

'OUR TRADE IMPRESSIVE BY ANY STANDARDS'

"THE SIZE of our business is now impressive by any standards", says General Manager Peter Yarwood; and to back this claim he produces the figures we publish for the first time on page 6 of this issue of *'Contacts'*.

Who'll save 5p for a guide dog?

By The Editor

THERE are those who *think* about problems – and those who *do* something about them. Into the latter category comes Basildon ACTS Sports and Social Club.

The Club has made up its mind (just like that) to raise £500 to sponsor a Guide Dog for the Blind. That's what it costs. Not a penny more. Not a penny less.

So members of the Club are busy organising discos. Putting the odd penny into home collecting boxes. Saving tinfoil from milk bottle tops and Chinese food cartons. (A Swansea firm pays 5p a kilo for it).

"All of this takes time", says Basildon Club Chairman Jocelyn Rees, "and we could sponsor a guide dog, or maybe two, a lot quicker if we had outside help".

A CHALLENGE

That's a challenge we hope all ACTS regions will take up. Every penny will help, and secretaries of Social Clubs willing to take part in what we hope will become a nationwide "ACTS Guide Dogs for the Blind" scheme, covering all regions, should contact Jocelyn Rees at Basildon. She has kindly agreed to act as co-ordinator.

PLEASE do your best to help. We will report on progress in the next issue.

ENTER JOHN – A VINTAGE CAR MAN

THIRTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD John Berger, who has just finished a period of personnel consultancy and before that was personnel manager of an industrial diamond tool making company, has been appointed as Personnel Adviser in ACTS.

Hobbies – 'vintage cars and a forced interest in home repairs and decorations'.



Bill of Lading and container throughputs during 1974 – covering the Far East, Australia and New Zealand trading – give a clear indication of the progress the ACT Group and the Servicing company, ACTS, have made in the 5 years since the UK/Australia Service first began in 1969.

"For those of us who have been involved from the beginning", says Mr. Yarwood, "the years of trial and error; of being almost overwhelmed by problems and then beating them and, finally, of seeing a dream come true despite economic problems that could never have been foreseen, represent an adventure that has been at times exciting; at times traumatic – but always worthwhile.

"Looking back, it is hard to believe that only 5 years ago, in 1969, the total throughput handled by ACTS was only 10,164 containers, matched by 12,196 Bills of Lading. As the tables inside show, the corresponding figures for 1974 were nearly 5 times the number of export containers and over 6 times the number of Bills of Lading, to say nothing of the volume of import containers and corresponding documents".

EXPANSION

Mr. Yarwood goes on "I am sure that many of you know the volume of business that is handled by your particular office in respect of the Far East and Australia trades. I doubt, however, whether many of you realise the volume of business we of ACTS are handling nationwide.

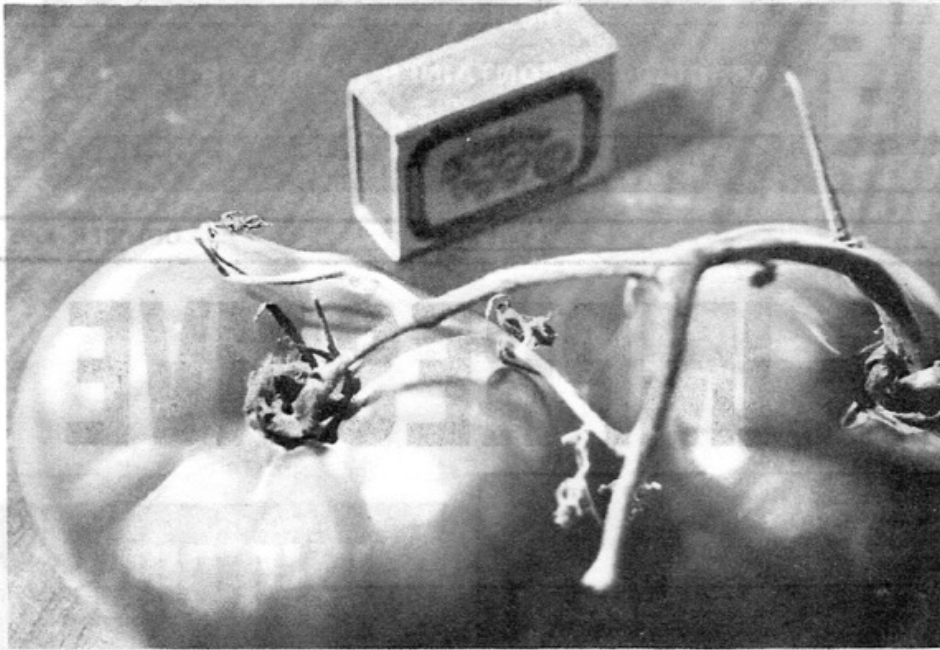
"The figures published on page 6 will, I hope, put you far more fully into the Company picture.

"Without the wholehearted co-operation and unstinting effort of all at Richmond House and the ACTS offices throughout Britain, this kind of progress and expansion would not have been possible".

HELLO GIRLS



Meet some of the
ACTS
"Ambassadors"
on Page Seven



A matchbox gives some idea of the size of Bill's tomatoes

No expert-but look at Bill's tomatoes

TELL Bill Campbell, whose job as Operations Manager puts him in control of operations throughout the entire European zone, that you've heard he's an expert on growing tomatoes, and the odds are that he'll shrug off the suggestion with a smile and get on with the job in hand.

Then he'll turn up at his office in Richmond House the following day with a couple of giant-size tomatoes, weighing almost 1½lb. between them, and ask: "What do you think of these?"

It's true, of course, that Bill is not an expert in the strictest sense, but, by Golly, he *can* grow huge tomatoes! The truth is that three or four years ago, a couple of friends from America bragged to him about the size of the tomatoes they grew back home. They promised to send him some of the special seeds they used.

He planted them in trays the following March, and two months later put them into pots in his greenhouse for the main growth period. Result - King-size tomatoes just like those pictured here.

"The big secret", says Bill, "is to water the plants in the greenhouse twice a day - and to give them a spot of the right fertiliser every three days".

