

BUSH TELEGRAPH



JULY-AUGUST 1984

BUSH

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TELEGRAPH

the magazine of

R&EL

wood lane



Cover

"May Fly"
by
Roger Millward

Editorial Board

Peter Walters
Ted Morrison
Geoff Holder
Mike Denton
Dave Green



Editorial

The Editorial in the last BT managed to provoke responses from a number of readers.

Without exception they were slightly indignant at the implication that BT Editorials are seldom read. Furthermore, in general they were in favour of an editorial appearing, though not necessarily in every edition, which should be signed by the writer. If the whole editorial board agreed with the editorial then that should be stated. Finally, our correspondents agreed that editorials should state opinions, inform, criticize or comment.

Mike Denton took this response as a cue and proceeded to write an editorial which will not appear for a number of reasons. Firstly, the board was not unanimous that it should appear. Secondly, since the editorial was directly concerned with management and the future of Wood Lane, it was a little outside the "accepted" terms of reference of the BT. (Rather like the British Constitution, however, the terms of reference of the BT are largely unwritten.... another editorial board might well have decided to publish the editorial). A cynic might say that we wanted to avoid jeopardizing the future of the BT. In part this was the case, though its survival is already uncertain for other reasons.

Mike Denton and Dave Green have resigned from the editorial board with immediate effect. Mike, because of non-appearance of his editorial and since he is leaving the company. Dave, because after a number of years on the board, feels it is time to make way for someone else.

THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CANNOT ENSURE THE APPEARANCE OF ANY MORE THAN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BT WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.

continued.

With only a small number of people producing the BT, "pressure of work" (to use a somewhat overworked monthly report-type phrase), and any number of other interruptions can seriously affect the frequency of its appearance, the quality and topicality of its contents. This issue is no exception, collection of material for it started two months ago, some of which (Personnel News for example) is already dated. This is a situation with which the present Editorial Board is not satisfied.

When the BT was re-constituted several years ago it was agreed to publish monthly, and to this end deadlines were set and kept to for some time. However, as the BT has once again become part of the "fabric" of Wood Lane, these deadlines have come to be ignored for the most part. In part, this is because of the limited amount of time available to the members of the Board to chase up contributors. The major cause is, however, that, with one or two notable exceptions, contributions have to be actively sought - rather than are offered to the BT. The latter has increasingly been the case with "official" company contributions.

We recognise that it will not be easy to improve the situation, but improve it must if the BT is to survive.

With regard to the Editorial Board, we would like at least three new members to take over the essential running of the magazine, and to give it the new lease of life that all publications require from time to time. The three (temporarily) remaining members of the Editorial Board and former members will give any guidance and help newcomers might want in the initial stages. It will take a good deal less effort to keep the BT going than to restart it should publication cease.

Peter Walters.

PERSONNEL NEWS

STARTERS : Welcome to:-

Mr. S.K. Robertson	who joins	Polymer Materials
Mr. O. Othem	"	CACM
Miss J. Savage	"	Administration
Mr. A. Gouveris	"	Optical Transmission
Mr. A. Stringer	"	CACM
Mr. N.A.M. Hill	"	Optical Transmission
Miss E.F. Gillingham	"	Plant & Process Eng.

Leavers : Farewell and best wishes go to the following who have taken up alternative employment:-

Mrs. M.J. MacMillian	of	Patents & Licensing (3 3/4 years service)
Mr. L.S. Cohen	of	Works Services (6 years service)
Mr. H. Persaud	of	Plant & Process Eng. (10 3/4 years service)

Retirements

Our best wishes for a long and happy retirement go to Harry Charman of Accounts who retired at the end of April after 50 years service.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to:

Elizabeth Ness who has married David Shead

and to:

Derek and Sue Glockner, who were married recently.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sir,

Having received the May issue of the Bush Telegraph I feel obliged to take a break from settling in and write a few lines to my friends at BREL and other BICC Group Companies.

I wish to thank all those who contributed to the present of an electric bandsaw, with the extra cash I have purchased an electric lawn edger and various hoes in order to tame a sadly neglected garden. I have had time to take stock of the garden and find we have about 100 rose bushes, a bed of about 20 in front of the bungalow another 20 on the terrace below the conservatory, 45 at the side of the patio and the remainder among the rockery plants and ramblers that divide the lawn, orchard and vegetable plot from the terrace.

We are well equipped for fruit, having 3 apple, 2 plum and a pear tree also blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes. The black hamburg vine in our daughters' greenhouse (to be transferred in December) has a single bunch of grapes and I have chosen a place for a greenhouse to contain it. The vegetable garden hasn't been dug for two years, but I have managed to dig about one third before our first heavy rain for six weeks arrived yesterday.

Every time we go shopping we keep meeting relatives and old school friends most of whom I recognise and can even put a name to. A typical event was when I had a filling in a tooth come loose and went to the dentist, two women in the waiting room both said "Your Wilfred Walker", one was in my class in 1930 and the other was in my old Sunday School class. Nearly all of them had heard we were coming back to the Village. We look forward to joining in the community activities when we have fully settled in.

We will try and drop you a line from time to time from the backwoods North of Watford.

Once again our thanks to you all and all our best wishes for the future.

Gladys and Wilf Walker

Dear Friends and Colleagues
of BR&EL

During my years of service I have attended many staff presentations and all too often afterwards has the recipient said "oh I should have said this or that and I forgot to thank so-and-so "etc". Now, after last Fridays memorable presentation that marked the occasion of my retirement; I know just how those who have gone before me felt. I was truly overwhelmed by the staff members present and for your very generous gifts. I can honestly say that some of the things I wanted to say just were'nt there at the time - but I am sure you will all understand.

My first week of retirement is really just like being on holiday - it really has'nt yet sunk-in that after 50 years of working at Wood Lane I will no longer be doing so. However one must look ahead and to that extent I am looking forward to using the Box Easel, brushes and paints and pic-nic case you so kindly presented me with. The balance of your contribution has been put aside and will go towards my new Greenhouse.

Thank you all for helping to make my working life among you so pleasant, I look forward to seeing you all again sometime soon.

Yours gratefully and very sincerely.

Harry Charman

THANKYOU

May I thank everyone at Wood Lane for all their good wishes to myself and David on our Wedding and also for the lovely food processor. I'm sure it will succeed in stirring things up a little! Thank you all.

Elizabeth & Dave

Sue and I would like to thank all of our friends at Wood Lane for our wedding present and good wishes.

Derek Glockner

RETIREMENT

HARRY CHARMAN



Harry Charman of Accounts retired at the end of April after 50 years with the company .

Harry's retirement presentation was attended by a very large number of staff and friends , including Ann & Vic Denholm who called into Wood Lane during their visit to the UK from New Zealand . Dr. Moore made the presentation to Harry and during his speech he recalled highlights from Harry's long association with Wood Lane . These highlights included the saga of the unavailable photograph , which occurred while Harry was 'travelling' by courtesy of H.M. forces in North Africa , Sicily and Italy during the last war . Dr. Moore read out extracts from a number of letters from the company to Harry's family requesting a photograph of him . None was forthcoming nor was an explanation until the war ended ; the explanation was that Harry was involved in intelligence work . In his reply Harry thanked everyone for his retirement gifts and went on to express how happy he had been at Wood Lane and paid tribute to all of his colleagues over the years .

A TOUCH ON THE SHOULDER,

or Through a Glass Darkly

Every now and again I get a creepy feeling that everything has happened before. Apart from St. Paul complaining about high attenuation, there was the time in 1977 when Church House Westminster was the venue for a conference on optical fibres, high radiance light sources, etc, and I looked up at the ceiling to find a curious benediction on Plessey inscribed around it:

"Holy is the true light and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heart of the conflict".

The latest draft from the CCITT in Geneva contains a reference to a Roman fibre. At first I thought this was just another misprint, and they meant Raman, but after looking at The Times of 24th May I wondered whether it might not be an upsurge from the depths of the subconscious minds of the secretariat. An archaeological science report on the X-ray analysis of early glasses read as follows:

"Examination of some 230 samples from the first to eleventh centuries AD, mainly from sites in southern Britain, showed that the Roman glasses had lower concentrations of titanium and iron than those of the Dark Age and Anglo-Saxon periods."

Suddenly the truth dawned. The historians had misunderstood. What had made the Dark Ages dark was all that titanium and iron, and the Renaissance was only really started by Corning in 1970.

Not that other attempts had not been made. Memory stirred, and I recalled something which I had mentioned to Corning several years ago. During a visit to Virginia I had visited the reconstruction of a glassworks set up by the early settlers in Jamestown. The descriptive leaflet said that archaeologists had made a search for the remains of products made in the glassworks, and concluded that it had been unsuccessful because all they found were a few glass fibres!

Slender evidence for supposing that advanced technologies existed in the remote past? Well how about this, also in The Times of 24th May:

"In the dense, remote Peten jungle of northern Guatemala, archaeologists have uncovered a remarkable find - a painted Mayan tomb more than 1,500 years old, untouched by looters and in nearly perfect condition.

The first painted tomb to be found intact in the Mayan lowlands since the early 1960s, it is considered by Mayan scholars to be an important discovery. Among its contents - including elaborate and mysterious wall paintings, pottery and a male skeleton wrapped in the remnants of a shroud - is a beautifully crafted jar with hieroglyphics and a screw-top lid that was greeted with amazement by the scientists.

The newly discovered tomb contained no immediately decipherable hieroglyphics, but the scientists hope eventually to determine

the occupant's identity and to find other important clues as to how the Mayas of that period lived.

They will be helped by the male skeleton, so fragile-looking that it seemed almost a drawn outline in the earth in which it lay.

Fragile and drawn just what I would expect of a man who had run out of Nescafe in the middle of the Guatemalan jungle.

Ray Slaughter

FOR SALE

Childs car safety seat with full set of anchor straps.

£15

Ring RTW ext. 332

PEN FRIEND WANTED

Belghiti Abbas, a Moroccan gendarme who lives near Marrakesh, would like to correspond, in French, with a single (i.e. unmarried) British girl.

Contact Elizabeth Ness for details.

