

**A couple  
of sports**

## HOW TO CUT COSTS WITHOUT TEARS



THE sporting achievements of pretty Maureen Goodwin and her Seaforth colleague Ian Clapp form part of the Liverpool story told in words and pictures on Pages Four and Five.

### So there.....

EXTRACT from a letter received at head office by Mr A. G. Murray:

"The reason these amounts were charged to you only recently was that these amounts were not charged to you initially ..."

## SOUTHAMPTON RECORD

A RECORD total of 2,227 containers were handled at the Southampton Maritime railhead in the week ending February 1.

Mr Duncan McGeachie has flown to Singapore with his wife and family to take up a post with Ben Line Containers, and Mr Derek Hume, who was Ben Line's loading superintendent at the Royal Group of Docks, London, has joined Southampton Terminal as assistant to Mr A. Watters. He has bought a house at Chandlers Ford.

Mr E. Clayton, who came to Southampton from Leeds, has been promoted to cargo

## Sport briefs

AFTER an ACTS head office girls' soccer team had beaten a men's team (there is a suggestion that the referee had been bribed!), the chaps got their sweet revenge by challenging the girls to a netball match. Playing with unexpected vitality for a Saturday morning, they crushed the girls 11-7.

MANCHESTER scored a victory by five wickets over Leeds in the annual ACTS "Roses" cricket match. Of three games played so far, Leeds have won two.

superintendent, he is moving into a new house in the Hythe area.

Congratulations to Mr L. Beesley, who recently joined the Terminal from head office. His wife expects a baby later this year (incidentally, congratulations to her, too!).

Bill Hall has left the Terminal to join Head Office, he'll be missed.

Barking staff had a very enjoyable visit to the City of Edinburgh during December.

Recent visitors to the Terminal have included Mr G. Strachen, from BLC, Edinburgh, and Mr Clive Abbey, a ship planner from Australia. Hope he enjoyed seeing how an efficient terminal works. Seaforth and Tilbury please note.

THE head office Staff Consultative Committee, which had its first full meeting only a year ago, and now meets under the chairmanship of Derek Wilkinson, has "the painless reduction of company expenditure" among its prime objectives.

An action group has been set up to devise readily-appreciated publicity material which will demonstrate to everybody the amount of money the company has to spend on even the most commonplace requirements and operations.

### Committee watchword

Derek says he sees one of his first duties as chairman to encourage full and lively discussion on all topics put before the committee — and to ensure that results follow the talking.

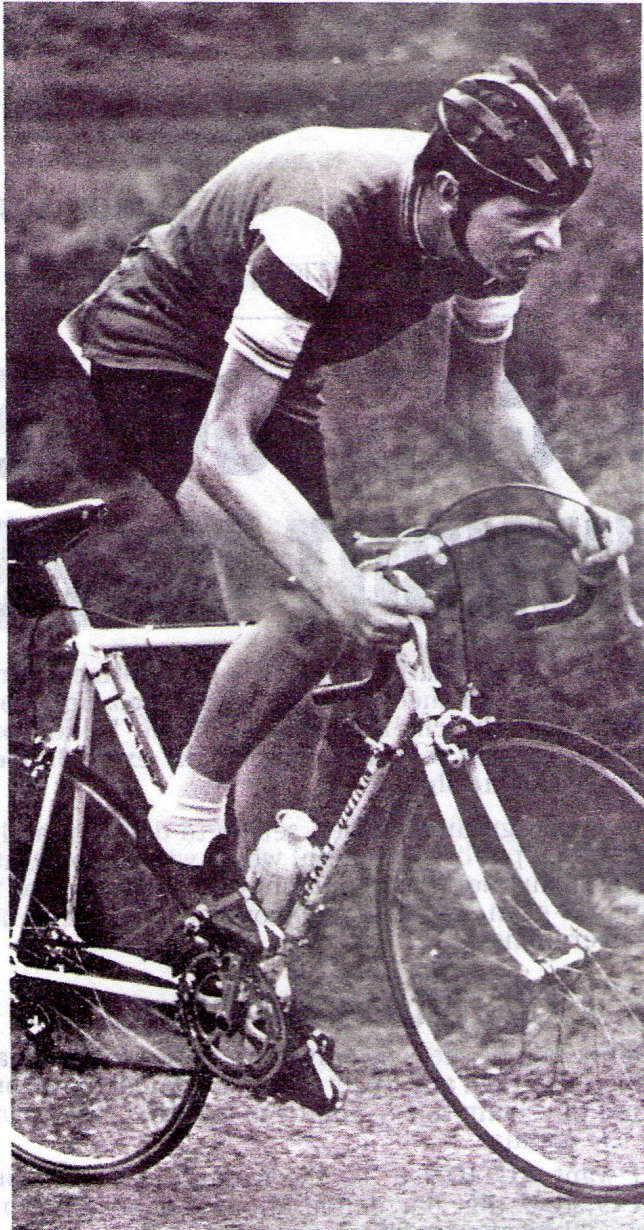
"I want ACTION to be the committee watchword and to show that our deliberations can benefit company and employees alike," he says.