Proof that his method works well is afforded by the fact that Bill reckons to get well over 20 big tomatoes from each plant, some of which are still producing fruit to the end of December. Each year he takes seeds from one crop for tray-planting the following March.

FAVOURITES

Quite apart from his bumper tomatoes, Bill Campbell is an enthusiastic all-round gardener. "It's a wonderful relaxation", he says. "I love planning a garden - and then watching it develop over the years".

His favourites - roses, dahlias, lilies, delphiniums and 'masses of assorted annual bedding plants'.

His recipe for a successful garden design - 'it is vital to lay it out in such a way that you get interesting shapes and aspects, contrasting features - curving paths and hedges with curved arches to help here'.

And at no time of the year, he says, should a garden be without colour - even in the depth of Winter - or without tomatoes.



Suki and Co.

Suki and Co makes it cat's life for Ronnie

Ronnie Lee (Leeds Transport) became a cat breeder the day his lonely Siamese, Tom Symon, was presented with company - a Queen named Suki.

The lady's virtue was soon non-existent, and in due course the first litter arrived. One of the newcomers was so affectionate the Lees could not part with him. So then there were three (see above).

This Summer, Suki presented Tom (and the Lees, of course) with another litter, all of whom now have new homes. Anybody interested in a Siamese cat from the next litter should contact Ronnie.

A NEW GRANDAD

If you see a prouder-than-usual look on the face of Leeds Regional Manager J.D. Armistead you should know that in the Summer he acquired the title of 'grandad'. Mark James is the newcomer.

Could Keith be the next Poet Laureate?

THERE is a strong feeling in the ACTS office at Leeds that Keith Gardner could succeed John Betjeman as Poet Laureate.

Already Keith, a Liverpudlian (and we don't hold that against him!), has had a poem published. Not the following, of course, but this gives an idea of his prowess - and his originality: -

ODE TO MARY

The day Mary Attley went camping,
On a weekend with A.C.T.
This pleasant young lady from exports
(As Lawrence will surely agree).
She made us laugh, titter and giggle,
Her manners were fit for a queen.
Then came the mention of cooking
And Mary just couldn't be seen!
All weekend her thoughts were for Crispen,
A pussy cat of fair face
That animal's treated by Mary
As one of the human race.
In taking her mind off this feline
With drinks at the Old Dungeon Gyll,
She had one or two past her normal,
And almost exceeded her fill.
The poor girl, by now, rather sleepy,
Decided to rest for the night
But sat on a mongrel named Nicky
And awoke with a terrible fright.
By chance Mary fell on the tent pole
And canvas was brought to the ground
Apart from the noise of this mishap
There was plenty of swearing around.
So thank you dear Mary for helping
These lines were meant in good taste.
I hope well accepted by Mary
Or I'd better make off in haste.

Hazel Malone (Leeds Imports) reports that a foal, Casper, born in June to her pony Tiptoe is doing well. This is eight-year-old Tiptoe's second foal. The first - a gelding, Legend - was sold.

Leeds accounts clerk Richard Baker is (Heaven forgive us) a 'dab' hand at fishing. In a recent competition organised by his club, he had the largest haul - 65lb. - plus a mention in his local paper. Fishing since 15, Richard has already won four trophies.

Leeds ACTS Gambling and Gaming Club (alias Imports) has recently netted £50 in its Premium Bond Syndicate.

THE DAY I PLAYED 'MR X' TO BOB MONKHOUSE

IT'S NOT every day that a chap who's probably never been nearer to a camera than a Box Brownie gets a chance to become a television personality. But it happened to Richard Swann, a senior programmer with Management Services at Head Office. According to Richard, this is how it happened. . . .



Thinking about an answer that will win an "X".

Reading the paper one day, I saw that "Golden Shot" was being scrapped and was to be replaced by a new television quiz show called "Celebrity Squares". I thought they might need the odd contestant, so wrote to ATV. They told me to send in details of myself — plus a photo.

Having done so, and after hearing nothing for a few weeks, I imagined that was that. Then, suddenly, while I was sorting out some of the day's export documentation problems at Richmond House, I got a phone call asking me to report at Elstree for an audition. Grabbing a day's holiday, I did just that.

The next week to my amazement, I got another call — asking me to go back the following Sunday and do a show. On arrival, I was given my dressing-room key — star treatment indeed!

Two shows were to be recorded in the one day, and as mine was the second, I watched the



Crosstalk during the show between Richard and Bob

first in a viewing room behind the production gallery. There I saw celebrities like Reginald Bosanquet, Clement Freud and Lynsey de Paul doing their thing, but as this was the first-ever recording of the show, and nobody seemed quite clear about what was happening, it all turned into a bit of a nightmare. The two contestants between them won £1,000 in cash and prizes before the recording was finally scrapped!

After a break for tea, I was called to 'make-up', where a vain attempt was made to make me look more human, and soon afterwards I

was face to face with my lady opponent and a panel of celebrities that included Charlie Drake, Graham Hill, Aimi McDonald, William Rushton and Dame Anna Neagle.

Both my opponent and I won money on the show — and if you watched its screening at the end of July, you'll know just how much! I'm certainly not going to brag about it here.

My only claim to fame since is that I refereed a soccer encounter between Southampton ACTS and Birmingham ACTS. And that's yet another achievement I'd rather forget. . . .

This is Your Life in Credit Card Land

HER THREE-WEEK visit to a pen pal in San Diego, California, is something that Rita Bellows, of Head Office development department, will always remember.

"The novelty of going to 'drive-in' movies; of being able to make a choice from no fewer than 16 television channels; the wonder of Disney Land; and the beauty of the film stars' homes in Beverley Hills are all out of this world", she says.

"Of course, you've got to get used to talking about bars, not pubs, of liquor stores and not off licences, and you've got to learn, sadly, that it's not a good idea to walk alone in the streets . . . but one way or another, I have a host of memories that will stay with me always.

"Certainly in that part of America where I

stayed, a car is almost an essential part of life.

All five people in my pen pal's family have their own automatic car. They shop by car at drive-in stores—and driving licences are available once a person is over 15.

