the visitors are Miss M. Welsher of the Sino-British Trade Council (centre) and Madame Hsu Hsiao-chun, interpreter. Far right is Derek Park, a member of the test department, who conducted the factory tour.



Over 3000 years

AT the recent annual dinner of the Long Service Association of GEC Switchgear, Higher Openshaw, presentations were made to members representing a total of 3,055 years service.

Approximately 300 members enjoyed dinner and entertainment presided over by the general manager, David MacVicker, accompanied by the Association's vice president, Harry Wood, and chairman, Ted Foxton.

Pictured are some members who received awards.

# Half a century with GEC

**JOHN T. Martin**, an electrical engineer, has retired after working for GEC for over 50 years.

He joined the company's Belfast branch in 1919, and after a five-year apprenticeship took charge of the design and manufacture of switchboards in the branch's workshop.

In 1938 Mr Martin went to South Africa and joined the cable sales department of BGECE Johannesburg SA, returning to Britain in 1939 to join GEC's conduit department in Kingsway, London.

Mr Martin was made assistant manager of the conduit department in 1949, his duties covering advertising, exhibitions, price control, and training. In 1963 he was appointed commercial manager of Oriental Tube Company, a GEC subsidiary, and in 1964 he was put in charge of the estimating department of OTC.

In 1965 he became advertising and publicity manager of OTC. When OTC moved to Gravesend, he transferred to Walsall Conduits as stock controller.

**A. BLACK** has retired from GEC Turbine Generators after 23 years as a blade machinist and setter.

He has been with the company during the complete period of the factory's history and has remarkable timekeeping record, of having been late only once.

**GEORGE Adams** has retired from Paxmans after just over 40 years service.

He joined the company in June, 1936 as a fettler in the Fettleing Shop, which is attached to the Foundry, and worked there ever since, although at times as a furnaceman and machine moulder.

**DON Skinner**, marketing services manager, T.C.L. Dagenham retired at the end of December after 37 years in the cable making industry.

During the war he was involved in the development and manufacture of Pluto, an oil pipeline laid between England and France, following the Allied landings in Normandy.

Between 1956-1962 he was the UK cable manufacturing companies' delegate at many international conferences.

During this period, in 1959, he was elected chairman of the telephone cable manufacturers association.

**TREVOR Waters**, publicity officer, GEC Electrical Projects has retired after nearly 30 years with the company.

Trevor joined GEC at Witton in 1947, after working there during the war as a Ministry electrical inspector. After several senior publicity appointments at Witton, he moved to Rugby in 1968. He worked on the editorial committee of the GEC Journal of Science and Technology for over 20 years.

At a retirement party attended by nearly 150 of his friends in the company, Trevor was presented with a portable Wheatstone Bridge — a piece of equipment he had long coveted for use in his hobby of instrument testing.

He is pictured (right) at his retirement party, receiving an autograph book from T. M. McLellan, publicity manager, GEC Industrial Controls and GEC Electrical Projects.



## Eric's ten thousand valves

**ERIC Reed**, a craft assembler for English Electric Valves, Co Chelmsford, has recently completed his 10,000th Triode high-power transmitting valve assembly. The valves are used in industrial eddy current heating and communication equipments, and Eric has been involved with their construction for 30 years.

The production team are pictured from left to right (front row) Robert Brandrick, engineer-in-charge of small valves, Guy Cox, plating shop, Mrs Bessie Tabun, grid assembler and Eric with the 10,000th assembly just completed. Back row (left to right): Reg Foreman, soldering, Mick Buckley, testing, Bill Wiggam, header assembling, Graham Selmes, glass trainee, Tom Toase, sub assembling, Percy Minns, glass worker and Ron Ketley, Carburising.

## Still going strong after 50 years

**ERNIE Dunn**, who joined Elliott Brothers as long ago as 1926, and still works with the firm, was recently congratulated on his 50 years' service by H. D. F. Eagles, divisional manager of The Aviation Service and Repair Division of Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems at Rochester, Kent.

Ernie Dunn and his wife Doris were guests of honour at the Division's annual Christmas Dance, at which they were presented with a digital clock and radio, subscribed to by their many friends and colleagues.

To achieve 50 years' service with the same firm has been rare enough in industry in the past and compulsory schooling and retirement will prevent this happening in future. Ernie, who was born in 1912, left school at 14 to join Elliott Brothers at Lewisham. Determined to get on, he transferred from the tool stores to the machine shop, attending Goldsmith College for courses on operating lathes, grinders and drilling and milling machines.

