

NEWS

Flight Controls Division has been selected by the UK Ministry of Defence as prime contractor for the British Army's new remotely-piloted surveillance system, Phoenix.

The selection follows a competitive study phase which included flight trials of the air vehicle, conducted jointly by FCD and Flight Refuelling. This major new contract is worth around £80 million and represents a significant step forward for the division. It is built on the 30 years of experience in the Company on unmanned aircraft systems and payloads.

Phoenix, the Army's first fully-equipped pilotless aircraft system for real time remote



targeting and battlefield surveillance, comprises a small air vehicle with advanced avionics and infra-red imaging system, an air/ground data link, a mobile ground

station and logistics vehicles for launch and recovery.

The infra-red imaging sensor, developed at Basildon, was demonstrated on a helicopter during the study phase. Many of you will remember the day about a year ago when two helicopters arrived at the airfield. One was carrying the thermal imager and relaying imagery to the Phase III building using a representative data link. The Phoenix air vehicle is designed to have low radar, infra-red and acoustic "signatures" to make it hard to detect. Its modular construction and small size make it easy for soldiers to assemble, launch and recover.

GAV Prizewinners at Mid-Kent College

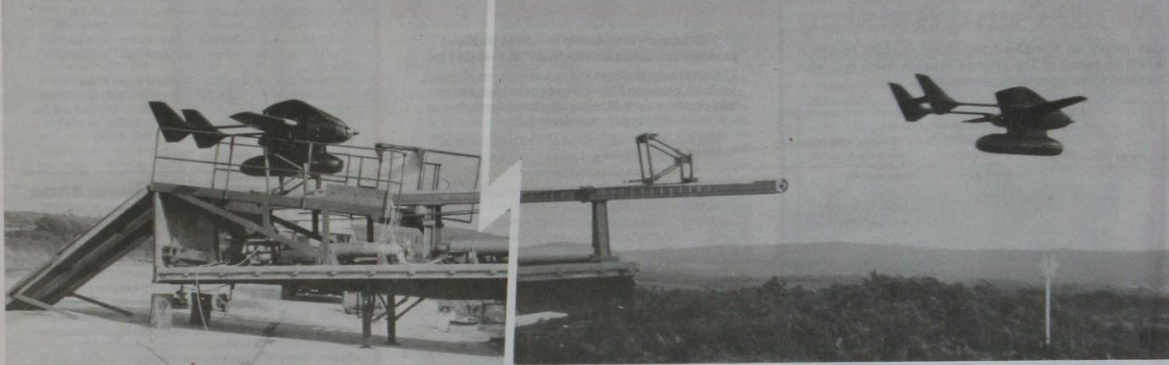
Two company employees have been awarded GEC Avionics Prizes at the Mid-Kent College of Higher and Further Education for their achievements in national examinations following on their training courses.

John Constable, previously a Trainee Computer Programmer but now Software Engineer in ADD, received a prize for his work on the Higher National Diploma in Computer Studies.

For **Nicholas Milas**, who completed his apprenticeship in 1980 and is now a Development Engineer in FARL, the prize was for his work on the Higher Technicians Certificate in Electronics.

In addition, **Ian Pestell** has been presented with the City and Guilds Silver Medal for attaining the highest marks nationally in their Electrical Control examinations. Ian was promoted from his apprenticeship last summer to Trainee Computer Programmer (ATED) Principal Guest at the Prize-giving was the Rt. Hon. the Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

NOW PHOENIX IS LAUNCHED!



Visit by RAF Strike Command Chief



The Air Chief Marshal and his ADC with Laurie Hampson in MASD

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig, GCB, OBE, MA, RAF, visited Rochester site on Wednesday 27th February, accompanied by his ADC, Flt. Lt. D.H. Anderson. He was welcomed by Jack Pateman and several other top company executives; representatives from other sites were Wally Paterson from Basildon and Tony Raeburn from Borehamwood.

Sir David's present appointment is Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command, which carries with it the NATO appointment of Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Air Forces. In this capacity he

received briefings on selected GAV activities from the above mentioned, also Ron Howard and Peter Heame. Later, he visited ISD, ADD and MASD, where the respective Divisional Managers introduced aspects of their work and some of the people involved; in ADD he made

a particular point of seeing Joe Smith's Production department. At lunch Bill Alexander and Dr Bernard O'Kane were present.

A busy day for all concerned, and a worthwhile opportunity of keeping an important customer up to date on GAV's capability.

Appointments

Sara Mawby has moved from Nailsea to take up the post of Personnel Executive at GEC Computers, Borehamwood, and **John Carden** has moved from Personnel Dept., Rochester to be Assistant Personnel Manager in her department.

At Nailsea, **Tony Williams** has been appointed Senior Personnel Officer in charge of all personnel and training matters.

Also, **Ian Robinson** is now Chief Engineer within Power Conversion Systems Division - a move from Offshore Projects Group.

GEC Avionics News

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Jane Wenham, CDD (Gads Hill)

Phyllis Ellis, CMS

Volunteers should offer their service through Divisional Administration

Officers or direct to the Editor.



Haskett Trophy 1984 Entrants



Mr Alexander has announced that two entries for the 1984 Haskett Trophy Award have been received. These are:

'Dissimilar Software'

Submitted by FCD's: Mr D.J. Buchanan, Computer Programmer, Mr D.L. Salvage, Project Manager, Mr G.L. Wisdom, Computer Programmer, Mr N.C.J. Wright, Software Group Leader.

'Aircraft Optically Signalled Flight Control System'

Submitted by FARL's: Mr T.I. Hall, Project Manager, Mr S.G. Heptinstall, Systems Engineer, Mr D.J. Larner, Development Engineer, Mr L.C.A. Vandertak, Consultant Engineer.

The entries are both of a high standard and the Adjudicating Panel will meet in April.

GEC Avionics (Rochester) Long Service Association

The following new members have been welcomed into the Association recently:

A.R. Essex (GEC Admin); B.A. Ellender (ASRD); A.J.G. Ellis (Personnel Dept); R.K. Bartrop (GEC Admin); D.J. Large (CACD); A.L. Regan (GSD); T. Gallagher (ISD); P.R. Hart (ASRD); A.E. Hocking (GSD); J.A.G. Cassey (ASRD); J.G. Wyatt (CDD); G.J.C. Joyce (CACD); A.R. Kennett (PSD); P.C. Case (ISD); J.H. Smith (ISD).

