



A BRIGHT START TO 1972

1971 proved to be one of the most successful years for the company and 1972 has got under way with a great start.

All Departments are able to report a flush of new contracts since the turn of the year and brief details of some of them are as follows:—

FROM THE SOUTH

We are pleased to be able to report that our Estimators in the south have successfully tendered for three new contracts. This gives us a great start to 1972 and a big boost to morale.

The new contracts awarded are as follows:—

LYNDHURST SEWERAGE WORKS

This is a completely new sewerage works in the heart of the New Forest right next door to the New Forest Golf Club. (You lucky agent).

Contract value is approximately £600,000 and a two year programme is specified, although it is hoped to complete the work in two summers. The construction work contains the usual humus tanks, settling tanks, and pumping stations. The contract will commence in Spring 1972. The work is to be carried out for the New Forest Rural District Council.

Our next success is for Havant and Waterlooville U.D.C. a Road Improvement Scheme, henceforth to be known as **BARTON'S ROAD CONTRACT**.

Value of the work is approximately £300,000 and we hope to commence in April. The work is typical of a road improvement scheme, which also includes construction of a new railway bridge, and one of the interesting features (especially for the site staff) is that the existing antiquated railway bridge is to be demolished on Christmas Day and Boxing Day 1972, and the best of British to you all.

Our next success is our first building contract in the south under our Regional Director, Mr. N. L. Ireland. We hope, of course, that this is the first of many such successes in the building industry for the Southern Region.

The contract is for the D.O.E. and is a single storey building in the Royal Naval Establishment at Fort Southwick.

(A touch of the James Bond about this one O.H.M.S.S.)

The value is approximately a quarter million pounds and the work is to commence in the Spring.

While we have been awarded all

three contracts starting dates are largely dependent upon financial ministry approval.

C.A.H.

HOUSING DIVISION

Our Company commitment in this division is currently 116 Frameform and 843 Traditional Units. A total of 959 homes along with roads, drainage etc. valued at £4.4 million pounds.

Of this commitment 133 homes valued at £0.5 million have been turned over to our customers at Percy Main and Millfield. The remainder to be completed at various times within the next eighteen months.

Over the last few weeks, the following new work has or is about to start all of traditional design.

SACRISTON 109 homes for Chester-le-Street R.D.C. approximate value £600,000 contract period forty-four weeks. Foundations have been re-designed due to ground conditions. Billy Mayes and Charlie Bell suggested to Jock Bradley that we diversify onto the manufacture of egg timers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A BRIGHT START TO 1972 CONTINUED

HEMLINGTON 270 homes for Tees-side County Borough. Approximate value £1.0 million—contract period eighteen months. Designed by the National Building Agency, the houses are Rationalised traditional. With twelve different types and a further six variations, it will be a case of any eight from ten to hit the jackpot.

Our team is led by Doug Lund and Brian Gill, Jack Wailes and Billy Alderson are off their marks and belting the founds in. Watch this space for the crack from the rest of the gang. **THORNABY** 253 homes for the North British Housing Group. Approximate value £1.0 million—contract period eighteen months. Syd Heward has Tony Cunningham on the Roads and Sewers. Gordon Wilkinson is Site Manager. Gordon joined the company in February from Fram Gerrard. Construction is two and three storey with in situ concrete suspended floors and balconies. There are 123 units in one block and eighty-eight in another.

With courts offsets and staggers the engineering content is high. Ray Husband has been transferred from Hemlington to take on the engineering work on structures.

STOCKTON forty homes, roads and sewers for the County Borough at Lawson and Edgar Streets—approximate value £280,000. An early start for Norman Banks is expected, the contract period to be agreed.

The site is a demolished area in the centre of Stockton. Bang in the middle stands a pub to which access must be maintained.

The Munich beer festival will have nothing on this lot, but at least Mat Curran should be pleased with the welfare.

A.P.

TYNESIDE CIVILS

Under Len Pascoe is having a busy start to the year.

English Industrial Estates (Team Valley Estate) have placed a £25,000 contract for car park and road extension at the factory of De La Rue. Borough of Blyth are expected to confirm a £¼m. contract for road improvements between the Links and Plessey Road.

A £60,000 Derelict Land Reclamation Contract at Byker Bridge for the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne, commenced in January for completion in six months.

Borough of Whitley Bay have awarded a £50,000 contract for the construction of a roundabout at Hartley Lane/Beresford Road, Seaton Sluice.

Construction of a £90,000 Road at Cramlington New Town Industrial Estate has been awarded by the County of Northumberland.

A second contract at Cramlington valued at £75,000 for the construction of a car park and trunk sewer for a super store. Client being Cramlington Investments Ltd.

Construction of New Bridge (and demolition of existing) in connection with the proposed "Wild Life Safari Park" at Lambton, Co. Durham. This is a £30,000 "Design and Construct" contract.

A.183 Road Improvements at Chester Road for Houghton-le-Spring U.D.C. valued at £120,000 is the latest contract to be won.

