

HIGH and MIGHTY!

SWINGING HIGH above the main road to the new Itchen Bridge and the cross-Channel car ferry terminals goes part of a new computer to be used in ACTS headquarters at Richmond House, Southampton.

The computer, needed to handle a vastly-increased trade, was too big to go into the Richmond House lifts, so had to make its way to the computer suite via the roof, the roof itself proving so high that an extension had to be added to the crane. This picture was taken by Programming Project Leader Peter Smith, on a windy and overcast day, with a 55 mm lens on his Pentax camera. Full story on Page 2 and news of an exciting photographic contest on Back Page.



THE SAILOR



and
the

SNOOKER KING

and
the



'HAPPY
FAMILY'

LIVER PERSONS

See pages 6 & 7

don't. A private telephone line was installed between Richmond House and the Centre, and the line was connected to the E.H.C.L. on

The picture of them was taken at and Office on the day before their

LTD 0183 NZ

THE ONLY WAY IN — BY THE ROOF!

The recent introduction into the ACTS computer suite at Richmond House of a large new Burroughs B6700 came as further evidence of the company's expansion.

An increased work load caused by introduction of the EHCL trade made additional computer power both vital and urgent.

In the following article, BRIAN CREIGHTON, Computer Operations Controller at Richmond House, describes not only what the new equipment means to the company, and to those who use it, but also the Great Adventure of getting the Burroughs B6700 into the computer Suite — and even into Richmond House itself.

WHEN ACTS reviewed, in 1975, its future computing needs, it was soon obvious they could not be met by the existing Honeywell system. Introduction of trading by EHCL meant that more computer power would be needed, and at the same time it was decided to shift the emphasis from traditional batch-processing systems to an on-line operation with remote terminals linking the users directly to the central computer. A different technology was needed — and so was more flexible and powerful equipment.

After a lengthy evaluation, it was decided, early in 1976, to approach the problem in stages. A medium-sized Burroughs B2700 computer system was first installed alongside the existing Honeywell equipment, primarily to handle the EHCL trade.

The plan was to replace this, during the second quarter of 1978, by a Burroughs B6700 which would initially handle the EHCL trade, and take over the ACTA/BLC systems from the Honeywell computer by mid-1979.

In fact, the new computer was delivered on April 30 — providing a day that many of us will remember for a long time to come!

FOOTBALL v COMPUTER

Before we could even think about accepting delivery, a great deal of preliminary planning had to be done. We had, for instance . . .

to convert all the systems and programs running on the old computer into the format required by the new.

To re-organise the computer suite itself to provide the extra floor space required;

To check — and then modify — the air conditioning and power supply systems to meet the needs of the new equipment;

To assess floor loadings — and then install extra re-inforcing jacks — to make sure that neither the computer NOR the building collapsed and;

To survey the site and make sure just which would be the best method

Out goes Old Faithful

Not only had part of the new computer to be got into Richmond House via the roof, but three units of the old had to be taken out the same way. This Peter Smith picture shows the exit of one of those units.

of getting the new equipment into the building — and the old out.

All this was done well in advance. One problem — unforeseen by any of us — arose at the eleventh hour. Originally it was planned that the new computer would be delivered on April 29. Local police (understandably) took objection to the chosen day because they felt they would have enough problems dealing with large crowds expected for a crucial Second Division League game between Southampton and Spurs!



The Administration Department at Richmond House, to their credit, were able to resolve the problem with the police — and in the final analysis, it was an academic problem as the computer was eventually delivered a day later!

The surveys had indicated that although most of the equipment would fit into the lifts, eight units would still have to be craned over the roof (three from the outgoing B2700 computer and five from the new B6700).

Ironically, when it came to it, the journey from the roof to the computer suite on the 11th floor proved far more hazardous than the journey from the ground to the roof. The delivery was, however, completed with no major mishaps beyond the demolition of one unexpectedly obstructive light fitting. The total operation had taken about 10 hours. . .

VITAL STATISTICS

There remained, of course, the problem of making the new computer operational. This was scheduled to take 28 days, and an alternative method had to be found to process the EHCL trade during that time. This was done at the Burroughs Computer Centre in London. A private telephone line was installed between Richmond House and the Centre, and this line was connected to the EHCL on-

(Continued on page 8)

Head Office Sue is a May Bride in cream chiffon

Head Office personnel assistant Sue Cresswell wore a dress of cream chiffon, with short cape sleeves, and carried a bouquet of yellow roses when she was married at Dibden Church in May to Graham Godwin (Operations Dept).

Sue and Graham had a number of presents from colleagues, including an electric toaster, salt and pepper mills, casseroles and garden tools.

This picture of them was taken at Head Office on the day before their wedding.



A GIRL WHO PUTS PEOPLE FIRST —

“PEOPLE are nearly always underrated, compared with machines — and, after all, it's people who make the world tick”, says 27-year-old Lynne Lisney, who joined Peter Hughes' personnel team at Head Office in February after three years as personnel assistant with Hampshire County Council.

Lynne is, very obviously, a girl who likes people. She has spent all her working life so far looking after them and trying to sort out their problems. After getting a degree in Economics at University College, Swansea, she had 18 months with Personnel at Marks and Spencer before starting her three-year Council appointment.



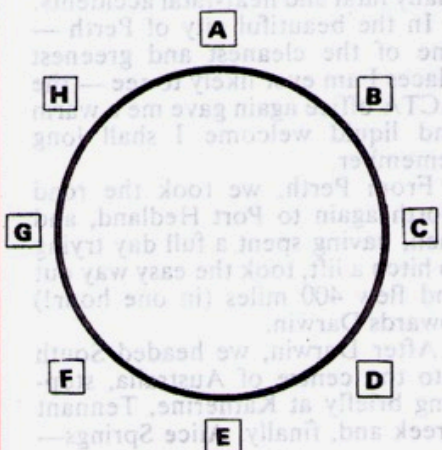
Lynne Lisney — “People are nearly always underrated.”

