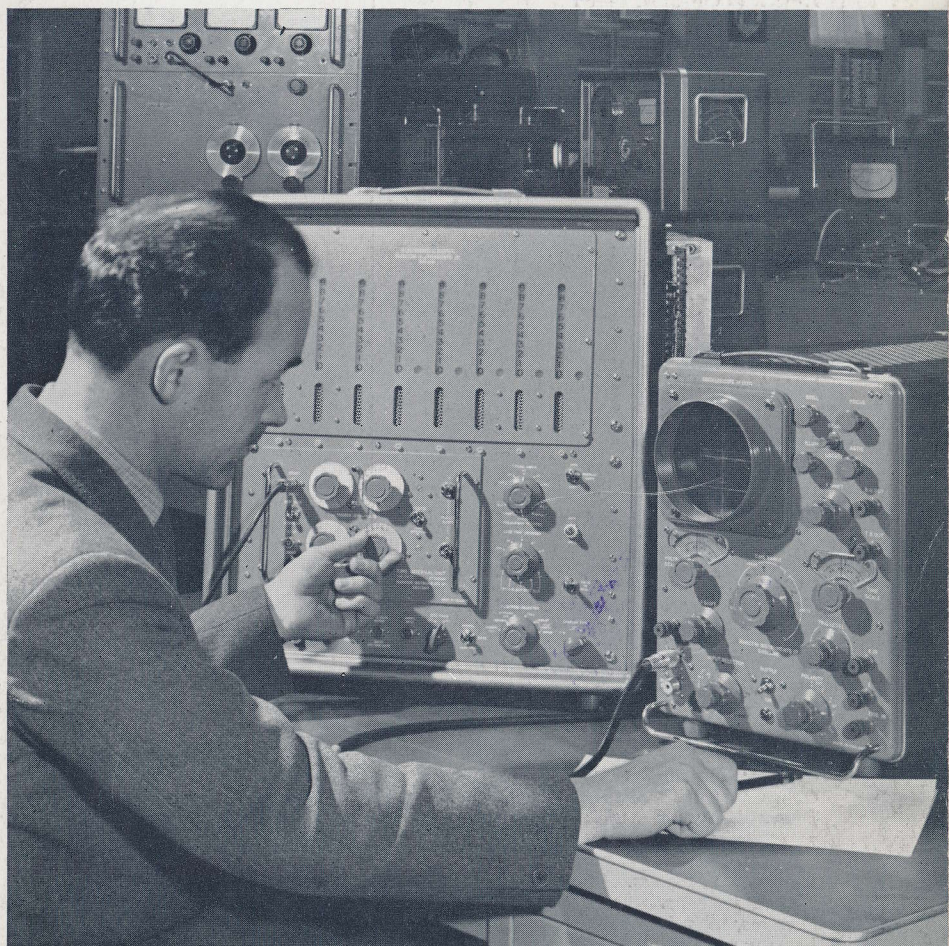


THE

# Marconi

COMPANIES AND THEIR PEOPLE



Volume 10 : Number 9 : April 1960 : Sixpence

# THE *Marconi*

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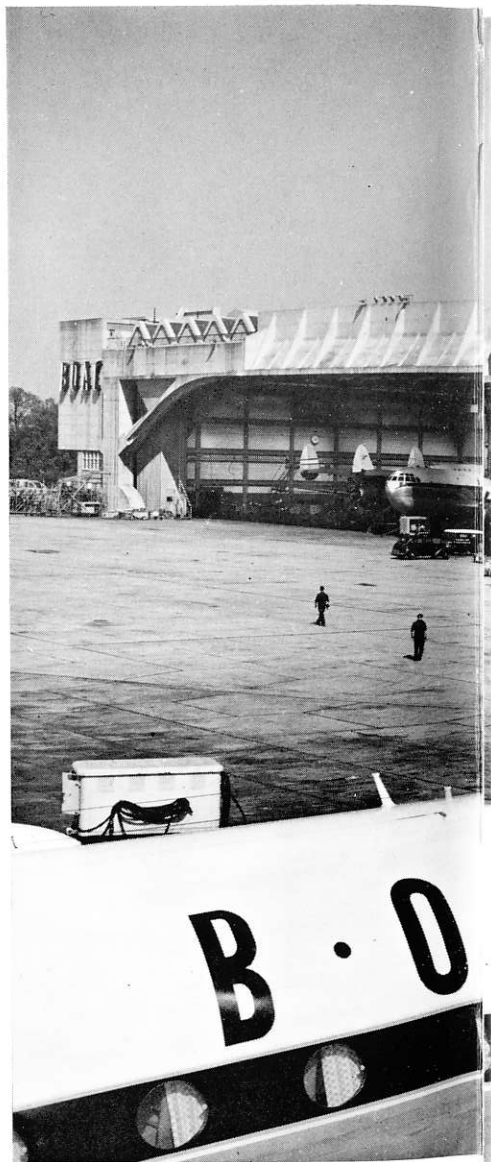
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RIGHT: *These are two of B.O.A.C.'s fleet of Comet 4 jetliners outside the B.O.A.C. Headquarters Building at London Airport North. Among Marconi equipment in these aircraft is our radio compass, the AD 712. In the interests of greater speed and efficiency of service to our customers, M.W.T. has opened a new depot at London Airport*

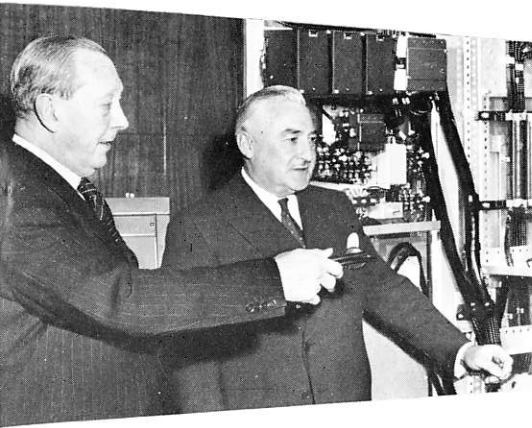
COVER: *During his speech at the Annual General Meeting the Chairman referred to Marconi Instruments' success during the year, orders having reached record levels. Exports now form more than a third of the Company's business. An outstanding feature was the introduction of a new range of oscilloscopes; this is the oscilloscope TF 1330 being used to examine the gate output waveform of the new high-speed electronic counter TF 1345 (left)*



*COMPANIES AND THEIR PEOPLE*



# Meet competition



LEFT: Lord Nelson of Stafford, Chairman of the Companies, left, with F. N. Sutherland, Managing Director of M.W.T.

In the course of his review of the year's activities, at the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman said:

'HARDLY A DAY PASSES without some reference in the Press or elsewhere in public to the increasing rôle which the electronics industry is playing in every field of our lives, whether at sea, in the air, on land, in atomic plants, factories, transport, communications, or in television and broadcasting. The achievements of our scientists and engineers are thus affecting the daily lives of each one of us—our domestic tasks are eased, communications and entertainment are facilitated, and our security is strengthened. In every branch of these dynamic

RIGHT: Norway to join Eurovision. A multi-channel radio-telephone and television link is being installed by M.W.T. between the Norwegian capital, Oslo, and Karlstad in Sweden. The aerial dishes of the repeater station at Runddillon, which are temporarily mounted on the mast, will be mounted in the top of the tower between plastic windows

EXTREME RIGHT: A Marconi S264A radar aerial has been installed on Hawkins Hill, sometimes called Court's Crag, above Wellington, New Zealand. It will be used for air traffic control at the new Rongotai airport and for airways surveillance in the Cook Strait area

changes in the world pattern, Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company has been in the lead.'

'Competition has again been extremely severe and this, together with heavy investment in research and development, has contributed to a Group profit somewhat less than in 1958. However, we are meeting competition by increased efficiency and turnover—indeed our order book during the current year is the highest since 1951.

'Last year I spoke to you at some length on the importance of a wide, intensive and well-directed research and development programme; this we regard as a vitally important element. Very significant technical progress has been made in many fields, including ground



## *with increased efficiency* ★

radar for defence and air traffic control, radar data handling, mobile radar navigational aids and radar-like devices for other important applications, propagation and transmission techniques, semi-conductors, ferrites and micro-waves. These technical advances will ultimately be reflected in important commercial business.

'A seven million pound order was obtained early last year from NATO for a complete early warning radar chain, and this was followed by an order worth a million and a half pounds from the Swedish Government for radar data handling equipment for a new air defence system far in advance of any other.

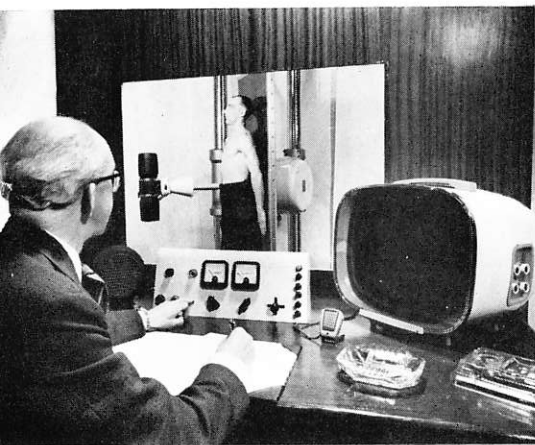
'The vital problem of safer flying through precise control of air traffic occupies a great deal of our attention, and our remarkable 50 cm. air traffic control radars have been installed in several

countries. We were proud that the first of these to go into service was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret in June at Jersey Airport.

'In the field of airborne radio aids, we have had important orders for our doppler navigator, which gives complete navigational information without the necessity for ground beacons, and our automatically tuned radio compasses continue in great demand. Careful planning of the radio installation is necessary in the early design stages of a new aircraft, and we have already submitted proposals for the communication and navigation systems for many aircraft still on the drawing-boards; we are confident that this work will result in substantial contracts in the years ahead.

'In the interests of efficiency we are centralising all our aeronautical activities in one building at our Basildon factory; and, to ensure a swift service to





*This is a special version of the Marconi Instruments image amplifier developed for use in South Africa*

our customers, we have opened a depot at London Airport.

\*An important step has been the acquisition of a Viking aircraft, used for advanced development of new equipments and to demonstrate our equipments under operational conditions.

\*A very large microwave multi-channel radio telecommunication order was received from the United States Air Force,

with other important orders from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iran, Ghana and Jamaica, as well as for tropospheric scatter systems from the West Indies and Korea. At home, we supplied the transmitting equipment for a new wireless telegraphy station put into service by the Admiralty.

\*In television and sound broadcasting, 1959 was a peak year for us, and a number of television and broadcasting stations, abroad and in this country, were put on the air. Our successes in sound broadcasting culminated in the receipt of an order for a complete new high-power sound broadcasting station in Ghana.

\*Prospects for our industrial television business are expanding so rapidly that we have formed a separate Product Division devoted entirely to closed-circuit television.

\*Last year, as in the past sixty years, we have developed and manufactured an extensive range of equipment for the Marconi International Marine Communication Company for use by the merchant navies of the world, and we have continued to supply equipment for warships of several navies, including the Royal Navy.

\*The Marconi College, which next year celebrates its sixtieth birthday, continues to provide advanced training for students from all over the world. The laboratory facilities have been again extended, and equipped with modern transmitters, receivers and display units.

\*Our training scheme in Nigeria has been expanded at the request of the Nigerian Posts and Telegraphs Authority, and we now accept each year fifty young Nigerians for training as communications technicians.