A serious illness put paid to his working with machines in 1939 and his war work was in progressing equipment, including flow-meters — the kind of product which his present Division still supports in airline service. He was an active member of the Elliott Brothers Home Guard throughout the war.

Married in 1943 with one daughter, born in 1949, he moved to Maidstone in 1962. Since 1963, he has been in the sales production and contracts offices of Marconi-Elliott's Aviation Service and Repair Division at Rochester. The division is responsible for the complete support of the com-

pany's wide range of avionics which are in service worldwide on over 130 different types of aircraft.

Ernie, who does not reach retirement age until his 65th birthday on August 1, 1977, has now started his 51st year with the firm.

**ALF Lenton**, a drawing office assistant at the Rugby works of GEC Industrial Controls, has retired after 43 years' service with the company. Alf joined British Thomson-Houston in 1928 and for many years worked in the motor factory stores. He left in 1955 and rejoined in 1961 in the drawing office, where he remained until his retirement.

Mr Lenton has for more than 30 years been associated with the Rugby and District Darts League, of which he is now chairman.



## Started as office boy

**ERIC Baxter**, purchasing manager, GEC Industrial Controls, Kidsgrove, has celebrated 50 years with the company. He lunched with directors and colleagues, and was presented (above) with a cheque by managing director, D. W. Prowse, on behalf of the company.

Eric Baxter was born in Gnosall in 1912 and soon moved to Stafford, where his father was head painter and decorator at English Electric. In December 1926, he joined English Electric as an office boy and recalls spending half a day playing cowboys and Indians with the general manager's daughter, aged six.

He later transferred to switchgear, where he followed an engineering training course for five years. He then spent a year as a draughtsman with GEC at Witton before returning to Stafford.

In 1948, Mr Baxter moved into stock control and in 1954 went to Kidsgrove where, as chief supply officer and, latterly, purchasing manager, he has seen the company grow from 100 to 1200 employees.

# Classified

## FOR SALE

**HONDA CB175 K6** motor cycle. Twin carburettor, 175cc, 85mpg, N registration. Reliable and economical transport in good condition. Roll bars and rear carrier box fitted. Contact Mr P. R. Wyman. Telephone: 01-863 1662 (NW London) evenings and weekends.

## PROPERTY

**Eltham, S.E. London.** Water-built modern ground floor flat, large through-lounge with French windows to own garden with paved area. Bathroom with independent shower unit, gas central heating, garage. Convenient for buses, station, high street and schools. £14,750 ono. Telephone 01-850 4331.

**LEICESTER** semi-detached corner position house, through lounge/dining room, glass sliding doors, fitted gas fires, hall leading to kitchen, s/s sink unit, fridge room. 12ft x 7ft x 6ft garden aviary, slatted patio with rockery leading to detached brick garage with inspection pit. Car standing for 2 cars. 3 bedrooms, bathroom with deluxe shower, coloured bath etc. low flush WC. £9,150. Apply Mr J. Foster, 29 Kingsway, Leicester.

**Three-BEDROOMED** semi-detached house, Frinton on Sea. 2 receptions, 2 WC, large kitchen. Gardens front and rear. 5 mins sea, shops, and main line station. Could be converted into 2 flats. All carpets included in sale. £10,500 ono. Tel: Frinton 71786.

## WANTED

**OLD TOY** and model trains, especially pre-war tinsplate types such as Hornby and Bassett-Lowke, but all types considered, even if damaged. High prices paid. Old Dinky toys also wanted, especially of the period 1935-1955. Contact Mr Burt, 63 Redington Road, London NW3 or telephone 01-794 7558 (evenings).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**LEICESTER CITY Supporters Club** (Rugby Branch) present "The Annual Player Award Buffet and Dance". Group Leo and comedian Michael March. At the Benn Memorial Hall, Rugby on Saturday, March 12, 8pm-11.45pm. Licensed bar. Ticket information from Mr W. R. Davidson. (Secretary), 132 Deepmore Road, Rugby. Telephone: Rugby 815838.

## HOLIDAYS

**AGDE**, South of France. 6 berth fully equipped caravan for hire on 3 star site. Free hot water, shop, bar, children's playground. Sandy beaches one mile. Travel by car/air/coach arranged inclusively if required. For details write to Mr J. Murthy, 21 Thames Meadow, Hurst Park, Surrey or telephone 01-941 2452.