Minor Works include a £10,000 new 100 ton bollard for the Redhead Division of Swan Hunter Shipbuilders plus a new crane track for the same client. Also for the same client a mooring mast, has just been completed. Crane track strengthening at the Neptune Yard of Swan Hunters is proceeding on a daywork basis.

TYNESIDE BUILDING

We have work in the pipeline, but not officially awarded yet, which would bring the amount won to just over £2 million pounds so far for this year.

The only contract that has been officially awarded, is for Errill Properties, South Shields. This is basically a huge shed to be used for Cash and Carry Warehouse. It is a steel framed building with asbestos roof, steel cladding to the top half of the walls, and approximately 12'-0" of facing brickwork and thermalite blocks, to the lower half, and power floated concrete floor. No electrical or heating installations are included in the works. The contract commenced on the 21st February, and has a duration of twenty weeks. Ken Patton is the Site Manager, with Bob Grant looking in daily as Project Manager. Value £65,000.

TEESSIDE NEW CONTRACTS

Guisborough Hall conversion to hotel	9,000
Extensions and alterations to North Ormesby County School	230,000
Compressor House for E.I.E.C. Aycliffe	4,000
Redcar Sea Defences Stage III	8,000
Dynaflex Factory alteration Hartlepool	10,000
Fire damage to roof Cameron Hospital Hartlepool	3,000
Stockton High Street paving	10,000

CONTRACTS IN PIPELINE

B.S.C. elevated welfare Cleveland Works	5,000
B.S.C. services culvert Cleveland Works	10,000
Factory for C. Horne & Co. Structural alterations	50,000
Ready Mixed Concrete Brandon	30,000
Low Grange Social Club extension	13,000
Old Peoples Home Cockerton	170,000
Extension to Preston Way for E.I.E.C.	88,000
Re-alignment of Durham Way for E.I.E.C.	45,000

MAJOR CIVILS CONTRACTS

David Weatherby is sorting out staff and resources for

A near £½m. contract for the Burgh of Stranraer. A large area is to be reclaimed from the sea by means of a 800ft. long sea wall consisting of a double row of sheet piling (440 tonnes in all). The area behind the sea wall will be filled with 55,000 cu.metres of import and then a sewerage works and car park constructed on the area. Work is expected to get underway in early May with Ken Morrison at the helm. Gateshead Two contracts under the control of Tony Toomey are off to a good start. The first being the £¼m. Gateshead West Central Route within the central area of the town. Approx. 950 l.yd. of dual and 400 l.yd. of single carriageways are included, together with 2nd in situ reinforced concrete subways, trunk sewers and extensive rock excavations.

The second is advanced works for the proposed Consett Route at a value of £100,000. Consists of the extensive culverting, realignment etc. of the River Team, together with a footbridge over the river.

Longbenton Relaying of main sewer which in fact joins our current Seaton Valley drainage contract at the "head". Involves almost one mile of sewer ranging from 21in. to 36 in. dia. and a heading under a railway embankment. Value £70,000

FOOTNOTE

Thanks to the following for their help in preparing this article.

C. A. Hullock
A. Porter
L. M. Pascoe
J. S. Scott
J. R. Whitfield
D. W. Weatherly

J. Dean

THE CRACK IS...

Who is that man trailing Billy Low? Couldn't it be Matt Curran AGAIN!

Two gentlemen arguing on Site

1st "If I could get you by yourself, I would knock your bloody head off."

2nd "I am by myself."

1st "No your not, I'm wid ye!"

OVERHEARD IN

DEPARTMENT EIGHT

1st Operator:— "By lad, I had a good bath last night!"

2nd Operator:— (Glancing over newspaper) "You've dried a funny colour then!"

NOTICE

It has come to the notice of the management, that employees have been found dying on the job, and either refusing or neglecting to fall over.

This practice must cease forthwith and employees found dead in an upright position will be immediately stopped from the payroll.

In future, if a foreman notices an employee has made no movement for a period of one hour, it will be his duty to investigate as to the cause as it is almost impossible to distinguish between death and natural movement of some employees.

Foremen are advised to make a careful investigation by holding a pay packet in front of the suspected corpse as this is considered to be a most reliable test. There are cases, however, where the natural instinct has been so deeply engrained, the hand of the corpse has made spasmodic clutches after "rigor mortis" has set in.

The most successful test is to whisper "Sunday Work". This has been known to restore animation to a body which has been motionless all the week.

The foregoing test should not be applied to Foremen or Chargehands, as in these cases, movement of any kind is unnecessary.

FOR SALE

One well used stick. Owner now decided to use subtle methods of getting his staff to work.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the attached ad. in the *Brims News*, I would be obliged if, on my behalf, you would make the owner of the stick in question, an offer of 50p.

Yours faithfully,
A. Cunningham.