*R. W. Sharples, left, with D. Collitt, both of Airborne Communications at Writtle. Mr. Sharples is the designer of the AD 712, the radio compass fitted in the B.O.A.C. and B.E.A. Comet 4's*



*'We have developed and manufactured equipment for the M.I.M.C. Co. for use by the merchant navies of the world'*

'I would like to draw your attention to the election to the Board of Directors of Marconi Instruments Limited of Mr. R. E. Burnett and to his appointment as Managing Director. He has been General Manager of the Company since 1956.

'Marconi Instruments Limited has had a successful year, the orders received having reached record levels. Exports now form more than a third of the Company's business, with a substantial increase in North America and the Common Market countries, both areas of intense competition. An outstanding feature was the introduction of a new range of oscilloscopes; and our large-screen television image amplifier was enthusiastically welcomed at the International Radiological Convention at Munich. Our present programme in-

cludes demonstrations overseas by our new mobile display unit.

'Commercial success will not be easy during the current year, but the high quality of our equipment, and the loyal and strenuous service of all our staff and workpeople, enable us to face the future with confidence.

'Finally, I would refer to the retirement from the Board of Directors of Sir Edward Crowe, who feels he should make way for others. I am sure you will wish me to convey to him our grateful thanks for fourteen years of valuable service to the Company.'

*We regret to announce that Sir Edward Crowe died on 8 March, when the Chairman's speech had already been published.*

# Going to Basildon?

AMONG THE FIRST QUESTIONS likely to be asked by anyone going to live in a new town are, 'What are the houses like? Will there be suitable schools for the children? Is there a good shopping centre? What facilities are there for entertainment?'

With these thoughts in mind we recently paid a visit to the New Town of Basildon, and the Administrative Officer of the Basildon Development Corporation kindly showed us round.

After talking to him for only a few minutes we found ourselves catching his enthusiasm for the immense project the Corporation is undertaking, and held a lively discussion on the similarities of Basildon and the new 'boom towns' springing up everywhere in young countries such as Canada.

A boom town is something one would hardly expect to find in staid old

England, but Basildon can safely be called that, and people who go to live there will find much the same atmosphere as that found by their pioneering relatives and friends who emigrate to the New World.

As one resident of the New Town says, 'It depends on what you're looking for, whether you'll be happy here or not. If you want a decent home, good job, modern schools for the kids and a healthy atmosphere, then you've got them in Basildon.' But he, and others, agree that those looking for 'the gay time' with plenty of movies, dances and outside entertainment might be disappointed.

The type of family to settle happily in a town such as Basildon is the one with young children, a family that will get satisfaction from feeling that they are contributing to the growth of a new and

*A pleasant courtyard forms a focal point for many Basildon homes. These planned open spaces give the New Town a light and airy look [Basildon Development Corporation]*





flourishing community; a young and vigorous family who enjoy participating in community projects and who are prepared to accept some of the inevitable petty annoyances which must be borne during the 'construction' period of their town.

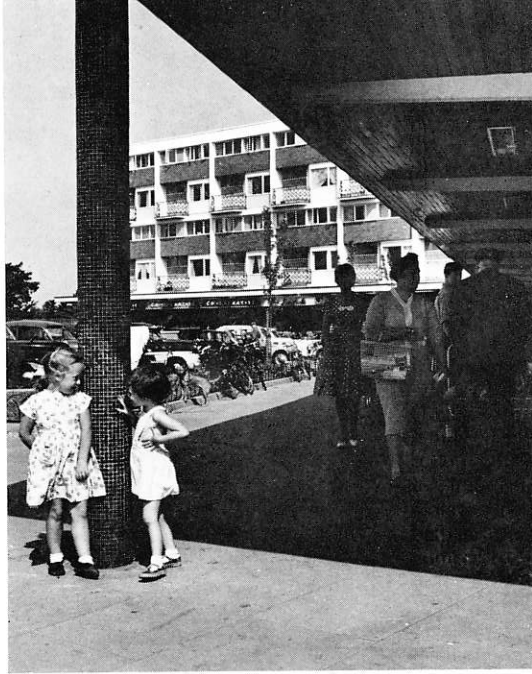
Basildon is growing at a tremendous rate. An indication of this is given by the fact that this time last year only six shops in the Town Centre were open for business, and today there are sixty.

Town Centre is the nucleus, the very heart, both in spirit and geographical position, of the New Town. Around it, in a sort of flattened circle, lie nine districts, each residential district almost self-contained, with its own shopping area, school, church, playing fields and community centre. While touring the town in a Corporation car we noticed that these districts have their own individual styles of architecture, giving each its own particular 'flavour'.

The overall impression is one of spaciousness and light. Although many of the streets are muddy (always a bugbear with a town under construction) it is easy to see that once building is completed and gardens landscaped and matured, the town may well lay claim to the title of 'garden city'. The modern idea of letting all front gardens run together in a continuous sweep of lawns and shrubs has been incorporated in the New Town, a very pleasant sight. Incidentally, the Corporation takes responsibility for landscaping all front gardens.

A huge sixteen-storey block of flats, which will dominate Town Square, will soon be under construction and is

*The Goldfeather family came to the New Town from London and live in the neighbourhood district of Fryerns. 'It couldn't be better for couples with young children', says Ralph Goldfeather, seen here outside his home with his son, while Mrs. Goldfeather and two-year-old daughter watch from the window [R. L. Wall]*



*There is ample parking space for cars in the various shopping centres such as this one in the Fryerns district. Two years ago Basildon was served by an open-air market in the Town Centre. By the end of this year it is planned to have about 200 shops open for business [Basildon Development Corporation]*





*Relaxing at home are D. W. R. Spurging, his wife and son. They live in a higher income house in the Vange district and are extremely active in the social and community life of Basildon [R. L. Wall]*

*Houses are modern in every respect. Rents vary from about 63s. a week for a four bedroom house with garage, down to 29s. for a small bungalow. Homes can be bought in the Kingswood neighbourhood district at prices ranging from £2600 to £3990 [Basildon Housing Corporation]*

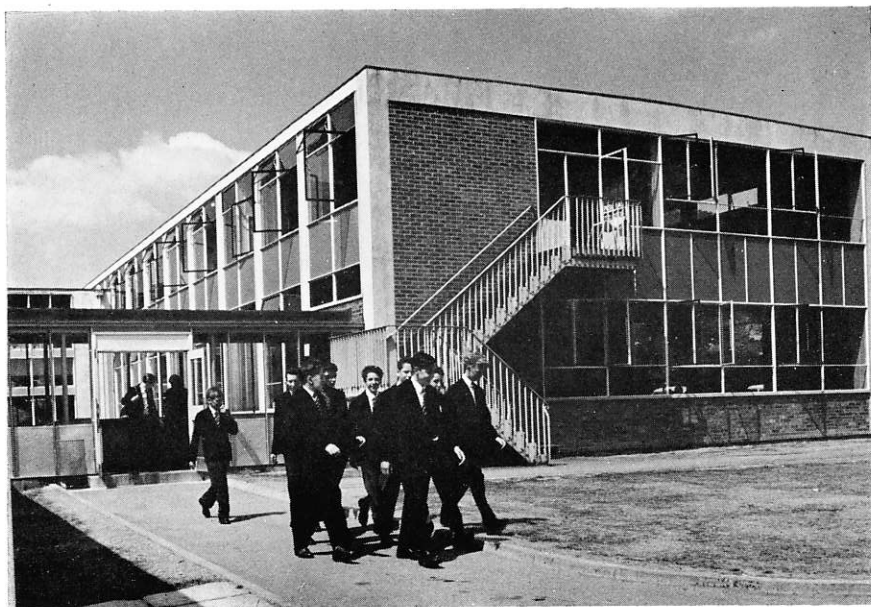
scheduled for completion in two years time. A new cinema will open in this area too, in 1962, and the square itself, the focal point of the shopping centre, is to be paved, set with trees, statuary and seats for shoppers to take their ease.

The spacious public hall, just off Town Square, will be completed by September and the County Council Library will be attached to this building. The hall is to be leased to Mecca Ltd., who will run dances there, which incidentally are likely to be televised, a sure drawing-card for those who want to give their friends a chance of spotting them on the 'telly'.

Other forms of 'outside' entertainment can be found at the two cinemas within the town area, or, if a pint at the local is the form of relaxation enjoyed by the head of the family, there are four new pubs in the town, as well as a number of older pubs built before Basildon became a New Town.

However, the real social life of Basildon lies in the numerous community





*A typical example of the fine modern schools to be found at Basildon. There is a primary school for each neighbourhood district and schools for senior children serve large catchment areas. Future plans include a County College and College of Further Education for the New Town [Basildon Development Corporation]*

organisations and youth clubs which thrive there, and anyone enjoying this type of activity will find that there just aren't enough days in the week to take part in the many functions and get-togethers which seem to be underway continuously. Folk with a love of amateur theatre can join a drama group in the Fryerns district, where a festival of one-act plays was held recently.

Those hankering for the bright lights and bustle of a big city, can take advantage of the hourly train service to London or make a trip to nearby Southend, only nine miles away, by bus or train.

Basildon is only the merest infant yet compared with a majority of English towns with their historical background and traditions, but within another eight years it will be home for 100,000 souls.

It will be the biggest New Town in Great Britain.

When it first became a New Town a decade ago, more than half the area of Basildon consisted of scattered sub-standard development, many reminders of which are still to be seen. Basildon Urban District Council and Essex County Council took the unique step of petitioning the Minister of Town and Country Planning to designate this area, so poorly served by roads and main services, as a New Town. This means that Basildon Corporation has many more problems on its hands than would be the case in building a town from scratch. Substandard buildings will have to go, and extensive areas must be redeveloped. Basildon is, in fact, the only one of fifteen new towns in Britain with this particular problem.

Industrially, Basildon can now boast of sixty factories already well established and this number will probably be doubled within the next few years. Besides Marconi's, other great industries such as Ilford's, Ford and Teleflex have built factories on the outskirts of the New Town. Frequent bus services take employees to their places of work from the residential areas.

Health Service Clinics are staffed by doctors, health visitors and midwives, where expectant and nursing mothers can obtain advice for themselves and their children under five years. There are two hospitals within easy distance of Basildon: St. Andrew's Hospital at Billericay and Orsett Hospital, but before many years have passed, Basildon will have its own modern hospital. There are twenty-one doctors in practice in the New Town and four dentists.

Parks and playing fields are plentiful in Basildon. The Corporation has ambitious plans for the largest, Gloucester Park, envisaging a sports stadium and centre, a swimming pool, hockey and football fields and even a boating lake. The park, which covers 350 acres, lies a little to the north of the Town Centre.

And now, with all these details in mind, how does it actually feel to be 'one of the Basildon folk'?

D. W. R. Spurging, Methods Superintendent at Marconi's is an 'old inhabitant'. He went to the New Town seven years ago when, he says, 'There were no new shops and I lived up a narrow, winding lane.'

He feels that development within the past two years has been amazing, although mess and mud are bound to present a problem until the town is complete. Mr. and Mrs. Spurging and their son are happy with conditions in the New Town and enjoy living there.

'The schools here are the best equipped I've seen anywhere, and there's no shortage of teachers', says Mr. Spurging,

who teaches one night a week at one of the local schools. He is also a Justice of the Peace and chairman of the local B.P. Guild of Scouts, to name only a couple of his spare-time occupations.