GOLDEN JUBILEE LUNCH

22ND JUNE 1984

After all the plans, counter plans, cancelled and rearranged plans and general uncertainty of whether anything at all would happen, the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Wood Lane Laboratories was celebrated at a lunch on 22nd June.

The lunch involved all members of the Wood Lane staff gathering on the 5th floor and eating, after sherry, an impressive selection of food. This included melon, avocado, prawns (starters) ham, beef, salmon, salad etc. etc., all of which was well set out and served by the catering staff. Sweet (pudding or afters, according to your origins) was from a selection of strawberries and cream, cheesecake and gateau. This was followed by a cheeseboard and washed down with just sufficient white or red wine to take edge off the afternoon.

In his after - lunch speech Dr. George Moore used information from Ted Morrison's and Geoff Holder's book "The History of Wood Lane" to outline the origins of the laboratories. He left it to the audience to find a modern interpretation of the name Wormholt, which referred to part of the area near to which the laboratories stand. Its original meaning was, apparently, "nest of snakes". Dr. Moore noted that the opening of the laboratories was an important national event, not just a company one. This was emphasised by the fact that Lord Rutherford performed the official opening. Rutherford made a number of points in his 1934 speech among which was the need to keep in contact with other similar establishments to keep abreast of and become involved in all of the developments likely to be of importance to the industry. Dr. Moore commended this point to the 1984 audience and added that it was vitally important that all scientists and engineers at Wood Lane fully understand the fundamentals of their subjects and to maintain this understanding irrespective of the pressures that might be put upon them. Dr. Moore referred to the early work at Wood Lane on telephone cables that had parallels in current research. The major difference being that the cables for the future involve optical fibres rather than copper conductors. He emphasised the view that the era in which cables was the dominant interest of BICC was coming to an end. Though cables would continue to be an important part of the company's activities, others, such as communications systems, electronics and construction, would become of increasing importance in the future. This change in emphasis, really a broadening of opportunities for the company offered many challenges for everyone at Wood Lane, not least to his successor as Executive Director (whose identity remained undisclosed). It also came during a period in which many

people closely identified with BICC's cable interests had recently or were shortly to retire - David Margolis, John Banks, John Endacott, Derek Edwards, Alex Jeffries and Alex Taylor to name a few.

To mark the Golden Jubilee, all members of staff are to be given on copy of "The History of Wood Lane" by Messrs. Holder and Morrison, and a tie or scarf.

B.T. Note:

The editors urge you to preserve these mementos as best you can - if for no other reason than to make life easier for our successors on the BT who might write the history of the second 50 years of the Wood Lane Laboratories'



Dr. Moore delivering his address at the 50th Anniversary Lunch .

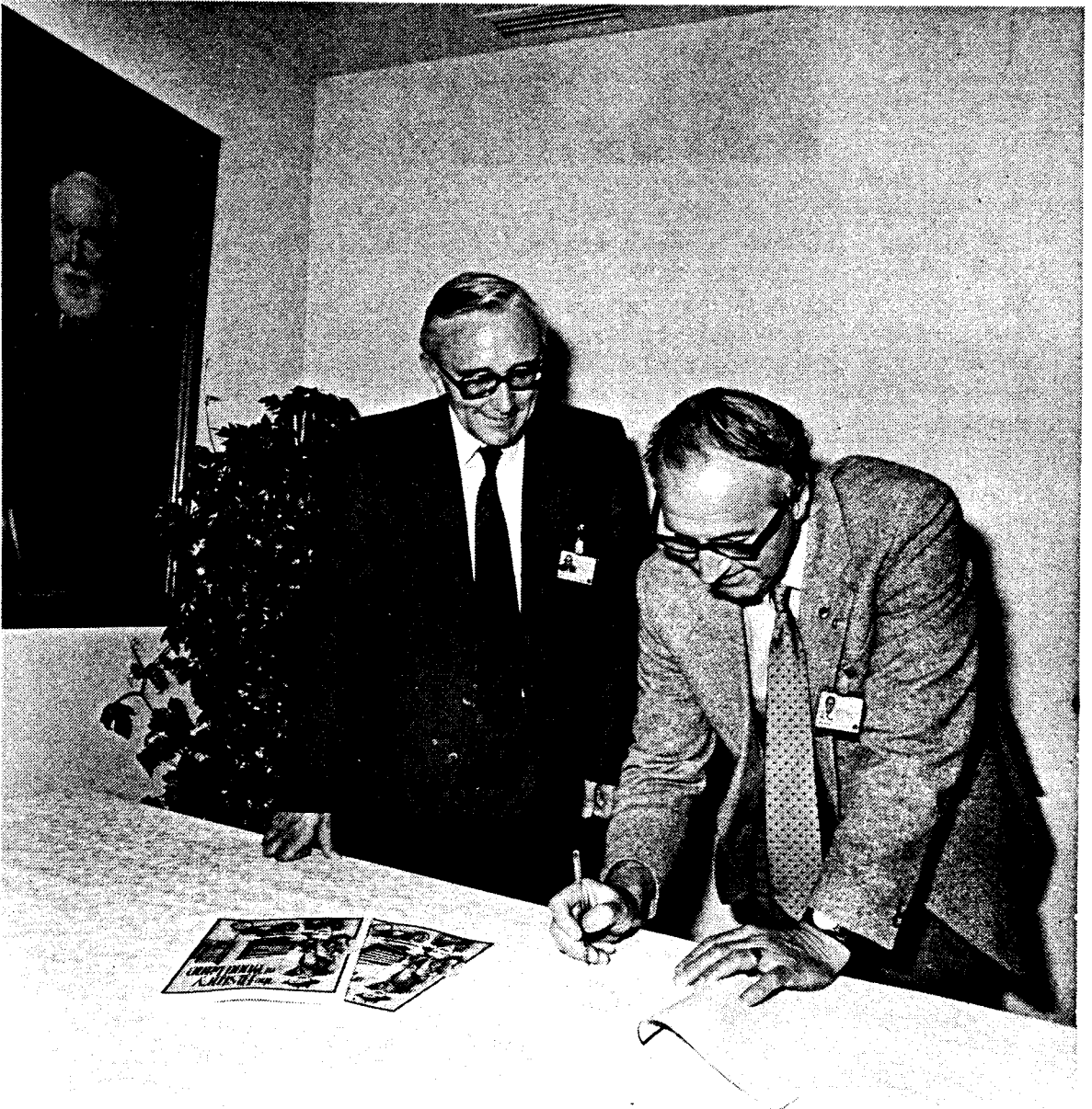
HISTORY OF WOOD LANE

With the "History of Wood Lane" having been published in bound form and copies distributed to all those who receive the BT it will come as no surprise (and no disappointment, we hope) that we are not to continue with the final few chapters of the saga in the BT.

Now writing in the personal 'I' form rather than the editorial 'we', I am sure that Ted Morrison and Geoff Holder are deserving of the congratulations and thanks of all of the BT readers for their efforts in producing such an interesting document.

Peter Walters

The picture below, taken at the 50th Anniversary Lunch shows Ted and Geoff with a copy of their book.



ANN & VIC DENHOLM



The picture , above , shows Ann and Vic during their visit to Wood Lane , which coincided with Harry Charman's retirement presentation . As might be guessed from the picture and from their "Letters from New Zealand" , Ann and Vic are revelling in their retirement "down under" . It was a great pleasure for many of their old friends and former colleagues to meet them again and to discuss times past and present .

HOT AIR BALLOON

PILOT LOG-BOOK

Derry Moore has mislaid his
Wood Lane.

It is manda+
Derry would be
Derry sends his profoundest thanks to the anonymous finder of his
WHERE
not to keep a log-book and
as can be located.
is about size, shape and blue in colour of a
log book . tion book only thinner and with a hard cover.

HISTORY OF THE FILM SOCIETY

Volume 3: 1979-1984

by Tom Ruben

This is a time of anniversaries: not only the fiftieth of the official opening of the Wood Lane laboratories, but also the thirtieth of both the Film Society (in April) and the Bush Telegraph (in June). It is therefore appropriate to bring up to date in the pages of the latter the history of the former. Readers are referred to the pages of the BT of September 1968 to May 1969 for the story of the first fifteen years, and September 1978 to April 1979 for that of the next ten.

We left the story in the spring of 1979. The AGM in March that year saw the retirement of Ted Morrison. Ted was a founder-member of the Film Section back in 1954, secretary from 1956-64 and for many years he introduced the films at the start of each film show. Also retiring was the secretary, Annette Mattock, who was succeeded by Ted Cooke.

That summer we revived the Film Poll, a means of consulting everyone at Wood Lane on which films they would like to see. The runaway winner was 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and this film opened the new season in October 1979. Almost 70 people came to see the film and enjoy the by now traditional soiree afterwards. But the best-received film of the season, as measured by the Reaction Index (a way of gauging the audience's opinion of the film they have just seen) was the one shown in the next month, Roman Polanski's CHINATOWN. Then came our first film representing the strong revival of the Australian film industry, PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK. The secretary of the British Federation of Film Societies (BFFS), Dave Watterson, visited us for the occasion, and set the audience a competition on the subject of "Let Stalk Strine Film Titles"; the winner, Sasha Hove, promptly joined the film committee and is now its secretary.

Another notable film shown that season was a short, SECOND SIGHT, made by our neighbours the BBC Film Club and directed by their secretary David Charlton, who has been a good friend and frequent visitor to our shows. It is worth noting that this film came second only to CHINATOWN in the Reaction Indexes that season. Unfortunately only 14 people came to see this show, at which the main feature was Billy Wilder's AVANTI; this was the lowest ever recorded attendance up to that time.

One experiment that year, which was judged not to be successful and which has not been repeated, was to hold the AGM of the Film Section in the Main Hall just before the final film show of the season. Ever since then the AGMs have been held in the Boardroom one lunchtime.

The 1980-81 season opened with BUGSY MALONE, Alan Parker's gangster musical in which all the parts are played by children. "Bring the Children" said our publicity - and they did, for we had happened to schedule this show for the middle of the half-term holiday. At the next show, to accompany THE LACEMAKER, we showed another film from the BBC Film Club, DEVIL'S DYKE - A VICTORIAN PASTIME, and we had the pleasure of once again welcoming Dave Watterson of the BFFS.