"I got the impression that Americans have really mastered the art of living. The weekly beach parties have to be seen to be believed — as has everybody's string of credit cards".



Rita in wonderland

SPACE RESERVED

The above space had been reserved for a photograph of Ken Peberdy and his 72-inch wing span radio-controlled glider.

Unfortunately the aircraft picked an argument with a radio controlled powered model about 800ft. up in an otherwise empty sky and became a complete write-off. The two-channel R/C equipment costing about £75.00 survived and is now installed in a new model, a 50-inch span slope soarer.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do not waste the blank space above. Just cut it out, fold the paper into two — and you'll have a nice memo pad!



Left to right:- Mary Attley (Leeds); Sandra Wells (Birmingham); Derek Wilkinson (Development, Head Office); Nigel Holloway (Southampton Terminal); Roger Smith (Seaforth); Malcolm Pritchard (Liverpool); Dennis Brookfield (Manchester); Pauline Rodwell (Barking); Margaret McPherson (Coatbridge); Ericka Camiot (Finance, Head Office); Jan Chandler (Admin/Personnel, Head Office); Jocelyn Rees (Basildon); Len Wright (Tilbury); Brian Creighton (Management Services, Head Office).

14 MEN AND GIRLS ALL WITH YOU ON THEIR MINDS!

Look at the picture above. The Board of a nationalised industry in session? A jury of 12 true men and women (plus interlopers) making up their minds about a verdict? Or, perhaps, the British Board of Film Censors reacting to a private showing of the latest Swedish film (note that it is the ladies who are smiling)?

Whichever alternative you pick, you'd be wrong. . . .

This is a picture taken at the first-ever get-together, at Fenchurch Street, of the local 'reporters' working on 'Contacts'. (Don't let the fact that we call them co-ordinators fool you).

CO-ORDINATION

The men and women you see here are really the key to the whole operation. It is their job (acting, unpaid, of course) to ensure that whatever is happening at YOUR headquarters is reported to the News Editor (that's Jan Chandler, of Personnel, fourth from the right in our picture).

Jan co-ordinates all the copy sent in, then gets back to individual reporters if she feels more information or pictures are necessary.

This preliminary gathering of copy and pictures takes something like 12 or 14 weeks of the four-monthly interval between issues.

Once Jan is happy she has all the material required, and that each ACTS base is adequately represented, she sends her pile of copy and pictures to the Editor, out in the wilds of rustic Norfolk. with the terse order:- "Now Get On With It!"

The hard-pressed Editor's name is unim-

portant, his age a mystery, but after 35 years in newspapers he reckons he knows a bit about them. It is his job to sift through everything at his disposal; to re-write stories as required; and to 'scheme' the pages of 'Contacts' so that a balance is maintained between the important and the trivial.

His part in the four-monthly cycle takes anything up to ten or fourteen days, at the end of which he forwards all copy and pictures, all page 'schemes', and all necessary instructions to the printer and plate-maker.

WHEN THE MAGIC WORKS

Ten days or so later, if the magic is working, the General Manager Peter Yarwood and the Editorial team at Head Office should all be seeing proofs of what the next issue of 'Contacts' will look like.

At this stage, the Editor buckles on his Norfolk skates and hastens South to Richmond House for a final editorial conference at which everybody involved has a last chance to make amendments.

A week later, the latest "Contacts" should be in the hands of all its eager, impatient readers. . . .

EDITORIAL NOTE:- The Editor says he agrees with Bernard Shaw, once quoted as saying:- "You must not suppose that because I am a journalist, I never tried to earn an honest living".

And News Editor Jan Chandler says:- "Remember, this is YOUR newspaper. Let me have your views and suggestions as to how it can be improved".



Blue Star George steps up

FIFTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD George Houldin (above), with Blue Star Line for 12 years and A.C.T. for seven, has taken over as commercial manager of ACTS based at Richmond House.

George and his wife Roma have two grown-up daughters, and his interests outside working hours include inland waterways, woodwork and gardening.

His previous appointments have included manager of Blue Star Line Ltd., Manchester; Regional Sales Manager, ACTA North-west; and Deputy Regional Manager ACTS Manchester.

THE MAGIC OF YU 3247,

AGED

48

By PETER YARWOOD

THE STORY of YU 3247 is the story of a car built in 1927; allocated engine and chassis number NT 3139; first registered in December 1927 and sold from a London showroom in March of the following year. The first owner kept it until 1948 from whence it passed through several hands before coming into mine on its thirtieth birthday.

YU 3247 is a "Bentley" or, euphemistically, vintage Bentley, since it was built before 1931. It was named after its designer, Walter Owen Bentley, who died in August 1971. The model is known as a 4½ litre and the Registration Book records that it has an "open sports" body. This was supplied by the well known body-builders, Van den Plas, now part of BMC.

Its price in 1928 would be about £1250 depending upon the optional extras the original purchaser wanted. Few cars, especially in this class, were standard in those days. In appearance the car is considered by many automobile historians to be good looking with a unique air of masculine virility.

For the technically minded, the engine has a swept volume of 4,398 c.c. which produces an R.A.C. rating of 24.8 h.p., and some 110 real horsepower in standard form. Each of the four cylinders has two sparking plugs supplied from two M.L. magnetos; four valves operated by a single overhead camshaft, and a compression ratio of 5.3:1.



YU 3247 at the Bentley 50th anniversary parade

Petrol is fed through two S.U. sloper carburettors. (A prize of £2 goes to the first staff member who writes to Jan Chandler correctly saying what S.U. stands for). Consumption is about 16 m.p.g. and the 2½ gallon sump anticipates an oil consumption of about 1 gallon per 1200 miles. The wheels originally supported 5.25 x 21 inch tyres, but because these became scarce in the 1950's, the previous owner re-rimmed the wheels to take 19in. tyres as these were easier to obtain. Both are now equally difficult and the price is rising.

The weight of the car is about 32½ cwt. and maximum engine revolutions of 3500 per minute gave 90 m.p.h. It would probably do this today but the risk of straining a part beyond its capability hardly justifies the attempt. However, it still performs well and the greater sense of speed compared to today's cars is exhilarating.