ATED Fund Raising

Last month we mentioned the efforts of many people in ATED on behalf of The Wisdom Hospice. Here is a letter received following another generous donation.

MEDWAY HEALTH AUTHORITY
THE WISDOM HOSPICE

My Reference: 37/287
Your Reference:

St. William's Way
Rochester
Kent ME1 2NU
Telephone:
Medway (0634) 812571
19th February 1985.

Mrs. S. Edwards,
A.T.S.,
Marconi Avionics Ltd.,
Airport Works,
Rochester,
Kent.

Dear Mrs. Edwards,

Once again I have to say a big thank you this time for the deaf aid, which is such a boon. You have no idea how difficult it is to ask intimate questions whilst bowling at the top of one's voices! Please thank your colleagues and assure them that it is much appreciated.

Also, we have to thank you for the bed padding which you told us we might order, and the invoice for which you will find enclosed. We are most grateful that you have agreed to pay for this.

We all appreciate your help. Our association is long now, and for my part I say 'long may it continue'. My sincere thanks to you all.

Yours sincerely,
Miss B. Taylor
Miss B. Taylor
Nursing Officer

Christmas Colouring Competition

We had some nice efforts here. They were judged by Sue Westrup, Secretary to John Bradley, and Tom Crooks, who did the original drawing - if some of you thought you had seen it before, it first appeared as a 'Christmas Card' a few years ago.

The Winners are:

Girls 9 or over **LYNNE HOLME**, c/o Arthur Holme, ADD Production Engineering.

Girls under 9 **REBECCA HARVEY**, c/o Derek Harvey, Training Dept.

Boys 9 or over **KEVIN MARTYN**, c/o W. Martyn, FCD DD

Boys under 9 **MARK WARNER**, c/o Pat Warner, MASD Production Office

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING SERVICE

The Surgery is now able to extend its blood pressure screening service to all GAV employees.

The screening sessions will commence on Monday, 1st April, between 2.00 - 4.00 pm in the Main Surgery, and continue each Monday afternoon thereafter on an appointment only basis.

The screening will consist of a simple medical questionnaire, blood pressure recording, weight recording and urine test.

Everyone over the age of 35 is encouraged to attend in order that early detection of a raised blood pressure can be gained and appropriate advice, referral and treatment obtained.

SUGGESTION SCHEME

Did you know that the nominal award is now £10.00?
Did you know that the scheme paid out in excess of £470.00 in 1984?

don't let your ideas hibernate



use the suggestion box

CHOIR CONCERT

by
Rainham Ladies' Choir
at
CHATHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

In aid of Chatham Old People's Welfare Committee

SATURDAY 27 APRIL, 7.30 pm

TICKETS £1.00

from Social Centre for Retired Citizens, Riverside, Chatham (Tel 811938)

HOLIDAY TIME

Long Haul Holidays

EXHIBITION AT THE CREST HOTEL
SUNDAY 21 APRIL 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
Admission Free

This Exhibition will be featuring in particular Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA, although we shall be including holidays to all worldwide destinations.

Operators include Jetset Tours, Jetsave, Tradewinds, QANTAS, Ward, Jr., Thomsons, Foundstretchers and the Tourist Offices of Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Florida.

There will also be a colour slide and video show throughout the day, plus the chance to win a prize or two. All employees of GEC Avionics and their families will be most welcome and we look forward to seeing as many as possible.

Arrangements by Pickfords Travel

Holiday and Travel Insurance - are you properly covered?

Unexpected illness, injury or death could cost you or your family a lot of money on an overseas holiday trip. As the holiday season gets underway, you would be well advised to check appropriate insurance cover, as the Company only provides such cover when an employee travels on Company business; this does not extend to your own private arrangements.

Travel agents offer insurance packages at a fraction of the total cost of the holiday.

BUPA cover, for those who are members, is designed to protect you against the costs of private treatment in the UK. Whilst you have the same level of protection when travelling overseas, this might not be enough. Medical treatment abroad can cost a great deal and there are likely to be all sorts of extra expenses, like General Practitioner fees or ambulance charges that your normal BUPA benefits will not cover.

If you wish to obtain further details of the BUPA Worldwide Travel Scheme these can be obtained from John Roberts in the Personnel Department.

Pickfords Travel

As we enter the third year of operating our Travel Desk at Rochester Works, I still hear people say that they didn't know there was a travel desk once a week, and they didn't know that we offer all GEC Avionics employees 'special savings' on the cost of their holiday when booking through the Chatham High Street branch of Pickfords Travel.

The 'special savings' apply only to selected tour operators, but cover a very wide range of holidays, and to qualify for the 'special savings' at least one GEC Avionics employee has to travel on the holiday, and they must take Pickfords Travel recommended insurance, but the savings also apply to all other people named on the booking form, whether they are employed by GEC Avionics or not.

The Travel Desk is in the snack bar at Airport Works every Wednesday from 12 noon until 1 pm except during the months of June, July and August, and on Bank Holiday weeks such as Easter.

For those employees who haven't been able to visit, or those who have, we look forward to seeing you at the Travel Desk is open, if you prefer, you can phone on Medway 43453/4 and we can take your holiday bookings over the telephone.

RETIREMENTS

Vera Bell, who retired on 23rd January, joined the former Gyro Division in 1976 to work in the Shock Records section and was promoted to Section Leader in 1983.

Her friends and colleagues subscribed to farewell gifts of a crystal glass 'Bell' and a Rose Bowl.

We wish Vera well in her retirement where she will have time to pursue her hobby of Crochet and to see more of her Grandchildren who live in Essex.



Vera Bell. (A)

Ethel Cady, who retired on 1st February spent the war years in Short's Seaplane No. 18 shop and in 1946 started with Swift and Swallow. She broke service to have a son and returned to TAC in 1962, then MAC, IND in 1971 and finally GSD. Ethel's husband works with Fisher Controls and in order to keep him in the manner he has become accustomed to, he found her another job starting on the next Monday! Ethel will keep busy with gardening, sewing and club secretarial work, together with 3 granddaughters.