## Mint Sauce and Moth Balls!

See Special  
Feature on  
Page Two

### Surprise tango!

GENERAL manager Mr Peter Yarwood, Administration Manager Mr R. I. L. Howland and Chief Accountant Mr J. F. W. Compton were among those at the first head office annual dinner dance who saw Catering Manageress Elsie Campbell take the floor with her husband to dance the tango — totally unaware that the floor was to be theirs for an "exhibition dance".



# MAC THE BIKE IS SPEED KING

Here's a picture that captures the speed and excitement of cycle racing. Ian McCartney, of ACTS, Aintree, is secretary of Liverpool Mercury Racing Club and has been cycling for 8 years. Ian's team cycles with the British Cycling Federation, and he himself has raced in Birmingham, South Wales and the Isle of Man.

## Mint sauce and moth balls are no mixture!

**A** SIGN in a well-known Southampton pub poses the question "Have you ever smelt moth balls?" The answer shown is not fit for publication in a house magazine, but it cannot be denied that the smell of naphthalene, the active constituent in moth balls, is pungent and irritating to the nose and eyes.

Naphthalene is one of a group of phenols technically described as "aromatic organic compounds", uses of which range from a selection solvent for refining lubricating oils to germicidal paints, pharmaceuticals and dyes.

Because of the very strong odour of these compounds, great care is necessary in selecting the right type of container for their transportation, and should it be in small lots, the right type of cargo to mix with them. An insulated container will not do, since the insulation will quickly absorb the smell and will subsequently release it with the result that all the cargo carried in the container will be tainted until the insulation has been renewed.

Mint sauce and lamb is one thing, but an inbuilt taste of moth balls is another!

Then again, in an ordinary general container, machinery and drums of oil would be suitable lodgers, but not biscuits or other foodstuffs or what are generally called fine goods such as cloth, woollens or leathers.

Phenol compounds may be either liquid or solid. In the case of solids the tainting is normally only by smell. Liquids are contained in drums, and provided these remain intact, tainting will not occur. However, should a drum leak, tainting will occur both by smell and contact of the liquid on other cargo, the container, and possibly the ship herself.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the problems of carrying phenols are: (a) recognition, and (b) the tainting of other cargo, the tainting of containers and even the tainting of the ship.

There is no statutory requirement for shippers to declare to us the exact details of goods which are not in themselves dangerous, and some care is therefore required by those involved in taking bookings, and the care of cargo. Co-operation from shippers is needed.

Once the nature of the goods is known it is a relatively simple matter to ensure that no incompatible cargo is stowed in the same container.