In December Helen Royal became the new film secretary, but when she left Wood Lane in the following September Jonathan Nevett took over.

In January we showed a double bill of THE PASSENGER and THE WAR GAME, the film showing the aftermath of a nuclear war which was made by the BBC but then banned by them. Several members of their staff crossed Wood Lane to see it.

The last show of the season was another double bill, but not the one we had planned. To accompany GIRL ON A MOTORCYCLE we should have shown TRUCK STOP WOMEN. But when the film box was opened only minutes before the show we found that the distributor had sent DARK STAR instead by mistake. This film had in fact come second to 2001 in the previous year's film poll, but had not been selected for showing because we felt that two science-fiction films in one season was too much of a good thing.

At the AGM in March 1981 a revised constitution was adopted. The financial clauses of the original 1954 constitution were now very much out of date, and the opportunity was taken to revise them. The main change, however, was the adoption of a new name: we are now officially "BICC Film Society", this name replacing the unwieldy "British Insulated Callender's Cables Athletics and Social Club (Wood Lane) Film Section". After more than a quarter of a century as the only film society within the BICC Group, we felt we had earned the right to officially call ourselves BICC Film Society, by which name we had been commonly but unofficially known for many years.

This is a suitable point to discuss the aims of the society. These are described in our constitution (old and new) as being "to encourage interest in the film as an art and as a medium of information and education by means of exhibition of films of a scientific, educational, cultural and artistic character". As a glance at the list of films shown over the years will confirm, we have always tried to live up to these aims. But we are often asked why the constitution makes no mention of entertainment - after all, most people go to see films to be entertained. The reason is connected with the charity laws, as the BFFS, of which we are members, is a registered charity, and entertainment is not a legitimate charitable object. However, all film programmes must include an element of entertainment in order to attract an audience, without which we could not fulfil our declared aims.

Another film poll was held in the summer of 1981, and the results were headed by THE DEER HUNTER, MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL and the Australian BREAKER MORANT. We could not show the first film, however, because by this time it was fully booked for the whole season, so the 1981-82 season opened with THE SUNSHINE BOYS, starring George Burns and Walter Matthau, followed as usual by a soiree. In December, with LAST TANGO IN PARIS starring Marlon Brando, we showed a sadly topical film, ABEL GANCE - THE CHARM OF DYNAMITE. Abel Gance was the pioneering French film-maker whose magnum opus, NAPOLEON, had been all but lost until painstakingly reconstructed over a period

of many years by film historian Kevin Brownlow, and finally shown to great acclaim with live orchestral accompaniment as part of the London Film Festival. We showed THE CHARM OF DYNAMITE, a documentary on the life and achievements of Gance by Kevin Brownlow, just a month after Gance had died in his 93rd year. Other films that season included ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman, and ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST with Jack Nicholson.

The 1982-83 season opened with John Schlesinger's World War Two drama YANKS. A notable first occurred later that season, when in January we showed our first 3D film, THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON, with the audience watching a black and white film through spectacles with one red and one green lens. This was highly successful, and attracted an audience of 50, the largest number for several years for any film show except the opening film show/soiree every season. But in general there has been a steady decline in audiences over the years, attendances now being commonly in the low 20s where some years ago they used to be in the 30s or 40s. One can speculate endlessly on the reasons for this, but the spread of domestic video recorders and the coming of Channel 4 must share some of the blame. Also in that season we showed CABARET with Lisa Minelli and Michael York, COUSIN, COUSINE from France, GREGORY'S GIRL from Scotland, and the first feature film ever to have been made in Tasmania, MANGANINNIE.

1983-84 was the Film Society's 30th season. It opened with LA CAGE AUX FOLLES and, of course, a soiree. And the first show of 1984, THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN by the controversial German director the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder, was the society's 200th film show. The next show, Volker Schlöndorff's excellent film of the Günter Grass novel THE TIN DRUM, attracted an audience of only eight, which is by a long way the lowest ever recorded. However, things improved next month when 19 people turned out to see LENNY. One notable innovation during the season was to re-arrange the hall; the seats are now grouped informally round several tables facing the screen, instead of being set out in serried ranks. As a result, our present small audiences are not dwarfed so much in the very large hall. Among the other films they saw in this last season were Natassia Kinski in CAT PEOPLE and two from British directors: Nicolas Roeg's BAD TIMING and Mike Leigh's BLEAK MOMENTS.

At the risk of repeating something from the previous volume of these histories, mention must be made of one service which the Film Society has provided for many years: showing a film, or sometimes more than one, at the annual Children's Christmas Party. The popularity of this spot in the proceedings may be judged by what happened when it was decided to drop the film a few years ago; the reaction of the party-goers was such that the film had to be reinstated at the following year's party.

Well, that brings the story of BICC Film Society up to date. The society will be steered into its next decade by a new film committee headed by Richard Grigsby as chairman and Sasha Hove as secretary. To conclude this history, the following list of feature films shown in the last five years supplements the lists published in the 1979 Bush Telegraph. Its slightly different format is due to the exigencies of computer processing.

FILM TITLE =====	COUNTRY =====	YEAR =====	DIRECTOR =====	DATE SHOWN =====
Breaker Morant	Australia	1979	Beresford, Bruce	Feb 1982
Manganinnie	Australia	1980	Honey, John	Mar 1983
Picnic at Hanging Rock	Australia	1977	Weir, Peter	Dec 1979
Never Strike a Woman, Even with a Flower Cousin, Cousine	Czechoslovakia	1966	Podskalsky, Zdenek	Dec 1980
	France	1975	Tacchella, Jean-Charles	Nov 1982
Cage aux Folles, La	France/Italy	1978	Molinaro, Edouard	Oct 1983
Marriage of Maria Braun, The	Germany (West)	1980	Fassbinder, Rainer	Jan 1984
			Werner	
Tin Drum, The	Germany (West)	1979	Schlöndorff, Volker	Feb 1984
Phase IV	Gt Britain	1973	Bass, Saul	Dec 1980
Girl on a Motorcycle	Gt Britain	1968	Cardiff, Jack	Mar 1981
Hitler - The Last Ten Days	Gt Britain	1973	De Concini, Ennio	Feb 1980
Gregory's Girl	Gt Britain	1981	Forsyth, Bill	Dec 1982
Monty Python and the Holy Grail	Gt Britain	1974	Gilliam, Terry & Jones, Terry	Mar 1982
2001: A Space Odyssey	Gt Britain	1968	Kubrick, Stanley	Oct 1979
Bleak Moments	Gt Britain	1971	Leigh, Mike	Nov 1983
Bugsy Malone	Gt Britain	1976	Parker, Alan	Oct 1980
Bad Timing	Gt Britain	1980	Roeg, Nicolas	Feb 1984
Yanks	Gt Britain	1979	Schlesinger, John	Oct 1982
War Game, The	Gt Britain	1966	Watkins, Peter	Jan 1981
Passenger, The	Italy	1975	Antonioni, Michelangelo	Jan 1981
Last Tango in Paris	Italy	1972	Bertolucci, Bernardo	Dec 1981
Lacemaker, The	Switzerland	1976	Goretta, Claude	Nov 1980
Creature from the Black Lagoon	USA	1954	Arnold, Jack	Jan 1983
Dark Star	USA	1974	Carpenter, John	Mar 1981
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	USA	1975	Forman, Milos	Jan 1982
Cabaret	USA	1972	Fosse, Bob	Feb 1983
Lenny	USA	1975	Fosse, Bob	Mar 1984
All the President's Men	USA	1976	Pakula, Alan J.	Nov 1981
Chinatown	USA	1974	Polanski, Roman	Nov 1979
Rafferty and the Gold Dust Twins	USA	1975	Richards, Dick	Feb 1981
Sunshine Boys, The	USA	1975	Ross, Herbert	Oct 1981
Cat People	USA	1982	Schrader, Paul	Dec 1983
Sugarland Express	USA	1974	Spielberg, Stephen	Mar 1980
Avanti!	USA	1972	Wilder, Billy	Jan 1980

For previous installments see Bush Telegraphs,
Sept. 1978 - March 1979 inc.

COMPANY CONCESSION

The "Newsletter" , printed below , has appeared on a few noticeboards , though not on the main noticeboard in the canteen . As usual the BT did not receive an "official" copy , even though the advertisement appears to be one which might be of interest to many of our readers .

BIBB

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: R COOPER 211 3323

JULY 1984 ISSUE No. 1

BBC MICROCOMPUTER - PURCHASE OFFER

Group Management Services have concluded a preferential purchase arrangement available to all BICC employees for the BBC Microcomputer and associated products.

This popular microcomputer is used widely in schools and homes and the scheme will give employees and their families an opportunity to gain awareness and experience of this fascinating and fast growing area.

The arrangement has been made through 3SL Distributors, who are major suppliers of the BBC Micro to the retail trade and education authorities. The following are examples of the offer:

	Recommended Retail Price (inc VAT)	BICC Price (inc VAT)
BBC Model B	£399.00	£357.65
Electron	£199.00	£169.05
Disc Interface Kit	£97.60	£86.25*
Pace Disc Drive (SS, 100k)	£171.35	£129.95
Pace Disc Drive (DS, 400k)	£282.90	£191.47
Cub Colour Monitor	£228.85	£189.75
Decca Colour Monitor/Colour TV	£263.99	£218.50
High Resn Zenith Monochrome Monitor .	£109.25	£75.90
Epson Printer RX80	£286.35	£217.35
Various Software Cassettes	£9.95	£7.54

*Price includes collection (if necessary) and fitting

The BICC Price includes:

- Direct delivery to employee's place of work (employee to make local arrangements for its collection)
- 12 month warranty
- Carriage Paid return of item to distributor during the warranty period should this be necessary
- Telephone advice and help from 3SL in the event of any difficulties
- Any necessary interface and mains cables

In the first instance contact should be made with the GMS Customer Service Desk (Network Telephone Number at Prescot is 211 3334/5/6/7/8) who will be able to supply the necessary order form and full price list. The completed order form, together with a personal cheque for the appropriate amount made out to "3SL (Distributors) Ltd", should be forwarded to:

3SL (Distributors) Ltd
513 Crewe Road
Sandbach
Cheshire CW11 0QX

Normally delivery can be effected within 7-10 days but the pre-Christmas period is clearly a peak time when this can become extended.