THE FACE BEHIND THE VOICE

THE FIRST IN A NEW SERIES OF STAFF PROFILES



Presenting "Wor Rita" the Queen of all Border telephonists who spends her day greeting telephonic visitors to our Gretna Contract. In her "quiet" moments she performs as base station announcer on the site radio network and "drives" the photocopying machine (the lass deserves a rise!)

Born English at Longtown (just in and proud of it), Rita moved to Gretna when she married Bert Graham (a true Border name) some sixteen years ago. Bert, who is a musician in his spare time, has played in dance bands and is a member of Annan Town Brass Band.

There's no truth in the rumour that Rita met her husband whilst following the band.

Rita is over twenty-one years of age and has two daughters—Carol and Gillian who are fourteen and eleven years of age respectively. Interests include dancing, music, knitting and sewing—particularly emergency repairs to site socks etc.

Having returned to work after fifteen years as a housewife, Rita has made the change smoothly and finds the work enjoyable and stimulating (twice as much cheek for Bert to handle!)

Being a "Do-it-yourself" enthusiast Bert has managed to adjust to being married to a "career woman"!

Rita's ambition?—to be office ganger!

J. DEAN

CYGNET CLUB

FISHING TRIP TO IRVINE

The party set off at approximately 2.15 p.m. Saturday 19th February for Irvine, after a delay searching for a missing member. After many miles (3) a halt was called at the Throckley Social Club to take on board refreshments, then, once again, back to the long haul up to Irvine to the PHARR INTERNATIONAL hotel to be met by mine host for the weekend, Tommy Henderson. Advantage was taken of Tommy's intimate knowledge of the local palaces of entertainment in the evening but the price of food (27½p per pint) rather dismayed us. Nevertheless after a jolly time we once again returned to our HOTEL and the luxury of our accommodation (sleeping bags on the floor but carpeted of course).

An early start was made on the Sunday morning for what we all expected to be a grand days fishing, longer eels seven feet long expressed Jim Renton, Cod about twenty pound claimed Dave Coulson but by two in the afternoon only Sid Welford, Brian Winters and Ken Hails had experienced that exhilarating glow and warmth you get with a fish on the end of the line whilst remarks from Dave like "the next one other than me to get a bite will get his bl**** line cut" or Jim Renton saying "Aa think aall try over this side of the boat noo there seems to be more fish there", not even the lure of Derek Atkinsons pipe which is generally quite good could do anything for him.

A total of some 60lb of fish had been caught by the end of the day.

S. WELFORD

5-A-SIDE LEAGUE

1972

Name	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Disposal 5	7	7	0	0	86	46	14
Swans	8	4	2	2	58	57	10
Eve. Chronicle	7	4	0	3	64	55	8
Head Office	7	4	0	3	72	86	8
Tarmac	3	3	0	0	14	10	6
Gretna	8	2	1	5	55	76	5
Seaton Burn	7	1	0	6	9	14	2
Design Office	7	0	1	6	61	75	1

*I strolled along the Bois de Boulogne
With a stocking round my face,
I saw the very place,
And I rapidly played my ace:
A crash of glass and a vitriol spray,
The manager coshed—another good day
For the man who broke the bank at
Monte Carlo.*

SEATON VALLEY DRAINAGE

Hello there from Seaton Valley Drainage home of the Ten Pin Bowling Champions!

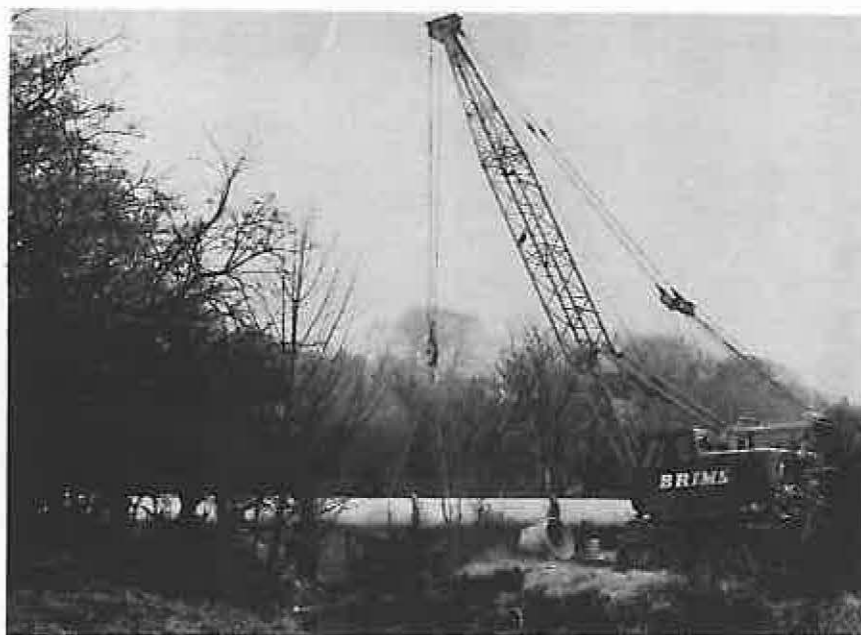
Trench warfare has been in progress now for nine months and should be over in another three.