The matter of container taint is tackled firstly by prohibiting the use of insulated containers for this type of cargo, and, secondly, by the use of a unique series of containers, those prefixed H2. With a system such as this, there is then no need to attempt decontamination of containers since it is universally known that these containers are likely to be "smelly" and should only be used for goods which will not be affected.

Ship taint is likely to occur only with liquid  
(continued on Page 6)

## When 60 kids are really no problem

WHO said 60 children must be 60 problems? Certainly not Peter Hughes, chief personnel officer at head office, who, after this year's Christmas party for children, is left only with the problem of his daughter Caroline, who now has grave doubts about the authenticity of Father Christmas (writes Sports Club chairman Vi Nichols).

The children were a little bewildered when left suddenly by their parents in reception at Richmond House, but thanks to people like Terry Williams and Alan Steed (operations department), Monica Healey (credit control) and Jan Cipriani (ledgers) bewilderment was soon forgotten and confidence restored.

A "super tea" (the children's description) with paper hats was the work of people like Norman Nichols (cashier), Bob Butler (operations dept) and their wives, and before the arrival of Father (Peter Hughes) Christmas, my husband Peter entertained the audience with a film show.

At the Sports and Social Club AGM, the following officers were elected: president, Mr Peter Yarwood, director and general man-

ager; chairman, Mrs V. Nichols (Finance Department); minutes and social secretary, Miss S. Cresswell (Personnel); membership and discount secretary, Mrs M. Healey (Finance); treasurer, Mrs J. Cipriani (Finance).



A real cracker — at the Christmas Party

# Weddings galore — for the girls in accounts



Ann and Dereck Maullin

**T**HESE are busy days indeed for head office "accounts" weddings! Not knowing exactly when this issue of Contacts will be published, it's difficult to report in past, present or future tense, but here's a record of weddings and planned weddings as we go to Press:

**November 2, 1974** — at Bitterne Methodist Church — 25-year-old Ann Sothcott, of Deacon Road, Bitterne, and Dereck Maullin, a management clerk in financial accounts, lists her hobbies as art and horseriding.

**March 1, 1975** — at Fawley Methodist Church — Stephen Mockridge and Jennifer Jeffrey. He is assistant supervisor, current accounts, at ACTS, and she is a ledger clerk with ACTS.

**March 8** — at St Patricks Church, Woolston — 20-year-old Theresa Blatch, a ledger clerk with ACTS, and 23-year-old Peter Wellman, an engineer studying for his masters degree. Peter plays football and cricket, and Theresa enjoys badminton and swimming as well as being a valued member of the head office netball team.

After a reception at the Albany Hotel, the couple were planning a Paris honeymoon.

**May 24** — yet another financial accounts ledger clerk, Celia Shaw, and another engineer, Kevin O'Connor. Their wedding is also to be at St Patricks Church, Woolston.

Celia's sporting interests include badminton and tennis, and Kevin's badminton and football.



## Come on, chaps, get dancing

THE off-duty talents of 16-year-old Christine Clark, a head office typist, have recently come to our notice.

Christine, it appears, is a dancer of some four years' experience and of considerable talent. Not, let it be said, a "jump up and down and shake it about" kind of dancer, but a *real* ballroom dancer — tulle petticoats, frills and all. She has won many medals for both ballroom and Latin American dancing and is now studying for Gold Cross awards.

Christine's ambition is to become qualified to teach dancing to others when the day's filing is finished. "I would like to go in for competitions," Christine told 'Contacts,' "But shortage of male partners has made this impossible so far."

Come on, chaps, put on your Charles Aznavour look and 'dance in the old-fashioned way'.

## Funny Mouse

THE ACT Players, the head office drama group, have presented their latest success "Big Bad Mouse". They played to packed houses for three days, and had the audiences "rolling in the aisles".

The group is now selecting a new production which is scheduled for late Spring.

## Elsie — a wizard of the darts board



Elsie Campbell gets her trophy.