He thinks the standard of housing is good and 'the general layout is more imaginative than on most private estates'.

Ralph Goldfeather, Scheduling Department, maintains that many people go to Basildon as much for the housing as for their job. 'It's an ideal place for young children', he says, and he should know, for he is the father of a five-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl.

However, he does feel that perhaps teenagers might find there are not enough facilities for entertainment. 'But, after all, we do have the most important things here,' he points out, 'good housing, good schools and pleasant working conditions.'

Representing another side of the picture, Alec Tedder, skilled capstan setter operator, says, 'It's nice in the summer but there's not enough entertainment here.' He's quite happy with his house, and says his wife likes the New Town, but still feels strongly about the lack of facilities. He is ready to admit, though, that it is 'a young married people's town' and in view of the fact it is so new he 'can't really grumble'.

When new tenants arrive at Basildon they are given a handbook by the Development Corporation telling them about their new surroundings. In this booklet is the comment: 'By taking up residence in this New Town of Basildon, you have shown a worthy spirit of enterprise and adventure, which, it is hoped, will remain with you and your family through the years ahead.'

This is typical of the friendly attitude towards newcomers and is an apt comment on far-seeing folk who will make their home in the New Town and are willing to put up with a few inconveniences for the sake of the future.



LEFT: R. E. Burnett, Managing Director of Marconi Instruments, centre, F. G. Cook, Commercial Manager, right, and W. A. G. Brian, Secretary/Accountant, at the Hastings Conference



RIGHT: D. Willis, Chief of Engineering Group B, left, F. Landmann, in charge of the Management Section of Slough College of Further Education, centre, and J. D. Wickens of Hatfield Technical College, discuss the next item in the very busy Conference weekend

## INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

### M.I. Conference at Hastings

IN A COMPANY which is expanding as rapidly as Marconi Instruments, the lines of communication must be revised from time to time so that information does not seep away through the gaps between departments.

To work out ways in which communications in the Company could be improved, representatives from all departments, including the field sales staff, met at the Queen's Hotel, Hastings, during the weekend 19-21 February.

In his opening address, R. E. Burnett, Managing Director, announced that the Company enjoyed a record turnover last year. Sales had almost doubled in the last four years and it was estimated that this rate of growth would continue. The

reduction in Government spending had been more than offset by increases in proprietary sales, particularly in export markets. 'As an example,' said Mr. Burnett, 'our American Office last year achieved record sales, and we all know that in that highly competitive market, selling electronic instruments is like taking coals to Newcastle.'

Working in study groups, the delegates discussed various ways in which the flow of information between the Engineering, Production and Commercial departments could be improved. Their recommendations were submitted in report form, discussed on the final day of the Conference, and will now be considered by the top management.

# AMERICAN ODYSSEY

PART I

AN ITCH can sometimes be cured by treatment. If it persists, and it is in the feet, there is only one cure—to see the world. That is how I came to be crossing the Atlantic to Canada in October 1958.

Sailing up the St. Lawrence and calling briefly at Quebec, we came to Montreal and familiar faces to greet me—Phil Cheney, John Goodchild, Kay and Don Lambert, all ex-Marconi people making their way in new surroundings; there, too, were friends from Canadian Marconi Company. No introduction to a country could have been more delightful.

A job awaited me in New York. After a fortnight in Montreal and Ottawa a Greyhound coach carried me south, until I saw the Empire State Building glittering in the night sky and knew I had arrived. My first half-hour in Manhattan is a jumbled memory of brilliant lights,

hooting traffic and furious activity; I reached my new abode slightly battered and considerably awed.

I soon grew used to feeling battered, on the daily subway ride to my office. To see porters putting their shoulders to the human cargo, easing it into the jammed coaches to allow doors to shut, was worthy of a Giles cartoon, but I never saw a smile on the grim faces of work-bound New Yorkers!

I met friendliness everywhere. Hearing my accent taxi-drivers would say, 'Gee, you're English, I was in England in the war', and follow on with their life stories. The day after my arrival, a Sunday, I went to church and the Pastor invited me to coffee after the service. Finally I was whisked off to lunch at the Waldorf Astoria because, 'It's your first day here and we wouldn't like you to lunch alone'.

One day at the office I found I was to go to Washington that evening, two hundred miles away. They said, 'Take a plane'. It might have been a bus down the high street.

Washington was floodlit and beautiful; two fellow-travellers took me on a midnight tour of the city. In one crowded day there I got an impression of wide boulevards, green lawns, the White House elegant with fountains, and the Grecian splendour of memorials. Returning to New York, night-time Manhattan looked like jewels strewn on velvet; even the hardened American 'plane hoppers' said, 'It sure is pretty!'

Familiar Marconi faces were not lacking in New York. Muriel Arnold came every month with the Cunard liners, and in February Anne Berridge from Writtle



*'I worked in the English Electric offices on the nineteenth floor of this New York block' (About four floors up from bottom of pic.)*

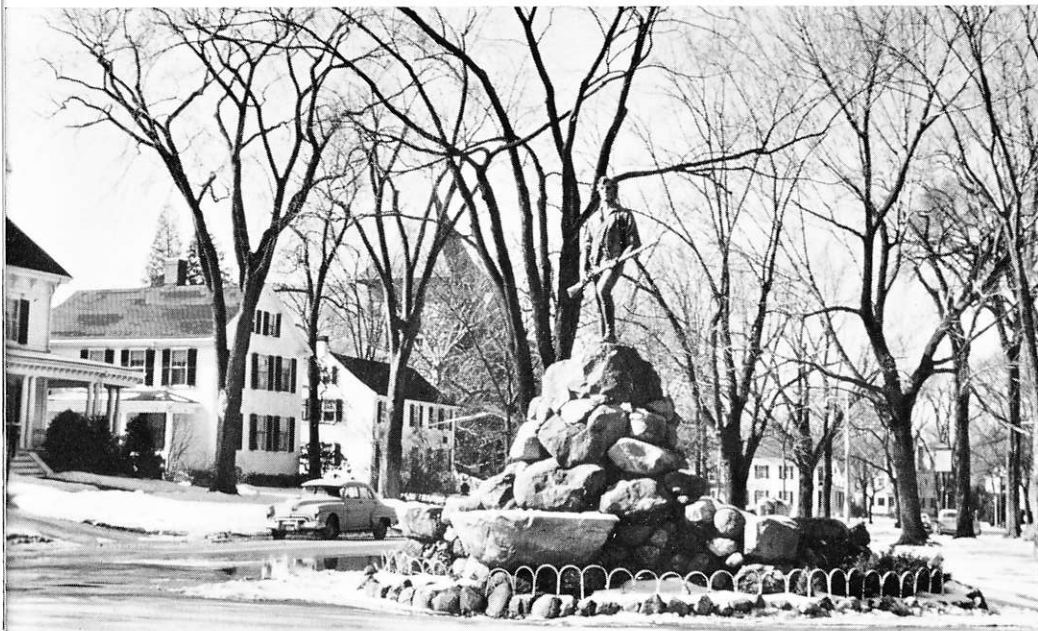
by JEAN THREADGOLD

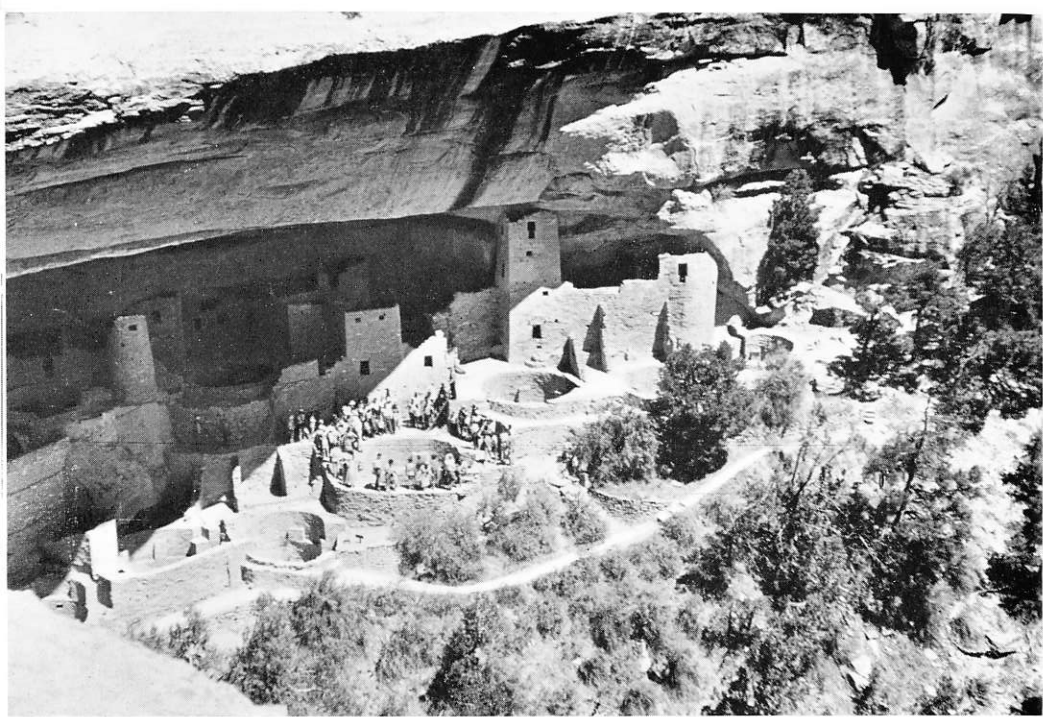
took up residence in Morgan Hall, where I lived. At weekends we went to see Ian and Stella Maunsell in New Jersey; Ian used to be at Baddow. Their four children boast real American accents and they are all thoroughly at home with their neighbours, living in a country setting rather like Surrey.

Reminiscent of England, too, is Boston, where I was joined in February by John Ineson Smith who later in the year became my husband. Driving through the countryside we read names like Waltham, Dedham, Reading, Chelmsford; it is rightly named New England.



ABOVE: *Once the American settlers bitter enemies, Indians are now most friendly people. Here Jean talks to Big Chief at Disneyland.* BELOW: *In the American War of Independence, troops of 'Minute Men' were prepared to go into action at a minute's notice. This Minute Man statue is in Lexington, Massachusetts [All photos by the author]*





*These ancient cliff dwellings, abandoned by the Pueblo Indians in the thirteenth century, are an interesting feature of the Mesa Verde National Park*

It was sad to leave New York but John and I had plans, and soon I was a 'working housewife' in Indiana. Here, in a wholly American environment, struggles with spelling and pronunciation began. Shopping was an adventure; such things as egg-cups, custard powder and cornflour were unknown, and clothes-pegs had quite a different name! American hospitality was much to the fore and we were asked to College parties, to picnics and dances. Time flew.

At the end of May 'school' closed for the summer and, flinging cases into the car, we set off southwards on a round-about route to California. The first day's driving took us into the blue grass country of Kentucky and through a corner of Tennessee, where the air was sweet with honeysuckle and sleek herds grazed in the pastures. Our road to New Orleans led across the Ohio and into the Mississippi delta country, mile after mile of green cottonfields with coloured

workers bending over the crops and piccaninnies playing round the pathetically poor homesteads. Poverty, however, produced no sad faces, and everyone grinned and waved as we passed.

In hot, humid Louisiana swamps bordered the roadway, with everywhere the noise of frogs. Crossing Lake Pontchartrain's twenty-four-mile causeway seemed like driving over an ocean; and then we were in New Orleans.