Details of the procedure to be followed for warranty claims and telephone advice will be enclosed with the goods delivered.

Please note that during July 1984 there is a special offer For each Model B ordered, a Cassette Recorder plus five software cassettes (total additional value approximately £75) will be given away.

Contact D.R.Groombridge for details (ext.212)

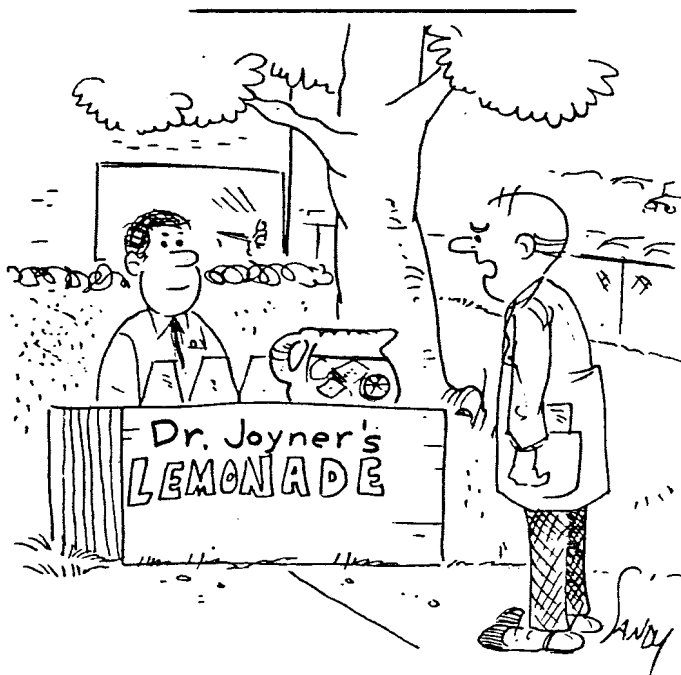
BALFOUR BEATTY SPORTS DAY

This annual event took place on 2nd June. The threat of rain never materialised, and the weather remained fine and sunny all day. The wind, however, was rather strong which prevented the BICC balloon from flying, despite two galliant attempts by the crew to inflate the beast. At one point Dave Green could not make up his mind between football and ballooning, and went skipping across one of the football pitches trying to keep hold of the balloon.

Wood Lane's team in the football competition continued its recent run in the lunchtime league - and lost both matches. There were cries of "we were robbed" in the first match, mainly from your's truly, and the second match was rather a bruising affair. The 2-0 scoreline in both matches, however, fairly reflected the overall poor team performance. One of our opponents (BB Sidcup) eventually won the competition.

The Sports Day provided the usual variation of attractions and competitions for the children. Dan Tan's children walked off with every other prize going, and then to add insult to injury, Dan won the men's golf pitching competition. I understand moves are afoot to ban him from the ground next year! Yvonne Ferrier continued the Wood Lane tradition of winning the ladies prize in the same competition.

Thanks are extended to Balfour Beatty's Social Club for providing a relaxing and enjoyable day-out.



"Now see here, Dr. Joyner, I know that research money is hard to get, but ..."

From "Chemtech",

Our contributor suggested we alter Dr. Joyner to Dr. Moore in the caption!

ORIGINS OF CROSS WORDS

Like many crazes, the crossword in its familiar form originated in the United States. Arthur Wynn, editor of the New York World composed and published what he called a 'Word-Cross' which appeared on December 21st 1913, in the Christmas edition of his newspaper. So popular was the puzzle (with his readers, if not the World's compositors) that Wynn retained it as a regular feature in each Sunday's edition. The first crossword puzzle to appear in a British Newspaper was also one of Wynns, translated into English and published in the Sunday Express in November 1924. The Times was not amused and later lamented that the craze had crossed the Atlantic with the speed of a meteorological depression.

But even the Thunderer could not resist the craze for ever. The Times Crossword appeared as the first of what was intended to be a weekly crossword, on 23rd January 1930. Not to be outdone, the Daily Telegraph (which already was publishing a crossword each day) rushed to Printing House Square with a large display advertisement in time to appear in The Times on the day after the first Times crossword appeared drawing attention to the crossword which the Telegraph featured each day. What the owners of The Times said when they read the advertisement is not recorded, but on February 1st 1930 the first daily Times Crossword appeared.

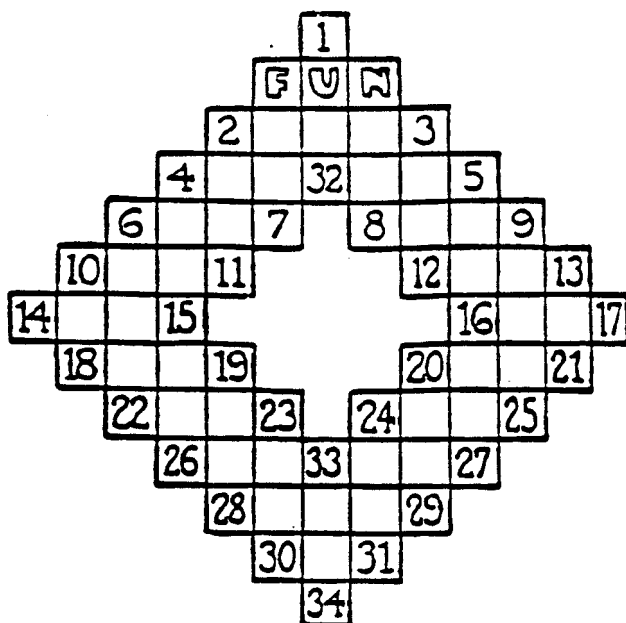
Four years later saw the invention by Elizabeth S. Kingsley of the Double Crestic. This was another American innovation, which appeared in the Saturday Review. It too crossed the Atlantic as the Leadergram, a puzzle not unfamiliar to readers of the Bush Telegraph.

In general, crosswords may be thought of as an innocent pastime, capable of giving pleasure evoking thought and at times thoroughly confounding the wits of solvers. But in 1944 in the weeks leading up to D-Day, and completely by chance, the words MULBERRY, OVERLORD, UTAH, OMAHA and NEPTUNE all appeared as solutions to clues in the Telegraph's cryptic crossword. The compiler of the puzzle was visited by MI5 to explain inclusion of five highly confidential code-names all relating to the D-Day invasion! The incredible coincidence was believed.

When George Blake escaped from Wormwood Scrubs - ARTILLERY ROW had been an answer to a "Times" clue two days before. Again - fantastic coincidence.

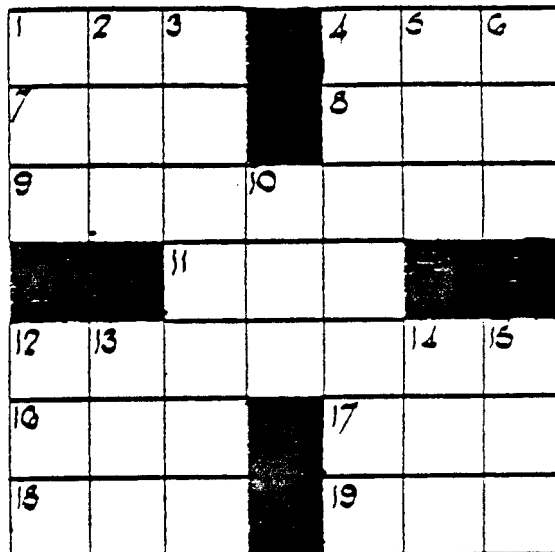
Robert Wilson Thomas

THE 'WORD-CROSS'



Fill in the squares of the puzzle so that the words spelled by the letters agree with these definitions:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2-3. What bargain hunters enjoy. | 10-18. The fibre of the gorse palm. |
| 4-5. A written acknowledgment. | 6-22. What we all should be. |
| 6-7. Such and nothing more. | 2-11. A talon. |
| 10-11. A bird. | 19-28. A pigeon. |
| 14-15. Opposed to less. | F-7. Part of your head. |
| 18-19. What this puzzle is. | 23-30. A river in Russia. |
| 22-23. An animal of prey. | 1-32. To govern. |
| 26-27. The close of a day. | 33-34. An aromatic plant. |
| 28-29. Elude. | N-8. A fist. |
| 30-31. The plural of is. | 24-31. To agree with. |
| 8-9. To cultivate. | 3-12. Part of a ship. |
| 12-13. A bar of wood or iron. | 20-29. One. |
| 16-17. What artists learn to do. | 5-27. Exchanging. |
| 20-21. Fastened. | 9-25. To sink in mud. |
| 24-25. Found on the seashore. | 13-21. A boy. |



FIRST CROSSWORD IN GREAT BRITAIN

HORIZONTALS

1. Coin (slang)
4. A tree
7. Period
8. Through
9. Counters of votes
11. Cosy little room
12. Drainages
16. Meaning three (prefix)
17. Snake-like fish
18. An oriental coin
19. Parched

VERTICALS

1. Wager
2. Mineral substance
3. Eminent political figure
4. Inflicted retribution
5. A title
6. Possesses
10. Grassland
12. Home of a certain animal
13. Before (poetic form)
14. Always (poetic form)
15. Cunning

CORDON SACRÉ BLEU

From a recent copy of "The Standard" .

THE STANDARD (all stand please) has recently done up its office canteen. It is now, they say, a model of its kind. No one bakes a better bean.

It remains, all the same — how can I put this without being sauteed by the cook — it remains every inch a canteen. And we all know a canteen when we see one.

But do we? The office canteen is changing. Some, indeed, have changed so much that they aren't canteens any longer. They are *staff restaurants* now, do you mind, and frankly some of these beat real restaurants into a crepe suzette.

I recently had lunch at a delightful little French bistro in Bloomsbury. The food was wonderful and so cheap! Moules mariniere 26p! Herb-stuffed poussin 68! Peche broulee 7p!

There were fresh flowers and gingham table cloths and a very decent house wine and beyond the louvred shutters might well have been the Seine. It was, in fact, the staff restaurant of BICC, the big international cable group, a restaurant run by a bright young company called Catering and Allied, which was full of encouraging statistics.