**BLACKPOOL**, North Shore. Book now for your 1977 holidays. Double, single, twin and family rooms. Bed and breakfast and evening dinner. £4.50 plus VAT. Car park. Proprietors T. J. Hinton and E. Hinton (formerly GEC Coventry), at Rowan House, 8 Empress Drive, Blackpool. Telephone: (0253) 52218.

**BROADSTAIRS** Kent. Hanson Hotel: friendly, family licensed hotel. Colour TV, attractive bar, private showers. Two mins sea. Try our early spring weekends. Special Discount All GEC Staff. Brochure from Christine and Brian Root, Hanson Hotel, Belvedere Road, Broadstairs, Kent. Tel: 0843-68936 (24-hr Ansafone).

**CALPE**, Alicante, Spain. 2 bedroom furnished flat sleeps 4. 50 yards to sandy beach and promenade. Excellent swimming and walks. Shops and restaurants adjacent. Maid service if required. Inclusive charter flights available.

Apply to Mr C. V. Weston, The Manse, 199 New London Road, Chelmsford.

**FOWEY**, Cornwall. Modernised water front house with beach and boat access. Sleeps one large or two families. Large farmhouse style kitchen leading to south facing patio. Also fisherman's cottage overlooking the bay. Telephone Mr H. T. Gibson on Farnham 21847.

**HOLIDAY** accommodation in Cornwall. Homely atmosphere, bed and breakfast and evening meal, hot and cold in all rooms. Central for coast and Helford River, mid-week bookings accepted. Moderate terms on application from Mrs P. Reed, Little Tregear, Mawgan, Helston, Cornwall. Telephone: Mawgan 206.

**HOLIDAY** bungalow, Porthowan, north Cornish coast. Overlooks beach with coastal view. Sleeps 7. All electric. Has fridge, radio and TV. For further details write to Mr G. D. Maclean, 20 Lyon Close, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex or telephone Chelmsford 55190.

**NORTH CORNWALL.** 6 berth caravan on well appointed woodland site overlooking River Camel estuary, 4 miles Polzeath. Mains water/electricity/TV. SAE to Mrs P. Tippett, 31 Dyson Close, Rugby. Telephone: Rugby 72129.

**PAIGNTON.** Self contained, self catering accommodation. Suit family of 4-6 comprising: kitchen, dining room, 3 large bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC, use of garden, 7 minutes walk to sea. £30 per week. Apply — Mr and Mrs Aleksic, 14 Great Headland Crescent, Preston, Paignton, Devon.

**RIOMAR APARTMENTS**, Praia de Rocha, Algarve, Portugal. Luxurious, compact, self-contained flats in beautiful residential location. Riomar stands only a few minutes from the bathing beaches and is near the International Golf Club, and tennis club and only 25 miles from the airport at Faro. Air conditioning in several apartments, 2 lifts, laundry service, underground garage, sauna, gardens and resident caretaker. Discount to GEC employees. Contact Mr F. B. V. Da Costa, (Overseas Club Member) at Praia da Rocha.

**SELSEY**, Sussex. Furnished self-catering holiday chalet, sleeps 6, to let April to September. £20-£45 per week according to season. Licensed club, golf, heated swimming pool, shops available on site. Sorry no dogs. Enquiries to Mr Jeffrey, 26 Summerhill Road, Cowplain, Portsmouth PO8 8XE. Telephone: Waterlooville (STD 07014) 52030.

**SOUTH DEVON.** Delightful 14th century guest house, small but very comfortable, situated on the edge of Dartmoor. Last year the Manor House was awarded the British Tourist Authority Commendation for Country Guest Houses being the only one in the 6 counties comprising the West Country area to do so. Excellent food and personal attention. Bed and breakfast from £3.75, evening meal £2.50, weekly terms. Send for brochure to Mr and Mrs Williams, The Manor House, Bicklington, nr Newton Abbot, South Devon TQ12 6TH. Telephone: Bicklington 457.

**SPAIN**, Calpe. Luxury apartments to let. 50 yards from sandy beach. Balconies with fine sea views. Flights arranged. Most weeks available. Telephone: Mr A. B. Maton, Lutterworth 4280.