Dave Harness presented Ethel with a gold plated crystal candle holder.



Ethel Cady. (A)

Lou Cox of ATED Inspection originally started at Elliott Automation in 1961.

He spent two years fitting in IND before going on to Tech Pubs, then in 1964, when TSR2 work became scarce, he left for pastures new. In 1973 he decided that he had experienced enough of the world outside and returned to GAV starting as an inspector on ATED where he has since stayed.

Lou's hobbies include writing and woodwork, and he hopes, between gardening and building a greenhouse, to publish at least one full length novel during his retirement.

Tribute to Lou Cox in the style of his own poems, from his colleagues:

*For many years we've known you,
Worked with you side by side,
The ups, the downs, the turmoil,
You've taken in your stride.
But now you're going to leave us,
To while away your years,
While we stay here to earn our bread,
With toil and sweat and tears. (ha, ha.)
So spare us just a thought Lou,
Consider us you might,
When pottering in the garden,
Or sitting down to write.
We've had our laughs you've made your friends,
As many of us do,
And though we wish you all the best,
How we envy you.*



Production Manager Alex Castle did the honours with a presentation from Lou's friends and colleagues. (A)

On Thursday January 31, **Joyce Page** retired from her job as Sub-Section Leader in the GSD Cost Office.

She joined the company in 1972 as a Cost Clerk in the then IND, working in the Huls until moving to the Towers recently, following the IND/GYRO merger. She was presented with gifts and cards by Rob Petts, Cost & Budget Officer, on behalf of all her friends and colleagues. We wish Joyce and her husband Sid a long and happy retirement.



Joyce Page with Rob Petts.

Phil Chappell retired from a heavily decorated office in GSD, which he had occupied as Project Controller for the Jaguar NAVWASS project since joining IND in 1971, also being involved in PDS activities. Phil's career started with RAF service, followed by many years with De Havilland and EMI, reaching senior positions in the drawing offices; in 1956 he joined GEC at Stanmore, as PDS Group Leader and Technical Liaison Officer.

His time with Elliotts and successors started at Borehamwood as Chief Draughtsman, TACD, becoming Project Controller when the division moved to Rochester in 1964. From 1966 Phil was Engineering Services Manager with FID, followed by QA Manager in 1968.

Divisional Manager Bob Ruggles presented Phil with a camera, recalling that he had first met him in Borehamwood days. He particularly admired the spirit shown during many months lately of disability. Phil responded with thanks for happy times and wonderful friends and colleagues, and to the company. He looked forward to enjoying a new hobby of birdwatching, and proceeded to record the occasion with the gift he had just received.



Phil Chappell and Bob Ruggles. (A)

Jim Glover retired from the Company on February 8th after 29 years at Rochester and in particular 23 years with ATE Division. Jim has clocked up over 47 years with the GEC group since he started as an apprentice with BTH in 1937; in 1955 he came to Rochester as a designer draughtsman with Radio and Radar Division and 18 months later became Chief Draughtsman. When Radio and Radar split into three divisions Jim served with the Naval Weapons division until they transferred to Frimley in 1962, then joined the original ATE Division and remained throughout the various name changes until his retirement.

Jim has been involved in many major test equipment programmes and set up the MRCA Automatic Test System programme project office and controlled the filing and distribution of all the project documentation which he says "is measured by the ton" for over ten years. He carried out this job with great



Jim Glover and Barry Beddoe, Technical Manager. (A)

distinction as anyone who needed access would testify.

Jim's real name is Geoffrey and he has no idea why throughout his working life he has been called Jim, and since outside the Company he is only known by his proper name you can understand that having two names has sometimes created some minor problems. However, to mark Jim/Geoffrey's retirement his many friends presented him with a variety of gifts including a Socket set for the car he is proposing to buy if he gets his licence back which lapsed 40 years ago. We wish you well Jim.

After 10 years' service **Lilian Harbottle** of the Mailing Office retired on January 25th and was presented with a carriage clock and flowers by Sid Williams, Works Engineer, along with many other gifts from her numerous friends. Lilian can now relax and enjoy her hobbies of cooking, entertaining, and tending her very large garden, as well as taking an active part in the various Detling village activities.



Lilian Harbottle and Sid Williams. (B)

This picture of **Cyril Fryers** receiving his retirement gift from Doug Harris, Divisional Technical Executive of GSD, appeared last month but without the words, for which we apologise. Cyril actually retired in November, and the presentation of his own choice of a wall clock was with the good wishes of many people from the various divisions in which he has worked. After 17 years with Ekco, Cyril joined GEC at Portsmouth as an inspector on missile systems, and 5 years later in 1962 he came to Rochester, starting in MACD as Checker Draughtsman. The merger with TACD followed, and later, in 1971, Cyril joined IND as checker, being promoted to Section Leader in 1976, where he had responsibilities on the NCS1 and IFCS projects. Cyril will now have more time for his hobby of photography, to help with which, his colleagues also gave him a camera bag.



Cyril Fryers. (B)

Ron Jury retired on 25th January. Ron has been with the company for 28 years during which time he was employed for 11 years in the Tool Room as a Turner and Jig Borer, following this with 2½ years as an Inspector in AED.

The remaining 14½ years has been spent as an Inspector in IND (now GSD) where he has worked mainly on the PMD from the word 'Go' including development and build standard.

Ron is married with three sons and two grandsons and hopes to spend some of his leisure time on gardening and listening to Country and Western on Hi-Fi.

During the war he spent 2½ years in the Royal Artillery as Driver Operator Signals in Italy, Egypt and Palestine.



Ron was presented with a Paint Sprayer and Electric Jug by Dave Harris, Production Manager. (B)

The Story bel

The award of the Phoenix contract marks not only the beginning of a major new programme for the company but also the culmination of several years of work as the various stages of competitive study progressed. At first, thirteen solutions were proposed by GAv and other potential suppliers. These were whittled down to four, then to two. These two were the subject of year-long engineering studies.

During this "Further Engineering Study" phase, a great deal was done to refine the proposed solution, and to provide working demonstrations of key parts of the system. Obviously, the flying demonstration of a full size vehicle was the focus of a great deal of attention. The launch of the air vehicle and its flights were certainly impressive sights.