Since the arrival of the staff restaurant, they said, the price of the meals had

gone up but the number of people eating them had soared and the company subsidy had fallen.

Furthermore the company had closed its management dining rooms and board room lunches were special occasions. Well, the directors were all eating in the new staff restaurant. Why should the staff get all the perks?

And right on cue, Lord Pennock, the chairman, passed us with his tray, looking for somewhere to sit.

NO COMMENT!

SB729

Polymer Bulletin

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Articles and Abstracts in English

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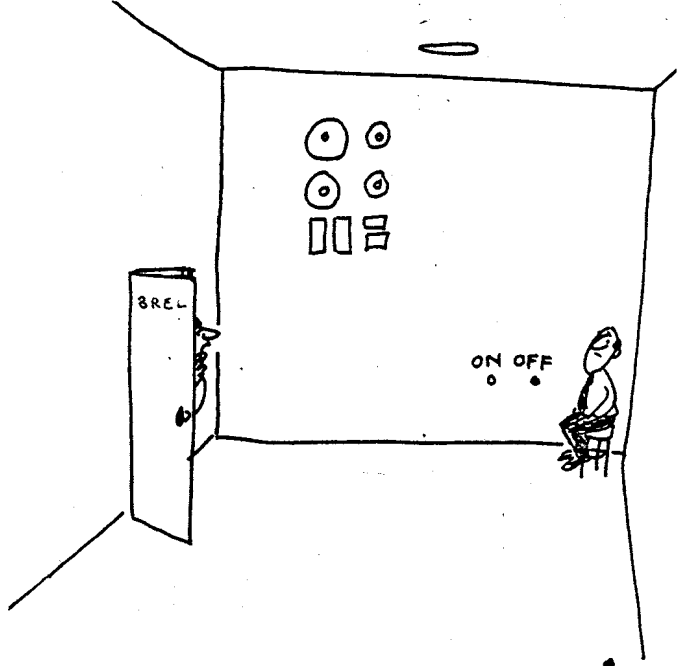
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"The boss is coming—look busy."

TECHNICAL SOCIETY

Since the last edition of the BT was published there have been two meetings of the Technical Society, both with great relevance to Wood Lane. The first talk was given by John Banks on :-

Technology and Management

Starting with a definition of technology, "how we do things", Mr. Banks went on to discuss technology in general and how it is managed in the UK and abroad. He emphasised that one function of industry is to generate profit so as to finance future operations as well as current ones.

After referring to the plethora of Government advice documents on the use of engineering and technical expertise, and the management of technology in industry, Mr. Banks commented on the increasing trend towards short life products. One consequence of this is that planning of work is made increasingly more difficult. It is often the case that the planning and product design stages exceed the commercial lifetime of the finished article. R&D people have to be aware of market requirements.

While discussing strategic planning, Mr. Banks (almost wistfully) said that obtaining money for immediate use in industry is easier than outlining future strategy.

Mr. Banks referred to the marked technological change within BICC over recent years. Older plant and practices have steadily been replaced with fewer staff and newer, better machinery being used. He noted that there had been a change within BICC with regard to overseas companies. In the past they had tended to lag behind the UK in technological development, some reversal of that trend was now being experienced.

In winding up his talk, Mr. Banks remarked on the changes in the nature of technological development in recent years and that research

could be the catalyst for change (monosil and optical fibres were referred to in this context) . He also referred to the relationship between strategy and options and the relationship between government and industry-with particular reference to the differences between the UK and Japan .

In the second talk, Dr. R.M. Black described the research that has been undertaken at Wood Lane since the opening of the laboratories 50 years ago . He has summarised his talk in the article which appears next .

50 YEARS OF RESEARCH AT WOOD LANE

By R.M. Black

(Paper presented at the Meeting of the Technical Society on Wednesday, 27th June, 1984)

Last week, on the 22nd June we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Official Opening of the Research Laboratories at Wood Lane by the Lord Rutherford of Nelson which took place in 1934. At the conclusion of his speech at the luncheon, given in the high voltage laboratory, Lord Rutherford expressed the wish:

"that the laboratory might prosper and fulfill the most roseate dreams of its founders."

How far this wish has come true during the past fifty years is a matter of some conjecture without an insight into the minds of the founders, but although things may have turned out perhaps differently from what they might have expected, I am sure that they would not be entirely dissatisfied with the result.

In preparing for this talk it soon became apparent that historically the activities at Wood Lane fell distinctly into seven epochs or ages:

I	1931 - 1939	(Mr. J. Urmston)
II	1939 - 1945	(Mr. J. Urmston/Dr. L.G. Brazier)
III	1945 - 1964	(Dr. L.G. Brazier)
IV	1964 - 1972	(Dr. A.L. Williams)
V	1972 - 1975	(Mr. E.H. Reynolds)
VI	1975 - 1978	(Mr. J. Banks)
VII	1978 - 1984	(Dr. G.F. Moore)

We are reminded by William Shakespeare that:

"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages."

I will not attempt to press the analogy any further, although the theatrical allusion might be continued as a play with seven acts together with a prologue. In the course of this talk, I will endeavour to set the scene, mention some of the players and disclose part of the plot.

Prologue: Ormond Yard

In the early days of the Callender Company, research and testing was carried out at either Erith or Leigh works, but with the advent of Mr. P.V. Hunter in 1919, who came from a background of research with Merz and McLellan and with the Admiralty (on ASDIC) during the First World War, an Outside Test Department was set up in Ormond Yard, off the Gray's Inn Road. The department was under the direction of a competent electrical engineer, Mr. J. Urmston. In 1924 three scientists were recruited, F.S. Smith, L.G. Brazier and his brother K.S. Brazier. They were at the right time to participate in the investigation of the problems associated with the instability of belted-type cables and the perennial problem of crosstalk in telephone cables.

Act I - 1931-1939

The facilities at Ormond Yard soon became inadequate for the amount of work being carried out despite the extension of Callenders' occupancy from the initial building at No.1 Ormond Yard to space (four floors) in Bailey's furniture depository on the other side of the yard (where the elephants resided during the summer season). Therefore, in November 1930 negotiations were started with the London Electric Power Company for obtaining a site at Wood Lane, Hammersmith. The site, of $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres contained a disused power station, ideal for use as a high voltage laboratory. Incidentally, the power station was of some historical importance as it had been erected in 1899 by the combined Kensington and Notting Hill Electric Lighting Companies on a piece of farm land purchased from the Kensington Vestry. It was from this station in 1900 that the first three phase power transmission in the United Kingdom occurred at a voltage of 5.25 kV using flexible paper insulated lead sheathed cables manufactured by the British Insulated Cable Company of Prescott. The cooling ponds of the power station were lined with bitumen supplied by Callenders'.

In the event, a twenty-one year lease with an option to purchase the site for the sum of £30,000, effective from October 1931 was obtained. This option was taken up in 1946, the year after the Callender/B.I. merger.

Occupation of the site began in 1931 when the two main power station buildings together with the associated sidings, cooling ponds, economiser house and chimney were modified to accommodate the work to be carried out. As has been mentioned, the spaciousness of the old engine rooms made them ideally suited as high voltage laboratories, and in 1933 two 500 kV, 500 kVA Ferranti transformers were installed for life tests on cables and ancilliary equipment and for flash-over tests on sealing ends. The second of the two power station buildings (HV3 and HV4) was partially converted into a cable life testing laboratory, the remainder of the building providing accommodation for a medium sized laboratory for general purpose investigations up to 130 kV on various joint and sealing end designs, on short lengths of cable and on the mechanism of dielectric breakdown. Three smaller laboratories were constructed for dielectrics, chemistry and physics together with a constant temperature room, oven room and photographic dark room.

These new laboratories were formally opened by Lord Rutherford on 22nd June, 1934. A luncheon being held in the high voltage laboratory to celebrate the occasion.

It is difficult to estimate the initial number of people working at Wood Lane in these early days. It is believed that there were some twenty-five staff assisted by fifteen to twenty hourly paid (jointers etc.). The department was under the control of Mr. Urmston who was assisted on the research side by the chief physicist, Dr. Brazier. The following departments or laboratories can be distinguished at this distance of time:-

Physics

L.G. Brazier, K.S. Brazier, D.M. Robinson,
A.T. Starr and E. Tunnicliffe

Chemistry	G.M. Hamilton
High Voltage	E.C. Lee, M.W. Goodall, E.K. Keefe and W. Bibby
Fuse Laboratory	A.W. Metcalf
Dielectrics	H.C. Hall and A.N. Arman
Outside Testing	A.S. Butler, F.S. Smith, N.T. Gooding and T.O. Callender (Young Tom)
Administration	H. Charman, G.H. Bradberry, N.E. Davis, J.C. Condon and S.A. Tempest

The type of research project carried out at that time may be assessed from the following examples:- gases in oils and compounds; thermal resistivity of soils; measure of the radial flow of oil in a cable dielectric; moisture content of cable paper; effect of cable oils on cements; design of fuse boxes and fuses and the effect of vacuum on dielectric behaviour.

The major research being carried out at that time was into the mechanism of breakdown of high voltage cables. This was in a sense an extension of the work that had been done on the belted cable problem, so elegantly overcome by the application of a metallic (Hochstadter) screen to each of the cores to render more uniform the stress gradients. Increasing the operating voltage of power cables from 33 kV to 66 kV, as had been done in certain installations on the North East coast in 1925 to 1926, brought more troubles. Such cables although entirely satisfactory when tested on leaving the factory, tended to break down after only a short period in service. Examination of the failed cables disclosed that in the neighbourhood of the failure there was extensive tracking in the dielectric from the effects of surface discharges on the impregnated paper tapes accompanied by a waxy deposit associated with the track marks.

Over the years much effort was devoted to the study of this phenomenon. Experimental work carried out at Wood Lane included the elegant technique of monitoring the temperature distribution along the length of the cable under test so that incipient breakdown could be detected by a rise in temperature, the test stopped and the progress of the electrical deterioration established by dissection. A magenta dye staining test was developed by G.M. Hamilton to disclose the presence of cable wax, an indication with the type of cable impregnating compound that was in use at that time that ionization had been taking place in the dielectric.