— sets a party poser to win cash for YOU

WE'RE inclined to agree with Lynne's recipe for success in the art of party-giving (writes the Editor). Particularly about the need to choose the right guest mix. Which gives us an idea for a Prize Competition. Imagine that you and your husband/boy friend (or wife/girl friend!) were giving a dinner party and had the whole world from which to choose six guests, which six would you select to give the right balance — and how would you seat them to get the best conversational result. Remember that among your guests you need sparkle, wit, a bit of glamour, a touch (but no more) of controversy, and at least one person to make sure the conversation never lags. And remember, you can choose any famous people you want!

The small diagram gives you the seating plan; who would be your six guests, and how would you seat them, from A to H, around you and your partner?

Answers, on a postcard please, to PARTY SIX, c/o Lynne Lisney, Personnel Dept, Head Office. Two pounds for the best answer; one pound each for the two runners-up. The Editor's decision is final.



While with the Council, Robert Peter Lisney became Assistant Industrial Relations Officer. Six months after their first meeting, Lynne and Robert were married.

Robert's away-from-the-office activities include football, cricket, squash and producing films (he is on the Southampton Film Theatre Club Committee), and Lynne herself has a wide cross-section of outside interests.

Theatre and reading come high on her list, and she enjoys entertaining.

When asked to name the three most important requisites for a successful dinner party, she said: “Most important is to get the right people together. Nobody expects everybody to agree about everything, but it can be fatal to have people with violently opposing views. Good conversation without violent controversy is the key to success.

“Secondly, choose the right food — and it helps to be able to cook it properly, too!

“Thirdly, the whole atmosphere must be just right — and that includes the right lighting, the right music and the right temperature in the room.

“Given all three, you can't go wrong”.

Babes and birthdays make the Basildon headlines

PROUD BROTHER showing off the new arrival in his family is three-year-old Martin Blackholly, son of Alan Blackholly, Commercial Assistant in Basildon Export Department. The good-looking fellow in his arms is brother David, only three days old when the picture below was taken.



Martin Blackholly, with David.

★ ★ ★ ★
The second week in April was a Very Special Week at Basildon — for those who can remember it! Three members of staff celebrated their 21st birthday . . . credit control clerk Sheila Eggington, punch operator Jill Rogers and courier Wendy Lilly (left to right in our picture at the foot of the page).

Colleagues gave Sheila a pair of ear-rings, Jill a bracelet and Wendy a silver horse and donkey.

Farwell to Terry

Basildon said a sad farwell to Deputy Regional Manager Terry Boston — and presented him with a smart suitcase to see him safely on his way!

In fact, Terry has gone only two floors down in Northgate House — as European Service Manager with Transalpine — and has promised to continue ACTS Karate classes whenever duties allow.

★ ★ ★ ★
All members of the Imports Department who attended a week-end staff training course at the R.A.C. Club in Pall Mall, London, during April, declared it a great success. Main subject of the course was ‘The Imported Meat Trade’.



Sheila, Jill and Wendy, see second story above.

NIGEL IS TRAFFIC MAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Southampton Terminal Controller Nigel Holloway, selected Student of the Year by the local centre of the Institute of Traffic Administration.

Nigel gained highest marks in the country in some of the examinations, and is now an associate member of the Institute. He received his trophy at the annual dinner/dance of Southampton Centre.

Good luck to racing enthusiast Lloyd Rumsey, Assistant Freightliner Controller at the Terminal, who has bought a Hawke DL. II Formula Ford 1600 and will race it, with brother Tony, at local meetings and at Silverstone.

Brian Cardy, Controller at Southampton Terminal, was married during March to clerk/typist Penny Taylor.

The beer can regatta, the city that can't stop drinking —

10,000 FABULOUS IN 35

AFTER visiting Darwin, Northernmost city in Australia, I can readily understand why its inhabitants, on average, have one of the highest alcohol consumption records in the world — 72 gallons per head per year! And why the Society for the Prevention of Alcohol had to be disbanded there in 1966 through lack of support.

I arrived at Darwin in the middle of a 10,000-mile journey on which I had set my heart. For years I had been determined to travel around a continent I had only read about and seen on television. Darwin itself was but one of the stopping places in a carefully-planned, 35-day tour which would enable me to compare the 3 million square miles of Australia with the twenty-seven thousand miles of my native Ireland...

When we eventually reached Darwin, it still showed the relics of cyclone Tracy, which had virtually devastated the city on Christmas Day, 1975. The temperature was 30 degrees centigrade. It was hot, sticky — and the middle of winter. No wonder so many people turned to drink...

Dress regulations in the city said that *minimum* requirements were shorts, T-shirt and 'thongs' (sandals or flip-flops to you).

At least we were there at the right time to see The Beer Can Regatta — a competition between groups

using boats made out of beer cans, of which there seemed to be a never-ending supply.

My own version of Around the Continent in 35 Days had begun when I set off from Sydney by bus on a 25-hour journey to Adelaide, via Broken Hill. For the first time I saw great herds of kangaroo leaping across the countryside in search of water and scrub.

36 hours by bus

Conditions in Adelaide itself I found very similar to England, with the weather cold, windy and bleak. My reception at ACTA's office, however, compensated fully for the climatic conditions!

Two days later, having visited the Barossa Valley and sampled some of Australia's finest wines, I stocked up with a good book and three bags of barley sugar for the 36-hour bus journey to Perth.

On part of the journey — first across flat, arable country and then past rolling wheat fields stretching for mile after mile — our bus

By
LARRY O'REGAN

Documentary Co-ordinator at
Head Office who recently
returned to Britain after 18
months in Australia.

carried mail and supplies for the outlying stock stations on the Nullarbor Plain. At one point my posterior had become so numb I was delighted when the driver asked me to help with loading and unloading.