The job is to replace the existing trunk sewers between Seaton Burn and Holywell. The client is Seaton Burn Valley Joint Sewage Board and the work has been designed and supervised by Waterhouse and Partners.

Extent of Works

8,000 metres of pipes varying in diameter from 1050mm. to 825mm. including six thrust bores, one heading, six stream crossings, various connections and storm overflows. The contract period is fifteen months.

Work started in July 71 the construction programme having to take account of sections which had to be completed out of sequence. The first of these was in Dudley School yard and had to be completed during the school's summer holiday.



Bridge that Gap



*Harry Tarn sampling
BOTTLED CLAY!*

What a start! Running sand, confined working area and on glorious wet summer (happy days). Conditions were so bad that soil samples could be taken in a milk bottle. It was debatable whether it would be better to use an excavator or a sludge pump to form the trenches. The schoolyard completed what next but more sand! By now however we were getting used to it and able to deal with it better.



Bang on Target!

A Tale of Woe

Whilst diverting a water main an adjoining gas main was undermined causing it to leak, the gas board arrived promptly and asked all Water Board workmen to refrain from smoking to avoid a fire. This they did. However, they omitted to tell them not to use a blow-lamp to complete their joints. A fire engine arrived almost as promptly as we have come to expect of a Brims fitter and soon had the situation in hand. Ever tried to light your tab with the tap?

In October work started at Holywell the main problems being access and side long ground. The weather was kind however and a blitz was made stringing out pipes and bedding across the fields. Wave the flag, good ground conditions at last and good progress was made.

Bang on Target!

Work is well ahead of programme now and we hope that we will have time to send missionaries to Gretna to help improve their Ten-Pin Bowling.

Many thanks to the Buying Department and the Plant Yard for the excellent service they have given and further congratulations to the yard on their choice of Liebherr excavators which have proved an enormous success!

J. G. Wood

FOOTNOTE

Site staff on the contract are:

For Waterhouse and Partners

Resident Engineer—T. W. Middleditch
Inspectors—S. Taylor, G. Simms

For Brims

Agent—W. R. Low

Sub-Agents—J. G. Wood; H. R. Tarn

Senior Engineer—J. G. Purvis

Engineers—T. Phillipson; M. Quinn; K.

Rix; E. Werndly; A. Cottam

Q.S.—T. A. Grant

G.F.—F. Todd; J. McConnell

Site Typist—M. Mumby

PEOPLE & PLACES

PLANT DEPOT NEWS

'Morning Fans'

What a job I've had this month thinking up something to write for this issue. Due consideration was given to an article on "Criticism" and how it affects various departments and people. This idea was duly scrapped and the subject of "Constructive Criticism" was then given due thought, but the more I wrote down the worse it looked and it was obvious a lot of people would take the article the wrong way and go all "Pet lip".

After rattling my brains for further inspiration (Note:— On a quiet, windless day you can actually hear the cogs turning if you stand close enough to me) I came up with the idea of queer adverts and sayings. The advert I like best proclaims "ONE SODDEN SITE AFTER ANOTHER"... and then goes on to extol the first class operation of a site pump.

"I'VE MET SOME GREEDY, GRASPING PUSHING GRABBERS IN MY TIME" ... which refers to a Traxcavator.

How about this one? "FOR SALE, TEN FLOATING LODGINGS FOR SITE MANAGERS". Shades for Fordley Housing Stage I or even Beverley Sewerage?

One of the nicest adverts I ever saw was outside a boozer and read "COME IN AND GET STIFF." Man, you couldn't ask for a nicer invitation than that. Talking of boozers, how about the tale of two fellas standing in the loo discussing their friend who was still propping up the bar.

1st Gent "By lad, ould Geordie's sinking a few the neet".

2nd Gent "Sinking a few! He's drinking it up as if they were going to stop making the stuff."

That's what I call drinking!

Belated, but never-the-less sincere congratulations to David Croucher, our Transport Department office man, on his wedding to Miss Chris Conoty at St. Peter's Church, Balkwell, North Shields. Chris is a staff nurse at Newcastle General and intends to carry on her career, gradually going onto a part-time basis. Well done kids, we're all proud of you.

Somehow I've managed to get in quite a few site visits these past few months and must admit that only by regular site visits is it possible to keep up with the plant situation in general. Even when I return to the Yard to be

greeted with a desk piled high with bumff I still consider the visits more than worthwhile. Naturally I take the opportunity to get in my two 'penorth regarding general maintenance to plant as you fellas on site can really help us at the Yard in this matter.

As most of you know we had a pretty good year in Department eight last year, thanks mainly to Departments one, two and four, but with a bit more care and interest by site personnel towards plant, we could have had an even better year. Our repair cost figures would, I'm sure, make your hair curl. I'd like nothing better than to present Stan Sutton with reduced repair cost figures for 1972 and be able to say they were due to sites taking more interest in plant. After all, what's wrong with having the best plant, the best site maintenance and the best Plant department in our area or even the U.K.? Somebody has to be the greatest, why not us? Come on fellas, you know you can do it, I know you can do it, why not show these amateurs how a professional outfit operates?