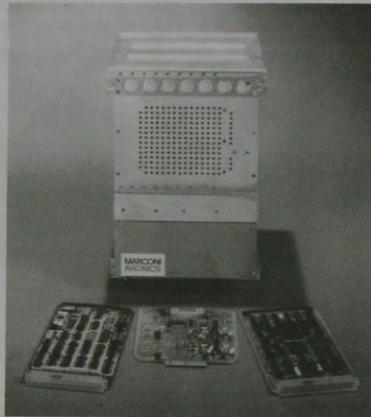
This flight demonstration not only proved the vehicle configuration and its handling qualities, but also demonstrated the correct operation of the launcher, the flight controls and the parachute recovery system. The advanced digital flight control system controlled the vehicle during the demonstration.

The ground control station is another vital element of the Phoenix system. Such is the importance attached to the design and layout of this facility that a full scale mock-up was constructed for human factors assessment. The Basildon Phoenix team have designed the control station keeping the use of the system very much in mind.

Still with the human factors element in mind, one of the important interfaces between man and machine in the Phoenix ground control station is a moving map display. This uses the latest all solid-state system developed by GSD, and demonstrations of this system were also conducted during the study phase. Sample formats were generated by FARL using their advanced graphics processing system, and they also contributed to the programme from their MACHAN experience.

It's no good simply claiming that the aircraft has low radar and thermal signatures; you have to measure them. The measurement programme for thermal signature called on the particular expertise in radiometry from the GAv Research Laboratory at Baddow.

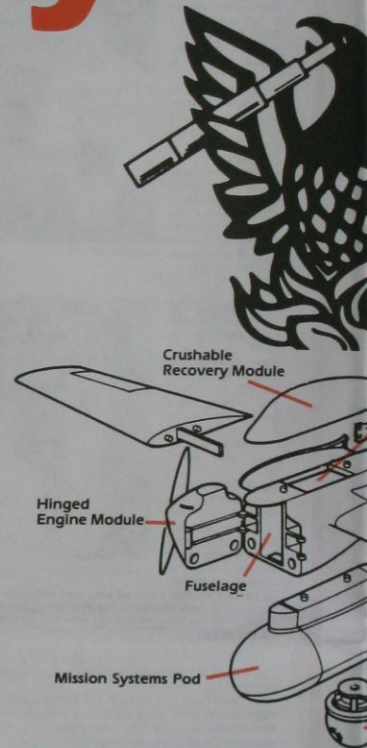
The list goes on with many other often less glamorous but equally vital system elements, each of which



The prototype Digital Flight Control Computer.

contributes in its own unique way to the success of the whole system. The excellent spirit of collaboration shown by all the groups involved has been a major factor in winning the programme.

Finally, like in all studies, there was a report and proposal. In this case, ten large volumes supported by a mass of other documentation and a video presentation produced by the GAv Audio Visual Unit were submitted. The documents covered every imaginable aspect of the system from technical specification to production engineering, from quality assurance aspects to software engineering, from system design to future applications. This was the team effort "par excellence" with every department in the division involved in putting together the outcome of the activities, ably assisted by other divisions at



GEC Avionics A.C. scores in Cross-Country Runs

Despite a number of disappointments by reason of injuries, illnesses and moving away of team members, the newly-named GEC Avionics Athletic Club has marked up some notable successes in the last few weeks. Even through the worst of the weather which itself caused problems and prevented some runners from finishing the courses, the club has been able to keep its fixtures, not always with a complete team.

One successful local meeting was the Kent Mens Cross-country championships held at Mote Park, Maidstone on 8th January. Despite an expectation that the team's outstanding success in this fixture a year ago, when Elliott A.C. grabbed the Championship for the first time, would not be repeated, the outcome of the fifth place caused some disappointment. This was offset by the tremendous results in the younger age groups; GAv were first in the colts', boys', and youths' team races and second in the juniors. In the boys' race our runners came in the first three places. This meeting was hosted by the Club.

The following week at Chislehurst again brought wins for the same 3 teams at the Kent A.C. event, and as a result of these wins and the placings achieved by juniors and seniors, no fewer than sixteen runners were selected to represent Kent at the inter-county match at Leicester on 19th January. Here, **Steve Fury** won the Bronze in the youth's event - in an entry of around 400.

The National Cross-country championships at Milton Keynes on 2nd March were held in a rapidly deepening mudbath with thousands of entrants, again Steve Fury, who was last year's Kent Male Athlete of the Year, took the Bronze Medal. Earlier injuries had left GAv short of top performance by several of the best runners, nevertheless Steve's Bronze - out of 880 competitors - and the youths' team placing of fifth gave much pride. **Alan Guilder** came 163rd of 1820 in the seniors, **Kerry Hayes** was 205th after four months' absence through injury, and **Adrian Bridge** and **Andy Selker** overcame bugs to finish well within the first 15%.

A big event was the Kent League

meeting on 16th February, held on a pitch at Borsal and followed by a prizegiving in the Ganteen when Bill Alexander, who is President of the Kent A.A.A., gave the trophies. The Colts' and Boys' teams won the league for the season's races by a wide margin, the Youths were second having suffered from fixture clashes, and GAv A.C. won the Team Aggregate trophy.

Other successes have been the youths' win at Southern Counties' fixture at Cockfosters, the colts' and boys' wins in the Rochester road races in December, also those teams' wins in Shaftesbury Harriers event in London, and last but by no means least **Louise Watson** and **Sharon Willicombe** filled the first two places in the Kent League girls' event at Sevenoaks.

We congratulate individuals and teams alike, who have kept up the Athletic Club's fine tradition in these and other events over the now ending winter season. This is expected to go out with a bang at the Southern 12-Stage Road Relay to be held at Wimbledon Common on 14th April.

More HUDs for the USA

ADD has been selected to provide an improved Head-Up Display to update the A-7 Corsair aircraft now in service with the United States Air National Guard.