**TORQUAY.** Needing a restful holiday? Open Easter to October, bed and breakfast and evening dinner (four course), early tea, late night drink, all inclusive, no extras charged. Double rooms with hot and cold, all mod cons, maximum 8 guests, regret no children. Near the lovely village of Cockington. Highly recommended. Parking. Send now for our tariff and terms. Mr and Mrs Kearns, 38 Burridge Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 6LN or telephone Torquay 65932.

**WEST SCOTLAND.** Cottage to let. 45 miles north of Glasgow on sea loch, sleeps 6/8. Direct rail link with Euston. Climbing, fishing, boating, hill walking etc. SAE for particulars (prompt reply). Mrs Hamilton, 36 Ravenscroft Park, Barnet, Herts EN5 4NH. Telephone 01-44-6711.

**She's a winner**

THE winner of the Miss GEC Leicester 1977 contest, pictured here, is Rosemary Heath (21), a secretary in the contracts department Marconi Radar Systems, Blackbird Road, Leicester.



**Soviet visitors**

A DELEGATION from the Soviet Union's State Committee for Standards, Measures and Measuring Instruments (known as GOSSTANDARD) visited Marconi Instruments at St Albans in December. The delegation was led by V. I. Kiparenko, head of the Department of Metrology, and included Y. V. Tarbeev, director of the Mendeleev Institute.

During their stay in the UK they visited the British Calibration Service, British Standards Institution, National Physical Laboratory, National Engineering Laboratory in Scotland and three companies that have top ranking standards laboratories in different fields of measurement.

Major topics discussed were

**Equipment to help army keep in touch**

AT A handing-over ceremony in December at the company's Airadio Division at Basildon, Essex, Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems delivered to the British Army the first production model of the ARC 340 airborne communications and homing system, the most advanced of its kind ever produced. The equipment was formally accepted by Maj. Gen. J. A. Ward Booth OBE, Director of Army Aviation, in the presence of senior staff from the Army, the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Aircraft Establishment.

The system, which is for installation in the British Army's new Gazelle and Lynx helicopters and other helicopters already in service, enables the pilot and crew to keep in constant contact with

troops on a battlefield, by operating several communications channels from the same helicopter simultaneously. The system also enables the helicopter to "home" on to a desired objec-

tive with great accuracy and without impairing the system's use as a multi-station communication system.

Marconi-Elliott has designed, developed and produced the system to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Defence. With precisely specified requirements, the company was able to win the contract with a fixed-price bid for development and production as a "package". In the total programme, which included compatibility tests on a helicopter, delivery has started in just under three years from go-ahead, a record for such an advanced equipment. Considerable interest from overseas has been shown in the system.

Airadio Division worked closely with the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough throughout the development of the system.

Under the terms of the fixed price package contract, Marconi-Elliott had complete flexibility in provisioning, building test equipment and loading the production line. The first flight with the new system was carried out only 15 months after contract placement and the development programme included a considerable amount of flying in a Gazelle in collaboration with Westland Helicopters Ltd and the Royal Aircraft Establishment.

**US approves autothrottle**

THE United States Federal Aviation Agency has formally approved a new automatic throttle control system for revenue service by world airline users. The system is produced for Boeing 747 airplanes by Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems.

The first certification of a 747 equipped with this system now has been achieved. The (autothrottle) system automatically controls airspeed, Mach number or engine thrust and contains advanced features for more efficient engine use. The initial aircraft, Boeing production line number 294, was delivered to Lufthansa and entered service in time for the Christmas travel period.

The system is produced by the Marconi-Elliott Flight Controls Division, Rochester, Kent, England and supplied to Boeing Commercial Airplane Company. The new autothrottle operates over the full flight regime including take-off, climb, cruise, descent, approach, landing and go-around.

The system now in service has undergone an extensive programme of laboratory, flight and certification testing, which began a year ago with delivery of pre-production hardware.

**Cat's whisker memories**

FOR those interested in early crystal radio receivers, a book has recently been published by *Wireless World* which should bring back memories of "cat's whisker" days.

"Vintage Crystal Sets 1922-27", by Gordon Bussey, guides crystal-set enthusiasts through vintage wireless trademarks and wireless companies. There is a catalogue of vintage crystal sets with 40 illustrations, and details of the construction and use of a crystal set.

Obtainable from bookshops at £2.50 the book could be a valuable source of reference for collectors.

**New paths ahead**

NEARLY 100 guests — comprising of many apprentices and management teams at St Leonards works and Stonefield Works, attended the apprentice annual dinner and presentation of awards.