The ride is harsher than a modern car and plainly it is not a car for all seasons, but it is

a joy to drive since it has an "air" perhaps unrivalled by other automobiles. One sits well up in the seat and peering over hedges presents no problems.

W.O. Bentley produced some 3,000 cars between 1921 and 1931 when his company went into liquidation after being in almost perpetual financial difficulties. Many of you will know that Rolls-Royce bought the company in 1931 and retained the name, although the product was never the same. I have the original instruction book for the car, including "The Five Years' Guarantee"; documentary evidence supporting W.O. Bentley's confidence.

About 1,000 of the original cars still exist, the whereabouts of the majority being well documented. I am often asked why I bought the car and why I like them. It is difficult to answer, except with the simple "they appeal to me".

The integrity of the engineering appeals too. With so much having changed since these cars were designed, it is not easy to convey the conditions which existed after the first world war: roads were bad and cars in general unreliable. A journey was an adventure, and arrival at destination without mishap could not be assured.

W.O. Bentley, himself a railway trained engineer, decided to change that, and he designed a car that its owner could depend upon and which required the minimum of maintenance, 100,000 miles between major overhauls being commonplace. The records show that he achieved his goal.

Since YU 3247 came into my possession, I have extensively refurbished it over a period of six years. I enjoyed every minute of the work for, despite the dirty fingers, hammer scarred nails, and oil over the kitchen floor at least twice, each job was a challenge and each necessitated contact outside to obtain fresh parts.

People were very helpful and since Saturdays were "search and find" days, they seemed to have more time and were willing to try to solve my problems. I recall having to

From bikinis to 'Wellys' in two hours

ACTS at Coatbridge went (almost literally) from bikinis to Wellington boots in two short hours during August. In a 120-minute break from the heatwave the Heavens opened up and rain fell in sheets for two hours and the base was struck by lightning.



May Miller, originally the region's Telex operator and more recently Data Prep. Operator, has left to have a baby expected in the Autumn.

"A tremendous success" was the general verdict on the outing by Coatbridge staff (ACT and Ben Line) aboard the paddle-steamer 'Maid of the Loch'. The vessel, which sails from Balloch up Loch Lomond and back, accommodates some 300 passengers.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

David Anderson has joined the Coatbridge coding section, and Ken McDonald, also of the coding section, has left to take a job in Glasgow.

SPORT NOTES - Coatbridge table tennis team had a handsome 8-1 win over Road Services (Forth) Ltd. . . . and Margaret Macpherson (Norman Niblock's secretary) helped West of Scotland ladies retain their archery title.

CONTINUED ON PAGE, 10

ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

In a Page One interview in this issue of 'Contacts', Associated Container Transportation Services General Manager Peter Yarwood refers to "figures which show the size of our business is now impressive by any standards". Here are the figures:-

B/L THROUGHPUTS JANUARY - DECEMBER 1974

FAR EAST TRADE

	EASTBOUND			W/B Total
	FCL	LCL	Total	
London	2657	17301	19958	19351
Liverpool	838	3635	4473	3231
Glasgow	497	2860	3357	1143
Manchester	1333	4163	5496	3126
Birmingham	1085	5714	6799	1362
Leeds	725	6767	7492	1075
Ireland	68	313	381	1086
Southampton	560	2373	2933	3421
	7763	43126	50889	33805

AUSTRALIA

	SOUTHBOUND			W/B Total
	FCL	LCL	Total	
London	5628	2440	8068	4246
Liverpool	746	1403	2149	686
Glasgow	809	685	1494	399
Manchester	1637	2012	3649	197
Birmingham	1294	1538	2832	202
Leeds	1265	1707	2972	1406
Ireland	159	441	600	192
	11538	10226	21764	7328

NEW ZEALAND

	SOUTHBOUND			N/B Total
	FCL	LCL	Total	
London	1062	1428	2490	2495
Liverpool	325	699	1024	884
Glasgow	168	409	577	127
Manchester	438	640	1078	12
Birmingham	289	475	764	22
Leeds	245	916	1161	817
Ireland	39	245	284	86
	2566	4812	7378	4443

CONTAINER THROUGHPUTS JANUARY - DECEMBER 1974

TWENTY FOOT EQUIVALENTS

FAR EAST TRADE

	EASTBOUND			WESTBOUND			TOTAL CONTAINERS		
	FCL	LCL	TOTAL	FCL	LCL	TOTAL	FCL	LCL	TOTAL
London	4112	3787	7899	5093	3369	8462	9205	7156	16361
Liverpool	1194	1183	2377	1294	760	2054	2488	1943	4431
Glasgow	1231	857	1088	450	276	726	1681	1133	2814
Manchester	1269	1103	2372	905	639	1544	2174	1742	3916
Birmingham	1454	1637	3091	1484	339	1823	2938	1976	4914
Leeds	1199	1101	2300	756	206	962	1955	1307	3262
Ireland	57	19	76	405	124	529	462	143	605
Southampton	936	921	1857	2207	694	2901	3143	1615	4758
TOTAL	11452	10608	22060	12594	6407	19001	24046	17015	41061

AUSTRALIA

	SOUTHBOUND			NORTHBOUND			TOTAL CONTAINERS		
	FCL	LCL	TOTAL	FCL	LCL	TOTAL	FCL	LCL	TOTAL
London	8280	905	9185	2929	544	3473	11209	1449	12658
Liverpool	1762	669	2431	470	168	638	2232	837	3069
Glasgow	1146	290	1436	365	38	403	1511	328	1839
Manchester	2227	407	2634	393	18	411	2620	425	3045
Birmingham	1892	493	2385	448	43	491	2340	536	2876
Leeds	2434	574	3008	797	521	1318	3231	1095	4326
Ireland	227	53	280	95	4	99	322	57	379
TOTAL	7968	3391	21359	5497	1336	6833	23465	4727	28192