ANYONE watching Mrs Elsie Campbell, head office catering supervisor, prepare a luncheon, could tell at a glance that she's a darts expert. You've only to note the steady eye and well-poised arm as yet another cocktail stick pierces the heart of an olive!

She is, of course, quite wizard at the game and our picture (left) shows her receiving the ladies' Individual Championship Cup from the President of Testwood Social Club, Southampton. As a member of Waterside Ladies' Darts League, Elsie can claim many other trophies won through her exceptional skill with a well-aimed dart.

## Sarah says Hello with a cheer

Smiles from mum and a rousing cheer from "her" as pretty Sue Burdett-Clarke (right) presents her first child, Sara Louise to the camera. Sue and husband Steve who is an export clerk, live at Shirley, Southampton, and she left head office (where she was a documentary clerk and telex operator) to have the baby.



Sue — and Sara.

# CONTACTS LOOKS IN ON LIVERPOOL

**IF YOU** want to be happy at the ACTS terminal at Seaforth, it's useful to be immune to wind and cold! Rumour has it that when the wind is strong, the very building itself shakes — and certainly has happened that an empty container has been blown over!

**BUT WHATEVER IS HAPPENING OUTSIDE, IT IS IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS TO A VISITOR THAT THE ATMOSPHERE INSIDE IS WARM AND FRIENDLY.**

Seaforth, ACTS' newest container terminal in Britain, was opened in 1972, and the office block is an ecumenical affair, with Mersey Docks renting the top floor and even OCL having one small office.

In its first year, ACTS staff at the terminal handled more than 18,500 twenty-foot equivalent containers. The total was increased the following year, despite a nine-week strike, and 1975 is expected to be a really "bumper" year.

Seaforth has a larger stacking area and exports more container loads than Tilbury, though Tilbury receives more imports.

On arrival at the terminal, containers are taken to the freightliner services either at Aintree (a mile

away) for freight going principally to the Leeds and Glasgow areas, or to Garston (eight miles away) for freight to London and the South.

Besides being ACTS' newest terminal, Seaforth is also the smallest. It is a compact unit working efficiently and well. The talented and versatile staff have a wide variety of outside interests. Secretary-telephonist Maureen Goodwin and Export Controller Ian Clapp, for instance, are both great sports enthusiasts.

## SPORTS STARS

Maureen won a scholarship to Kirkby College, Liverpool, for her athletic prowess, and among her

many trophies is a long jump gold medal. For Waterloo Harriers, she has competed in the long jump high jump, relay, discus and 220 metres events, and she was in the victorious Lancashire relay team. She won a place in the Liverpool Women's netball team and in the Radio Merseyside football team — as centre-forward.

Ian Clapp started playing Rugby at school, and at 28 is still a "fanatic". After ten years of playing without injury, he broke his nose last season, his ankle the season before that — and was also out of the game with a knee injury for nine months. He and his wife have a boy of two and a girl of two months. They missed by less than 24 hours having the same birth date!



"It Ain't Half Hot Mum" — Refrigeration technicians at Seaforth inspect a refrigeration unit to make sure that everything is working perfectly. They are (left to right) E. Roberts, D. Heather and P. May.



Mr I. C. Clapp (right), export controller, and Mr E. Atkinson, assistant controller, check container availability.



The view from the ACTS office at Seaforth. In the foreground is the background ACT I is being loaded.



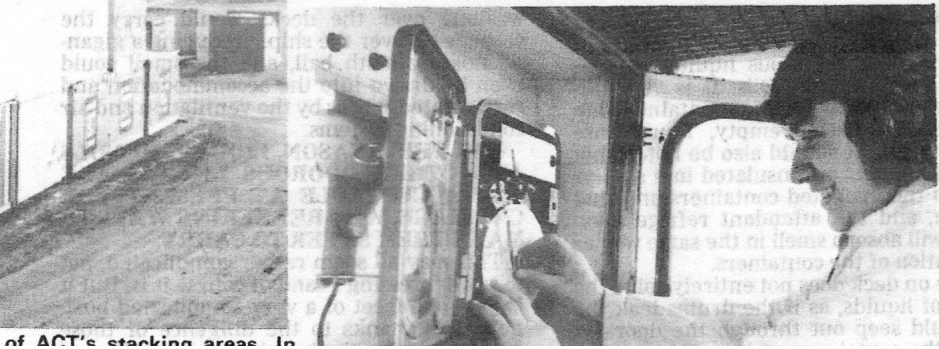
The ACT Seaforth team photographed in front of ACT I as loading nears completion.