By these means L.G. Brazier and D.M. Robinson gradually elucidated the mechanism by which breakdown took place in these cables. Initially, the dielectric of an impregnated cable is virtually free from voids (minute compound free regions in which, on the application of an electric stress, disruptive discharges will occur). In service, due to normal fluctuations in the load on the cable, the dielectric is subjected to a series of repeated heating cycles. During heating, the compound in the dielectric expands and is forced to migrate out of the impregnated paper tapes and to distend the lead sheath of the cable. On subsequent cooling, the contracting compound, lacking any appreciable restoring force from the sheath, which may have stretched past its elastic limits, is unable to return completely to the dielectric. In consequence, partially vacuous spaces are formed in which the disruptive discharges can take place. These, when prolonged, lead to a progressive deterioration the evolution of gases such as hydrogen and low molecular weight hydrocarbons, the deposition of a waxy substance and the chemical breakdown of the gaseous products formed during the process to elemental carbon, which can form itself into conducting tracks.

A variety of designs of cable were proposed to overcome this inherent problem. The Emanuelli oil-filled cable, in which the impregnant a low viscosity spindle oil, was permitted to flow in and out of the cable from external reservoirs situated along the cable route. Various forms of gas pressure cables were also designed. These were known as 'diaphragm' or 'non-diaphragm' types depending upon whether the gas was or was not separated from the impregnated paper dielectric by means of an impermeable barrier. The first of the 'diaphragm' type to be installed in service was the Enfield compression cable (with the diaphragm in the form of a thin lead sheath), a length of which was installed at Wood Lane and recovered during building operations in 1958. P.V. Hunter and L.G. Brazier, however, favoured a non-diaphragm type and developed the impregnated pressure cable in which the impregnant was held under a gas pressure of 200 p.s.i. of a relatively inert gas, nitrogen, so that any voids formed during service would be high pressure voids which by Paschen's law require a greater electric stress to produce a disruptive discharge. Callenders submitted a single core (132 kV) impregnated pressure cable for the KEMA test programme carried out at Arnhem from 1934 to 1935.

Act II Wartime 1939 - 1945

On the outbreak of the Second World War there was apparently an initial reduction of the staff at Wood Lane. Many departed on war service and the future of the laboratories looked uncertain. The events of the night of 22nd November, 1939 on the Maplin Sands near Shoeburyness, were to go some way towards changing the situation radically. This night led to the recovery of a German magnetic mine and to the start of the investigation of various techniques to counter its effect both by reducing the magnetism inherent in iron ships and by exploding the mine before any ship could get within activating distance. The Admiralty appealed to the cable makers, who responded magnificently. P.V. Hunter of Callenders and Percy Dunsheath of Henleys were both involved. It was P.V. Hunter who conceived the concept of a buoyant cable, rather than one supported by underwater kites, which might have marked advantages of both a practical and technical nature.

The novelty of Hunter's concept was that the cable was to be turned virtually inside-out, the buoyancy elements being enclosed within an annulus formed by the large diameter helix of fine wire which comprised the conductor. This proved to be a brilliant solution to the problem, as the large surface of the conductor presented to the cooling action of the sea water enabled the weight of copper in the conductor to be very substantially reduced and the required current density of about 6000 amperes per square inch to be readily achievable. In addition, the cable was strong enough to be towed at mine sweeping speeds and sufficiently flexible to be coiled on the deck of the minesweeper.

The initial development work on Callenders' version of the cable, an expanded rubber core rather than the tennis ball construction offered by Henleys was started in the Wood Lane laboratories on 11th December, 1939 under the guidance of Dr. L.G. Brazier and Mr. G.M. Hamilton. After a number of preliminary experiments, a master patent was filed with the Patents Office on 20th December, 1939. Definite proposals were submitted to the Admiralty on 23rd December and the first trial length of buoyant cable delivered on 18th January, 1940. Minesweeping by means of the system known as the 'Double L Sweep' was commenced at the end of March.

The manufacture of electrode tails for buoyant cables was to occupy Wood Lane for much of the war as was the work on the manufacture of flexible waveguides for Radar applications and associated coaxial polyethylene insulated cables. Work on the impregnated pressure cable did not fall completely into abeyance as when a quarter mile section of the 132 kV overhead line at Broadwell near Burford in Oxfordshire was replaced by underground cable in order to clear the approach to an R.A.F. aerodrome. As the line passed close to the end of the main runway, an impregnated pressure cable was used (together with Glover gas-filled single core cables) in both single and three-core versions. A wire enamelling shop was set up under H.E. Kretchmer who some years later was to lose his life in a climbing accident in the Alps.

Act III Immediate Post-War Years 1945 - 1964

In 1945, after the B.I. Cables and Callenders merger and the easing of war-time restrictions, the Wood Lane laboratories entered a period of expansion of both staff and facilities. The original power station buildings were extensively modernised and additional laboratories built on the site to provide space for work on dielectrics, ceramics, x-ray diffraction and electron microscopy. In 1956, a radiation laboratory was built to house a 2.0 MV Van de Graaff electron accelerator and to provide facilities for gamma radiography, radio-chemistry and isotope technology (Rutherford Laboratory).

By 1959 the increasing demand for additional experimental facilities necessitated the provision of a new laboratory building to fulfill this requirement and to permit the principal laboratories, which were spread over various parts of the site to be consolidated into one versatile unit. A new, six-storey building was designed and built on the unit module concept principle. It was named the McFadzean Laboratory and was opened formally by H.R.H. the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 16th May, 1961 in the presence of a distinguished gathering representative of the Company, Government, Industry, the Universities and Local Civic Dignitaries.

In the course of his after luncheon speech, Prince Philip observed:

"These laboratories, in fact, are the heart and soul of the Organisation. The men who work and the ideas that are generated here are the only guarantee of future success and without them I think you can look forward to a rapid and catastrophic decline."

At the end of the war there were only some seven graduates and associated staff at Wood Lane, so a steady recruiting drive was embarked upon which by 1952 had brought the staff level up to 130 with 66 hourly paid employees. On the 15th October, 1952 the first Research Organisation Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. L.G. Brazier. This meeting was of the senior technical officers of the new Research Organisation and included Dr. A.L. Williams (power cables), Dr. R.S. Vincent (British Dielectrics Research), Mr. H.C. Hall (Dielectrics), Mr. W.G. Hawley (High Voltage), Mr. E. Kelk (Fuses), Dr. A. Latin (Metallurgy) and Mr. V.H. Wentworth (Chemistry). I was to become secretary for the second meeting and thereafter.

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The BICC (then British Insulated Callenders Cables Limited) had set up a Research Panel who had approved the research programme put to them by the Research Organisation and which was to serve the Organisation well for many years until the introduction of Management Plans and Budgets about 1971.

The research programme covered such topics as: oil/paper dielectrics, rubber; plastics; metallurgy; corrosion; and special techniques. This programme was to remain virtually unchanged until 1962 when it was revised and sections added on: resins and enamels; instrumentation and control engineering; mathematics; electric traction; and other researches and miscellaneous.

Before the formation of the Research Organisation in 1952, the structure of Wood Lane was very much as it always had been. Dr. Brazier was Research Manager with Mr. G.M. Hamilton, the chief chemist, as his deputy. All incoming and outgoing mail and research activity was very much under their supervision. In 1951 Mr. Hamilton left to take up the chair of Chemistry in the University of Natal, which gave rise to some reorganisation of the chemistry and rubber and plastics departments. While in general graduates were given a fairly free hand, reports on their projects were made to Dr. Brazier every fortnight and points would be raised and discussed as necessary. The sight of "P.S.M." in blue pencil was often a prelude to a devastating enquiry or maybe a wise suggestion.

There were no departments as such in those days but the following sections could be distinguished: power cables; high voltage; dielectrics (with mathematics),; chemistry (including rubber and plastics and metallurgy) and such sundry activities as the jointing school, the runways (E.J. Keefe with aluminium welding), the Dowtherm plant in which rubber and pvc latices were applied to wires and where later a glass blowing shop under E.R. Chawner was set up, the plating shop (or cottage), Sid Salvage's 'Upper Room' and a number of small huts on wheels which served as offices. In the Mill Room, now part of the Polymer Processes Department, studies on the design of a heat pump were carried out (for P.V. Hunter's garden) and later experiemnts in the manufacture of aluminium sheathed mineral insulated cables.

In the Chemistry Department, beside the normal analytical service activities, Dr. F.L. Sos was studying the thermal depolymerisation of polydimethyl siloxanes and building them up again from methylchlorosilanes and various copper containing catalysts. An investigation of the solar deterioration of polyethylene insulated twin radio-relay cables was under way, studies on the hydrogenation of rubber, the production of polyurethanes and the determination of antimony and tin in the then favoured cable sheathing alloy E. It was around this time that we were called upon to produce substantial quantities (10 litres) of amyl mercaptan, used to assist in leak location in impregnated pressure cables. Those involved recollect the particular anti-social effect of this activity which paralysed our own olfactory sensitivity while apparently stimulating that of others.

Work of radiation crosslinked polyethylene started around 1952 when Dr. Arthur Charlesby of AERE, Harwell sent us samples of pile (BEPO) irradiated material to see if its Non-melting and rubber-like properties at elevated temperatures could be utilised in cables. It was at this time also, that we started to use radio-isotopes at Wood Lane for radiography, void detection and in the form of radioactive dimethyl selenide for leak location on impregnated pressure cables.

Dimethyl selenide was even more malodourous than amyl mercaptan. Aluminium was again being considered for cable sheathing, a phenomenon which occurred whenever its price approached that of copper.

1956 saw the sponsoring of post-graduate work at King's College, London on powder rheology in connection with mineral insulated cables, but probably the most important work being undertaken at this time was that on the extinction of discharges in cavities in cable dielectrics with which the name of the late E.C. Rogers was associated. Corrosion research was active and papers were published on phenol corrosion and on the underground deterioration of textiles.