Douglas Gadd, managing director, GEC Measurements, spoke of the great success that the company is experiencing, despite the problems associated with the current economic recession. The transfer of the meter business to Stone and the simultaneous expansion of the company at St Leonards Works, he added, opened new avenues of opportunity both for the company, its employees in general and apprentices in particular.

Mr Gadd stressed that the success experienced by GEC Measurements meant greater opportunities for the company's apprentices.

Indentures were presented to 13 apprentices. John Rogers, personnel manager, GEC Measurements also presented awards to seven apprentices for outstanding performances during the last year.

A vote of thanks was given by Peter Harding — a senior graduate apprentice, and the guests then had the opportunity to meet and talk on a more informal basis in the newly decorated Social Club at Stonefield Works.

**MORE ORDERS**

UNDER the terms of contracts worth about £¾ million, Marconi Communications Systems is to supply more underwater telephone and telegraph systems for the submarines and ships of the Royal Navy. This follows the announcement in February, 1976, of contracts to supply the RN with about £1½ million worth of similar equipments.

The new contracts, which were placed by the Ministry of Defence, cover type 2008 underwater telephone systems and type 2010 underwater telegraph systems.

The underwater telegraph was developed at the same time as the underwater telephone.

F. H. LLOYD & Co decided that the updating of the electrical melting facilities at their James Bridge Steel Works in Wednesbury should include a modern arc melting plant. Because of the good service and reliability of the existing plant the order for the new furnace has again been given to Birlec.

The new furnace, costing £¼m, will be one of the Birlec range of completely redesigned small arc furnaces.

Foundation preparations are considerably simplified, the risk of distortion and refractory damage reduced and many of the maintenance problems associated with small arc furnaces eliminated.

WITH Stonefield Works now operational and despatching up to 7,000 household electricity meters per week, a number of large orders have been secured by GEC Measurements. These are worth £417,000 with over £100,000 originating from the home market and the greater part coming from Cyprus and the Middle East.

R. HUNT & CO, manufacturers of mechanical power transmission and agricultural equipment, is to join the growing group of iron founders changing to Birlec electric melting. The company is to replace the existing cupolas at its foundry at Earls Colne, Essex, with two coreless induction furnaces. Birlec has been awarded the £140,000 contract for the design and manufacture of the new plant.

MARCONI Marine's Fishing Industry Division is to supply the radiotelephone equipment in five trawlers of the Norrad fleet based at Milford Haven. The contract involves 200W ssb mf radiotelephones and the latest Corvette SS vhf model along with automatic battery chargers: the Corvette SS, successor to the popular Corvette 25S radiotelephone, will give each trawler a vhf station that can compare with facilities on the largest of ships.

AS part of the NCB National Winder Programme, GEC Electrical Projects has received orders for electrical drives, associated equipment and services valued at over £5.8m.

The orders cover the complete design, manufacture, erection and commissioning of drives for eight installations at six collieries. GEC Electrical Projects is main contractor for the supply, erection and commissioning of the mechanical portion of the winders.



**Price of a diamond**

WINNER of a recent Hotpoint/Co-op promotion, Mrs Mary Stevens of Skegness, pictured above being presented with her £1,000 diamond ring prize by David Brown, Hotpoint's northern sales director at Co-op House, Skegness, recently.

The diamond ring competition was linked to a price-savings promotion on six Hotpoint appliances and 10 runners-up each win diamond rings worth £100.

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Coventry area enquiries or callers please contact:

Head Office: 228 Gulson Road, Coventry. Tel: Coventry 26081

Branch Office: 43 Earlsdon Street, Coventry Tel: Coventry 77957/76381



## The picture of success

THIS photograph of an acoustic test on a GEC LST4D loudspeaking telephone has brought a fresh honour for John Delaney, the works photographer at GEC Telecommunications in Coventry. The photograph, which John exhibited at this year's Royal Photographic Society Exhibition, has been chosen for the Tyng Collection, which aims to preserve outstanding examples of contemporary pictorial photography.

The selection of this picture alone is honour enough, but two years ago another of John's pictures, 'House of Mystery', was added to the collection, which was set up under a trust fund established in 1927 by Stephen Tyng, a New York business man. It is a rare event for more than one example of a photographer's work to be added to what is a very select collection.

## A help to the disabled

GEORGE Bradley, of GEC Telecommunications, has been invested as a Serving Brother in the Order of St John of Jerusalem. The Order, which is under Royal Charter, dates back to the time of the Crusades in the 11th Century and a hospital is still maintained in Jerusalem.