Mr R. Smith, (right) import controller and his assistant, Mr A. Reeves, and (below) refrigeration technician Mr E. Roberts putting in a new time-temperature control disc.



The top team — Terminal manager Mr N. Wigglesworth (left) and his deputy, Mr I. Jarrett, make a final review.



of ACT's stacking areas. In

# KUNG FU TERRY JOINS BASILDON



Bringing talent and glamour to the Basildon fold are these three recruits to the typing and filing staff — Vicki Countess, Christine Lockhart and Gena Hunter.

Vicki (20) likes "listening to all sorts of music", travelling abroad and reading; Christine (18) has an 18-month-old daughter Kerry Anne, and likes dancing, swimming, reading, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, netball and bingo (the busy little bee); and Gena Hunter, at 21, enjoys reading, skating, tennis, table tennis, swimming and dancing.

AFTER six years with ACTS — his immediate previous job was as deputy regional manager at Barking — thirty-two-year-old Terry Boston has joined the Basildon staff as Deputy Regional Manager to Mr Wilson.

High on Terry's list of outside interests is scouting; he is a group leader. Other pursuits — swimming, football, ju-jitsu, Kung Fu and karate. So look out!

Terry, who lives with his wife Linda and their eight-year-old son Mark, at Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, takes over from Norman Cooper, who has been promoted regional manager at Birmingham. He was presented with a cut glass decanter by his friends at Basildon.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

The Christmas dinner-dance at Garons Banqueting Suite, Southsea, was a combined function for Basildon and Tilbury staffs, and an excellent dinner was followed by dancing.

ACTA managing director Mr Alexander Macintosh made a witty response to the toast of the guests, proposed by Mr Wilson, and this encouraged our friend, Peter King resident Customs representative at Orsett, to continue his saga on the behaviour of ACTS personnel.

More than 100 packed into the Orsett Cock for a combined Tilbury and Basildon Sports Club disco (a good but hot time was had by all), and on December 23 a Christmas Eve (almost) disco was held in the Sports and Social Club room — refreshments by courtesy of Mrs Jean Wallis, arrangements by Johnny Whit and Ian Turner. Mr Norman Cooper was guest of honour.

Credit Control has come to Basildon since the last issue of "Contacts" in the shape of Stan FitzPatrick, Paula Baker, Eileen Temme and Cynthia Mountford. Stan, aged 27, and his wife have one son, Simon, aged four. They live at Hornchurch, Essex.

Twenty-one-year-old Paula lives at Leigh-on-Sea, and Eileen at Stanford-le-Hope. Cynthia and husband Charles have three children, boys of 16 and 11 and a girl of 8.

My lords, ladies and gentlemen... be upstanding to congratulate Robert Parker, two-and-a-half years with the company, on his promotion from section leader, exports, to senior commercial assistant.

Bob and wife Isobel have three children (Margaret, Steven and Trevor), and in his spare time Bob fishes — and is an experienced MC and toastmaster.

Welcome to Bill Slatter, of Basildon, who has joined ACTS as a commercial assistant. Unmarried, Bill lists his interests as "bible bashing and sport of all kinds."

## Read on, please — this is a very moving story

AS nobody sought to challenge their "baby boom" record reported in the last issue of "Contacts", Leeds now issues another challenge to all and sundry. This time, it's in the field of "house removing".