NEW ZEALAND

	SOUTHBOUND			NORTHBOUND			TOTAL CONTAINERS		
	FCL	LCL	TOTAL	FCL	LCL	TOTAL	FCL	LCL	TOTAL
London	1631	315	1946	3262	172	3434	4893	487	5380
Liverpool	715	247	962	968	71	1039	1683	318	2001
Glasgow	272	154	426	105	8	113	377	162	539
Manchester	674	150	824	58	-	58	732	150	882
Birmingham	650	145	795	61	-	61	711	145	856
Leeds	469	258	727	371	148	519	840	406	1246
Ireland	64	10	74	93	2	95	157	12	169
TOTAL	4475	1279	5754	4918	401	5319	9393	1680	11073



Maggie Murray



Sue Allen



Doreen Holmes

MEET 'AMI A

IT HAS BEEN SAID
telephonist is just a
smile, a friendly welcome
(reception desk) can do
For this reason,
on the Ambassadors

The bride wears a boater



WEDDING BELLS for Liverpool ACTS secretary Mary Josephine McQuaid, who married Derek Wilson, a timber technician, at St. Peter and Paul's Church, Great Crosby. Mary, who made her own wedding dress of white chiffon and wore a veiled boater style hat, gives her hobbies as "winning A.C.T. treasure hunts, reading, travelling and crochet work".

Secondly, exports commercial assistant Tony Lennon (below), five years with the company, married Margaret Drewery, a State registered nurse and State certified midwife, at St. Helens Church, Crosby.





Carol Dayman



Irene Baxter



Ann Hunter



Linda White



Marlene Friar

EIGHT ACTS BASSADORS T LARGE'

with every justification that a good receptionist/ out the best ambassador a company can have. A me and an obvious desire to help (on phone or at more than a thousand advertisements. 'ontacts' to-day starts a new series - 'Spotlight f ACTS'.

First of the girls is Mandy Williamson, whose picture appears on Page One. Mandy was, in fact, the first-ever telephonist-receptionist at Head Office, and her latest news is that she hopes next Easter to marry Nigel Tilling, an industrial chemist. Mandy's hobbies include horse-riding, sailing - and driving her own car now she has passed her test.

Also in the Southampton 'reception team' are Maggie Murray, who joined the company a year ago after doing seasonal work on the Thoreson Ferries, and Sue Allen, who has been at Richmond House for two years. Both Maggie and Sue are keen dressmakers.

Welcoming callers at Coatbridge are two teenagers with a keen interest in the current pop scene. Eighteen-year-old Ann Hunter, senior of the two, joined the company more than eighteen months ago, and her outside interests are dancing and collecting LP's.

Relief receptionist-telephonist is 17-year-old Irene Baxter, who joined in April this year. Her interests also include dancing and pop music.

JILL OF ALL TRADES

Over to Birmingham where 20-year-old Carol Dayman has been receptionist-telephonist since she joined ACTS two years ago. A twin, Carol lists her hobbies as reading, pop music - and 'whenever possible going to live shows'.

Finally for this issue, meet the three 'Ambassadors' at Birmingham and Orsett - Mrs. Linda White, Mrs. Doreen Holmes and Mrs. Marlene Friar.

Linda is a brunette with dark eyes and a keen sense of humour. Married for two-and-a-half years she gives her hobbies - "a husband and a big shaggy sheepdog".

Doreen has been three years with ACTS, and during that time has been a 'Jill of all trades'. You name it; she's done it. Hobbies - Karate, darts, knitting and dressmaking.

Apart from being Export Cargo Clerk, Marlene takes charge of the Orsett switchboard. She is married with two children and is keen on amateur dramatics.



Annette and Dave

Give a bit of Credit to Annette's Mum

IF YOU THINK, as we do, that Annette Pavey (left), credit control clerk at Head Office, looked not only lovely but elegantly-turned out as well when she married Dave Flatley at St. Leonards, give quite a bit of credit to her mother.

Mrs. Pavey made the dress Annette is wearing in our picture. It is Broderie Anglaise, with Edwardian sleeves.

Dave is a trainee structural engineer, and Annette's outside interests include arts, crafts, photography, riding, flying sports of all kinds - and cooking Chinese food.

SATURDAY NIGHT IS COFFEE NIGHT

ACCORDING to 19-year-old Bill Slatter, of Basildon import department, "Saturday Night is Coffee Bar Night". And he's not talking about any old coffee bar.

A real concern for young kids hanging about the centre of Basildon on a Saturday night, coupled with a desire to tell young people that the influence of Jesus Christ is not confined to the limits of a Sunday church service, led Bill and a few young friends to start a coffee bar in the town centre.

The coffee bar has no great attractions other than that it is a place to go, a place to talk and to meet people of your own age.

Usually it is pretty full, and though many hundreds have visited it since it opened five months ago, there has never been even the hint of violence.

The coffee bar is now an established part of Basildon life.



Terry and Sandra

Loraine Deakin

The same day as Annette married at St. Leonards, personnel typist Loraine Deakin was walking up the aisle of St. Joseph Church, Bugle Street, Southampton, on the arm of her bridegroom, 20-year-old Stephen Evers.

Loraine, listing swimming and dressmaking as her outside interests, wore a white Empire line dress.

Third Head Office wedding was that of courier Terry Williams, who was married at Swaythling Baptist Church, Southampton, to social welfare worker Sandra Stacey.

Terry is actively involved in evangelism and youth work, and in television and radio religious programmes.

There were those two container ships

UNDER the heading "There were these two Container Ships", we asked the following question in the last issue of 'Contacts'.

Two container ships leave Liverpool and Cape Town alternately every 12 and 18 days respectively.

If they leave Liverpool together on a certain day, after how many days will they next leave (a) Liverpool, and (b) Capetown together.

We promised £2 for the first correct entry opened. This came from Mr. A.G. Murray, Southampton Head Office. Well done, Mr. Murray.

Oh. Yes - the answers were:- (a) 72 days, (b) Never.

COMPUTER - THE HUMAN SIDE

WHENEVER laymen get together and discuss computers, two opinions are most frequently heard. Firstly, that the computer is a complicated 'electronic brain' capable of extraordinary feats which only the most brilliant expert could understand; and, secondly, that it is a Frankenstein monster quite incapable of functioning properly.