George received his insignia from the Lord Prior of St. John, the Lord Cacia, at an investiture in the Order's Grand Priory Church in London.

George, who is in charge of the Mechanical Laboratory at the firm's Coventry headquarters, joined the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1939 as an 11-year-old cadet. He has been involved in most aspects of Brigade work and for the last five years has been superintendent of the City of Coventry Division. George has always been particularly active in work for disabled and housebound people in the Coventry area.

## Chinese at Dagenham

T.C.L.-Dagenham, were hosts recently to an eight-man delegation from China. The delegation were members of the Chinese electrical engineering society study group on electrical insulation materials, and cable manufacture.

The visit was part of a trade mission organised by the British Electrical, and Allied Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA). Members of the Sino-British Trade Council escorted the group throughout their stay.

## Walkers

A RAMBLING contingent from AEI Sports & Social Club at Thorne took part in the 1976 42-mile Lyke Wake Walk: it took them 16 hours and the Walk raised £125 for the North Yorks Moors Rescue Team.

The walkers ages ranged from 14-year-old Kevin Margrave to Walt Gilson, who is 73.

## Gartside bowl goes north

THE Gartside Rose Bowl which is awarded annually to the most outstanding young employee of Satchwell Control Systems, Slough, has been won by Peter John Smith.

Peter (20), works as a commercial engineer in Satchwell's north west regional office in Bramhall, Cheshire. He was nominated by regional manager, David Brotherton. The bowl was presented by Satchwell's managing director, Alec Murrell.

One disappointed nominee, Michael Whiteman (22), was unable to attend the selection panel due to absence on company business in Bahrain. However, his nomination will be carried forward to the next meeting of the panel.

## Bowling ahead

ARTHUR Sutton of GEC Gas Turbines Cashiers' Department, Whetstone, has recently won the Handicap Cup and also the Novices Cup at the Countesthorpe Bowls Club. Arthur also reached the finals of the club championship which he lost to Brian George of the Nuclear Power Company (Whetstone). 1976 is Arthur's third year of bowling and he has recently been appointed secretary of the Countesthorpe Bowls Club.

## Ted can judge paper at a touch



J. M. Armstrong, managing director, GEC-Elliott Process Instruments, pictured with five employees to whom he had presented long service certificates. Ladies qualify after 20 years' service and gentlemen after 25 years' service.

Included in the group is Ted Wickenden (third from right) who has been blind since he was four. He works as a Rank Xerox operator, has a remarkable sense of touch and can distinguish which side of the paper is the printed side. He can name the many people with whom he comes into contact by their voices, holds a Blue Belt for Judo, is an accomplished actor-dionist and was a good Tandem cyclist.

## It's rewarding to be safety conscious



Dr Thomas, president of the West Midlands Engineering Employers Association, presenting a Two Star Safety Award earned by GEC Machines, Newcastle, Staffs, to Miss J. Antrobus, a member of the works safety committee.

J. R. Bond, works safety officer (on the right), was doubly pleased, having completed 25 years' service with the company shortly afterwards, and he is now charged by A. F. Wilkinson, director and general manager of FHP Division of GEC Machines (on the left), with the task of devising the means of achieving the premier award next year.

## Open evening at EEV

PARENTS and friends of EEV first-year apprentices attended an open evening in December in the training centre at Crompton Works, Chelmsford. The apprentices welcomed their parents and proudly described the working details of projects involved in the company's training programme.