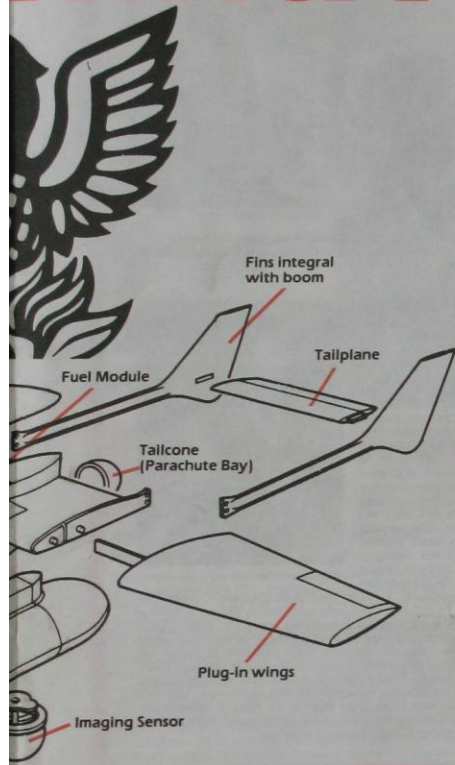
This award is a follow-on to the very successful Cheap Night Trials which took place at China Lake USA in mid 1984. The equipment will incorporate many features of the F16 C/D HUD and using present day technology will provide the Air National Guard with a night vision capability.

This contract for 54 systems is another milestone in our long association with Vought, an L.T.V. company, which began with the award of the original A-7 program in 1967 and has continued, without lapse, either at Rochester or in Atlanta to the present time. First deliveries are due in March 1986 and there are more orders in the pipeline.

Corsairs over Rochester, September 1970. This much enlarged picture was taken when two aircraft, over for that year's Farnborough Show, unexpectedly decided to pay their HUD suppliers a visit of thanks, delighting our workforce and terrifying the population of the Medway towns with thunderous fast low passes over the factory and surrounding areas.

www.rochesteravionicarchives.co.uk

hind Phoenix



Helicopter mounted Imaging Sensor during last year's demonstration at Rochester

Rochester, Basildon, Borehamwood and a range of subcontractors.

On the night before this magnum opus was despatched, a visitor to FCD would have found many of its numbers on their knees on the floor. The official story is that they were feverishly collating and checking some of the hundred or so documents that had to go out the door. There have been other interpretations.

And so, at last, we've won. This programme will represent the start of an update era in remotely piloted vehicle systems technology bringing further work to GEC Avionics.



Basildon Thermal Imaging Sensor



Museum Piece Already?

Far from it! The dual-mode HUD system was developed in under a year from receipt of contract, destined for the USAF's F-16C and F-16D Fighting Falcons. This \$75m contract is keeping ADD very busy at the moment.

A very recent distinction is the inclusion of the cockpit display unit in an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Known as the "Boilerhouse Project", this collection of artefacts has been formed from one hundred Good Design items, selected as such by a poll of Britain's leading designers who were asked to nominate the 'best ever' product in the very subjective field of design. As asked in the catalogue

for the exhibition, how can some product designs be intrinsically better than others? Is it that some things are agreed to be more beautiful, work better, are more ingenious or simply just excite the spirit more than something mundane?

This list of 100 Best Ever Products includes objects ranging from a ceramic decorated plate of around 1560 AD, a century-old clock, button-front Levi jeans originating in 1850, the Mini, to Post-it Note Pads, aluminium beer cans and cameras.

The whole project is under the auspices of The Conran Foundation.



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25 YEARS' SERVICE

Tony Hocking, Chief Draughtsman of Recording Systems Division at Naisea, received his 25 years' service award from Divisional Manager David Hooper on 25th January. Tony joined Elliotts in 1960 as an Electrical Tester in MACD, and after nine years in the Division, he embarked on a change of career by becoming a Trainee Draughtsman in 1969 and transferring to IND in 1971 as a qualified Draughtsman. By 1974 he was a Design Draughtsman, and in 1977 he transferred to GYRO as a Design Engineer, becoming a Section Leader in 1978. After almost 25 years at Rochester, Tony transferred to Naisea in October last year as Chief Draughtsman of RSD.

Tony's interests include Cross Country running, although this interest was not reflected in his choice of a Carriage Clock to mark the achievement of his 25 years' service.



Tony Hocking with David Hooper.

Manager of the Environmental Test Lab in COD, **John Wyatt**, was presented with a carriage clock by Ken Boardman when he reached 25 years' service in February. John, a graduate of



John Wyatt with Ken Boardman. (B)

Imperial College, spent time with Avo, Sperry Gyros at Feltham, and Louis Newmark, also with Vosper where he was involved with patrol boats as well as Donald Campbell's record breaking 'Bluebird'. He joined this company in the days when divisions were sometimes very small – he was one of the original eight at the formation of ADD. Later John was in TACD on flight trials of VC10 and BAC111 at Wisley, then with Jaguar trials and in the early '70s the build up of the RST facilities in IND. Since 1977 he has been taking part in the growth and prospering of ETL. Off duty the theme is 'clocks' and 'crops'; John's interest in Horology (old clocks) and vintage motor cars and cycles takes up much of his leisure time.

Gene Joyce of CACD reached his 25 years' service by way of several divisions; he was first in Test, rising to Assistant Chief of Test in FID by 1963, and from 1964 to 1977 was in AS&RD in the development and quality assurance activities, becoming Deputy Quality Manager in 1974. Lately Gene has been Project Engineer in FCD/CACD; during his career he has been involved with Buccaneer, Lightning, VC10, and Tornado projects. Among his home pastimes is touring cycling and he is a radio 'ham' and hockey umpire. Divisional Manager Keith Snelling handed over Gene's chosen gift of a canteen of cutlery.



Here Gene is receiving the congratulations of friends and colleagues (F-R) Dave White, John Pointer, Mike Tomsett, Mike Thomsell, and Bruce Roadhead. (A)

Pat Case, Assistant Production Manager in Instrument Systems Division has spent all his service in that Division during which he has held positions of Senior Production Engineer, Production Superintendent and Materials Controller. Widely experienced in all aspects of Production, Pat has recently used this knowledge to great effect with his involvement in the implementation of Production Computer Systems for the Division and also he is responsible for the manufacturing Licence of an Air Data Computer with the Chinese which has given him



Pat Case. (A)

the opportunity to visit China on a number of occasions. Divisional Manager John Colston made the presentation of a Silver Plated Tea Set.