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS!

As a protest against the apathetic attitude towards *Brimsnews* by certain members of the company I had intended to resign from the editorial board.

However after seriously thinking it over I've decided to stay on until I'm thrown off the board.

To those of you who think our sheet is a waste of time "Why don't you write in and tell us so? The letters to the editor page is all yours.

To those of you who have contributed in the past, "Many thanks, keep your news coming in, there's ten blank sheets, including the front page waiting for you.

J. S. FAIRBAIRN

We are pleased to announce that Bert Fairburn (Plant Depot), who took ill and was rushed to hospital on Tuesday 14th March, is due to return home soon.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery Bert from all your friends and colleagues.

GRETNA CHAT

The social life at Gretna is still in full swing. Since the contract started, the profits of the Carlisle State Management Scheme have increased by approximately 50%.

Our Social Director, Lord Dodd of Rockcliffe is at present in a state of shock after being informed that we are not building a car park here; he now spends most of his spare time carol singing.

Ross Emmerson is still walking around wide-eyed and open-mouthed after seeing Alf Marron in full chat.

Terry Dodd and Brian May using their usual persuasive methods (blackmail, threats and torture) have managed to get 100% membership for Cygnet Club over here—well done lads.

Les Brown has had a broad grin on his face ever since Hereford won; he keeps saying "I've waited twenty years for this".

Eddie Hall

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

J. K. Hill on his being appointed a Director of the company as from 20th March 1972.

Ken joined the company as Chief Accountant on 1st June 1965 and was appointed Company Secretary in July 1969 when Mike Hall left.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

John and Chris Wood on the birth of their baby boy on Thursday 16th March.

Mother and baby are both doing well. So is John!

I know just how Ann Fincham feels, I yell so hard my poor head reels, They'll say—"Marj, get me so and so" Then while I'm ringing-off they go! They've either vanished into the blue, Or else they're nesting in the loo. I go quite pink with sheer frustration, Tell them off with indignation, Abuse upon their heads I've hurled, But I wouldn't swap them for the world!

Marj of the Yard

FOR SALE

Following Ken Rix's half-haircut, 5 cwt. of red hair is now for sale.

Offers to Dudley 521

PEOPLE & PLACES cont'd

TEESSIDE NEWS

As the newly appointed "Eyes and Ears" of Teesside a special welcome to one and all to this edition *Teesside News*.

Many foreigners will sit back, scratch their heads and remark where is Teesside? To those people let me enlighten them in just one or two words that not so very long ago it was known as "mucky" Middlesbrough-on-Tees.

So much for the introductions, that is history, let us look forward to the future and the common goal **SUCCESS WITH BRIMS**. That is the theme, and the future editions of *Brimsnews* should unveil an increasing flow of contracts awarded to Brims of Teesside.

A remark in passing on the Darlington contract, the first placed by Darlington Corporation with the company. A word of warning to Gilbert Ash, Shepherds Construction etc., who have had a free hand for some years around these parts. "Watch out—Brims are coming!!!"

On the social side Teesside staff held their Annual Dinner and Dance at The County Club, Marton on 22nd January 1972 attended by the majority of Teesside Regional Staff and their guests.

A vote of thanks to Larry Semmens for organizing such a successful and enjoyable evening.

Welcome to Brims is extended to: Barbara Hibbs, typist—Hemlington Housing; Norma Garbutt part-time comp. operator—Teesside Regional Office

Hope you have a long and successful career with the Company.

Welcome also goes out to:

Jeffrey Hawkins, engineer transferred from Scotland to Preston Way Civil Engineering Contract, Aycliffe.

GLAMOUR NEWS

In a recent search for beauties around Teesside organized by *The Evening Gazette* Irene Layton, Teesside Regional Office receptionist and typist was spotted by the camera and singled out for a "mention in dispatches".

Better have her christened **MISS BRIMS OF TEESSIDE**

COLLEGE NEWS

We hope this article can be squeezed between the Gretna news and the Plant Yard chat, as our numbers are increasing to warrant our own chat column.

We are students of Sunderland Polytechnic, which has been rumoured to have been re-named Brims College of Knowledge due to the high pressure salesmanship, or is it backhanders!?! from their area representative (RRAM WERDNA, use a mirror) in commanding junior engineers onto the courses. The result being a band of long haired, hippy-like so called Civil Engineering students.

The Spring term, having just started in February sees the return to the second year of D. Ladkin (from Seaton Burn), M. Hart (H.Q. say no more) and to the third year R. Jackson (the local nunnery), P. Dryden (the Alcoholic Training camp at Gretna) and D. Offord (well we all know where he's been). Replacing the Autumn collection which consisted of second years I. (Jock) Hunter, C. (YA FLIPPA) HENDRY, and M. (HONKY TONK) PHILLIPSON "How I killed the scene in Tangiers, but whatever was it all about?" Whilst permanent fixtures such as I. (THE HERMIT) JOHNSON and S. WILKIE (those desert boots were made for walking) continue their first year studies.