Neither is really anywhere near the truth. The fact is that it is a totally unintelligent animal, quite incapable of original thought, but once having been instructed to react to a given situation, it should never deviate from its pre-determined path.

Let's face it, a computer, like any other complex piece of machinery, requires human beings to operate it. Just as it cannot act on its own initiative, it cannot act at all without outside help.

In order to understand more fully the function of the computer department at ACTS head office in Southampton, one must look briefly at the various parts of the computer system itself.

Since 1968, the company's computer processing has been carried out on Honeywell machines, the latest of which is a model 2060. Within the UK, the central computer is supported by a communications network enabling export documentary details to be transmitted direct to Head Office from the regions via GPO telephone lines. Bills of Lading and Freight invoices for the BLC export trade can also be processed centrally at Southampton, and then printed remotely at the appropriate regional office.

A NEW LINK

A similar network allows the direct transmission of consignment information and output documents between Head Office and Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg.

Communication with other zones is currently by more conventional methods. Systems equivalent to that in the UK also exist in Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. Export consignment details from each zone are prepared by that zone, either in coded form on computer media, or on 'hard copy' documents, and forwarded to the appropriate input zone by air freight.

Later this year, however, a communication link will be opened between the UK, Singapore and West Malaysia. When this link is in operation, information which currently takes some three days in transit will arrive ready for com-



Computer Manager Yvonne Still with some of the control staff and punch room girls

puter processing within half an hour.

At Richmond House, 47 people are directly involved in the computer department, directly responsible to Del Jenkins, Head of Management Services, and his Deputy, Ian Tomlinson.

The computer work may be separated into five functions. Most people at ACTS will be familiar with the systems team headed by John Pitcairn. Their job is to determine, in conjunction with user departments, which company activities can profitably be processed by computer; for determining the commercial requirements of such systems; and for up-dating systems as required.

CINDY PLUS TEN

Some of the other jobs of our computer staff will be less familiar. As has been said, a computer must be 'programmed' if it is to recognise a particular situation and act accordingly. The Chief Programmer, Cindy Morelli, and her ten staff are responsible for ensuring that this complicated task is carried out as quickly as is consistent with efficiency and

accuracy.

In very simple terms, programming means translating a plain English statement of commercial requirement into a coded form capable of being understood by the computer.

Approximately 300 different programmes are currently processed by computer and it is a complicated and time-consuming business to ensure that any amendments are accurately reflected throughout the entire system.

The remaining functions of the computer department all come under Operations Manager Yvonne Still. Many details like container movements, bay plans and supplementary invoices are hand-written and posted to Head Office, and these have to be translated on to computer input media by a small team of girls under Janet Farren. The punch-girls enter only what they read in documents supplied by the user department, and if this information is incorrect, the input to the system will also be incorrect.

Yvonne Still, her chief operator John Daniels and the rest of the operating staff in addition to the main requirements for operating the computer have a host of other responsibilities, too - re-scheduling processing if delays occur; investigating computer malfunctions; the monitoring and control of information and documentation passed between regional offices and the central computer; processing individual systems according to current instructions, etc.

Finally, there is a control section, under John Collins, responsible for accepting input information to any of the computer systems; ensuring that handwritten input is translated into computer media in time to meet pre-determined schedules; submitting processing requirements and instructions for each system to the operations staff; trimming and decollating output stationery; and ensuring that output reports and documentation are issued to the appropriate user departments.

The computer is operational 16 hours a day, five days a week.

The operations staff work in two shifts to cover the 16-hour computer day, whilst control staff work a 3-shift, 24-hour day to cope with essential documentation.

All of which seems to prove that computer systems are as dependent for their success on people as on actual computer power.



Some of the computer operators and tape librarians

HOW TO BE HAPPY AND SAVE MONEY IN A CARAVAN

by Harry Scammel (Head Messenger, Richmond House)

AS MORE and more families in Britain, facing the hard economic facts of life, turn to self-catering caravan holidays, we are delighted to publish this caravanning 'Do's and Dont's' article by Harry Scammel.

A caravan holiday (writes Harry) is either one that can be enjoyed by all the family — or a catastrophe that mother, father, the kids, the cat, the dog — and even the budgerigar — would rather forget. ensure smooth-running is to plan thoroughly in advance. As one who has been caravanning for years, I offer a few words of helpful advice — the result of much catastrophic (and much happy) experience.

Firstly, increase your car insurance to cover caravan and contents, and tell your insurance company you intend to tow.

TRIAL WEEK-END

Then have a short week-end trial to get used to towing and manoeuvring your 'van. At the same time, check that everything, including gas cooker, fridge, heater, lights, etc. are all working.

Check tyre pressures all round, remembering to put extra pressure in rear tyres on the towing vehicle. (Incidentally, spring assisters and/or stabilisers are a terrific help, especially for a newcomer. You may 'down stays' on an earthy site — and it isn't funny if either front or rear sinks almost irretrievably into the ground!)

Now, what are you to pack into the 'van? Don't forget jars (for tea, sugar, etc.), tins (for bread, biscuits and so on), liquid and powder detergent, steel wool, spare gas mantles, electric and car bulbs, torch, matches, first-aid kit, shoe cleaning kit, clothes brush, coat-hangers, toilet fluid and paper, ash trays,



Harry enjoys a pinta

broom, brushes, duster, a fire extinguisher (most important), spade (shades of being bogged down), gum boots (be prepared), sleeping bags, blankets, eating and cooking utensils, tin opener (second priority to the fire extinguisher!), games for the kids, transistor radio — and, if you MUST, portable TV.

You will, of course, before setting off, have your car checked and serviced, remembering that it will have to work harder on holiday than at any other time of the year.

Make sure you master, in advance, the art of manoeuvring your 'van. I suggest a large area where forward and reverse manoeuvres can be practised until you can, literally, park on a new halfpenny.

CENTRE BALANCE

Packing everything in a 'van is simple when you know how. And the know-how is quickly acquired by remembering that your 'van is balanced in the centre, more or less, on two wheels. Pack too forward and you'll have trouble with the rear axle. Pack too much to the rear — and the car rear will be airborne. Spread your load evenly.