Bert Kennett's 25 years with the company have, he says, been a series of 'set-ups' and 'windings-down'; he joined under the wing of Alf Harrison in the old Aviation Division, later helping Reg Collins set up CMS. Then he was in Fuse Division until their departure from the site, back with Alf's team and from 1978 onwards has been involved with the setting-up and present running of PSD's Production Department, as Chief Production Engineer. Outside GAV Bert's activities have been astonishingly varied: to mention only a few, he was a Dockyard apprentice, rose to Chief Inspector with the old Spemby company when they occupied New Road, and achieved great distinction at county and national championship level in Roller Skating, later also in Roller Hockey. In the summer seasons he took great part in Water Skiing including service as club Vice-commodore, and in his youth was Cadet Drum Major to the Royal Engineer Cadet Band, leading the whole parade on the occasion of the Victory Parade of Auxiliary Forces after the war.



Bert Kennett. (B)

Births

To **Beverly Golding** and **David**, a daughter Hollie on 10th February. The Golding family have for many years had close connections with the company; proud father David works in MASD, Grandpa Sid in CACD, Grandma Joan in ISD, Aunt Gerry Stokes in the Surgery, and Aunt Ann in ATED, just to name a few. Beverly herself worked for D. Peddie in ISD until she left to have the baby.

On 6th February a baby girl was born to **Sumi**, and **Anil Patel** who is a Leading Hand in ISD Test.

Andy Hughan (MASD Contracts) tells us of the arrival of Tracey for his wife **Margaret**. Pity the snooker table will now have to go.

Future Events



Anne Carrington. (B)

'Chris' Gibling has been in Training Dept for around a year and in earlier employment here was in Personnel Dept, in Records and as a Secretary. Chris left on 8th March to prepare for her baby due in May and received a number of presents and the good wishes of many friends throughout the company, from Training Services Manager David Perry.

Anthea Cole also left AS&RD, but for a different reason – her friends in Tech Pubs bought earrings for her to wear behind the bar in another Pub, that run by her husband. We have not been told the name so the free beer offer cannot be made.

Congratulations

Another Pub event was ex-apprentice **Peter Rann's** 21st birthday celebration (father Reg used to be in COD). Unfortunately this page is not large enough to do justice to the picture of Peter and the 'pettle' lady who brought him a Kissogram – he was quite overcome!

Also **Theresa Burnop** of ATED QA Dept is congratulated by all her friends and colleagues for her coming of age.

Jane Watts left AS&RD on 22nd February in a flood of tears, we are told, but looked really happy talking to Bill Andrews, Supplies Manager who was one of the great many friends who wished her every happiness in her pregnancy and future motherhood. Ann had worked in AS&RD for 3 years in Stock Control.



Jane Watts. (B)

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-
silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the
tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred
things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and
soared and swung
High in the silent silence, hovering there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and
flung
My eager craft through footless halls of
air.
Up, up the long, delicious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with
easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've
trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of
God.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

In December 1941, Pilot Officer John G. Magee, a 19-year old American serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force in England, was killed when his Spitfire collided with another airplane inside a cloud. Several months before his death, he composed his immortal sonnet "High Flight", a copy of which he fortunately mailed to his parents in the USA.



A LETTER FROM AN IRISHWOMAN TO HER SON

Dear Son,

This is your dear old mother writing to you. There is a lot of interesting news since you left. It's wet but not as wet as when it was real wet. I'm writing this slow because I know you can't read fast. Excuse the writing I had an accident, burnt my fingers in boiling water. I should have left the water before I put my fingers in it. I'm feeling better since you went away. Went to the doctor and got a wonderful medicine for my deafness. I took a dose on Friday night and it was so good I heard from Uncle Hughie in Australia on the Saturday morning. I feel 25 years younger and your father is delighted. Your brother Ernie came in crying from school this evening because all his pals have new clothes. We can't afford to buy him a new outfit so we are going to buy him a new hat and let him look out the window.

We had a row with the electric light company, it ended in a draw - we got no light and they got no money. It is very dark but not as dark as when it was real dark. We are hard up son, send us a few quid - it will only cost you five pence.

Our neighbours the Browns started to keep pigs and we only got the wind of them this morning. Friday night was wet, we went to bed early. Mr Higgins got his appendix out and a new kitchen sink in. The cat had four kittens in your father's hat. I put them in a box in case they grew up round shouldered. The undertaker called and said that if the last instalment isn't paid on your mother-in-law, up she'd come. Your father has worms and has gone fishing. We heard from your cousin that Annie passed away, your old Granmie died and Fanny married the butcher, so now you have no Annie, no Granmie and no Fanny.

Your father has a good job now, first in 10 years. We are a great deal better off than we were. Your father gets £10 every Thursday as we do a bit of fixing up. We bought one of the new fangled things they call bathrooms. You hear tell of them in some houses. It is put in by a man called a plumber. On one side of the room is a big long thing, what you used to feed the pigs in before you went away. We jump in that and wash all over. But near that is a small one they call a sink. That is for light washing such as hands and face. Ah! but over in the corner is the nicest contraption of all. You put one foot in and wash it clean, then pull a little chain and you get fresh water for the other foot. Two covers came with it and we hadn't any use for them in the bathroom, so I'm using one as a bread board and the other has a hole in it so we framed your grandad's picture. They sent us a big roll of writing paper with it, this is what I'm using now Son to write to you. Take care of yourself. Your Mammy.

Sports and Social Club round up

Sports & Social Annual General Meeting

78 members were present at the third AGM of the now renamed GEC Avionics/BP Kent Club. Chairman John Bradley opened the meeting by asking for a count and then invited Bill Alexander as President to take the chair. After routine business, Nigel Holland gave his Treasurer's report for the year ending 30th September last, which revealed a healthy situation, a surplus of nearly £99,000, although this was an abnormal amount due to the completion of the sale of the Featherby Road premises, net £47,000; the remainder included a Company Subsidy of £35,000 and a Club surplus in the year of £16,000, bigger than last year's £12,000 mainly due to investment income on the Featherby Road proceeds. The Company Subsidy went towards current and planned capital improvements, and increased bar and some other prices and levies made for an increased net profit. On the outgoing side, nearly £9,000 was spent by the Management Committee on providing entertainments for the members, mostly free. Also, over £10,000 was given to the various Sections to help with their finances. The Company was thanked for their support in meeting many of the running expenses - fuel, rates, wages and so on, plus secretarial, supervisory and accounting work, all assessed at some £143,000.