When Mrs Sheila Walker (Coding) joined the company and mentioned that she was busily trying to sort things out at home as she had just moved, it seemed to set the ball rolling. Her example was followed, in rapid succession, by Miss Jan Wilson (Coding), Mr Ralph Shepherd (Co-ordinator), Mrs Fay McAndrew (Coding), Mrs Susan Copeman (typist) and Mrs Mary Attley (Exports). And a new arrival in accounts, Mrs Pamela Mallpress plans to move soon.

How's that? Six moves in six months — and one to go. Can any region beat that?

### NEWCOMERS

Welcome to three new Leeds staff: Mrs Mallpress (see above), Mr Ken Smith (Export) and Mr Ken Gardner (Transport).

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr Chris Worrall, formerly of Leeds Export Section, on his promotion as assistant cargo superintendent for the Region.

Congratulations, too, to Mr Gordon Cage (Transport) and his wife Pam, on the birth of Russell Gordon, a brother for Charlotte.

### ON THE MOVE

Francis Odunlami, who qualified as an accountant last summer, and whose wife later presented him with a son, has left to return home to Nigeria.

Two from Leeds Transport section have also left — Mr Phil Donaghy to control transport for a large dairy in the area, and Mr Michael Fernyhough, who is training as an engineer with a company near his home.

Leeds Region has moved up in the world —

literally. The move — from the ground floor at Leeds Containerbase to the top floor of the double-storey block — was highly successful, though occasionally over-enthusiastic.



Basildon Credit Controllers Paula, Stan, and Eileen

## Moth balls and mint sauce

continued from page 2

phenols or other odorous liquids such as Thermex and Essential Oils. It is very difficult to clean the holds of a container ship since they are never empty, liquids are stowed on deck. It should also be noted that many of the holds are insulated in a similar fashion to the insulated containers and that insulation, and the attendant refrigeration systems, will absorb smell in the same way as the insulation of the containers.

Storage on deck does not entirely solve the problem of liquids, as if the drums leak the liquid could seep out through the doors or floors of the containers and spread over the deck of the ship. Sea spray or sea water

washing over the decks would carry the seepage all over the ship, producing a gigantic floating moth ball, and the smell could even be drawn into the accommodation and refrigerated spaces by the ventilation and air conditioning systems.

**FOR THIS REASON, LIQUID PHENOLS AND OTHER ODOROUS LIQUIDS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE AT PRESENT FOR CARRIAGE. WE ARE SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE THEM SAFER TO CARRY.**

This may all seem rather complicated, not to say depressing — and of course it is. But it is only one facet of a very complicated business, and thanks to the diligence of those concerned with the booking and handling of cargo, it is kept in proper perspective.

# ACT-UALLY, WE'D LIKE A RE-ACT-ION!

BECAUSE a few people at Head Office felt there were enough national and international problems about which to be miserable, they came up with an idea to throw a little light (and a little laughter) into the arena.

The call it, simply the ACT Word Game. No special qualifications are needed, and the rules are simplicity itself. (It helps to be good at crosswords and to have a complete disregard for the English language, its words and their spelling).

OBJECT is to devise words containing the letters or phonetics of ACT, ACTS or ACTA — and then give the new word a "daffynition".

## Your turn to have a go!

Mr Dudley R. Kirk, for instance, offers ReACT against waste" and "ContrACT telex messages".

But what about "LACTSatives keep things moving" and "ExlACTS — people who leave the company in a hurry!".

We like, too, the anonymous entry — "BACTarea — management car park!".

Well, that's the idea. Why don't you have a go? There are prizes of £3, £2 and £1 for the three most amusing entries submitted to the Editor whose decision is final.



## 19 — AND engaged

HEAD office personnel department secretary, Carol Hunt, chose her 19th birthday as the day on which to announce her engagement to Mike Cooper.

At present Carol and Mike spend a great deal of their time travelling. She lives in Southampton — and Mike 38 miles away in Salisbury!