Once on the road, remember you're probably moving slower than the other vehicles, so keep well in. When you overtake, it will take you longer than normal. Remember that, too.

Everything I've said sounds complicated, I know. But once the caravanning bug has bitten you, you're caught for all time. You can throw the clock out of the window, make thousands of new friends on the road and have the time of your life.

ALL YOU NEED IS PATIENCE, TOLERANCE AND COMMONSENSE — AND THINK OF THE MONEY YOU'LL SAVE. . . .

This is why Ivor will eat well

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD Ivor Kitching, an electrician with Vosper Thornycroft Ltd., is destined to eat well and look smart in the years ahead.

In August, Ivor married Marilyn Scarle (pictured here), a Telex operator at Head Office, and in her notes to 'Contacts', Marilyn listed her hobbies as "cooking and needlework".

She also described the dress she wore for her wedding at St. Denys Church, Southampton, as 'chiffon on top of silk, with a long train and decorated with lace flowers'.



Marilyn

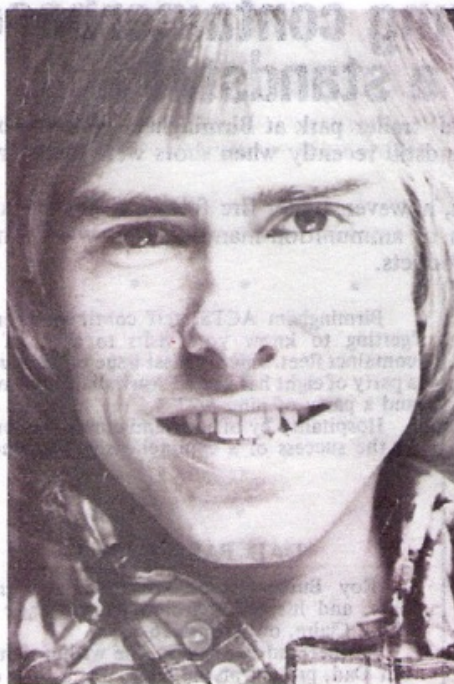


Which Derek is which?

THERE'S a rumour at Head Office that Derek Longmuir, of the Bay City Rollers, has come to work for us.

It's either that or Derek Harley (of D.S.D.) is getting more like the other Derek every day. "Of course, I'm much better looking", says D. Harley, Esq.

There is no truth in the current story that a Head Office fan club is being formed, but the fact remains that Our Very Own Derek was last seen heading up Southampton High Street singing 'Bye Bye Baby' — and handing out autographed pictures. . . .



LOST AT SEA FOR 3 HOURS

and a 50p trip to Bermuda

WHEN he was only ten and living close to the Norfolk Broads, Peter Bainbridge – like many other children in the area – developed a passion for dinghy racing.

In the twenty-four years since then, it has brought him excitement, adventure – and no little success. While at Cambridge, for instance, he sailed for the University for three years, ending as captain, and with a six-man Combined Universities team toured Sweden, the United States and Canada. In a two-year period, the team won all but two of the 30 events in which it competed, against overseas combined universities, local yacht clubs, etc.

Peter's greatest ambition has always been to win a European or world event – but the honour has so far eluded him. He came second in a European event, in Denmark, and third in a world event at Santa Cruz, California.

He and a friend did, however, once win a Bermuda Race Week – at a total cost of just 50p between them – from Britain back to Britain!

"A Bermudian millionaire knew we were keen on sailing, and agreed to pay all the costs for us to compete", says Peter. "It was a fantastic opportunity. Fares paid. Food paid.



Twenty-eight trophies in two years isn't bad going – and here Peter Bainbridge (a little younger than now) collects one of them.



SOTON BRIEFS

Jackie Hayes, an audit clerk in Accounts Payable, honeymooned in Jersey with her husband Paul Springer after their wedding at St. James Church, Shirley, Southampton. He is a traffic clerk with Solent Express.

Lesley Bell, who left the Salaries Department in August, has had a 6lb. 7½oz. baby boy, Harry.

Maggie Safe, an audit clerk in Accounts Payable, recently won a certificate in a 'Welly Boot Throwing' competition.

Janet Knowles, assistant supervisor in Accounts Payable, has left to take a job as financial accounts assistant with Sperrings Ltd.

The lot. Even when we ordered a beer in a hotel or restaurant, we were not allowed to pay once they knew the name of our host. And to crown everything, we came out as winners at the end of the week!"

There's been adventure, too, in the sailing life of Peter Bainbridge. A few years ago, during March, his dinghy capsized in the Solent and he was 'lost at sea' for three hours as his boat, upside down, drifted in the water.

Finally, he was spotted by – of all people – Captain O.M. Watts, one of the best-known

writers on sailing.

"I was not over anxious about my predicament", says Peter, "but at that time of the year, there is quite a bit of danger from exposure".

Peter, now Development Manager for ACTS at the company's Southampton headquarters, joined ACT long before the Britain/Australia service became operational, and believes, in fact, that he was the very first employee.

FOOTNOTE: That 50p spent in Bermuda! It went on a couple of ice-creams!



Carol Burton (see Dad passed out).

'Shots' bring containerbase to a standstill

THE 'High Chapparral' trailer park at Birmingham containerbase was brought to a standstill recently when shots were heard from nearby.

The park was not, however, under fire from a rival company! A neighbouring firm of ammunition manufacturers was burning some of its waste products.

The magic of Bentley YU 3247

from Page 5
have the magnetos reconditioned and on advice, because of expense, I took only one to be overhauled by a firm in Croydon. A very knowledgeable old gentleman greeted me and assured me he was familiar with the type and "they aren't built like that now are they?", and he could do what was required.

Observing his age, I quickly thought that by the time the other magneto needed attention, this type of expertise may no longer be available; so I hurried back for the other one. (My wife and I ate frugally for the next few weeks).

True to his word, after a couple of weeks the old gentleman had the magnetos ready and

I went along to collect them. I watched spell-bound whilst he demonstrated his craft by displaying their spark producing capability.

