

THE HISTORY OF WOOD LANE

by

A. E. MORRISON and G. F. HOLDER



"Research and Development"
One panel of the five comprising the
engraved window of the McFadzean Laboratory,
by the late John Farleigh, C.B.E., R.E.

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PREFACE

JUNE 1984 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Official Opening of the Wood Lane Research Laboratories by the Lord Rutherford of Nelson. The Opening was also marked by the presentation of an illustrated booklet describing the laboratories and a memento tape measure in the form of a Callender's Cable Drum. In view of the importance of the occasion of the Golden Jubilee, the Management of Wood Lane agreed that it would be appropriate to publish a book covering the developments and achievements of the Laboratories in the intervening years.

The History of Wood Lane was originally proposed and compiled over twenty years ago by G. F. Holder and A. E. Morrison, both members of the Rubber and Plastics Department, as it was known at that time. Born out of curiosity aroused by the tales of older employees, the "History" soon became a major pre-occupation of the authors and eventually sufficient information had been collected to form the basis of a series of articles for publication in the house journal of the laboratories, "The Bush Telegraph". Since that time, the authors have twice up-dated the History and reprinted it in the house journal for the benefit of new employees. Subsequently, many further changes have occurred, even the address! Strictly speaking, the title of the book should be changed to read "The History of Ariel Way", but throughout the BICC Group we are still known as "Wood Lane" - and this probably will always be the same. Therefore the original title remains.

From the outset, the project received official sanction and permission was given to delve into the company archives in pursuit of information, enthusiastic assistance being generously given by many of those who remembered "the good old days" as well as those whose memories were orientated towards the major research developments in cable design for higher voltage applications.

It is the hope of the authors that this book faithfully reflects the achievements over the past fifty years and fully justifies the faith placed in Research, at first by Callender's and later by the BICC Group of Companies.

The authors wish to thank Dr. G. F. Moore for his agreement to mark the Golden Jubilee in this manner and to thank the Directors of BICC Research and Engineering Limited for permission to publish this book.

G.F.HOLDER

A. E. MORRISON

Wood Lane, April 1984.