With its narrow streets and alleys flanked by balconied houses, archways leading to courtyards filled with greenery and fountains, banana boats from Havana unloading in the harbour, and its fascinating shops, New Orleans was everything I had hoped. The French market overflowed with produce and artists sat at street corners. We lunched at Antoine's, and in the Court of the Two Sisters where birds sang in the vines and creepers shaded us from the sun. We heard about the famous Mardi Gras,



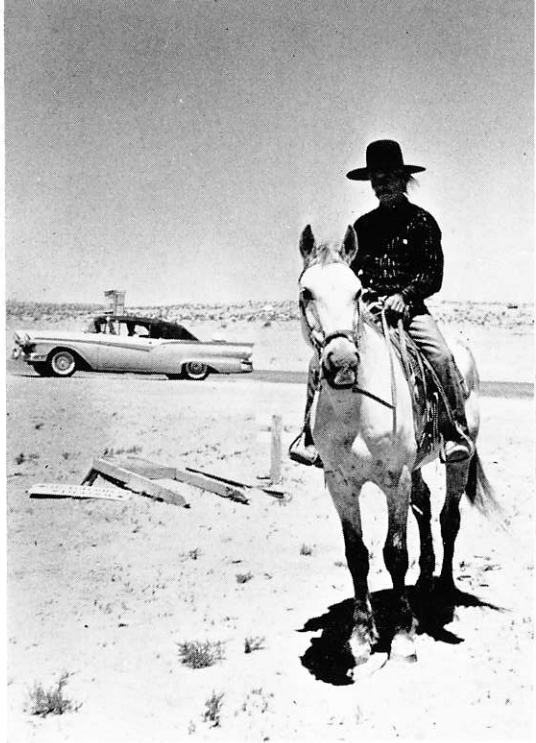
and about the San Francisco Plantation House at La Place. When we went to La Place and found it, the English owners asked us to breakfast next day. So it was that I saw the sun rise on the Mississippi, and had breakfast in the stone-flagged kitchen of the beautiful house featured in the book, *Steamboat Gothic*. On the lawns crayfish poked their heads through the soil, and I understood at last why Louisiana is called a 'floating State'.

Continuing our journey, we found Texas to be enormous, the dense pine forests giving place as we travelled westwards to plains, scrub and semi-desert. At Kilgore oil derricks towered above shops and houses, and we watched the black gold being pumped from back yards, driveways, roadsides, anywhere and everywhere. In the townships faces were tanned and weatherbeaten. Men wore boots, spurs and ten-gallon hats although they drove Cadillacs. When we stopped for 'gas', John had to interpret for me.

The road into New Mexico passed through golden corn country, then through prairie grazing herds of horses and beef cattle. A young farmer told me that he, alone, farms fifteen square miles, spending much of his time checking fences, seeking strayed animals and inspecting the windmills which draw water from underground. At Santa Fé, the old Spanish capital, Indians sat with their wares spread before them. They were the first Indians I had seen.

Next day we drove to the Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, a region of table-top mountains and wide gorges famous for the ruins of the Pueblo Indians' cliff dwellings. Enemies drove the Pueblos, an ancient agricultural people, away from the plateaux they had cultivated to seek security in caves to which the only access was by hand and toe-holds in the cliff-face; in the thirteenth century drought compelled them to abandon their homes once more.

*(to be concluded)*



*In New Mexico and Colorado Jean saw Indians for the first time*

*In Monument Valley on the border of Utah and Arizona wind erosion has chiselled the red sandstone into strange architectural shapes*



## *The Duke goes to Basildon New Town*



LEFT: *His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh landing at Basildon where he made an official visit on 5 March. The helicopter bringing the Duke to the New Town landed on the greensward just beyond Marconi's and close to Carrera's factory.* RIGHT: *To Roy Bezant, Closed Circuit Television, fell the honour of breaking the Duke's personal standard at the Town Centre. Mr. Bezant was the only Marconi employee directly connected with the official visit [Photographs by R. L. Wall]*

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

'THE TURNOVER of the M.W.T. canteens last year was £78,000', says V. C. Sayers, Assistant Works Manager and Chairman of the Canteen Committee. 'And that is without the subsidy which the Company provides to keep down the cost to the consumer.'

This represents a tremendous number of dinners, over a quarter of a million a year, and a tremendous number of diners. Keeping the Catering Controller, F. W. Collins, informed of what they like is one of the reasons that the Canteen Committee exists. Representatives are elected from every establishment, and the committee meets on the last Friday of every month, to discuss complaints and suggestions. As tastes are so

varied, many of these cancel each other out—such as that the same soup is either salty or insipid; that chips are served too often or not often enough; and that the service, if the food is freshly cooked, is too slow, or that the food, if prepared beforehand to speed service, is too cold or dried-up.

The trouble is that you can't have it both ways, and the unenviable task of the Canteen Committee is to sift the useful from the chaff. They also channel information about the canteen services the other way, from caterer to consumer, and the minutes of their monthly meetings are available for all to see. These could well be entitled 'Food—for thought, as well as consumption'.

## FAME VERSUS FAMILY

SUCCESS could hardly be worn more lightly than by Mrs. Betty Bird, Purchasing Typing Pool. Married, and with a baby daughter, she seems to have no difficulty in fitting in both housework and a part-time job with being England's number three woman table-tennis player.

Betty Isaacs, as she then was, started playing table tennis when she was seven-teen. She and some friends whiled away the dinner hour in the N.A.A.F.I. where they worked by having a 'knock-up' in the games room: soon Betty became so keen that she stopped to play in the evenings as well.

'At first,' she says, 'I had to wait a long time before anyone would have a game with me; experienced people didn't like playing with a beginner. Though I didn't appreciate it at the time, I'm afraid I'm the same now

myself. It's so easy to spoil your game.'

Betty's next move was to join the Ravensbourne Table Tennis Club in Camberwell, and start going in for competitions and tournaments. Her big chance came when she qualified for the English Open Championships at Wembley. Completely unknown, she fought her way through to the quarter-finals, beating on her way Surrey and England player Peggy Piper. A *Daily Mirror* sports leader next day declared: 'The stars have been scattered, and into "big time" table tennis comes eighteen-year-old Betty Isaacs.'

Though she was subsequently knocked out by an Austrian player, Betty had made her mark. It was not long before she was chosen to play for England against Wales. In her first international she won both her singles and doubles.

*Ranked England number three woman table-tennis player, Mrs. Betty Bird has won five major Open Championships this season. Here she is at home with some of her trophies, and her daughter Lesley, who has her own table-tennis bat*



A month after this she was chosen to represent England in the French Open Championships. She and her partner Ann Haydon reached the final where they were knocked out by the famous English Rowe twins. In the singles she was drawn against Angelica Roseanu, a Roumanian who had been world champion six times running. 'I was terribly nervous,' says Betty, 'and I must confess she pretty well murdered me.'

After this, Betty travelled all over Europe, competing in the Belgian Open Championships, the Polish National Games and an international series in Germany, as well as playing at home against visiting teams from all over the world. She reached the ranking of England's number seven woman player.

In 1957 she got married. New responsibilities, and later a baby, meant that there was little time for table tennis. Friends thought that she had given up completely, until, after a season away, she was back in the news again. With daughter Lesley six months old, and a husband prepared to help all he could, Betty made a come-back. Last year she was included in international matches against America and France, and was soon ranked England number six. Since then she has won five important tournaments in a row, the East of England, the North of England, the Sussex Open, the Kent Open and the Bucks Open, and in the first of a series of matches against a touring Chinese team she gave England its lone win.

Last December her pre-eminence was recognised in the new publication of rankings. She was then England number two, topped only by Diana Rowe.

Her technique is mainly defensive. 'I let them do the attacking and score off their mistakes. When I see a good opening I come in with a smash.'

For the future, Betty says she is hoping to have a larger family, so will probably play for only another season or two before retiring.



*At work at Basildon on the chassis sub-assembly for the AD 308 (radio teletype) is Vic Warren, Sheet Metal Shop. He is seen here using a Chobert riveting gun*

## WEATHER

IN A MODERN AIRLINER, where the radio installation is almost entirely 'pilot operated', as much as seventy per cent of the information passed in flight is concerned with weather.

To relieve the pilots on the North Atlantic routes of the majority of the work connected with obtaining this routine information, B.O.A.C. has pioneered a radio teletype service. The pilot simply switches on a teleprinter in the aircraft when he requires weather news, and the information starts to appear, printed on a sheet of paper.

This information is transmitted continuously in the low frequency band, in the form of F.S.K. telegraphy, and accurate reception is possible in atmospheric conditions which would render telephony unintelligible. One transmitter in Scotland and one in Canada ensure reception on all North Atlantic air routes, and a complete set of up-to-date 'actuals' and 'forecasts' for each terminal airport is transmitted in about ten minutes.

It is specifically for this service that Marconi's have produced the AD 308

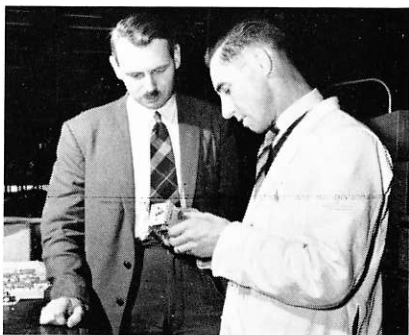


LEFT: *Ferrox cube inductances for the AD 308 are made in Coilwinding by Mrs. Joan Broadhead. The Methods engineer who has steered this equipment through from the drawing-board stage to final packing and despatch is Geoff Parry. RIGHT: The main chassis of the AD 308 being wired by Bert Burden. With him here is Ray Dormer, left, Leading Hand*

## - WISE

receiver. Completely transistorised, it is the lightest airborne receiver yet produced by the Company, and is the forerunner of a series of transistorised airborne equipments at present being developed at Writtle. This receiver is installed in B.O.A.C.'s fleet of Boeing 707's in conjunction with a Creed teleprinter. A single five-position switch provides four crystal-controlled frequencies and an 'off' position. The receiver is divided into small circuit 'modules', some of which are resin-encapsulated for protection. This modular construction greatly facilitates maintenance. The first fifteen sets were produced at Writtle, but production has now been established at Basildon. Many airlines operating on the North Atlantic are now evaluating the AD 308 and expect to follow B.O.A.C.'s lead in this new concept of airborne communications.

*In the functional tests of the radio-teletype, the printing must be at least ninety-nine per cent correct. Here are Les Zajicek, left, Leading Tester, and George Belsey, Project Tester, using a specimen printer to test out the AD 308 teletype receiver, seen left foreground*



*The progress chaser is Derek Fisher who is here bringing up a query on the switch unit with Bill Griffiths, chargehand in Assembly*





## SUDAN BROADCASTING

THE NEW BROADCASTING STATION OF Radio Omdurman is one of the major modernisation projects accomplished by the Sudan Government. New studios were built by the Sudan Posts and Telegraphs Department in Omdurman on the banks of the Nile opposite Khartoum and a new transmitting station was built a few miles out. The studios were completely equipped by M.W.T. and two 20 kW HF transmitters were supplied.

Radio Omdurman is now a well-equipped station. It carries the Sudan Broadcasting Service's programmes to distant territories, to a great number of people who were not able to receive them and for whom radio is now education as well as entertainment.