By 1960 the work on radiation chemistry had been extended to cover the range of polymeric materials in which we were interested both as regards the beneficial effects that irradiation could bring (crosslinking) as well as the damage that could be caused by prolonged exposure in a nuclear environment. Dr. Peter Graneau was starting work on the use of eddy current techniques for fault detection and fire detecting cables based on aluminium conductors with an impregnated anodised coating developed. Various gaseous discharge phenomena were studied and a start made on attempting to understand the behaviour of the cells proposed for the gassing test on oil-filled cable oils.

In the following year the Tolworth model, a scaled down model for the study of overhead line railway electrification and in particular, the behaviour of the pantograph during current collection from the conductor at speed, was reported. This was to lead to a study of the techniques for obtaining useful information from the model and in later years to the replacement of the model by a series of computer programs relevant to current railway practice.

In 1962 there appeared accounts of the work on the measurement of the electrical conductivity of metals, of importance in conductor design. Meanwhile, work on radiation chemistry had involved studies of the effect of radiation on the molecular weight distribution in polymers and the effect of unsaturation both inherent in the polymer structure and as added unsaturated crosslinking promoters. Mention of a flowmeter for helium flow rates in 1964 was indicative of the work then in progress on the phenomenon of superconductivity in which we were again to the forefront and which was to result in the setting up of a practical superconducting link and the development of a design for a practical superconducting power 'cable'.

Act IV 1965 - 1972

In the Autumn of 1964, Dr. Brazier retired after nearly forty years service much of which was spent guiding the researches at Wood Lane. Dr. A.L. Williams became Director of Research, the Central Research and Engineering Division was formed and the Engineering Organisation was incorporated with the Research Organisation.

It has often been said that fundamental research is better pursued in the universities while applied research and development is more properly the province of industrial research and development establishments such as we have at Wood Lane. This distinction is, in practice, not so well defined and much of the more fundamental aspects of our work has been of direct application. This was

certainly the case with the studies of the crystal orientation in copper which related to the parameter known as the 8spring elongation number' of copper wire. Much effort was devoted over the years to fundamental studies in connection with the laying of submarine power cables and this was of value with the Cross-Channel link, the Vancouver cable and later in the cable for Cook Strait, New Zealand. 1966 saw a series of experiments on vacuum insulated busbars which behaved, initially, as oversize x-ray tubes.

In the following year the work on high temperature insulating materials for use in aircraft cables was summarised. This work had led to the synthesis of a number of brick dust like materials in addition to polyphenylene sulphides which were not found to live up to the claims of other workers in the field. Published designs for superconducting power cables were well received but as is the case with much pioneering work, the time was not yet ripe for full exploitation.

In the Chairman's Statement for 1968 the Lord McFadzean of Woldingham commented:

"Research has long since ceased to be a glamorous occupation to be undertaken for its own sake, and is now just as tough and competitive as any other functional business activity".

In 1969 the work on MIG welding was published. The jointing of aluminium conductors has always required special attention due to the nature of the metal and with the price of aluminium to copper again proving attractive, there was increasing interest in its use in power and even in domestic wiring cables. Considerable attention was paid to the use of aluminium at this time both at Wood Lane and in the factories. Test boards containing the full range of wiring fittings were set up and precise measurements made of the resistance changes between the wire and the grub-screw and tunnel in the fitting. This led to a consideration of various aluminium alloys and substitutes for copper such as copper-clad aluminium.

Metrication began to rear its ugly head and the almost mandatory conversion was enlivened by a published apology for S.I.Units with epistles to the Imperialists and Grammarians composed by Dr. David Margolis.

In 1970 additional floor space was leased at Alperton, some five miles from Wood Lane, to provide facilities for full-scale plant development and an overhead line testing laboratory. The work on the ultra-violet display of corona fields in air, a particularly elegant technique made possible by the availability of highly sensitive TV cameras originally designed for air-field surveillance. Much effort was also devoted at this time to the phenomenon of treeing in polymeric insulation, occasioned by American experience with U.R.D. cables and various types of trees such as water trees, and sulphide trees were identified. Their formation depended upon the environment to which the cable had been exposed in service. It was at this time also that the gas injection process for the high speed production of cellular polyethylene insulated telephone cable core was developed. This process involved the direct injection of nitrogen gas into the extruder barrel together with the incorporation of a nucleating agent to ensure a uniform cell structure.

Act V 1972 - 1975

The scene remains unchanged although, with the retirement of Dr. Williams the direction of the laboratories passed to Mr. E.H. Reynolds who had been research manager.

During this period there were few structural alterations to the site and the sponsoring of researches by the operating companies continued. New factors were, however, entering our lives. The environment and its preservation free from contamination of many kinds and the conservation of energy resources became of increasing importance. One aspect of this was the need for a search for alternatives to the chlorinated diphenyls (Arochlors) used as capacitor impregnants. Development work continued on filling compounds for the highly successful fully-filled telephone cable.

In the days when telephone cables comprised anything from 100 to 4800 pairs of paper insulated copper conductors, exclusion of moisture was of prime importance. It had been hoped that with the newer generation of telephone cables in which polyethylene would be used for both the insulation and the sheathing, the cables would be less susceptible to the penetration of moisture. But, in practice, it was found that due to the presence of occasional pin-hole faults in the insulation, the cables were very much more unreliable than might have been expected. Water entering the cable through an imperfection in the sheath could often penetrate along the cable for a considerable distance before the fault made itself apparent in one of the telephone circuits. Attempts to dry out the cable after location and repair of the fault were seldom completely successful. Various attempts were made to solve this problem including the use of water blocks, but the most elegant solution was by G.A. Dodd of BTCL, who proposed that the interstices between the cores should be completely filled with a water impermeable medium and the solid polyethylene insulation replaced by cellular polyethylene the combination giving characteristics identical with those of the solid polyethylene insulated cores. Much attention was paid to the selection of a suitable grade of petroleum jelly which would not penetrate and increase the permittivity of the cellular insulation.

Act VI 1975 - 1978

This era, which started with the reorganisation of the BICC Group, was very much one of innovation, a panel being set up to consider likely suggestions. If the proposed project was deemed sufficiently economically attractive experimental work could be carried out in support.

Waveguides were becoming of interest particularly in telecommunications, and a factory was set up at Alperton for the production of lengths of resin bonded glass fibre supported tubular waveguide on the behalf of the Post Office. The factory was successful but optical fibre waveguides proved to be the more attractive proposition and following the installation of a substantial length of suitably reinforced optical fibre cable at Taplow in December 1974, more extensive lengths were produced for the Post Office in connection with the Martlesham to Ipswich link.

It was at this time that attention was paid to a particular process for the crosslinking of polyethylene, the Sioplas process. The incorporation of an organo-silane in the polyethylene gave a compound which would react with moisture to produce crosslinks. The Sioplas process would appear to be the most attractive chemical method so far for the crosslinking of polyethylene that has appeared.

Act VII 1978 - 1984

With the translation of Mr. Banks to the main board of the Company, Dr. G.F. Moore became Executive Director at Wood Lane and issued in the last of our seven ages. This although difficult to assess in historical perspective, would appear to be one of refining and re-orientation.

In 1980 the Wood Lane site was extended by the purchase from British Rail of a further three acres of land. A new laboratory, the Brazier Laboratory was erected to enable many of the activities, hitherto carried out at Alperton to be incorporated on the Wood Lane site, when that at Alperton was relinquished.

More emphasis was placed on the steadily developing field of electronics and on micro- and mini- computers applied to factory production processes.

While work on many of the older projects has continued emphasis has shifted from power to telecommunication cables. The former have not, however, been forgotten for with the current importance attached to the reaction-to-fire properties of cables, occasioned by a disastrous cable fire in a power station in Italy some years ago, much work has been devoted to both studying the problems involved and to formulating sheathing compounds which not only will not propagate and enlarge a fire but will also under fire conditions emit less smoke and corrosive vapours than conventional compounds.

Conclusion

In this necessarily brief review of the research activity at Wood Lane over the past fifty years, it has been impossible even to mention all the various and diverse subjects of research that have been undertaken. Life at Wood Lane has never been dull, and I for one have never regretted the years that I have spent here, in my case nearly a whole working lifetime.

I will end with another quotation from Shakespeare, which I have used before in connection with Wood Lane, but one which is particularly relevant at this time of the Golden Jubilee:

"Age cannot wither her, nor custom, stale her infinite variety".

SECTION REPORTS

THE FILM COLUMN

The Film Committee have once again been considering their choice of films for the forthcoming season. Listed below are the titles of the films from which the programme has been selected. The Committee's choice will be revealed in the next issue of BT whilst we give you a chance to WIN A FREE TICKET to the SOIREE - simply mark the films as indicated below. The first reply drawn that has the best fit to the average Committee mark will win him/her the prize of being our guest for the first show of the season. (Committee members are ineligible !)

Dates for the film shows are:

October 24th	1984
November 14th	
December 5th	
January 16th	1985
February 6th	
February 27th	
March 20th	

You may notice that October 24th 1984 is a few days before British Summer Time comes to an end. However, it is also the probable date of the School half-term. - so which film would be most suitable for the Soiree ! Is that a hint ?

FILM TITLE	FROM	CAT	YEAR	Mins.	MARK
Allegro Non Troppo	ITA	U?	1976	80	_____
Four Seasons, The	USA	AA	1980+	108	_____
French Lieutenant's Woman	USA	AA	1980+	121	_____
Gallipoli	AUS	A	1981	111	_____
Genou de Claire, Le	FRA	A?	1970	106	_____
Getting of Wisdom, The	AUS	A?	1977	103	_____
Invasion of the Body Snatchers	USA	X	1978	116	_____
Long Good Friday, The	GB	X	1980+	114	_____
Lord of the Flies, The (B/W)	GB	AA	1962	91	_____
Magus, The	GB	X	1968	116	_____
Optimists of Nine Elms, The	GB	A	1973	107	_____
Quack, The	POL	A	1981	133	_____
Raiders of the Lost Ark	USA	A	1983	115	_____
Trouble with Harry, The	USA	PG	1955+	128	_____
Under Fire	USA	15	1980+	128	_____
Year of Living Dangerously, The	USA	PG	1980+	114	_____

My choice of Soiree film from the selection above is _____

Please mark the films as if you had just seen them and were filling in Reaction slips. Bear in mind that these films may lose/gain value by showing them on our projection system. If you think that the BICC FILM SOCIETY would find the film to be an EXCELLENT choice : ENTER 4 in the appropriate column

GOOD	3
AVERAGE	2
POOR	1
BAD	0

ACCOMPANYING SHORTS. I would like to thank the two people who replied to our questionnaire. One person was in favour of alternate shows replacing 'better shorts' with food for discussion. The other person preferred an improved 'short' service, both in film quality and in starting and finishing times. The Committee will bear these two views in mind when they meet up to discuss the options that are open to them.