I was surprised to find that he came from Liverpool and remained a devoted supporter of the football team bearing that name.

Most drivers, he told me, do an eight to twelve hour shift, stopping for a short break every 2½ hours.

Liquid welcome

On one stretch of the Plain the road does not bend for more than 90 miles and drivers falling asleep and hitting kangaroos have caused many fatal and near-fatal accidents.

In the beautiful city of Perth — one of the cleanest and greenest places I am ever likely to see — the ACTA office again gave me a warm and liquid welcome I shall long remember.

From Perth, we took the road North again to Port Hedland, and then, having spent a full day trying to hitch a lift, took the easy way out and flew 400 miles (in one hour!) towards Darwin.

After Darwin, we headed South into the centre of Australia, stopping briefly at Katherine, Tennant Creek and, finally, Alice Springs—



Larry and ACT 7 both make it!

It was a great day for one Irishman — Larry O'Regan — when he arrived in Sydney. It was made even greater when he found the containership ACT 7 arriving on the same day — and was able to get this picture of the vessel and the famous Sydney Harbour bridge.

Bert takes it easy after 46 years

With decanter in one hand and tea-maker in the other, Bert Starling looks as if he's laughing all the way to retirement. At least he should never go short of drinks!

Bert had been Deputy Transport Superintendent at Barking since 1971, and retired recently after 46 years altogether in the transport business.

When 'Contacts' interviewed him a year ago, he said: "My wife says that if she wants to talk to me, she has to do it in the morning because it's the only time I'm awake". Don't worry, Bert, she'll have plenty of time to talk now."



— and the kangaroo killers on 90-mile Nullarbar Road

MILES DAYS

just South of the Tropic of Capricorn.

Alice — the town made internationally famous by novelist Nevil Shute — is like an oasis, with abundant green vegetation. Here we visited the headquarters of the Flying Doctor Service which does such yeoman work offering medical help to outlying stock stations. We visited one such station, covering more than 1,600 square miles, where the temperature dropped from 25 degrees centigrade during the day to MINUS three degrees at night.

On the last stage of our journey — to the coast at Townsville, and then through Rockhampton and Brisbane to Sydney — we made our first stop at Mount Iza, in Queensland, a huge mining centre where copper, lead, zinc, silver and uranium deposits are all found.



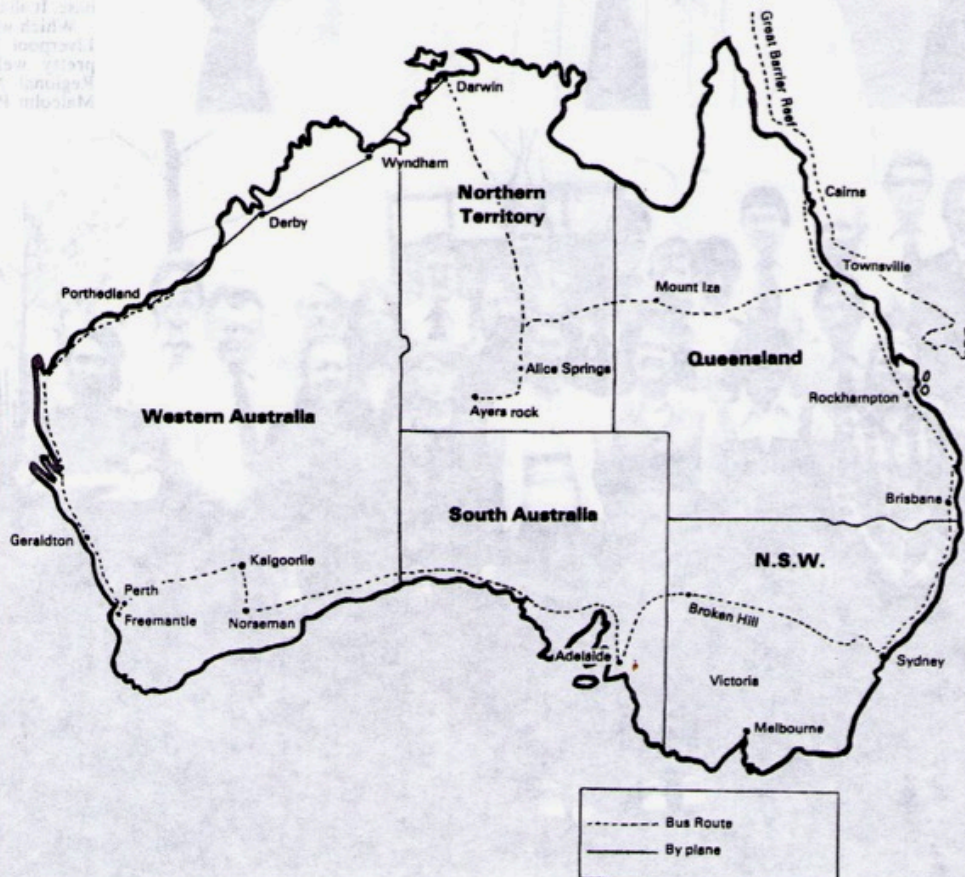
This is the Flying Doctor Service headquarters at Alice Springs, visited by Larry O'Regan on his 10,000-mile tour.

From Mount Iza they are sent by rail to Townsville for export.

Before heading South, we paid a visit to the fabulous Green Island, on the Great Barrier Reef. This is a true coral island, covering 32 acres and with a marine life that is fascinating in its variety and extent.

Living coral, star fish and tropical fish of every description and colour flourish in this underwater paradise.

After three days in this tropical Heaven, I made my way slowly South to Sydney, firm in my conviction that one day I must visit this incredible country again...