But to revert to the 1920s when the cars were built, the conditions then cannot be simulated today, but one can get near to it by rising very early and motoring whilst the roads are relatively free of other traffic.

This is what it was like and I did it recently on my way to Silverstone: dawn broke as I left home, but the improving light enabled me to see the countryside at its best: see it come to life between folds of early morning mist and with the roads almost to myself. Imagine what pleasure the motorist of the 1920's and early 30's must have had!

Birmingham ACTS staff continue to enjoy 'getting to know you' visits to ships of the container fleet. Since the last issue of 'Contacts', a party of eight has visited Australian Endeavour and a party of nine ACT 5.

Hospitality by officers and crew contributed to the success of a comprehensive fact-finding tour.

DAD PASSED OUT

Roy Burton, credit controller at Birmingham, and his wife Carol welcomed their first child, Claire, on August 16.

Mother and baby were fine within minutes, but Dad, present at the birth, was a little overcome by the excitement – and passed out!

SPORTSFRONT

Even the scorer could not make bad light stop play for ACTS



ACTA Cricket Team



ACTS Cricket Team

Smartness nets a first win

THE recently formed Southampton ladies' netball team suspect that their ultra-smart turn-out and generally professional air helped them to a clear-cut victory in their first match.

Said a member of the team:

"The fact that we played our Export fellows every week for six weeks may have helped, too. It made us used to dealing with more forceful opponents. The fact that we beat the fellows only once has nothing to do with it!"

THE DAY WAR BROKE OUT (on the cricket field, that is) between Southampton ACTS and ACTA is one that ACTS would probably like to forget.

It became pretty clear when Hooper went in first for ACTA and scored 90 before being caught by Dixon off Brooks, that it was going to be tough for Services.

Thanks to Brooks, who took six wickets for 34 runs, the ACTA total was kept down to 165.

With the first three ACTS batsmen going for ducks, it became even more obvious that bad light, hurricane or snowstorm would be needed to save the Services' day.

Following on 105 behind, an appeal for bad light (found to have been made by the scorer!) was turned down and ACTS finally lost by an innings and 30.

A return match is promised for next year, but meanwhile, anyone for tennis - or football - or golf - or anything?

LEEDS 6-A-SIDE SOCCER TEAM BEATS 'EM ALL

IAN OLIVER (second from left, back row, in the picture below), seems to be giving a 'V' sign in this picture. And no wonder, since our photographer caught the Leeds ACTS six-a-side team on the day it triumphed in a football competition sponsored by International Harvesters (GB) Ltd.



Leeds Team

The teams beaten were two from OCL, two from International Harvesters and one from Andrews Ballantyne.

Since a 5-1 victory in the final gave them a prize of £5, some of the ACTS team are thinking of turning professional!

Left to right: Back row - Ian Keyle, Ian Oliver, Walter Marshall and Phil Hawkswell, of Killick Martin. Front row - Malcolm Hardaker, Keith Gardener and Alan Jackson.

EDITOR'S NOTE: How come seven in a six-a-side football team?

PETER SPARKLES

Basildon table tennis team beat a Tilbury team by seven games to two.

Peter Mann (Tilbury) was in sparkling form, beating those two ace J. Skuse and A. Dawson.

£2 if you spot the ball

The Sports Editor of 'Contacts' has agreed to pay £2 to the reader who comes nearest to giving the exact whereabouts of the ball in this picture taken during a netball match in which the Southampton ACTS girls' team took part.

The Sports Editor's decision is final and barred from the competition are all Southampton players and ANYONE WITH THE NAME OF 'STILL'!

All you have to do to compete for the £2 prize is cut out the picture, mark with a cross exactly where you think the CENTRE of the ball is located - and send your entry to News Editor Jan Chandler, ACTS, Richmond House. Remembering, of course, to write your name and address at the foot of the picture.



NEXT TIME

**HOW I
FELL
FOR
WINSTON**



and

The PRINCE AND THE PRINCESS by

Malcolm Pritchard



plus

WHEN GIRL THROWS BOY

plus

THE TILBURY STORY

plus

SPOTLIGHT ON THE INLAND PORTS

plus

HOW TO MAKE WINE AT HOME

ALL in 'Contacts' next time



THE BRIDE CAME BY ROLLS

A be-ribboned Rolls-Royce took Janet Wigginton to her Basildon wedding on June 14. It was there, too, to whisk her away afterwards with her new husband.

EVERY (Basildon) PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Every picture (so they say) tells a story. . . . Here are a few from Basildon.

Basildon rating clerk Alan Dawson, whose colleagues presented him with a table lighter and bath towel, was a picture of happiness — and understandably — when he left the church with his bride after their wedding on August 30.

Pictured below, left, is eighteen-year-old Sheila Egginton, who has joined credit control from Blue Star. She describes herself as the sporty type.



Sheila Egginton

Mike Gosst, on the right, has re-joined ACTS as assistant cargo superintendent at Basildon. Originally with documentary services at Fenchurch Street, Mike later went to bookings at Basildon, but transferred to ACTA Marketing in June, 1973. He is 32 —



Alan Dawson and his bride



Mike Gosst

Glensie Mealing

married with three sons and includes photography among his hobbies. Some of his pictures have appeared in 'Contacts'.

Finally, Glensie Mealing, on Mike's right, is the new secretary to Basildon Regional Manager Mr. Wilson. Glensie is 23 — and married.

Now Nick Goes A' Ski-ing

AMONG 94 men and women from Britain now working for ACTA in Australia (total staff 422) is Nick Mount, who this time last year was working in the ACT(A) commercial department in London.

He joined ACTA in Sydney as part of his management training. At one time he worked in the Leeds container base, and later at Tilbury.

Though many people think of Australia only in terms of sunshine and gay beaches, Nick's first holiday there was spent ski-ing with ACTA colleagues at Perisher in the Australian Alps.

An active sportsman, Nick played cricket for the Crusaders at Cambridge and Rugby fives against Oxford.

'Contacts' next time will turn a spotlight on three more 'exiles' in Australia.



Nick Mount