Peter Bird, Vice-Chairman, in his report pointed out that Nigel Holland had succeeded Jane Kempton as Treasurer, thanks were due to both. The Social Club programme had been hectic, Children's Discos and Parlour Derbies being particularly successful. These events need many people to run them, and although the Committee are happy to do this, acknowledgement and thanks to them are in order. Jim Collins' involvement particularly in the children's events and Pantomime was appreciated. The Committee were very sorry to lose Mick and Ann Smith and Fred Bingham who had given tremendous service on several sub-committees. Not to be forgotten - the Section Committees, the President, and especially Maurice Finch and his wife.

The President's address included his thanks to all who had worked so hard for the Club since its re-formation 3 years ago, it was heartening to see how well everything was settling down and smoothly progressing. There were difficult problems still being tackled, but the broad band of interests covered was remarkable. He was grateful to the Committee and particularly Peter Bird as Vice-Chairman, also Jim Collins. Proposed improvements were well in hand, notably the conversion of the former rifle range into club rooms - likely future users are sub-aqua, swimming and archery sections. Although funds are available progress is somewhat slow on the major clubhouse improvements planned - there have been rethinks and "we want to get it right", but proposals are now expected soon. In all this change, Maurice Finch and his staff deserve the thanks of all.

The formal proposal to change the name of the Club to the GEC Avionics/BP Kent Club (abbreviated to GAV/BP Kent Club) was carried - alterations to the Club badge and documents will follow.

Another proposal which was carried was the offering of Honorary Life Membership to Maurice Finch and Jim Collins and their wives.

At the end of the formal proceedings Mr Alexander invited com-

ments from the members; points which emerged were the hope and intention to improve the Social amenities to complement the excellent sports facilities - there is a need to alleviate the crowding at some sports meetings. Also, a query about Fishers members following the move to Strood gave the reply that in all respects their contribution and participation in club affairs remains unchanged.

MABCUB Club Room Opened

Shortly before the Social Club AGM on 7th February, Bill Alexander honoured the Computer Users Club by opening the new Club Room at Hoo Clubhouse and handing over the keys.

Maurice Finch, Secretary, said in his introduction how grateful he was for the company's support and the work put in by Glyn Thomas and his people - he was particularly pleased to see three members of Works Engineering Services present. Mr Alexander commented



Mr Alexander hands the keys to Trevor Hall, watched by committee members Jackie Cook, Harry Iles, Derek Raymond, and Liz Doe.



Assistant Managing Director at the keyboard.

that the company's interest in computers stemmed right back to the early days with Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine, and he was extremely pleased to see how many employees were now becoming aware of and using computers through the company scheme. The keys were then formally handed over to Trevor Hall (Mabcub Chairman) who thanked Mr Alexander and the Management Committee for their support in providing the facilities despite the youth of the Users Club. The total membership is now around 300 and with the recent topping up of the purchase scheme by the arrival of more BBC2s this could increase.

The Golden Goose Flies Again

Following the Christmas performances of the Social Club pantomime, the traditional event for the local handicapped children took place on 26th January with a party and rendering of the "Golden Goose" show. As always, the occasion for around 200 kids was a great success with the assistance of many company employees. Important visitors were the Mayors of Rochester-upon-Medway and Gillingham and a senior officer from the Royal Marines at Brompton, all with their wives. Jim Collins received the Society's thanks by letter as well as personally from Mr Andy Anderson, President of the Society, who was at the party.

Dear Mr Collins,

Once again I write to thank you most sincerely for all the wonderful work you and your colleagues do for our children every year, how they do enjoy themselves when they come to our annual Christmas Party, every one did so enjoy themselves I think they are all sorry it is all over. May I take this opportunity in wishing you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

Yours Sincerely,
Joan Mitchell,
Chairman, Medway Society for
Mentally Handicapped Children.

An Account of a Local Dive by a Member of The Diving Club

Well, Well ...

8.30 a.m. and the alarm went off, it only seemed like five minutes since I laid my head down. Ah well, another Sunday morning, just one hour to prepare myself for this morning's dive. As usual, I poured my cup of tea, and emptied the contents of the kettle into my hot water container, for warming-up purposes after the dive.

9.00 a.m. and I am in my garage, busily preparing and checking my diving equipment, I find my fin retainers loose, so they are tightened.

9.15 a.m. The equipment is in my car and I set off. A large chalk pit about 18 miles away is my destination, and not knowing what lay in store for me, I was looking forward to the dive. Arriving at the site I was greeted by a few familiar faces, both old and new, and among some cryptic comments, I started to get changed into my dive suit.

10.30 a.m. and my group is by the water's edge listening to the dive leader, who is laying out the basic guidelines for the dive. Our group was to explore the underwater well in an old submerged pumping station, approximately 30 feet deep. We entered the water with a splash, and quickly established ourselves. After exchanging OK signals, the three of us set a compass course for the well, and swam off.

Continued on back page

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Sports and Social Club round up

'Local Dive' continued

Some five minutes later found us bubbling away at the entrance of the well, pondering who was going to go first. All eyes looked to the only woman among us, and we pointed for her to lead, with the rope securely affixed to her harness. Nervously she proceeded to sink into the murky depths until she went out of our vision. The two of us remaining at the well's edge gave regular rope signals to our female companion, until after about three minutes I decided to follow, after indicating to my buddy to follow shortly afterwards. My torch was blazing out in front of me as I descended into the cool and uninviting depths, following the rope to a side chamber about 20 feet down the well which became a tunnel. By now I was getting decidedly worried, as the visibility was about one foot, and apart from my now feeble torch light, everything was in total darkness. A few more feet into the chamber and things did not look any better. My stomach was scraping along the bottom of the tunnel, and my cylinder was scraping along the top. I was getting a little concerned to say the least, with the removal of my cylinder seeming the best thing to do if the tunnel got any smaller. The thing that was paramount in my mind was if something was going to grab hold of me from out of the darkness. Thoughts of underwater monsters and demons were still in my mind when all of a sudden I could see a dim light. Not stopping to think if it was the way out or the mouth of a sea monster, I hurried on for what seemed like an eternity until I emerged through a tunnel into another part of the lake, and was greeted by a lady diver I did not think I would see again! Shortly afterwards, the last person in our party emerged from the tunnel looking very relieved and mentally drained.