Meet Rockin' Chair Jan — and Faye

We were just in time, in the last issue of 'Contacts', to report that Jan Chandler, formerly of Head Office Personnel and a guiding light in the launching of 'Contacts' and its subsequent development, had given birth to a girl.

We are now delighted to publish a first picture of Jan (right), at home in her rocking chair, with daughter Faye.

Jan has asked us to say a big 'Thank You' to all old friends and colleagues not only for the gold watch, camera and other gifts she received when she left ACTS, but also for the 61 congratulatory cards received from friends in all parts of the ACTS 'family' when Faye was born.

Incidentally, Faye was ten days old when our picture was taken.



NO WONDER IT'S CALLED 'HAPPY FAMILY' E

LESTER CARROLL meets the Liver Birds (and boys)



KNIGHT OF THE ROAD Ted Knight, ex-Desert Rat and now a courier with ACTS at Liverpool, ready for one of the journeys on which he covers 400 miles a week 'around town'. Right: The Happy Family Paul, with father Allan in the middle, Steve on the right, and Mike.



Regional manager Ray French — at 36 one of the the ACTS set-up — describes Liverpool as 'a very friendly'. He's right, of course, but he's telling only half the true to call it the 'happy family' base, for there was a turn round and put your hand out without touching son, or close relative worked in the same office. In those days, there was Malcolm Pritchard as se Imports, with son John working close by in Transport. A few yards away sat the Lennon and McCartney section leader in Codings, with John McCartney a Not exactly family — but the next best thing. ('I think it was to form his own group!' says Tony).

And there with. Father of the Liverpool 1969, as a Today he is and has been January when taken ill. Allan's son months, work Brother Steve January, is a right next door

Ask the boss office as Dad, issue, as they really that this "After all," family, and we're not at under each base. It all turn Which work Liverpool has pretty well" Regional Manager Malcolm Pritchard



COMPANY ON PARADE — all available members of Liverpool ACTS turned out for our photographer, with Regional Manager Ray French just left of centre (in dark suit, surrounded by shirt-sleeved colleagues) and Deputy Regional Manager Jim Henry on the extreme left.

THE BASE!



youngest regional bosses in the company. It would be almost as hard for me when you could hardly find anybody whose father, or

or commercial assistant in the team — Tony Lennon as a desk close beside him. I got why John left, but I

until the Paul Family to contend in, one of the 'founder members' of ACTS team, joined in August, port assistant under Ron Parry, deputy Operations Superintendent and acting leader of the section since then, still his immediate boss, was

Michael, aged 20 and married for 18 under his father in Transport. Now, now 23 and married since commercial assistant in Codings,

close-knit Pauls

what it's like working in the same old odds are they will dodge the odds with me. But there's no doubt work out just fine. My Dad, "we're a pretty close-knit team: both the boys are now married, together all the time, getting their feet after a hard day at the job but pretty well." They also sum up pretty accurately the rest of it. Things have "turned out nice Jim Henry (now Deputy Manager), Allan Paul, Peter Hiron, and a few others first set up

THE IMPORT HANDLERS — Senior Commercial Assistant Malcolm Pritchard (left) with his imports team — Damien O'Hagan, Denise Griffiths, Keith Woods, Tony Edwards and (seated) Mike Jones. In addition to his other duties, Malcolm is Our (Contacts) Man at Bootle.

shop almost nine years ago to the day. "In those days, I suppose, we were handling about 120 containers a month for ACTA," says Jim. "Today, with cargo for ACTA, EHCL, Ben Line, Carol and Camel all being handled from here, the average is well over ten times that total."

Glass and pre-fats

Unlike Glasgow, with its vast whisky export record, Liverpool claims no 'specialities', but what it describes as a good all-round trade, with 'quite a lot of glass' from Pilkingtons (who have their own mini, midi and maxi containers); the odd load of pre-fabricated houses for the Camel trade; one old-fashioned steam engine sent to the Far East (an export of which the base is inordinately proud); more LCL cargoes than almost any other



TRANSPORT TRIO Andy Gilliland, Ian Tulloch and Bob Whalley. Right, Peter Hiron (Section Leader, Bookings) with colleague Trevor Hughes.

base ('they represent about 50 per cent of our total exports from here', says Jim); and probably more hazardous cargo than is handled anywhere else by ACTS.

An ACT pioneer

Although still only 36, Ray French, who moved to Liverpool as Regional Manager more than a year ago, is one of the ACT pioneers. He joined the company in Fenchurch Street, from Blue Star, in 1967, as a salesman for the then non-operational ACT container service to Australia. He later became Southern area sales manager, and for four years was deputy to ACTA sales manager Roy Davis.



(Please turn to Page 11)

Tom does all right — at odds of 5 to 1!

'PUT ME AMONG THE GIRLS' might well be the theme song of Tom Oldfield (centre) — the only man among five girls in the Accounts Department at Liverpool. His colleagues (left to right) are Eve Miller, Conny Rooney, Mary Lewis, Joan Robson and Patty Hearne.





Right O, let battle commence. The Roundheads in action

Come on, Chris, pick up tha' musket . . .

Somewhere among the crowd joined in battle above you would probably find 22-year-old Chris Ball, of Leeds Export Bookings, a member of the Roundhead Association. Chris and his fellow Roundheads re-create for charity the battles of the 1641-1645 Civil War.

During the Summer, members of the Association (from all age groups and all walks of life) travel Britain to fight their 'wars without an enemy'; in the Winter, they hold banquets to give liquid thanks to the Lord of Hosts (i.e. Jos. Tetley and Sons!).

Whatever the action, though, charity benefits.

CAROLINE WEDS

Receptionist/typist Caroline Hodgson wore a chiffon dress with medieval sleeves when she married Graham Vine, a service engineer (picture below).