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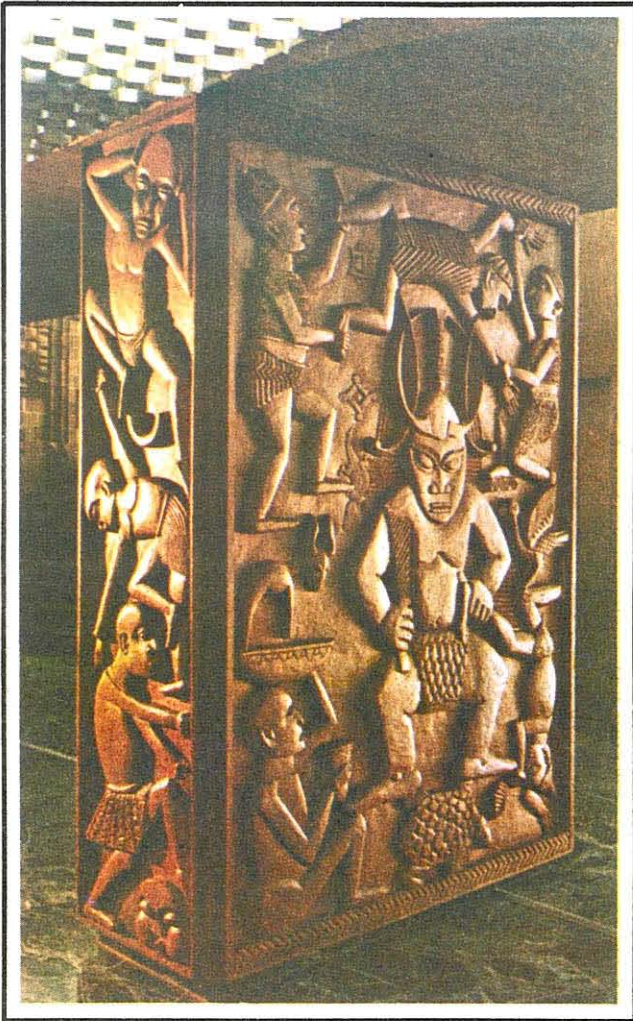
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**ABOVE:** This imposing sculpture stands in the lobby.

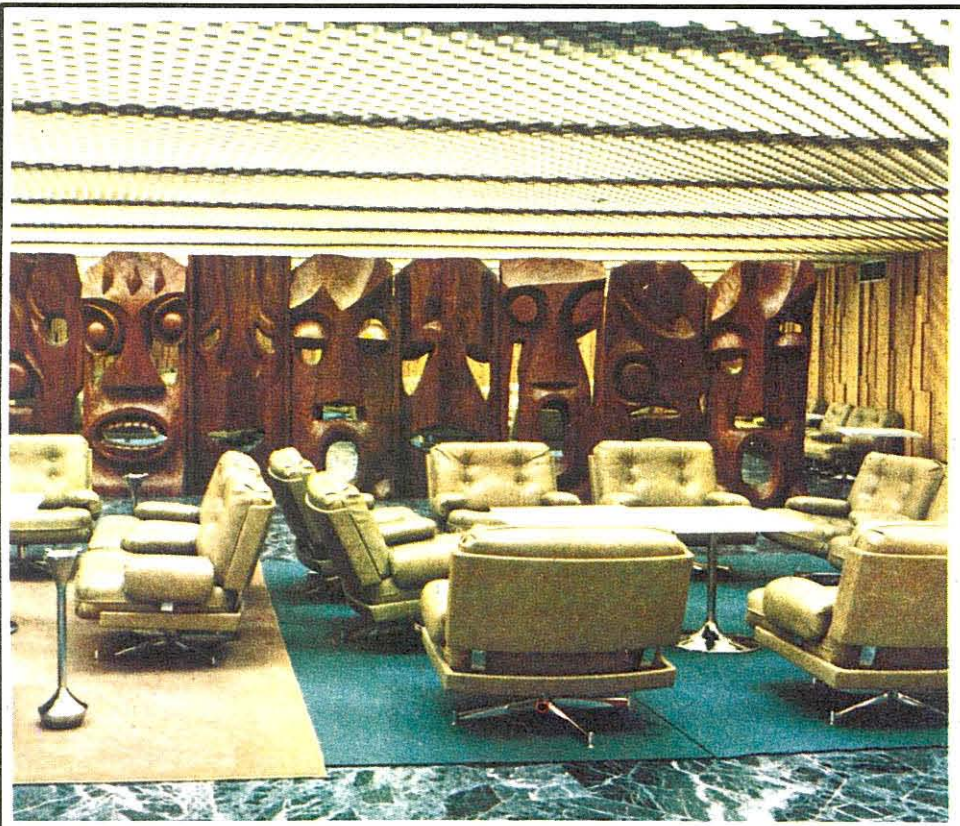


**RIGHT:** The stage as a sliding rostrum.

# GECOS SETS THE STAGE

THE National Theatre Complex in Lagos Nigeria is an example of modern design at its best. It's relaxing yet impressive. Artistic yet functional. It's certainly a showplace, even when the show's not on. GEC Overseas Services handled the electrical installations as sub-contractors to Technoexport Stroy — Bulgaria.

Right: A glimpse of the auditorium.



**LEFT:** The lobby combines elegance with comfort.

**RIGHT:** Part of the exterior.