D. H. Fletcher of Broadcasting Division, M.W.T., was the engineer respon-

sible for the installation of our equipment in the studios and in the transmitting station. He and his wife lived in Khartoum for a time during the installation; he brought home these photographs and tells us here what it is like to live in one of the hottest places in Africa.

\* \* \*

Khartoum, the capital of the Republic of the Sudan, lies at the junction of the Blue Nile and the White Nile. These rivers used to be the main lines of communication between the north and the south, and there is still a good deal of traffic consisting of locally-built sailing boats and river steamers of the stern-wheeler type. The sailing boats are of crude construction, but carry cargoes hundreds of miles up and down the Nile, and are expertly handled by their crews in the eddies and currents. A single-line

LEFT: *The engineer in charge of the Radio Omdurman studios, Shukralla Salik, fitting a monitor amplifier to the continuity control desk. With him, right, is D. H. Fletcher, our engineer in charge of installation in the studios and in the new transmitting station*

railway connects Khartoum with Port Sudan, the country's only port, four hundred miles to the north. Sometimes this is completely obliterated by sandstorms and occasionally it is washed away in rainstorms.

I saw one of the worst sandstorms for many years in Khartoum. A towering wall of sand advanced rapidly upon the town and the brilliant afternoon sunlight was changed to darkness in only a few minutes. Visibility was down to about ten yards, and the wind speed reached over a hundred miles an hour. These conditions lasted for about an hour, then the wind dropped and the atmosphere slowly cleared. At the time people were having their afternoon siesta, and those who did not get their doors and windows closed quickly had several inches of sand on their floors.

The weather goes in for extremes of everything except cold, although nights can be quite chilly in the winter. For six months of the year the average day temperature is about 115° F., and does not drop below 70° F., even at night. Stepping out of the air-conditioned broadcasting studios where the temperature is kept down to 80° F., into the mid-day heat leaves you in no doubt that the Sudan is a hot country, and when you find that you have left the car standing in the sun for half an hour, the result is painful. It is almost impossible to touch the steering wheel, and if you allow your bare arm to touch the window frame when giving a hand signal, the signal will be brief and unorthodox.

*The studios and administration building in Omdurman on the banks of the Nile*



*A well-known Sudanese singer, Abdul Azziz Daoud (with lute), and part of the string section of the Radio Omdurman Orchestra in studio A [Sudan Government]*

When the rain does come there is too much of it at once. It is usually accompanied by a high wind, and often, at night, by a blackout when overhead electricity wires are brought down by falling palm trunks. However, the annual rainfall is very small.

There is a good shopping centre in Khartoum, where you can buy most European foods, clothing and other





essentials. There are also open markets where you can buy meat, fish and vegetables. Most of the Nile fish I have seen are queer-looking creatures with what appear to be VHF aerials sticking out of their heads, but they are quite pleasant to eat. There are several open-air cinemas, a few bars, and one cabaret. There is a small but well-stocked zoo, run by the Government on a commercial basis. If you had enough money you could buy the hippopotamus or a couple of leopards.

Khartoum's population is cosmopolitan, but Omdurman, just across the Nile, is almost entirely Sudanese. Here most people wear the national dress or galabieh, a long white robe and turban. The turban is simply a length of cloth wound round the head, but the operation of winding it is a good deal more difficult than you might think. I had to admire the skill of one man I saw. He nearly lost his while cycling in a strong wind, but succeeded in re-winding it with one hand while steering with the other. Only a few of the major roads there are surfaced, the rest are just beaten sand, and during the rainy season ditches are dug, sometimes across the roads. Failure to keep a sharp lookout for these while driving may have spring-shattering results.

I went to the market on several occasions to take pictures. I had to be careful about this, I found, as many people strongly object to being photo-

*TOP: The new transmitting station, five miles out in the desert from Omdurman, with equipment outside in crates from Chelmsford. Two 20 kW HF broadcasting transmitters were installed [Derek Harper]*

*CENTRE: Bob Savage erected the broadcasting and communications aerials and feeder systems*

*BOTTOM: Brian Jewel and John Robertson, of Section 17, erected the two 20 kW transmitters*





*A scene in the market at Omdurman. Ground-nuts seem to be the staple food, but many of our garden vegetables are sold—carrots, tomatoes, cauliflowers and lettuces [Photographs by the author]*

graphed. They believe that when you have their image in your possession you have power to do them harm by magic. Women are particularly difficult subjects. They are very shy, and most of them according to the Moslem tradition keep their faces covered. But they are colourful for women wear their personal fortunes in the shape of ornaments. A well-to-do woman may wear many bracelets, several necklaces, a pair of large ear-rings, and sometimes a ring in her nose, all of solid gold.

For the installation of the equipment at Radio Omdurman, engineers and

skilled wiremen were in short supply, but the Posts and Telegraphs Department, who look after the technical side of broadcasting, produced enough English-speaking staff to cope with both the work and my lack of the Arabic language. They all took very keen interest in the new station, as this is the first time that the Sudan has possessed modern broadcasting facilities. The Radio Omdurman studios, with ample space, excellent acoustic treatment and versatile equipment, represent a standard which can be bettered by few, if any, of the Middle Eastern broadcasting stations.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

THE NEED for Civil Defence has been well and truly impressed on us all. It is encouraging, therefore, to see the number of M.I. people who have joined the local Civil Defence Corps. The members meet once a week at the headquarters in Chequer Street and, after an hour of intensive instruction, social activities take over.

Bert Franks, Photographic, an ambulance driver in the Corps, has been telling us something of their many activities. His section, for instance, has taken part in a number of exercises throughout Hertfordshire, simulating casualty collection. These usually take place on Sunday and may cover anything up to

sixty miles. Other M.I. members of the Ambulance Section include Mrs. Lilian Hodges, Wages, Mrs. Twigg, Mrs. Cunningham, Dorothy Proctor and Jane Romano, all of Winding. Audrey Tombs and Barbara Brown, of Winding, are in the Headquarters and Signals sections respectively.

Head of the Signals Section is Peter Watford, Nuclear Instrumentation. A number of M.I. people are in this section, Dennis Brown, Calibration, Mary Andrews, Electrical Assembly, Lew Bagley, Drawings Issue, Alan Jeffery, X-Ray Division, and Mrs. Ireland, Photographic Section. Their equipment includes radio telephones and field tele-

*M.I. people who are members of the St. Albans Branch of the Civil Defence Corps. Included in this group are ambulance drivers, signals staff, wardens and headquarters staff*



phone apparatus, and an interesting feature of the training is that the personnel are trained as both wireless operators and telephonists, so that they can take over each other's jobs should the need arise.

A vital link in the Civil Defence organisation is the warden, and here M.I. is represented by Ken Namey, Accounts.

The St. Albans Civil Defence Corps has some five hundred members, and could do with many more. Any of the people mentioned above will be glad to give you further details should you fancy joining.

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## SCHOOL OF ART

WE HAVE BEEN TALKING to some of the M.I. people who attend evening classes at the St. Albans School of Art. In our conversations, one point stands out—art is a wonderful relaxer. Maybe you've had a difficult day at work, or money troubles afflict you, a row with the wife, in fact any one of the trials that man (or woman) is faced with. But once you get to work with pencil or brush those cares slip away, and you feel that you really have achieved something when the drawing or painting works out as you had planned.

Of course, there are other forms of art besides drawing and painting; modelling for instance. Babs Yule, Special Products, who has considerable experience of pottery work has now turned her attention to clay modelling, and she finds particular satisfaction in this art expression. Other members of this class are Duncan Watts, Engineering Group A, and Bob Miles, Nucleonics. Last year, Duncan took life drawing.

Graduate apprentice Joy Foster concentrates on portrait painting in oils.



*Babs Yule, Special Products, and Duncan Watts, Engineering Group A, discuss the finer points of modelling. The two animals made by Babs are of terra-cotta while Duncan is holding a plaster of paris head which he cast by the waste mould process from his clay model*

She took it up again a few months ago following the interruption of her first session due to a course at Marconi College. So far she has executed six paintings and says, 'There's nothing quite like it. Slapping the paint on a canvas gives me a real kick!'

Dermot Tracey of Engineering is doing the recreational painting course. This includes landscape, portrait and still life, so it provides plenty of variety.

Completing their training at Marconi College are graduate apprentices Mike Ainley and Alan Spencer, both of whom, we understand, have been attending the life drawing class at Chelmsford School of Art.

Principal of the St. Albans College of Art is Miss Mary Hoad, who has done a great deal to encourage this form of self-expression. The well-attended classes, both day and evening, and the public exhibition of the students' work held at the end of the summer term, prove that the College is achieving its aims.



## SLAP-HAPPY

*Slapping on the paste before applying another strip of wallpaper, Alec Tedder, skilled capstan setter operator, wields the brush like an expert while his wife critically surveys the walls of the bedroom they are redecorating in their house at Vange [R. L. Wall]*

## CITY MEN

*The Plating Shop has been in the football news this season. L. Brown from Glasgow, formerly a Dumbarton player, and K. Birch from Birkenhead who has played for Everton and recently for Southampton, joined Marconi's Plating Shop—and the Chelmsford City football team—last September. Shaking hands with L. Brown is J. Smith, Foreman, with K. Birch between them*



# TOGETHER AGAIN

BRITISH PARENTS whose sons or daughters have married United States or Canadian service or ex-service men or women, can now take advantage of a scheme which will enable them to visit their children for almost half the normal fare.

A branch of the Transatlantic Brides and Parents Association was formed in Chelmsford last November, with headquarters at the Odd Fellows' Hall, Legg Street.

The main object of the Association is to arrange travel by sea or air from the U.K. to the U.S.A. or Canada. Air travel is by chartered planes of the KLM Dutch Airlines and the return fare is about £90, which is £50 to £60 cheaper than individual travel. In most cases a refund of £10 to £20 is handed to the traveller on returning to the U.K.

Flights for periods of three weeks to six months are arranged throughout the year, with special flights at Christmas time. Similar flights are arranged for sons and daughters living in the U.S.A. and Canada. A special courier service makes arrangements for travel by plane, train or other transport across America.

A fee of 5s. is payable on joining the Association and thereafter 2s. 6d. per year. Sons and daughters of members residing in the U.S.A. or Canada can be enrolled by their parents for two dollars (14s.).

The Association produces a monthly magazine, *Together Again*, which contains interesting information for members on both sides of the Atlantic.

Any reader interested in joining the Association should contact the Secretary, Mrs. Greengrass, New Road, Great Baddow, or F. W. Arnold of the Publicity Department, Room 701C, treasurer of the Chelmsford branch.

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 ★ **PEOPLE** ★  
 ★ **IN THE** ★  
 ★ **PICTURE:** ★  
 ★ **M.I.** ★  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**CONTINENTAL LANDMARK**

When the M.I. Mobile Demonstration Unit was in Mons, Yves Labrouche, from Leland Radio Import Co., wished to see Terry Broderick, who he knew was demonstrating at the Faculté Polytechnique. Being a stranger in the town M. Labrouche asked at the Police Station the whereabouts of the College and was told 'Go down this street to the right, and take the second on the left and there you will see a big silver caravan with "Marconi Instrumentation" on it, that is the Faculté Polytechnique.'

The unit has completed showing our telecommunication instruments in Belgium, France and Switzerland, and by the time this appears will be in Italy where, for part of its visit, it will be featured at the Milan Fair.