Caroline had a nephew as a page boy, and she and Graham went to Presall, near Blackpool, for their honeymoon.



★ ★
Good luck to Mrs H. Spillane, four years a filing clerk with ACT before retiring in March. Her colleagues gave her a pair of matching ear-rings and a brooch.

★ ★
Since the last issue of 'Contacts', Ann Hampshire (data prep.) and Julie Thompson (ACTA secretary) have celebrated 21st birthdays and Susan Cook has transferred from Export Bookings to Cargo.

★ ★ ★

NEWCOMERS to the Leeds scene . . . Cargo Superintendent HOWARD CUTLER, who served his apprenticeship with P. & O. got his B.Sc. at Liverpool University, is a member of the Chartered Institute of Transport, and lists camping among his hobbies; 19-year-old YVONNE ALEXANDER (Export Booking), whose interests include sewing, reading and sprinting; 25-year-old PATRICK TALBOT (Transport), who got a degree in Business Studies at Liverpool University, and likes football, snooker and drinking; and 24-year-old PHILIP LIDDLE (Transport), who has been married to Pearl for two years and enjoys playing football (not with Pearl, of course).

A few thoughts to bear in mind

In the old days a man who saved money was a miser; nowadays he's a genius

Don't forget that you are a part of all the people who can be fooled some of the time

Courtship is the period during which a girl decides whether or not she can do any better

An optimist sees an opportunity in every calamity; a pessimist sees a calamity in every opportunity

ANDY ADDS A BIT OF HARMONY AT MANCHESTER

THEY say at Manchester ACTS that when 19-year-old Andrew Burr joined them in April as a trainee commercial assistant, he added a bit of harmony to the office.

That's not really surprising since Andrew is an active member of South Manchester and Urmoston Operatic Societies and has appeared in several musicals ('Oklahoma' among them) and a number of pantomimes, including Dick Whittington and Aladdin.

He was recently involved in a highly-successful production of 'My Fair Lady', and says that his chief

A Page of news from the Regions

ambition is eventually to appear at Manchester's famous Palace Theatre.

When not acting (and not working), Andy enjoys playing football with a 'professional' five-a-side team.

NEWCOMERS

Newcomers to the ACTS team at Manchester include: DAVID PICKERSGILL, a Yorkshireman who has joined as an assistant cargo superintendent. He lists reading and driving as two of his pastimes.

ROBIN FOX, a trainee transport assistant, who enjoys listening to classical music and playing table tennis.

DULCIE RAFTERY, who has settled in as a trainee transport assistant (Costings) after being a 'temp' with a local bureau.

★ ★ ★

Jean Carabine, a 20-year-old Newcastle Polytechnic student, is on a six-month industrial placement at Manchester Containerbase.

Jean, who hopes to become a transport manager, enjoys hiking and is interested in amateur geology.



★ ★
Congratulations to Carole Hamilton (pictured here) who was married on April 15 to Mike Normington.

Carole, Communications Supervisor, was given a rousing send-off by her colleagues.

HARRY SETS UP BRUM RECORD

Harry Faulkner, who joined Birmingham ACTS Transport Department in 1974, set up a bit of a record when he retired from the company in May, at the ripe old age of 67. Harry is the first member of Birmingham ACTS ever to retire in harness.

He was allowed to do so only on the strict understanding that he visits his old colleagues regularly!

And to prove how much they think of him, those colleagues gave him a stereo cassette player for his car as a going-away present.



★ ★ ★
Four new faces in Birmingham office are those of (from left to right below) Debbie Fisher (17), accounts clerk, whose hobbies are swimming — she swam for Warwickshire while at school — and squash; Carol Box, also 17, a clerk/typist who enjoys badminton (playing), and football (watching); Theresa Davies, first-ever female member of the Transport Department, who spent part of last year travelling around Europe in a mini-bus; and Bob McHale, another newcomer to the Transport Department, after two years in the R.A.F.



MEET ZOE — AND MUM



Baby's first picture is always a proud occasion for any family — and you can see the look of pride on mother's face here. And baby looks happy to be making the acquaintance of her first photographer.

Mother is Mrs Janice Moore, a clerk/typist at Barking for four years, and the baby is her new daughter Zoe.

WHAT THE NEW

(Continued from page 2)

line communications network. Thus a user in, say, Glasgow could be connected either to a computer in Southampton or one in London — simply by throwing a switch in Richmond House.

ACTS operators, analysts and programmers went to London to process the work and to trouble-shoot any problems. A twice-daily courier service between Southampton and London took care of the transfer of input-output documentation.

An exercise in logistics for which the statement is far simpler than the achievement!

Because the 'vital statistics' of a computer system are largely meaningless to the uninitiated, it would be inappropriate here to list in minute detail the specifications of the new computer configuration. A brief comparison, however, of the major features of the computers used at Richmond House, listed in the table on the opposite page, will give an indication of the relative 'size' of the new system.

Page Nine leads the way to three Pages of Sport

8,000 SEE DAVID PLAY THE JOKER

DAVID MACPHERSON, husband of Margaret Macpherson, secretary to the Glasgow Regional Manager, was just the man to play the Joker when Coatbridge were hosts to the BBC television programme 'It's a Knock-out', at the local Outdoor Centre.



David plays the Joker, watched by BBC man Stuart Hall

David was coach/manager of the Monklands team taking part, in the Scottish heat, against teams from East Kilbride and Clydebank.

A capacity crowd of 8,000 saw the contest end in a tie-breaker which Monklands lost to East Kilbride.

ACTS Soccer record

The annual football encounter between ACTS Glasgow and BLC Edinburgh was evenly matched until half way through the second half when the BLC team tired badly and ACTS went on to score a record 7-2 victory, with goals from McNeil (3), Mills (2) and Laird and Anderson, one each.