# Bombs put paid to the party

BOMB explosions in Birmingham put paid (temporarily) to the annual ACTS staff dance. Most windows and walls of the hotel ballroom in which the function was to have been held were missing after the blasts.

The dance is now fixed for March 8 at a hotel on the city outskirts.

Congratulations to Michael Sharman who, after transferring to "Services" from ACTA as a commercial assistant, has been promoted to section leader.

## Tilbury news

EVERYTHING is happening in a big way at Tilbury. Firstly, 45B Berth is now fully operational and proving a great asset. Secondly, the terminal has taken delivery of a new extension to the office building to provide accommodation for Terminal-based Basildon staff.

This has made space available for a staff rest and club room.

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A TILBURY Sports and Social Club has been formed, with Roy Boreham (Transport) as chairman, and is open for all challenges, especially football.

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Norman Hornigold, assistant export controller, became engaged on New Year's Day.

Reports from South Africa suggest that Les Hedlaux is doing well there — even to the extent of an increase in his family.

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TILBURY Terminal has been extremely busy of late. At one point the terminal had two big containerships, Remuera and ACT 6, moored alongside each other for a time.

Meet a bonny babe (right) who weighed in at 6lb 6oz. The name — Matthew Shelley, and he's the son of Christopher Shelley, of Birmingham Cargo Department, and his wife Jayne.



Susan Annis, a telex operator in the communications department, became engaged in January and is to wed in March.

Margaret Kennedy, also in communications, where she is a punch operator, plans to get engaged in May and to marry two years later; and Jackie Hickmott (commercial section) and Geraldine Feeley (coding section) have also announced their engagements.

The Accounts Department and Credit Controller Roy Burton have moved to a new Lessor unit built above the gatehouse.

## BARKING CLUB GETS GOING

AT the first meeting of Barking ACTS Social Club, plans were made for a grand mystery tour, a buffet dance and a visit to see Michael Crawford in "Billy" at Drury Lane Theatre.

SHARON SUMPTER, a punch operator at ACT Barking, wore a fur-trimmed dress of white brocade for her wedding at St Thomas, Dagenham, to David Suckling, a wood tally clerk.

SHARON RICHARDS, (below), a typist with ACTS at Barking, has given birth to her first child. She and husband Peter have called the child Scott Peter.



## Swinging night in Manchester

GUESTS from south of the Mersey — Mr & Mrs P. Hughes and Mr & Mrs D. Jenkins — were among those who turned up to enjoy the Manchester staff dance in January. In addition to an excellent buffet and dance, there was even a moment of vocal entertainment from two members of staff. (Rumours that the RSPCA were called in at this stage have proved false).

The only disappointment was the absence of Mr & Mrs E. Walshaw, due to Mr Wal-

shaw's illness. Mr and Mrs Houldin made admirable hosts in their place.

The 1975 activities of Manchester Sports and Social Club really get under way with a "Disco Hotspot" at Flixton House in early March. ACTS colleagues at Liverpool were invited to take part.

Congratulations to Nigel Leech on his marriage to Miss Valerie Eastwood at Christ Church Davyhulme.

# The day Coatbridge knocked Ben for six



## —and the day Jim said: "I'd like to do the Three Peaks!"

IT all started when Jim Carruthers said: "I'd like to do the Three Peaks . . .", the peaks being Ingleborough, Whernside and Penyghent, a circular tour of 23 miles. (writes Hazel Malone, Leeds)

It was all we needed to start weeks of discussion and planning, and finally five of us left the Containerbase at six pip emma on a Friday night to camp behind the pub at Harton-in-Ribblesdale, at the foot of Penyghent, ready for the "off" the next morning.

A couple more joined us at crack of dawn, so seven set off at around 7.30 am. Half an hour later, we were back in the village, having learned that if you put a path in front of Malcolm Hardaker, he takes some stopping!