**COINCIDENCE**

'I was educated at St. Albans College near Buenos Aires', replied Mr. F. J. Ghiraldo when his excellent command of the English language was remarked upon during his visit to St. Albans, Hertfordshire. Attached to our Agents in Argentina, Establecimientos Argentinos Marconi, Buenos Aires, he

*Fred Brooke, Packing, centre, shows specimens of his carving to colleagues Tom Scrimshire, right, and Dave Ray. The small elephant held by Fred is of solid sycamore and took about a month to carve with simple tools while the elephant on the bench took five months and is made of beech*

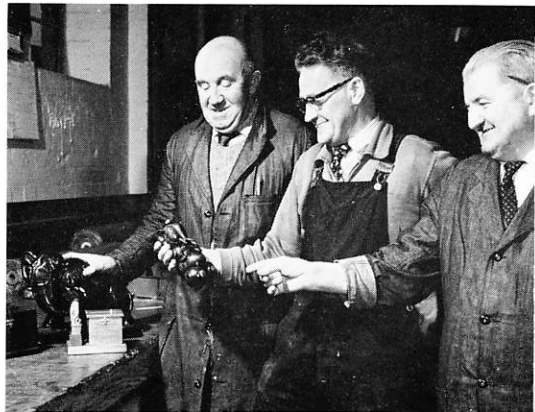


*Mrs. Daphne Fogarty, Canteen, about to emigrate to Australia, greets two Australian girls who came to the M.I. canteen to give a talk extolling their country's products*

recently spent a few days with us studying instruments and meeting old friends from Marconi College. In April Mr. Ghiraldo is returning home—by sea—because he married an Argentine girl over here and has a great deal of luggage to take back.

**AUSTRALIA HERE WE COME**

Although Mrs. Daphne Fogarty, Canteen, had not been with us for very long, she became well known through her activities with one of the afternoon tea trollies. On 20 March, Daphne, her husband, and four children aged thirteen, eleven, eight, and





five years old, arrived in Australia on the first step towards a new life.

Their home to start with is in a hostel in Melbourne which will enable Daphne and her family to get used to the ways of Australians before they embark on a home of their own.

Before departing, Mrs. Fogarty was presented with a travelling bag by H. Squires, Canteen Manager, on behalf of her friends.



On the same day that Mrs. Fogarty received her presentation we were pleased to receive a visit from two charming girls from Sydney, Australia. During lunch-time they were introduced to the assembled throng in the canteen by Peter Lambert, Foreman of Special Products, and the two visitors, Elizabeth Wheate and Betty James, proceeded to give an entertaining talk on the merits of buying foods and wines from Australia so that their country in turn could buy British products.

#### SNIPPETS

Best wishes to June Peacock, Winding, who married David Fuller at London Colney on



*LEFT (from top to bottom): Returning to Austria for family reasons after four happy years in Engraving is Mrs. M. Cintl. The good wishes of her friends and some classical gramophone records go with her, the presentation being made by Bill Walker, chargehand, Engraving*

*A canteen of cutlery was the gift of his friends to Mike Evans, Assembly, when he married Rosemary Flegg. The presentation was made by G. Coquantin, Assembly Department Foreman, right, and also joining in the good wishes is W. H. Richards, Production Superintendent, standing behind Mike*



*Mrs. Daphne Fogarty, Canteen, recently emigrated with her family to Australia. She was presented with a travelling bag by H. Squires, Canteen Manager, on behalf of her friends*

*When Audrey Runchman, Secretary to the Chief Engineer, was married in February to Christopher Moss, E. Garthwaite, Chief Engineer, presented her, on behalf of her friends, with a vacuum cleaner and cutlery*



*'His' and 'Hers' towels and other useful articles were given by their friends when Janet Lewis, Assembly, and Bob Bailey, Calibration, were married recently. The presentations were made jointly by G. Coquantin, Assembly Department Foreman, right, and P. Dyson, Chief of Calibration, second from right*

6 February. Her friends in the Company presented her with an ironing board, Addis brushes, and other useful articles.

Jim Brown has now returned to the Drawing Office after completing his National Service. A large amount of his time was spent in Cyprus—in a drawing office!

### WELCOME

Congratulations to Joseph Tripp, Technical Representative, London and South Office, whose wife presented him with a 7 lb. son on 6 February.

Congratulations to T. R. Clendon, Education Office, and his wife, on the arrival of an 8½ lb. brother for Judith, Caroline and Sally.

### JUST THE JOB

The Annual Jobbing Shop Dinner was held on 5 February at the Red Lion Hotel. It was a 'stag' affair and twenty-three members of

*At the Jobbing Shop Annual Dinner Les Harrington, left, received the good wishes of H. Duncombe, Superintendent, on his transfer to the Oscilloscope Production Unit. He was also presented with a Conway pen and pencil set on behalf of his friends*

the department attended. After the meal had been enjoyed to the full it was the duty of H. Duncombe, Superintendent of the department, not only to thank Les Harrington for organising the dinner but to present to him, on behalf of his friends, an engraved Conway pen and pencil set as an expression of good will on his transfer from the Jobbing Shop to the Oscilloscope Production Unit. The evening then settled down harmoniously to beverages supplied by mine host and to music on the piano by Bill Walker, charge-hand, Engraving, and saxophone by Ken Marriot, Jobbing Shop.







Chief of General Test; Fred Clark, a former sailor working as a rigger; and Bert Tansley. Nor, at that time, was there money to spare for anything but essential radio equipment, and young Frank could not carry out his first job, to sweep the floor, until he had borrowed his mother's broom!

He was too young to grasp the excitement of Marconi's early experiments, and his most vivid memory is of the collapse of the first aerial pole, which in its descent laid out both Marconi and himself. Radio in those days did not appear to offer a boy much of a future, and after a couple of years he moved on to other jobs, finally leaving Chelmsford to make his career in the Metropolitan Police Force.

When Mr. Frank Youngs, now retired, returned recently to Chelmsford, he found great changes. Although swimming, he tells us, was the sport at which he excelled—he held the Metropolitan Police 600-yards championship for eight years, and the gold watch and chain he wears are two of his many trophies—it was as a member of a Police cricket team that he last visited the district, to play Essex on the County cricket ground where the New Street Works now stand. But despite some drastic alterations, one thing, he finds, has not changed in sixty-four years: a member of his family still works for Marconi's, in the person of his nephew, Roy Youngs, now in the Development Drawing Office at Writtle.

### LET THE PEOPLE SING

The Marconi men who make up eighty per cent of the Chelmsford Male Voice Choir hereby appeal to any and all of their colleagues who can sing, even if it's only a bathroom baritone, to join them in the next 'Let the People Sing' broadcast competition. On 22 February the Choir was beaten by last year's national champions, the Thurrock Male Voice Choir; this blow was softened by a very cordial adjudication, and we are sure that if we can increase our numbers we shall stand a great chance of winning.

*Enjoying a joke at the first annual dinner of the Engineering Group at Felling Works are, left to right, P. Thompson, J. W. Sanger Stevens and F. B. N. Henchy, Chief of Engineering Group. See Felling News [R. Bradley]*



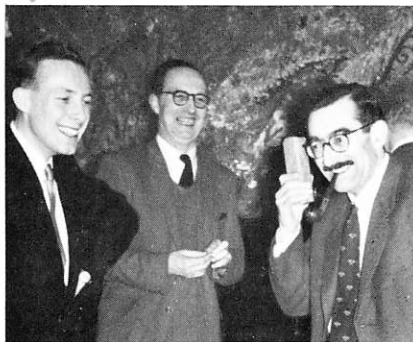
*Mr. Frank Youngs, the first boy to be taken on by Marconi at Hall Street, now finds the Works much changed!*

Anyone interested should contact F. Udall in Machine Shop, T. Williams in Central Progress, R. Jones in Works Orders, S. Woods in Accounts, or just turn up at the Y.M.C.A. in Victoria Road on Tuesday nights at 7.30. You will be very welcome.

### FELLING NEWS

The Engineering Group at Felling Works added to the interest of their first annual dinner by holding it in the Marsden Grotto, a number of former smugglers' caves converted into an hotel and accessible only by a lift down the cliff face. An extra attraction is a bar cut into the cliff, containing several illuminated aquariums set into the sides of the cave.

In these fishy surroundings, members of the Engineering Group and their guests spent a very pleasant evening, organised by R. Goody, J. W. Sanger Stevens and P. Thompson. Dinner finished with a speech by F. B. N. Henchy, Chief of Engineering Group, after which games and dancing went with a swing. G. Lowe of Development Section 'bashed the Joanna', while J.





Still fascinated by your son's Christmas model railway? Then why not start one of your own, like M. F. Carter of Post Room, who, assisted by Les Downes of Special Products, took seven months to fix up this fully automatic model. More compact than it looks, the Tri-ang layout occupies a table-top 6 ft. by 4 ft. The gauge is 00 [Les Downes]

Johnson of D.O. held the floor with his humour.

The Group intends this successful occasion to be the start of a run of social activities.

#### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION

The Marconi Dramatic Society will be presenting their spring production, *My Sister Eileen*, at the Marconi Little Theatre on 28, 29 and 30 April at 7.30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the agents shown on the distributed handbills. With a cast of thirty it should be value for money!



#### PRIZE FLYER

The girls of Andalusia, we are told, are some of the most beautiful in the world; their singing and dancing in the traditional style are full of vitality and fire. But this is not the reason why Geoff Allderidge of Marine Company is flying off in June for a holiday in Spain, neither is he in search of the sun.

He is going to Jerez-de-la-Frontera which is near Cadiz, the centre of the sherry wine district, and he will be the guest of MacKenzie & Co., wine shippers, at their Bodega.

This exciting holiday is the result of his noticing MacKenzie's announcement of an advertising competition. Geoff won first prize. This will be the first time he has been ashore for a holiday here, though he has

RIGHT: Barry Warner of Tool Room married Lesley Sharpe of Planning at Chelmsford Cathedral in February. On behalf of his friends, L. J. Atkin, Foreman, gave him a canteen of cutlery

There are more ways than one of taking a girl home! David Parkinson, playing a Cossack in *My Sister Eileen*, and Valerie Beers as Violet, do it this way

passed through the Strait of Gibraltar on several occasions when at sea with the Marine Company.

**BERYL SENDS HER THANKS**

Mrs. Beryl Duffelen, lately of Radar Division, would like to thank all her friends who so generously contributed to gifts of a pram



*RIGHT (from top to bottom): Derek Palmer of Planning Clerical recently married Miss Josephine Fava, whose home is in Malta. His friends gave him an electric kettle, presented by H. J. Pickett, Chief of Planning Clerical*

*H. V. Carter, Chief of Invoice Section, retired recently after forty-six years' service. His colleagues gave him premium bonds and a clock, presented by K. Brookes, Chief Accountant, right*



*'Old soldiers never die—anyway, not at Waterhouse Lane', was the comment of his workmates when A. Hills, labourer, retired recently. A veteran of the first world war, he is wearing the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. On behalf of his friends, R. Charlton, Assistant Superintendent of Sheet Metal Workshops, gave him a cigarette lighter and a cheque*



*Assistant Editor of the Magazine for nearly four years, Mary Mather left in February to drive overland to China. R. P. Raikes, Publicity Manager, centre, presented her with a Weston exposure meter subscribed for by her many friends. On the right is L. W. B. Miller, Magazine Editor*





cover and pillow, a pram mattress and rug, and a cot cover, when she left the Company at the end of February. She paid a special visit to the Works to see her friends, but time did not stretch far enough and she had to leave many goodbyes unsaid.