Three weeks later, Glasgow ACTS clocked up another victory, beating Thomas Meadows 3-1. This time Banks (2) and Mills (one) were the scorers.



Tom McKenzie (Equipment Inspector), Margaret Macpherson (regional manager's secretary), George Shanks (Commercial Assistant) and Bill Hare (Transflash manager) were finalists at an indoor bowling evening held at the Coatbridge Indoor Bowling Centre.

Not ALL beer and skittles

THE day that a coachload of football and netball enthusiasts went from Basildon to Southampton for a 'friendly' — and ended up beating the old 'enemy' at pub skittles — is one that all concerned will long remember. (writes our Basildon reporter).

It all started with the Basildon girls coming a close second (36-26) in a great game of netball.

We knew, however, that whatever happened to the girls, our football boys from Tilbury would not let us down. After no score at half-time, and one cup of 'D' in the interval, they came back refreshed and raring to go. A quick pass to Ray Stace (mopping up the mud with his derriere at the time) did the trick. He scored the only goal of the match.

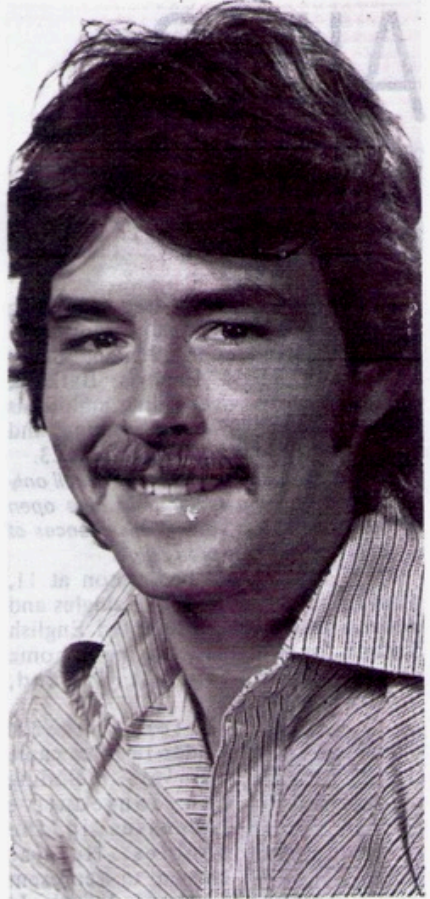
In the evening, refreshing at a local hostelry the parts that other beers can't reach, Basildon took on the home side at skittles — and licked them easily. Final result of the day — a 2-1 victory to Basildon.

REMEMBER —

—It was Damon Runyon who said: 'It may be that the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong — but that's the way to bet!'

— and Lord Palmeston who told us that the best thing for the inside of a man is the outside of a horse.

WILL THE REAL PETE PLEASE STAND UP...



The real Pete Thompson

Wearing sackcloth and ashes and still eating nothing but humble pie, the Editor sincerely apologises to Tom Jenkins, of Southampton Terminal, and Peter Thompson, of Head Office Operations Dept.

In the last issue, we published a Page One picture of five of the Soton team that won the Peter Yarwood Challenge Cup, and mistakenly conveyed that the character on the right was Pete Thompson. In fact, it was team reserve Tom Jenkins. Pete had to leave before the picture was taken!

Within a matter of hours, a letter, signed by Tom Jenkins, was on its way from 204-205 Berths, Western Docks Extension, Southampton, addressed to: "The ex-Editor, 'Contacts'".

It said: "After discussion between Peter, myself and Lord Justice Chamberlain, we have decided not to take the matter further on condition that Peter becomes a Sports Page pin-up in the next issue. (Editor's note: That's him, above).

"You inadvertently improved Mr Thompson's stature considerably as the following poem shows:-

*"Your error in 'Contacts' sure gave us a fright,
I was for suing, using all of my might,
But Peter insisted that you get off light,
Because he has just gained 10 inches in height!"*

Again, our sincere apologies to Pete Jenkins and Tom Thompson, of Richmond House Extensions, and Terminus Berth respectively ...

COMPUTER MEANS TO US ALL

	HONEYWELL	B2700	B6700
Main memory (characters)	256,000	150,000	1.5 mil.
On-line disk storage (characters)	320,000	194,000	1,000 mil.
Magnetic tape units	8	3	7
Communication lines	0	5	14
Printers	2	1	2
Printer speed (lines per min)	650 (1,100)	650	750 (1,800)

As a more practical example, the new system will process an EHCL export manifest some 3 to 4 times quicker than its predecessor.

Finally, the increased capacity and processing power of the new system will mean that ...

Conflicting requirements for computer resources will be more easily reconciled;

On-line systems — both present and projected — will be available on a larger and more regular

and continuous basis than has been previously possible;

Reduced computer processing times will mean a potentially faster throughput for time-critical jobs; and

The greater machine capacity should make easier an expansion of current and future systems.

All of which adds up to a better service to the most important component of any computer system — THE USER.

SPORTSFRONT

STEVE
AIMS
HIGH

As badminton gets an ever-increasing grip on thousands of young sportsmen and sportswomen in Britain, Steve Stranks, of EHCL Imports, Barking, confesses to two over-riding ambitions — to get himself England ranking, and to play for his country before he is 23.

And on his record so far — he is still only 19 and won no fewer than nine open tournaments last year — his chances of achieving both are pretty high.

Steve first played badminton at 11, winning numerous under-15 singles and doubles titles. He represented English Schools for two years, playing in home championships against Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



Steve Stranks

Later, several Under-18 titles came his way, including two consecutive successes in the doubles. He was chosen to represent England Youth in Copenhagen, and to play in junior international matches in Sweden and Denmark. In singles, he was ranked number four in the Under-18s list.

Last year — his first out of junior tournaments — he won nine open titles and played badminton in international tournaments in France, Holland and Germany.