After checking our air and compasses, we set off for shore, all greatly elated by our experience.

What we had experienced was the best physical and mental test of our ability to date. We had all been pushed to near panic conditions, in a hostile environment that we were unaccustomed to. I think we all passed with flying colours.

However, I must add, that dive was extremely hazardous, if a mistake had been made, it could have caused grave results. The underwater well, although inviting, must be regarded with some respect, it is for that reason I will not venture down it again. The 30 minutes for which I shared its company was the most exciting thing I have ever encountered in my diving experience.

One thing I shall always wonder about is whether anything does live down there!!

Barry D

Graduates Cruise to Another Championship

Unbeaten in their last 29 consecutive games and only defeated once in a period spanning more than a year, "The Graduates" won the GAvBP Social Club 5-a-side football league championship for the second time running. Played at the Casino Club in Chatham, the league series consisted of ten teams from different divisions, all of whom played each other twice. The success of the team was attributed by Mark Anderton, Captain, not only to the efforts of the regular players, but also to the support provided by those on the fringe of the team.

Other teams taking part in the tournament were from EDP, ADD (2), CMS, MASD, GSD (IND), CACD (2), and PSD.

The victors are pictured in their green and yellow (mostly) strip, but absent are Tom Rogers (PSD Eng) and Goalkeeper Paul Carey.



The Graduates - GEC Avionics Five-a-Side Champions - Back row L-R - Ian Lugard (MASD), Andy Walter (ADD), Bob Smith (ISD), Graham Blyth (MASD). Front row L-R - Marc Roberts (ADD), Mark Anderton (PSD Eng) (Captain), Graham Elvin (MASD).



CLUB-HOUSE ATTRACTIONS

DANCE
with
'HAPPY DAZE'
Saturday 30 March
7.45 - 11.45pm
Admission free

Children's Easter Disco
with
'PHANTOM'
Wednesday 3 April
7.00 - 10.00pm
Admission: 25p

POOL OPEN
GOOD FRIDAY and
EASTER MONDAY
5 and 8 April
11.00 am - 1.00 pm
& 3.00 - 8.00 pm

Children's Disco
with
DISCATTACK
ROADSHOW
Friday 12 April
7.00 - 10.00pm
Admission 25p

RUGBY PRESENTATION DANCE
with
'FANTASY ROADSHOW'
Friday 3 May
8.00pm to midnight
Admission £1. Tickets from Mark Lambkin, AS&R/2244 Martin Weller, CACD/2950 and Club Bar

SUB AQUA SPRING DANCE
with
'PHANTOM'
Saturday 20 April
7.30 - 11.00pm
Admission £1
Tickets from Sub Aqua Committee and Club Bar

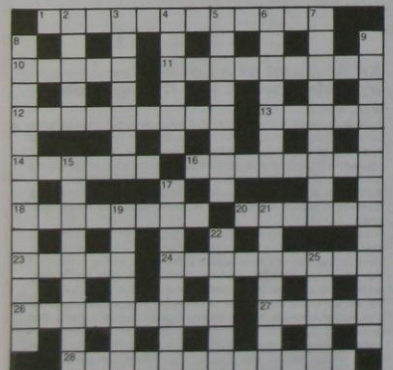
Country & Western Evening
with
'PASS THE BUCK'
Saturday 27 April
7.45 - 11.45 pm
Admission Free

'ALL STARS' DISCOTHEQUES
26 April 8.00 - 11.00 pm
50p - Rod Cole MASD/2015
24 May 8.00 - 11.00 pm
50p - M Martin CMS/2242
Tickets from above and at Ballroom door

Children's Charity Raffles Disco
with
'X-OCET'
Friday 10 May 7.00 - 10.00pm
Admission 25p
Proceeds to KENT ASSN. for the BLIND

DARTS EXHIBITION
Friday 17 May
8.00 - 11.00pm
Presentation of Trophies by
Cliff Lazarenko
Admission £1. Tickets from Gary Cordier - 2264 Bob Stevenson - 2649 and Club Bar

Crossword No. 69



- ACROSS**
- 20 years of wedded bliss. (5-7)
 - Where satellites run. (5)
 - Well known to some to stabilise. (9)
 - Night-shift worker's visions. (3-5)
 - The trendy trouser material. (5)
 - Studio or outdoor tools for artists. (6)
 - Applied force for submission. (8)
 - 18 & 20. No need for spectacles, if its terrible. (1-7-6)
 - A girls name, old middle Eastern lady. (5)
 - Together they form the High Street. (9)
 - In a storm, any port is necessary to keep dry. (9)
 - A Mothers order to hesitant child. (3-2)
 - Property owning few. (6-6)
- DOWN**
- A diversion from daily labour. (5)
 - Appertaining to nature. (7)
 - Red Indian home. (3-3)
 - Hard line for ridicule. (8)
 - One in the know, within. (7)
 - The hard fact of keeping aircraft from flying. (9)
 - What Olympic athletes hope to become. (4-9)
 - A Midlands Royal Town. (10-3)
 - A small blue flower in hurry. (9)
 - Without a stain, is allowed to go. (4-4)
 - By hammering or verbal defeat. (7)
 - A famous girl's school. (7)
 - ...and an Englishman go out. (13-3)
 - The Driving Force. (5)

Solution to Crossword No. 68

- ACROSS**
- Arm of the Law; 9. Utter; 10. Brainless; 11. Nine; 12. Tins; 13. Freds; 15. Numbers; 16. Yolande; 17. Thistle; 20. Chotera; 22. Sidle; 23. Heat; 24. Cuba; 25. Exchequer; 27. Title; 28. Sheet Anchor.
- DOWN**
- Anti-hym; 2. Mark; 3. Fabrics; 4. Hearsay; 5. Longfellow; 6. Wherein; 7. Running to seed; 8. Estate manager; 14. Weather eye; 18. Inducts; 19. Exhaust; 20. Chagrin; 21. Equator; 25. Itch.

(For amusement only)



Photographs taken by the Staff Photographers will be acknowledged in the following way: (A) Alan Keats; (B) Ian Douglas

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