When we DID find the right path, it soon became obvious that most of us had walked no further than the car park for years. The fact that we'd had a pretty good session at the pub the previous night didn't help either. However, despite quite a few stops and Jim Carruthers' repeated query "Who's . . . silly idea was this, anyway" we were on top of Penyghent in fairly good time.

### CARDBOARD 'KNIFE'

People ask: "Why climb mountains?" — to see the view and get away from crowds. The cloud came down as we reached the top, and 40 people were doing a sponsored walk. Brian Dove was first to go into the bogs up to his knee as we set out for Whernside. Stephen Emmett followed — and when I walked through a stream, the water came over my boots.

It seemed only sensible to stop at a pub, sit on the step to change socks — and then wait for opening time.

Fortified by a pint and sandwiches we tackled the steep track up Whernside and were rewarded by sunshine, a fabulous view and those on the sponsored walk had either dropped out or left us far behind.

But it didn't last long. Half way up the steepest part of the journey to Ingleborough, it started to rain and everybody was starving. We had a whole loaf of bread, a jar of jam, plenty of butter — but no knife. It's amazing how good jam and butter can taste when spread onto bread with a piece of

cardboard. Fortified, we headed for the top of Ingleborough and the view across Moredun Bay.

Stiff and tired, we covered the last five miles back to Horton, swearing 'Never again'.

By Monday morning we were planning the next expedition . . .



In peak condition

ALL smiles before the kick-off of a football match in which ACTS, Coatbridge, beat Ben Line of Edinburgh by six goals to one.

Contacts has received two reports of the match, and in fairness, present both . . .

From Norman Niblock, of ACTS Coatbridge: "The match was played on a neutral ground at Grangemouth and I only hope the result has done nothing to jeopardise the relationship between our two companies."

### NO ROUGH STUFF

From Alec Peill, acting as 'football correspondent' for Ben Line: "Congratulations to ACTS on winning. It has not escaped our notice, however, that both Airdrie and Motherwell lost their games in the afternoon and rumour has it that we exhausted three of their out-standing players at Grangemouth before they went through to play in their 'big game' that afternoon!

"I think the 'barr's irn bru' also contributed after half time in slowing the teams down a bit, but excuses apart, we were most impressed by Coatbridge. We all enjoyed ourselves and I was pleased to see that no fashionable rough-stuff took place".

## THE REST OF THE NEWS FROM NORTH OF THE BORDER

After the upheaval caused by the move of Scottish office to the first floor of Coatbridge Containerbase, the annual staff dance was something to anticipate with pleasure. The function itself — at Silvertrees Hotel, Bothwell — lived up to expectations!

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The base started the New Year by 'acquiring' a new SCA in the welcome form of an old colleague, Mr James Porteous. Jim began his ACT career at Coatbridge, 'spread his wings' to other regions, and has finally had the irresistible call to return to Scotland, where he has settled in extremely well.

\* \* \*

Mrs C. Gray, Data Preparation Operator, who has been with ACTS Coatbridge since the beginning, left during February. She is emigrating with her husband to America.

At its annual general meeting, Coatbridge Sports and Social Club elected a new committee. The proposals they put forward suggest we are in for a busy but enjoyable few months ahead!

\* \* \*

Fashion-conscious males at Coatbridge put forward, with some diffidence, the suggestion that the company tie, if it is to have a more modern appeal, should have a more modern shape! Over to officer i/c ties!

\* \* \*

The new Coatbridge correspondent for 'Contacts' is Mrs Margaret MacPherson. As many stories and pictures as possible to her, please.



## JULIE SCORES A HIT

PUNCH card operator Julie Vickers, aged 23, reached a speed of 23,526 key depressions per hour in the national final of the "Data Prep Girl of the Year" competition.

Julie, who works in the punch room at Richmond House, beat 500 other contestants — computer users from all over the country — and came sixth in the contest organised by Sperry Univac.