She tells us that after more than seven years with Marconi's her new-found freedom seems strange, but with a baby to look forward to in June she has plenty to do.

### BEER IS BEST

Believed to be the oldest living Marconi veteran, E. E. James celebrated his ninetieth birthday on 28 January. He retired twenty-five years ago and considers that his daily visit to the 'Barn' is the reason for his excellent health. On the Saturday following his birthday a party was held at the Barn Hotel, Chelmsford, which was attended by many members of his family including a great-grandson. A. E. James, one of his two sons, is Chief Draughtsman at Marconi Instruments, St. Albans.

### STORK TALK

Congratulations to John Denney, Baddow D.O., and his wife Angela on the arrival of Julie Angela on 13 February, weighing in at seven and a half pounds.

*LEFT (from top to bottom): When John Sanders, estimating engineer, left the Company recently after nearly thirteen years' service, H. Ashworth, Chief of Estimating, right centre, presented him with a pewter tankard and cigars on behalf of his colleagues*

*A signed autograph book and a cheque were the presents given by his colleagues to B. H. Swallow, draughtsman in I.D.O., when he retired after thirty-one years' service. J. S. Kojan, Directorate of Engineering, left, made the presentation. Mrs. Swallow received a bouquet of lovely flowers, presented to her by Mrs. Marie Jewell*

*When Stan Byfield, Methods Engineer, left after seventeen years' service, L. C. French, Chief of Methods, right, presented him with a briefcase subscribed for by his friends*

*Mrs. B. E. Middleton, wirer in the Plating Shop, had nearly completed eleven years' service when she retired. Here J. Smith, Foreman, gives her a framed five-pound note as a farewell present from her friends*

*In February, Valerie Waite, daughter of L. H. Waite of the London Office's Licensing Division, and her husband Michael Houseman won the World's Amateur Ballroom Modern Dancing Championship at Munich. They already hold the European and the All-England Open Amateur championships, as well as many others [Maurice V. Strowbridge]*



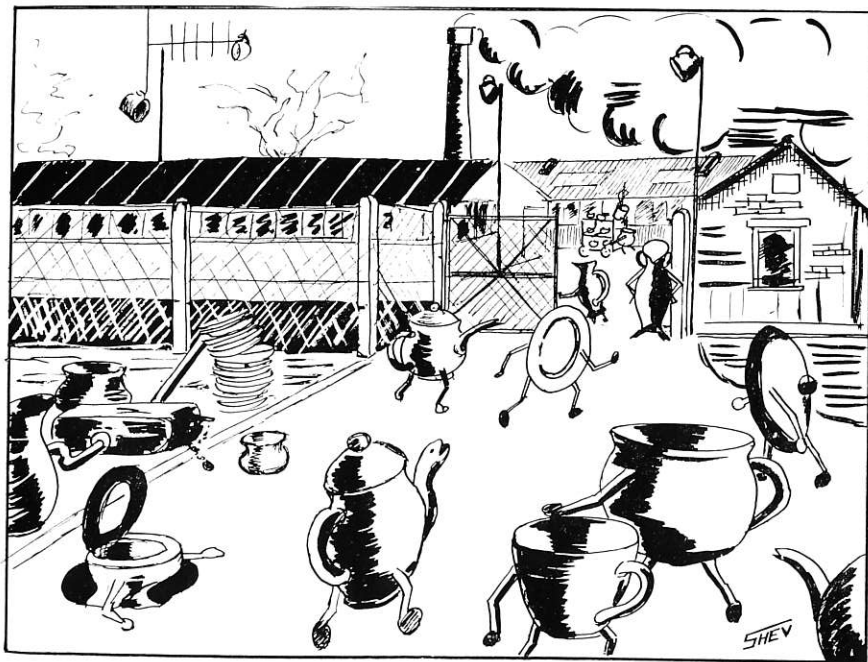
### MR. J. L. GOWERS

We deeply regret to learn of the sudden death of James Leonard Gowers, an instrument maker recently employed in the Photographic Process Section of the Plating Shop. He would have completed fifty years' service this month.

Joining the Drawing Office at Hall Street in 1910, six months before his thirteenth birthday, James Gowers came to New Street when these Works opened, and transferred to the Instrument Shop soon after the first world war. He left Section 15 for the Plating Shop eighteen months ago.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his widow; and to his brother, Reginald Gowers, who has himself worked in the Instrument Shop for the past forty-seven years.

*Broomfield is now known as Pottery Lane. A correspondent sends us his impression of the inhabitants' metamorphosis from brooms into pots, not to mention pot-holders! [G. D. Shevel]*





*The two teams in the Basildon darts league, 'Marconi Sparks' and 'Marconi's' enjoyed a social hour at their usual rendezvous, 'The Crane', before taking part in their annual 'needle' match against each other. Marconi's beat the Sparks by 5-3, in a ding-dong match which wasn't decided until the last game [R. L. Wall]*

## PEOPLE AT BASILDON

### PUT UP YOUR FISTS

Five months ago a man dedicated to the great art of boxing, who was undefeated lightweight champion for India, Ceylon and Burma for ten years, quietly set to work to convert a dilapidated, ramshackle hall into a gymnasium where boys could learn to box.

Gene Raymond, Inspection, devoted all his spare time to renovating St. Alban's Hall where the Timberlog Boys' Club Boxing Section hold their sessions. He not only re-wired the building and relined the walls, but made punch-bags out of old kit-bags filled with foam rubber and sawdust, made the ropes for the boxing ring and generally gave the old hall a complete face-lifting.

Much of the money for boxing equipment came from his own pocket, but a quick 'whip round' at the factory brought in £5 and the Timberlog Boys' Club donated £15 towards expenses.

Gene is justly proud of his boys, who are

all dead keen and now number forty-five. There is a waiting list of lads eager to join the Boxing Section and ages range from ten to twenty-two years. Quite recently, two lads, Ernie Bateman, seventeen, and Ron Covey, sixteen, entered the National Youth Championships. They had only three months training with Gene but gave a very good account of themselves. Ernie Bateman met with a spot of bad luck when the referee stopped the fight in the third round because of a burst blood-vessel in Ernie's nose. He had, up to then, won both the first and second rounds.

Gene feels that experience gained in National Championship fights is invaluable. He gauges the kind of opposition his boys can expect from watching amateur fights on television.

The Boxing Section is run entirely by Gene with part-time help from two assistants, one of whom is John Peters, Printed

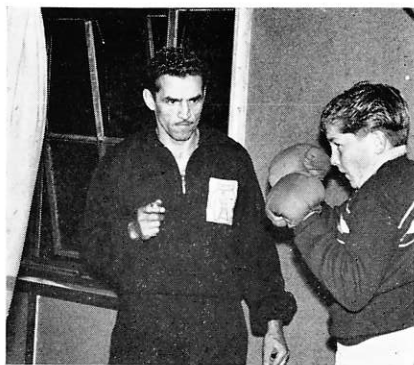
*Gene looks on critically while young Ken Acherfield, twelve, punishes the punch-bag [R. L. Wall]*

Circuits. He was introduced originally to the Timberlog Boys' Club by Johnnie Haine, Production Department.

Boys who are anxious to keep fit but are not particularly keen on boxing can take part in a physical training course. Each lad is fully insured against possible injury by paying a small premium of sixpence a week. The Boxing Section even has its own canteen, with Gene serving cocoa to the young boxers at twopence a cup after each session!

Gene has been at Basildon for eighteen months, and came to this country from Ceylon in 1956. He is married, with three youngsters, none of whom are old enough to box! He comes from an athletic family, with five brothers who box and a father who was an all-round athlete.

In 1948 he represented India in the Olympics at the White City. He was chosen to captain the Indian team at Helsinki in 1952



but felt unable to take extended leave from his firm in order to take up this honour.

### STORK TALK

Congratulations to Ted and Jean Parmenter on the birth of a son on 1 March. Their first child, he will be called Andrew Keith. Ted is an instrument maker in the Jobbing Shop, while his wife is late of Coil-testing.

*Future champs? Assuming fierce expressions and 'putting up their fists' some of Gene's pupils in the Boxing Section pose for the photographer. Extreme left, Johnnie Haine and Gene; extreme right, Johnnie Peters, who helps to train the youngsters [R. L. Wall]*



# SPORT: M.W.T.

## AUTO CLUB

On a Saturday afternoon in February, small bands of marshals for the 'Cats Eyes' Rally set out for the King's Head Hotel, Cirencester, in preparation for their long vigil in the Cotswolds. It was very cold; but with the help of braziers all enjoyed dealing with 186 competitors before their homeward journey in the dawn.

The results were particularly pleasing, the outright winners being the old firm of Richards and Davies. John Hayes with Alan Rhodes and Pete Smith secured a second in their class, and Norman Porter with Tony Slocombe and Peter Marlowe made third place in theirs. The Club team, comprising all the above, collected the second award.

The night was not without adventure. Owing to the expansion of a ford, we understand that a distinguished vice-president of

the Club struck a new fashion note by finishing in pants and duffle coat. A local benefactor, kindly pushing out another unfortunate, was soaked by the bow-wave of a Sunbeam-Talbot; happily, he was consoled by the simple process of drying him outside and wetting him in!

## HOCKEY

### *Men's*

Since our last report went to press the First XI have played five games, losing two, winning at home against Crittalls and against Commonwealth, and drawing with Little Baddow. The Second XI won against Crompton Parkinson and King Edward VI School II, both played away, but lost their other two games.

Tournament time has come round again. We have a men's and a ladies' team entered for the six-a-side at Luton, a mixed team for the eleven-a-side at Colchester and two mixed teams for the seven-a-side mixed to be played at Waterhouse Lane.

### *Ladies'*

Our first February match, against Hornchurch, played away, was 4-0 against us; Susan Woods had plenty to do in goal, remaining calm even in the face of several 'rising' balls, and the defence played a good

*R. Hazell, Marconi goalkeeper, clearing the goal in a recent match against Mid-Essex Tech.*





game, Sheenagh Logan and Ruth Yardley doing their best to keep the ball out of the circle. Our forwards never gave up trying for goals, but in spite of several near misses they never quite netted one.

In the match against Chelmsford Ladies, our forwards' persistent attack was rewarded by a score of four, one goal being shot by Sheila Hempstead, one by Andrea Jackson and two by our centre-half, Beryl Agar. The final score was 5-1, the odd goal being given by one of the Chelmsford backs.

By the end of February we had won ten games, drawn one and lost three. Six other fixtures were cancelled.

Congratulations to Barbara Lintzgy on the birth of her daughter; we shall hope to see her back in the team next season.

### BADMINTON

The men's and ladies' First teams have remained unbeaten throughout the season, and have therefore won their respective Leagues; the ladies' First team has also won Division III of the Essex League. In the Mixed, perhaps owing to injury and illness, the results are almost the opposite, and this League table would look much better upside down!

The Mixed II team, however, have won the Mixed II League very comfortably. The Mixed III team have only lost one match this season and, after an exciting finish, have ended one rubber below Hoffmanns, the League winners, the respective scores being 53-52.

### GLIDING

At the second annual general meeting of the proposed Gliding Club the vice-chairman, S. Day, told an audience of some thirty people that the committee considered a properly constituted club could now be formed. Until flying facilities became available, the subscription would be a nominal one of 5s. a quarter.