In most cases the idea of being here is to study **CIVIL ENGINEERING** although other forms of recreation do exist. In most cases the members lodge in Sunderland although that does not mean squatting in the incinerator site cabins. The alternative being the Hall of Residence where survival of the tasty dishes is a course in itself. Here relics of past members can still be found in the rooms such as broon ale bottles (empty of course), convector heaters (with "Plant Yard" stamped on the side). Jock Hunter's whisky still (well used during exams) and M. Phillipson's ... graphic wallpapering to say the least.

The social life includes college dances, i.e. "Fancy a bit prance about like pet?" and other opening suggestions, food demonstrations in the college canteen, love-ins (although he's left now), drinking contests in

which Jock and Swilkie tie for first place, and D. Ladkin organising the occasional **CLIMB-IN** as he lives on the top floor (why doesn't he use the lift like everybody else?)

The college ten pin bowling team suffered a severe setback due to "black-legging" operations by the new boy in the Estimating department using R. Jackson and wife on his own team. The transfer fee is still not known but we are hopefully waiting for the cheque. Even so with induced injuries to D. Offord's bowling hand a strong fight was made due to the animal instincts emerging under the assumption that the hot pants team were first prize. Although we didn't win, we are still waiting for our crackerjack pencils for being at least second.

Our next trip out is expected to be at the setting-out course at Otterburn, although some members have "squeezed" on through the back door, when we hope to have a more sobering influence on the assembly.

Finally may we take this opportunity of wishing Colin Hendry best wishes on his recent marriage.

B.Sc.ing ya!

P. Dryden
D. Offord

BUILDING DIVISION

In order to increase its effectiveness the Cost Control section of the division is to be restructured.

An integral part of this restructuring is the recruitment of additional Cost Control and Bonus Surveyors for the Tyne/Tees region.

Opportunities to progress from the above to positions in Line Management will arise for the right individuals.

If you feel you have anything to offer or would like to discuss the matter further please contact Mr. A. Hodgson, Manager—Building Services.

PEOPLE & PLACES cont'd

MUSIC MAKING

I have often been accused of blowing my own trumpet and in spite of numerous requests not to, I am plunging into the realms of journalistic extravaganza.

A subject hardly touched on previously in *Brimsnews* unless you include Jacky Fairbairn's drum thumping, is brass bands and indeed music of any sort.

For many people a brass band means "oompah" (a dirty word amongst players) in the park on a Sunday afternoon, which is not to be confused with the oompah you might get on a park bench after the "parky" has locked up.

But there is so much more to brass bands than playing in parks and on parades. Practice as the saying goes, makes perfect and nowhere is this more evident than in the world of brass bands. The precision and quality of a top class band puts the players in a class with the members of any major symphony orchestra.

At all levels of the brass band movement, a great deal of hard work must be done to attain any standards at all. From the local colliery band, with half their members still at school, practising twice a week, to bands of the calibre of Black Dyke who can practice twice a day before a contest is due.

These contests are the life blood of our bands and on practically any Saturday or Sunday of the year one is being held somewhere in the country.

The locations can vary from small church halls, to the open air (weather permitting) to fine buildings like the City Hall, Newcastle. Of course the national competitions are held at venues such as Belle Vue, Manchester (May and September) The Winter Gardens, Blackpool (November) and the mecca for all followers, The Royal Albert Hall in October.

Me, (taking a bird to hear a band for the first time)

"Isn't the band great?"

She "I'm sorry I can't hear a word your saying for this infernal racket"

(Courtesy of *Punch* 1889)

The enthusiasm of bandsmen and their supporters is reflected in the fact that the tickets for this contest are more difficult to obtain than those for a Cup Final.

To attend one of the national contests, the bands must first attend a local qualifying contest and gain 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing in one of four sections. The central organisation of the movement is at Belle Vue where the Registry of all players in the country is held.

At the contest, all players "Sign on" presenting their registration cards as proof of identity. However it has been known for a famous player to appear with a lesser known band wearing a false beard and signing an assumed name.

Some of you may know that our parent company have a very fine band, and I recently had the pleasure of joining them at a local contest where we were awarded 3rd prize.

The Colliery Band were playing Christmas carols in the village and the bandmaster, a noted wag instructed "Right lads, 'Good King Wencelas', noo there's seven varses, we'll play the first three and the last fower"

I could go on much longer but you haven't done anything to me to warrant that, so in conclusion the next time you hear the rattle of collecting boxes and your friendly neighbourhood band is in the street—GIVE GENEROUSLY

BARRON SMITH

I can hear you saying "Who's he" and at last the secret is out. It's the actual real name bestowed on me by my mother, and known in the company as "Biff".