"It is very hard to fit in training and practice with a full-time job", says Steve, "so most early mornings and evenings are fully occupied".

"During the season, I practice two or three times a week, in addition to playing actual matches, and go for a run at least twice a week.

All of which should help him to achieve the ambitions he has set himself.

David stands in for absent 'ref'

Because the official referee was absent, Mr David Kirk did the honours when Manchester met Liverpool in a football challenge match on May 19.

Manchester got off to a flying start (two goals up in 15 minutes!), but after the interval Liverpool pulled the game round in their favour, running off eventual winners by five goals to two. Goal scorers were H. Bernard, R. Gradwell, Mike (Godfather) Paul, and Les Isaac (2).

1978 BATTLE
IS ON FOR
THE P.Y. CUP

By The Sports Editor

BIRMINGHAM, Glasgow, Liverpool, Head Office, Tilbury and Basildon, are all through to the second round of the 1978 Peter Yarwood Challenge Cup competition.

The first four teams did it the hard way — by beating redoubtable opponents in near-mortal combat. Of the remaining two, Tilbury had the good fortune to draw a first round bye (when everybody was looking, let it be said) and Basildon skipped brilliantly through because Southampton Terminal had reluctantly to withdraw.

Second round battles — which may well have been fought by the time this issue of 'Contacts' goes to Press — will be between:-

**LIVERPOOL v BASILDON
HEAD OFFICE v TILBURY
GLASGOW v BIRMINGHAM**



The smiles of Soton's Chris Summerfield and Barking's Angie Power show the spirit in which their first round battle was fought.

Full results of these matches (involving all three of last year's finalists), will be given in the next issue of 'Contacts', and it is hoped that the Battle Royal between the three teams then left in the contest will take place towards the end of October or very early in November.

This is the second year of the competition, and it has been agreed that prizes will be as before — the Peter Yarwood Challenge Cup and a cheque for £50 to the winners, a cheque for £25 to the runners-up, and a further cheque for £10 to the team finishing third.

From its sports commentators throughout the country, 'Contacts' presents the following summaries of first-round meetings:-

LEEDS 19 v LIVERPOOL 21

After a three-and-a-half hour train journey, the Liverpool team had a typically rain-sodden Leeds welcome. A brief session in the clubhouse, seemed to last most of the afternoon, and then the battle of the Roses began with Liverpool winning 3-2 at darts and 4-1 at table tennis. Leeds later won 4-1 at pool.

The rain persisted, and when the five-a-side game started, the lads on both sides were under the mistaken impression that the girls would later be in the showers with them. Whether this had any effect on their play is open to question, but the fact remains that Liverpool won by three goals to nil, thus ensuring overall victory. (To save further mud-drenching and to ensure a quicker return to the club, they conceded the tug-of-war to Leeds).

GLASGOW 22 v MANCHESTER 18

The GLASGOW version of this encounter says:- When you consider which country represented the U.K. in Argentina, Manchester really hadn't a chance of winning on the football field! Glasgow triumphed quite easily by two



NOT a winning team relaxing after their labours, but the Barking team that lost 23/15 to Head Office in the 1978 Peter Yarwood Cup competition.

goals to nil. Manchester played extremely well at table tennis, both teams were evenly matched at darts — and in the tug-of-war, Glasgow proved a little too much for their opponents.

MANCHESTER reports:- With Manchester playing to five-a-side rules and Glasgow to soccer rules, it was a foregone conclusion that the opposition would win this event.

The nail-biting drama of the day occurred in the darts tournament. At two-all in the last set, both contestants were throwing for a winning double.

The vital 'arrow' was thrown by Glasgow, giving them a 6-4 lead.

A disappointing day for Manchester, but all thanks to our Scottish hosts for their great hospitality.

SEAFORTH 15 v BIRMINGHAM 25

After a shaky start (hammered 3-0 in five-a-side, despite Dave Clark's valiant efforts in goal), Birmingham pulled themselves together in the tug-of-war (sorry!). John Hodgson and Roy Burton both won all their table tennis, darts and pools games without dropping a point, Birmingham running out eventual winners by 25 points to 15.

HEAD OFFICE 23 v BARKING 15

Nerves started to show early in the

encounter, with the Cup holders having the edge except in pool and the tug-of-war.

The five-a-side was played in an aggressive vein, but Head Office (onbeaten so far) were always well on top. Barking's superior strength showed in the tug-of-war — a calamity for the Soton five.

ANYONE FOR NETBALL?

Basildon sent a report and Barking a poem about their recent Ladies' netball challenge match. As space is short, we cannot publish either (writes the Sports Editor), and in any case, we believe the ladies would prefer to see the picture below of the teams in action. Result — Basildon 28, Barking 17. The Barking poem, incidentally, ended: 'Come on, Basildon, don't delay. We want a return match, so name the day.'



IT'S THE 'HAPPY FAMILY' BASE

(Continued from page 7)

For 15 years, Ray has had one abiding passion — off-shore yachting in a 21-ft Bermudan rigged sloop which he keeps at West Mersea, near Colchester. It's a fair journey from his current base in the North-West, but he goes down as often as possible to indulge his hobby.

It's not easy to get Ray to talk about his prowess as a yachtsman, just as it's almost impossible to get Jim Henry to admit that he's quite a dab hand at snooker. Married, with three children — Andrew (18), Paul (14) and Gillian (12) — Jim will pretend at first that he doesn't know what you mean by snooker.

Once the Champ

In time, if you push hard and stick at it, you will probably get his reluctant agreement that he was once West Cheshire champion. "But," he hastens to add, "that was quite a few years ago."

Push on and you may even discover that he still plays, with a team of six, in the Ormskirk League.

The team were runners-up last year — and Jim himself got the best break in the whole season.

Which can't be bad for a man who says he doesn't compete as much nowadays (only in five championships) because 'the will to win goes as you get older'.