HAVE YOU (BEEN) SEEN COLUMN ?.....Unfortunately there is nothing new to report, as everyone seems to be striving to catch as much sunshine as possible before 'Summer' disappears. However, in its place I present for your amusement the most notable excuses that I came across during my ticket sale 'suicide' runs:

- (1) Sorry, I'm on Jury Service (actually true !)
- (2) Sorry, I'm playing baseball (in winter ?)
- (3) I haven't been for years/ever and I don't intend to start now (so there)
- (4) Sorry, I have too far to travel (one small step for mankind...)
- (5) Sorry, I would but the kids haven't grown up yet (at least not THIS year)
- (6) NO, on principle (Archimedes?)
- (7) No ,shake of head, wave of arm. (from 10 paces)
- (8) Tell me about the film... (wind up to 1000 words/minute)...sorry, I don't actually work here ! (wind down to 1 swear word/sec)
- (9) Sorry, I've something arranged for tonight...oh, it's tomorrow, well unfortunately..... (my favourite)

If I've left anyone out please accept my apologies.

Any reply to the WIN A TICKET film poll please send to S. O'Bow-Hove, Optical Cable Research, to be in before the next Bush Telegraph section entry is due.

Genealogy Section

Section Library

Two important additions have been made to the section library this month .

The long-awaited "Atlas and Index of Parish Registers" has arrived . It contains full colour reprints of all the IHGS parish maps for England and Wales plus a complete listing of all parishes showing availability of original registers , transcripts , indexes , non-conformist records etc.

Secondly we have received,"free", a copy of the "Genealogical Research Directory - Mid 1984". This is similar in concept to the well-known series of National Genealogical Directories , but has a non-UK bias . Both items can be consulted via Mike Hagger (ext. 268) .

National Genealogical Directory

The 4th edition of this directory was published recently . A number of members have copies , including the Secretary , Mike Hagger , who also has forms for the 5th issue , planned for late 1985 .

IGI Microfiche

Suggestions for additions to our microfiche holdings are still being accepted by the Secretary .

Forthcoming Conferences

1. FFHS Autumn Conference - University of East Anglia , Norwich - 31st August to 2nd September .
2. Guild of One Name Studies - Birmingham - Sat. 15th September .

Full details from Mike Hagger .

1984 HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The successful re-launching of Horticultural Shows at Wood Lane in 1983 has encouraged the organisers to hold the event again in 1984. The date for this years show will be:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

The event will be run on essentially the same lines as last year. Entries will be staged during lunch time, judged in the afternoon, followed by viewing, prize giving and a buffet will follow after office hours.

Last year we received a good number of entries in most of the vegetable and fruit classes but exhibits of flowers, pot plants and homemade wines were disappointing. We hope that those who come and viewed the show last time will be encouraged to enter this year. We are not looking for an exceptionally high standard of entry and many people must grow runner beans, tomatoes apples and a whole selection of flowers - roses, dahlias, esters etc. So come on - have a go - even if you only enter the pot plant in your office/laboratory.

The 1984 show schedule will be available shortly and can be obtained from A. Platt or P. Walters.

Printed below are extracts from the 1983 schedule which will give you a good idea of the entry categories.

If you need any information regarding the finer points of horticultural shows then we have a copy of the R.H.S. Horticultural Show Handbook available.

SECTION A

Vegetables

Class			
1	Beans, runner, dish of 9.	12	Onions, 3, dressed.
2	Beetroot, 3, (any variety), with 4" tops.	13	Onions, 12, salad.
3	Cabbage, 1, at least 2" of stalk.	14	Potatoes, 5, any variety
4	Cabbage, red, 1, at least 2" of stalk.	15	Radish, 12, with tops
5	Carrots, 3, (any variety), with 4" tops.	16	Spinach perpetual, 15 leaves.
6	Cauliflower, 1 dressed, with at least 2" stalk.	17	Shallots, 9, dressed
7	Cucumber, 1 greenhouse or frame grown.	18	Rhubarb, 3 sticks (trimmed).
8	Cucumber, 1 outside grown	19	Tomatoes, 6 indoor grown, ripe, with calyx.
9	Lettuce, cabbage, one pair with roots.	20	Tomatoes, 6 outdoor grown, ripe, with calyx.
10	Lettuce, cos, one pair with roots.	21	Tomatoes, 1 truss ripe or unripe.
11	Marrows, one pair not exceeding 12" in length.	22	Any other vegetable not in the foregoing classes.

SECTION B

Fruit

Class

- 23 Apples, dessert, dish of 6, one variety.
- 24 Apples, culinary, dish of 6, one variety.
- 25 Pears, dessert, dish of 6, one variety.
- 26 Blackberries, dish of 30 with calyx.
- 27 Any other fruit.

SECTION C

Flowers

- 28 Vase of flowers of any one kind raised from seed within the 12 months preceding show.
- 29 Vase of flowers, 3 or more types.
- 30 Vase of chrysanthemums, 3 blooms, any variety.
- 31 Vase of sweet peas, 12 stems, any variety.
- 32 Vase of asters, 12 stems any varieties.
- 33 Vase of hardy flowers, any varieties, 6 stems.
- 34 Dahlias, 3 blooms, cacti, 4" to 6" in one vase, any variety.
- 35 Dahlias, 3 blooms, decorative, 4" to 6" in one vase, any variety.
- 36 Dahlias, 3 small pompen in one vase, any variety under 2".
- 37 Gladioli, vase of 3 spikes, any varieties.
- 38 Vase of roses, 3 specimen blooms, hybrid tea.
- 39 Vase of roses, hybrid tea of one variety in three stages. (1 bud, 1 specimen, and 1 blown).
- 40 Vase of one specimen rose, hybrid tea.
- 41 Vase of floribunda roses.
- 42 Arrangement of pansies in a bowl, not more than 9 stems.

SECTION D

Home-made Wine and Beer

Class

- 51 White Wine - Kit
- 52 White Wine - Non Kit
- 53 Red Wine - Kit
- 54 Red Wine - Non Kit
- 55 Beer (inc. lager) - Kit
- 56 Beer (inc. lager) - Non Kit

Beer classes: All bottles should be of 1 pint capacity and have screw cap or crown cork seals.

Wine classes: All bottles should be of 75 cl or 1 litre capacity.

FOOTBALL

Results since last BT:

<u>BICC 'A'</u>		<u>BICC 'B'</u>	
v TV Sports	1 - 2	v Marks and Spencer B	0 - 3
v Marks and Spencers 'B'	1 - 2	v TV Sports	2 - 0
v BICC B	0 - 1	v BICC A	1 - 0
v Bush Rangers (cup)	1 - 5	v GGG Sportif	3 - 0
v Buzbys	6 - 0		

As might be guessed from the results above, BICC A are not doing as well as BICC B in Division 2 of the Hammersmith Lunchtime 5 - a - side League (at the moment).

The games against TV Sports and Marks and Spencers 'B' of both teams were interesting. Whereas BICC 'B' were thoroughly beaten by Marks and Spencer 'B', the 'A' team was unfortunate to lose. BICC 'A' wasted too many scoring chances in this game, as they did against TV Sports. BICC 'B', however, had no trouble in beating TV Sports 2 - 0. The 'A' vs 'B' game was a good one and fairly even. 'B' eventually won thanks to a well-taken goal by Gary Nappin. Following this defeat, BICC 'A' played Bush Rangers in the Cup. One of the 'A' players said it all when he remarked, "we held them till half time". Unfortunately 'A' were overwhelmed in the second half. This potentially demoralising defeat was immediately followed by 'A's biggest ever win, 6 - 0, against Buzbys. Admittedly only 4 of the Buzbys team played, but for once the A team scored from many of the chances given. Vince Allard scored a hat trick in addition to his usual conversion attempt into South Africa Road.

The 'B' team, following their defeat by Marks and Spencers 'B' have gone from strength to strength. They were very impressive in their latest victory, against CGG Sportif. In this match, John McGillivray scored straight from the kick off without the opponents having touched the ball.

GOLF SECTION

1984 Diary:

15 August Gatton Manor

12 September Foxhills

Don't forget - family members and friends are welcome on our Society days - as long as they can play golf to some degree.

COMMITTEE:

Dan Tan
Pete Mercer
George Brigden
Clive Carroll

PRACTICE:

We've managed to set up a small practice net at the back of the site. Anyone wishing to use it, clubs and practice balls can do so by contacting any committee member to obtain the equipment.

We would be more than happy to see some beginners use the facilities.

NEWS

At the BICC Southern Section Captains' day, Wood Lane was well represented. Dan Tan came runner - up and won the Vice - Captain's prize. Playing off 22 he scored 37 stableford points with a scratch score of 93. Derek Edwards also scored 37 points but Dan pipped him on countback.

We've been allocated a modest budget for the year and this will be spent mainly on subsidising members' green fees.

We should soon have a stock of good quality golf balls, being able to buy in bulk at discount, and passing the discount onto our members.

MOTORING

Lack of contributions to the Bush Telegraph may have led you to believe the motoring section was dying or dead. It is in fact alive but not 100% well. There seems to be a growing tendency not to return the DIY tools after they have been used. Will the members who have the 'Colourtune 500' tuning units (2) and the dwell angle meter return them as I have no record of their whereabouts.

The list of tools available now is too long to enumerate, if you want something motor orientated, just ask. If we haven't got it, we may be able to obtain it somewhere else. I have names of discount tyre suppliers, motor factors, engineering firms etc.

The "Spring" navigation trial has not been forgotten either, I did hear Guy talking about running it a few weeks ago, didn't I? So things are happening even if the wheels are grinding exceedingly slow.

G.C. Taylor (323)
Hon. Gen. Sec.