To give some idea of what gliding was all

*Mamgu, the Marconi Sailing Club's headquarters, is looking very smart these days, and the Club expects to step up social activities this season. Here, left to right, are Mrs. A. Bigden with her son; ship's husband A. S. Bigden, Mrs. Snow, Commodore A. E. Payne and J. Clark [A. G. Clarke]*



*Our men's hockey First XI have had quite a good season, although recently they lost 4-2 against Mid-Essex Tech. Here, left to right, are: back row, B. Clark, J. Penny, R. Hazell, V. Maduko, M. Cable, J. Mobbs. Front row, R. Burrows, A. Tucker, T. Osmaston, captain N. Cryer, W. Agar*

about, films were shown of the world championships and of gliding in the Alps, as well as of methods of launching and the various ways in which a pilot gains height. A discussion period covered various aspects of club organisation, and our prospective Chief Flying Instructor, R. McColl, answered questions on actual gliding.

Anyone interested in attending the club's future meetings should contact the secretary,



V. Shear of Contracts Department, room 113 at New Street; or the assistant secretary, H. Griffin of Purchasing Department at Basildon.

### FOOTBALL

Anyone young and football-minded might be proud, we think, to belong to a section with a record such as ours. Since we started in 1952, we have won the Premier Division League Championship four times; the League Senior Cup three times, including once as joint holders; the Essex Business Houses League Championship, Division I, once, and the League Intermediate and Junior Cups twice each. In addition, we have finished as runners-up on several occasions; and we have successfully kept our end up against senior clubs holding quite a commanding position in the London League, such as Port of London Authority, Dagenham Cables, Bata Sports and Ford United.

Over the years we have had some fine playing members, but in many cases their football days are now coming to a close.

The programme for next season outlined in the March issue of the magazine is an ambitious one, and to continue our success new blood is needed. Any of the following will be delighted to help new members: at New Street, F. E. Gresty, secretary, Stores Division; F. Jones, manager-coach, Progress Division; W. Lodge, team manager, Tool Room; H. Hutchings, team manager, Inspection; or A. Wade, assistant secretary, Wages Office. At Waterhouse Lane, A. F. Evans, chairman, Works Superintendent. So roll up and enjoy your football.

*Stop Press:* Our Premier team are again finalists in the League Senior Cup competition, and will play Bata Sports on 23 April.

### HORTICULTURE

The Committee are very sorry to say that it has not been possible to arrange a show this year, in spite of strenuous efforts to do so. We can, therefore, only thank those who gave us their support by entering for the competitions, and hope for a successful show in 1961.

We hope all buyers were satisfied with

*Left-half Rosemary Stokes runs onto the ball, backed up by Clare Jones, during a recent match against Westcliff II*





*The ladies XI played Westcliff II at the end of February. Here, left to right in the back row, are: Sheila Hempstead, Rosemary Coate, Susan Wood, Andrea Jackson, June Roots, umpire Geoff Nash, Clare Jones. Front row: Rosemary Stokes, Ruth Yardley, Fiona Cundy, Coral Webb and Eleanor Eldridge. Andrea Jackson was unlucky enough to have four teeth knocked out; her injury may have contributed to Marconi's defeat*

the gladioli bulbs. Cabbage plants will be on sale at the gates in May, and perhaps also some other plants; any help with this will be very welcome.

Watch out for future notices of our activities.

### ANGLING

Some very good fish have been caught during the season now closed, the heaviest weights being: carp, 12 lb. 8 oz.; roach, 2 lb. 7 oz.; rudd, 1 lb. 6 oz.; dace, 15 oz.; chub, 3 lb. 6 oz.; pike, 8 lb. These were all caught by the freelance boys, not in competitions.

The secretary hopes to secure soon a lake said to be one of the best bits of fishing in the district. He is not saying where it is until things are more definite; anyway, good luck to him! The Section is also preparing for a restocking programme in 1960-1.

With the increased membership we have

been able to delay an increase in subscriptions; but waters and fish are costing more, and higher subscriptions may be necessary in the near future.

Three sea fishing trips have been arranged, all leaving the Works at 5.30 a.m.: to Shingle Street on Sunday, 17 April, to Orfordness on Saturday, 14 May, and to Bawdsey on Sunday, 12 June.

### TENNIS

Marconi ladies' and men's teams are entered in the Essex Tennis Team competitions for the coming season, the first rounds of which must be played by 9 May. The Section Committee wishes to contact any newcomers who might be suitable for inclusion in our teams; will anyone interested please get in touch with the M.A.S.C. secretary.



## SPORT: M.I.

### 'MITSOPHRENIA'

The M.I. Theatrical Society Revue, presented on 25, 26 and 27 February at the Garden Club, was announced as a Schizophrenic Extravaganza in Two Fits. With dictionary at the ready we agree that there certainly are split personalities among our colleagues, for it was surprising to see so much talent which was unsuspected until now.

The fourteen items in the programme were compered by Jack Copeland, whose jocular manner kept us in good humour. A neat performance of two mimes was given by Arthur Adolph, with the help of Danny Kaye, in 'Manic Depressive Pictures' and assisted by broadcast advertisements in 'Teleffusion', while 'Victoriana' had an unexpected ending which brought applause for Enid Taylor and Don McIntosh. The difficult 'Three Graces' was adequately performed by Kathy Evans, Rosemary Joslyn and Arthur Adolph.

Talented John Hely-Hutchinson wrote some pleasant tunes for the show and Vivienne Archer, who filled the breach for Sheila Herwood, rendered 'Flamenco Cas-

LEFT (from top to bottom): Congratulations and a cup for Mrs. E. Heckford, right, who is now the Longacres Bowmen Indoor Lady Champion. The presentation was made by Mrs. E. Thomson, of Swan Archers, Dartford, and in support are Les Bartram, Treasurer, and Ron Spear, Secretary

Busy passing the halo at the Longacres Bowmen Annual Dinner. W. A. G. Brian, Secretary/Accountant, on left, is about to be crowned by Mrs. H. Spear and also enjoying themselves are Ron Farquhar, Mrs. M. Farquhar and Mrs. J. Evans

At the dress rehearsal of Mitsophrenia. Left to right, Kathy Evans, Sheila Herwood and Rosemary Joslyn in 'Three Graces'

cara' melodiously in spite of the capers of Alf Ison. The musical opening numbers of the two 'Fits' were specially composed and prepared us for what was to follow.

Jeremy Bliss excels on these occasions and in the droll name part of 'Phipps' he carried this eternal triangle piece along with a swing, ably assisted by former Beauty Queen Dinah Strange and Mike Kelsey with the production by Dave Lucas. This cast, with Jack Copeland, Brian Day and John Stockland, also appeared in the Gilbertian and tuneful 'Parkinsoniana' and it was good to hear the audience of an amateur show give some full-blooded laughs. Dave Lucas and Vivienne Archer gave one of the high spots of the show when they performed Noël Coward's 'Red Peppers' in a polished professional manner.

There is always a dancer in a revue and Marilyn Saunders, the youngest member of the cast, competently showed her skill in two numbers. The sound effects provided by John Murray for the 'Final Fit', produced by Jack Lewis, and in which stalwarts of the cast including Evelyn King and Anona Rolls appeared, sent us home in good humour.

The organisation of a full-scale revue, such as this, entails a great deal of work and M.I.T.S. are to be congratulated on providing an evening's live entertainment three



*Roy Duckworth and Kathy Le Breton were one of the three couples to waltz through to the final of the Hertfordshire Amateur Modern Ballroom Dancing Championship. The heat was held during the Valentine Eve Dance organised by the M.I. Modern Dance Club*

times over. *Mitsophrenia* was directed by Dennis Mirams and stage management was the joint effort of Anona Rolls and Roger Williams, while the orchestra consisted of Paul Lucock, piano, and Les Maggs, drums.

*The cast and stage staff of Mitsophrenia. Roger Williams, on the left, stage manager, and next to him Dennis Mirams, director, assure everyone that it will be better on the night. It turned out to be a credit to all concerned*





*Ron Moore, a keen member of the Horticultural Society, believes that home-grown vegetables are best. Although he has lost both legs he made and cultivates a large garden*

Babs Yule and Reg Riley took over the onerous tasks of wardrobe mistress and make-up respectively, and while Tony Bristow, Roger Duncan, Graham Taylor and Reynold Rolls made sure the stage was set properly, front of house manager John Hooker and business manager Clive Pitcher coped efficiently with the audience.

This was the first time that a M.I.T.S. show had been held at the Garden Club and

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 ★ M.I.S.S.C. GALA DAY ★  
 ★ The Gala Day this year will be held on ★  
 ★ Saturday, 25 June at Cotlandswick ★  
 ★ Sports Ground. Arrangements are ★  
 ★ being made for a full afternoon's ★  
 ★ entertainment which will include 'Dive ★  
 ★ of Death', motor-cycle trick riding, an ★  
 ★ animal comedy act, and a Kiddies' ★  
 ★ Corner with a clown. The sections are ★  
 ★ already working on their side-shows ★  
 ★ and we are keeping our fingers crossed ★  
 ★ for a fine day. ★  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

its officers are to be thanked for their co-operation and active help in making this effort the success it was.

### GARDENING

The Horticultural Society is organising a competitive Spring Show which will take place on Friday, 22 April, in the Canteen, and they anticipate plenty of entries. They hope that the weather will not be too severe and that members have protected their plants. Even in May sudden frosts can cause a lot of damage.

One of the Society's members, who has been busy preparing his seed beds, is Ron Moore. Ron was involved in an accident at the age of ten and lost both legs. In spite of this disability he has made a large and attractive garden from virgin soil and although he had a little help with the lawn, he prepared and planted all the beds himself. Many an able-bodied gardener will know the hard and continuous work which this entails. Ron's roses, sweet peas and brussels sprouts are a credit to any keen gardener.

### ARCHERY

The Longacres Bowmen held their first Dinner in the Canteen on 27 February and hope that it will be the commencement of many such annual occasions. The guests of honour were W. A. G. Brian, Secretary/Accountant, and H. C. Gribben, Chairman of the Social and Sports Club. A very good meal was provided by H. Squires, Canteen Manager, and music was supplied by a three-piece orchestra in which Ken Marriot, Jobbing Shop, played the saxophone.

On 21 February the Bowmen held their indoor championships and the following members became Club Champions:

- L. Evans—Gentlemen Champion 601.
- Mrs. F. Heckford—Lady Champion 461.
- M. Gower—Junior Champion 600.
- A. Bartram—Boy Champion 481.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, well-known archers of Dartford, officiated as Judge and Lady Paramount at what proved to be a most successful meeting.

For the 1960 season the new committee will be: W. Busby, Chairman, Les Bartram, Treasurer, Ron Spear, Secretary, Ted Heathman, Records, Mrs. J. Evans and Ray Gibbs.

# PEOPLE AND THEIR JOBS



*Craftsmen in Khartoum turn bangles and bracelets in ivory on lathes of their own design. The mandrel is turned with a bow in the right hand and one turn of string on the mandrel, while the tool is worked with the feet and the left hand. Dennis Fletcher of Broadcasting took this picture when he was in the Sudan*



*'Pity we didn't bring the net'*



*A. Carnell of Radar Division took this photograph of the Qutub Minar, a famous monument of Old Delhi built in the thirteenth century by early Muslim rulers of India. Two hundred and thirty-eight feet high, its fluted sides bear inscriptions commemorating the sultans who built, added to or restored it*