Private brewery

Two of the other stalwarts from early Liverpool ACTS days — Malcolm Pritchard and Peter Hirons — have their off-beat hobbies, too. Malcolm, who had to do a daily round-trip of 90 miles to and from Manchester when he first joined, could almost be said to be running his own private brewery!

"I brew about five gallons of beer at a time," he says, "and find that, on average, it lasts me about 10 days."

When you point out that this rate of brewing adds up to about 185 gallons a year, Malcolm just smiles and says: "Yes, it must be at least that — and remember mine is much stronger than pub beer — at least four or five per cent proof!"

He has just turned his hand to wine-making. Obviously you must have a change from drinking 185 gallons of beer a year....

Apart from an occasional 'flutter' on the horses and the more energetic pastime of table tennis, Peter Hirons, section leader, Bookings, has caught the collecting bug. Twelve years ago, he began collecting cigarette packets and now has no fewer than 700 of them. Match boxes — 500 of them already — and beer mats are now also on the collection list....

Peter joined ACTS in June, 1969, as a commercial assistant in Exports. He and his wife Alice — they have two children, Deborah Anne (6) and Christopher Thomas (three) — met when she was an accounts clerk and he an imports clerk with Bootle shipping and forwarding agents Arbuckle, Smith and Co. They married eight years ago.

Knight of the Road

One of the real characters around the Liverpool office is Ted Knight, affectionately known as 'Knight of the Road'.

A tank driver with the Eighth Army in the Western Desert and during the Invasion of Sicily in World War II, Ted joined ACTS seven years ago as a courier — and reckons that, on average, he does around 400 miles a week 'on the road'.

It comes as no surprise to learn that when he was invited to join a concert party in the Desert, he was the comic!

Codings section leader Tony Lennon is rightly proud of the fact that his section produces two of the team competing in the Peter Yarwood Challenge Cup competition — Martin Neary and Bill Bernard.

Tony, eight years with the company, is married to Margaret, a midwife, and lists his main outside interests as "drinking and Everton Football Club".



The Liverpool Export Coding Section — (left to right) Martyn Neary, Bill Bernard, Tony Lennon, Steve Paul and Tony Medicott.

Don't forget to take your camera on holiday

FILMS
WORTH
£20 TO
BE WON

When we congratulated Peter Smith on his pictures of the new computer being 'transported' into Richmond House (see Pages 1 and 2), he said:— "Thanks — but there are scores of camera 'hams' in ACTS who could have done just as well if they'd been in the right place, at the right time AND WITH THEIR OWN CAMERAS" (writes the Editor).

We believe Peter is right. Having seen some of the wedding, holiday, and other pictures that get passed around the office, we're inclined to think the company is full of budding Tony Armstrong Joneses!

So for FUN, and to encourage all ACTS camera clickers, we're offering a total of £20 worth of films for the BEST HOLIDAY PICTURES taken between now and September 16 by any member of ACTS staff.

Make sure you have your camera with you on holiday — and that there's a film in it when the right moment comes. Send your chosen pictures (two per person is the maximum), with your name and office location clearly printed on the back, to:—

HOLIDAY PICTURES, c/o Mrs Lynne Lisney, Personnel Dept, Head Office, at Southampton . . . to reach her NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPT. 21.

The pictures — and they can be of PEOPLE (the kids, the family, the girl friend, the comical bloke you met at your hotel etc.), PLACES or THINGS seen on holiday — will be judged by PETER SMITH, the Picture Editor of Greater London and Essex Newspapers (who print 'Contacts' for us) — and the editor. Our decision is final.

FIVE POUNDS WORTH OF FILM will go for the best colour picture.

FIVE POUNDS WORTH OF FILM for the best black-and-white picture.

FIVE POUNDS WORTH OF FILM for the best colour transparency and an **EXTRA** five pounds worth of film for the best HUMOROUS PICTURE.

Remember to state with your entry in which class it is submitted. Get clicking. And good luck.

PLEASE TO TAKE YOUR CAR TO OUR GARAGE

Most of us, at some time or another, complain either about the garage from which we bought our car, or the one to which we send it to be serviced. In one far corner of the world, however, there is a garage which really *does* have the customer's best interests at heart.

From Graham Wilson, formerly Regional Manager at Basildon and now at the Sharjah Containerbase, came this copy of a letter he received from the Sharjah Superstar Garage, Automobile Repairers. Nothing has been changed — not even to protect the identity of the innocent!

DEAR SIRS,

As you may be please aware, during the last 4/5 years, the city of Sharjah has progressed immensely and to keep pace with the JET AGE we now have almost all makes of cars in the world and the number of cars have been increased to say about 10 folds.

كراج النجم المتالع

SUPERSTAR GARAGE

AUTOMOBILE REPAIRERS

هاتف: ٢٤١٣
٥٤٢٢

As it is quite natural after the useage for sometimes the mechanical parts of the car start giving troubles and the rubber parts worn out. To set this right we should have some good garage, which we were lacking and to solve this problem we have now opened a garage fully equipped with every skilled mechanics. We understand all kinds of mechanical, electrical, body and painting works.

With our good services now we have a large number of customers, who will vouch for our services.

THAT IS WE!

We do all kinds of mechanical, electrical and painting works but we are specialised in Accident Jobs. You can give us a scrap of a car for repairs and you will be surprised when you will take delivery of the *same* car in a showroom condition that too for the lowest possible repair charges. **THAT IS WE.**

We serve you for the better of you . . .

Graham does not say whether he has tried the Superstar Garage service yet!

A town just like Alice

— which is not really surprising since this picture was taken at Alice Springs, in the heart of Australia, by Head Office documentary co-ordinator Larry O'Regan during a 10,000-mile tour of the continent. Larry tells the full story of his trip on Pages Four and Five.