APRIL 1972

POSTSCRIPT TO HADRIAN ROAD JOB

Hadrian Road extension started on the 13th April, 1970 as a fifty-two week contract for one mile of road including a 450 foot long awkwardly shaped reinforced concrete bridge over the Willington Gut.

In spite of several major service diversions, late vacation of property which had to be demolished, and unforeseen changes to the riverworks, the contract proceeded generally on programme and could have opened on time.

However, when our supporting shuttering was stripped from the centre span, the concrete slab deflected excessively at mid span, and lifted at the corners. This movement caused damage to the bearing shelves which were supporting the slab.

At this point the Consulting Engineers re-checked the design and instructed us to install two additional cased piles "through" the newly completed deck.

Two small areas in the sagging corners of the deck were broken out to enable the additional piles to be installed.

After the piles were installed, the deck was re-concreted leaving a gap between the top of the pile and the underside of the deck. Two very thin pancake jacks were slid into the gap and the deck slab corners were jacked back on their original level. However, the centre of the span still sagged three to four inches.

At this point the local and national press reported a three inch gap—"The bridge that didn't meet in the middle".

After the strengthening and jacking operation had been completed, the centre span was test loaded by Brims the structural stability proved to be satisfactory for the client.

The sagging shape was not acceptable and eventually a system of precast concrete panels were approved. These were duly installed by hanging them over the outside edge of the span and the road opened on the 13th February, 1972, some ten months late.

W. R. LOW

INTERNAL TRANSFERS

The company intends that opportunity be given for staff to transfer either on a temporary or permanent basis between its Northern and Southern regions when suitable vacancies occur and when it is possible for the employee to be released from his current commitments.

At the present time the following vacancy exists in our Southern region based at Southampton. This vacancy is also being advertised externally.

Section Engineer, age range 24--27, H.N.C. or Degree in Civil Engineering preferred but not essential.

The contract is an extension of Lyndhurst Sewage Works in the New Forest valued at approximately £600,000 and is programmed to last about two years.

In the first instance, if interested, please contact A. M. Marr, Manager—Personnel Services.

Future vacancies will be circularised to sites or advertised in *Brimsnews*.

As our activities in the south expand it is envisaged that further vacancies will exist as new work is obtained.

NEW PLANT PURCHASES



Land Drive Unit and Dump Station



Kerb Extruder



D6 and 72T Rollers



Aveling Barford Super 500 Grader

NEW PLANT PURCHASES

We've been looking at and buying various bits and pieces of plant these last two months, amongst other things, forklift trucks. Unlike sawbenches, small mixers, builders hoists etc. which only vary slightly, specifications wise, from one manufacturer to another, forklifts seem to be never ending in their variations. We've had three demonstrations so far, with various machines on different sites and each demonstration tended to make the job of picking the right machine more difficult.

Where one forklift would plough through any sort of site condition, the other wouldn't, but on the other hand the poor traveller had marvellous stability and reach. Another machine had good travelling qualities, good lift and reach, but the operator was virtually operating blind due to the mass of arms, cylinders, chains etc. obstructing his view.

Basically there are two types of forklifts. Purpose built, which are the true forklift and modified types which are usually converted 4-wheel drive dumpers with the skip removed and forklift attachments fitted. Both types have their good and bad points, and selection of the correct machine for a certain job is in most instances vitally important. Indeed it could be a case of one man's meat is another man's poison.

The photo's show some of the "bits and pieces" recently purchased. The Land Drive units which were described in the October *Brimnews* are reported by site staff to be marvellous.

As can be seen on the photo, the tractor operator, having connected the tractor hydraulic pipe to the dump station grab, is filling the Land Drive hopper. Once the hopper is full it's a simple matter to disconnect the pipe from the grab unit, attach it to the Land Drive hopper and the operator is ready for the off.

When I asked how the kerb extruder was performing I was told, "Something like yourself kidda—fantastic!"

Another rather revolutionary piece of plant to come onto the market is the J.C.B.110 Crawler Loader. The two main features of this machine are the tracks which are hydrostatically driven, similar to hydraulic crawler excavators and the driver's cab where the driver sits in front of the engine, positioned almost midway between the tracks. One thing rather irritated me when I read through the specification sheet. The cab was described as "ergonomically designed". I knew "ergonomics" had something to do with "Mans relationship to machinery" but wasn't quite sure of "ergonomically" so I rang up a local reference library. "No such word listed in the Oxford Dictionary" she said,

but hang on and I'll try Webster's American dictionary." Well, I could have spat blood at this. Here I was, reading a spec. sheet on an all British machine and because some clever advertising so and so had decided to use a way-out Yankee description, I was being forced to waste time ringing up a reference library, just to make sure that my idea of ergonomics etc. was in fact right. If the cab had been described as comfortable, neat, sound-proof, functional or even lovely, I'm sure that I and many of my colleagues would have readily accepted them, but ergonomically—never!

Imagine me interviewing a driver for one of these machines.

Me:— Incidentally the cabs on our machines are ergonomically designed.

Operator:— Eh!

Me:— Well you know-ergonomics

Operator:— Eh!

Me:— Well—er, ergonomics has to do with man's relationship with machinery.

Operator:— Eh?

Me:— Well er, um—its—er . . . Blast it! It's got a cab.

Operator:— Thank god for that, I thought for a minute you meant I had to wear oilskins and wellies.

Just in case this article finds its way onto Joe Bamford's desk let me say "Come off it Joe, tell your advertising boys you are trying to sell your machines to plant men and not first year undergraduates".

J. S. Fairbairn

SAFETY CHATTER

ACCIDENT PRONENESS FACT OR FICTION?

An early and still existing view in safety literature has been that a number of people are accident prone.

This view has led to the labelling of "accident proneness" as the cause of accidents in a significant number of cases.

In reality it is not the cause of accidents at all!

Where a person does experience repeated accidents the cause generally is a number of inherent conditions, related not only to his physical or mental make up but also to the environment in which he works.

The real challenge is to identify these causes and to take corrective action. Everyone is subject to accidents and having them or not having them usually depends upon the number of unsafe acts committed and unsafe conditions exposed to in a given period. Over the years numerous studies have been made which associate a large percentage of accidents with a so-called accident prone group of people, perhaps the proper function for the industrial psychologist and others.

However misconception and over-emphasis of the accident prone theory by industrial safety officers and supervisory staff could lead to a lot of mis-directed safety effort.

Industrial management should and must be convinced that lack of supervisory safety direction and the employees mental condition cause accidents. Any attempt to control work injuries by the elimination of the accident prone would be sure to fail.

Usually "accident proneness" is described as a combination of human abilities which make a person highly proficient in bringing about accidents regardless of his environment, at a rate higher than could be statistically expected by chance alone.

Perhaps it will suffice to describe the accident prone individual as someone who will have an abnormally high rate of injuries regardless of his job, work, environment, age, or length of service.

However, we can still not determine how many injuries an employee must have to be considered accident prone. However if it is discovered that a small percentage of a work force are having a high percentage of injuries, thorough

investigation is a necessity. To avoid any misunderstanding it may be helpful to point out that no attempt is being made here to disprove the existence of accident prone persons.

The goal is to convince managers, supervisors and site safety personnel that only a very small percentage of a work force could possibly be identified as truly accident prone. Therefore at this moment the accident prone concept has little value in any safety programme. Attention must not be diverted from the tangible elements of accident prevention and precautions by simply saying a person is accident prone. To assume a person is accident prone is a job for the Doctors and Psychologists. On the other hand a supervisor who believes in the concept of accident prone-ness, and has such individuals under his charge must take positive action and look for the cause of the accidents. Supervisors must always be alert to radical changes in any workers temperament and attitude; physical conditions and job satisfaction. Negative change in any one of these factors might trigger off an accident. The physical condition and mental stability of any worker should always be a factor in job placement. If supervisors have good work habits and attitudes for safe working, they will find that these habits and attitudes have a way of transmitting themselves to the entire work-force.

The first trap to avoid for any supervisor is not to lapse into what is now traditional thinking that workers with three or more accidents are accident prone and that there's nothing he can do to prevent these accidents being caused. A positive approach to the situation will bring tangible results.

"QUI COLLABORANT"
M. Curran

Farmer counting sheep.
One, Two, Three, Four, Five. Oh hello
luv. Six, Seven, Eight, Nine.

A friend in need is a . . . pest!

We feel sorry for those who do not drink; because when you wake up in the morning that's as good as your going to feel all day!

GREटना CHAT

FROM A FEMALE'S ANGLE

They canna leave a girl in peace
to get on with her knitting
Just write a line, they said to me
gan canny and make it fittin.
I'm not so good at this kind of art
So apologies all--before I start.

While walking up to work, I say
"What will the mishaps be today?"
The chances are, there'll be a few
If not with the Captain--then the Crew.

Into my little office I must fly
So as not to catch 'our Sandy's' eye
He's looking at his watch you see
"Your late again" he says to me.

Hello--the sun is shining bright
Means Mr. Weatherly's not in sight
It nearly always rains you see
When H.O. friends drop in for tea
Here's hoping you're not offended
(Gie's yer on site sock--
I'll try and mend it).

Could that be a band I hear?
Someone tall with ginger hair
Climbing out of his gleaming car
Keeping tabs on where we are!
Hope he leaves the car door open
We'll also listen to TERRY WOGEN
Is it work that makes him sad?
Or that programme FIGHT THE FLAB.

Now there's our Peter whose quite
a charmer
If you can penetrate his armour
For when you tell him he cannot spell
He's likely to say "Well go to . . ."

Only Coffee says "our Mabel"
As she clears the kitchen table
Terry's late again you see,
Once more he's missed his cup of tea
She'd maybe manage him a sandwich
If it wasn't for his choice of language.

The most annoying thing
Is expecting me to ring
all the offices in rotation,
Trying to get communication
'Cos if I holler down the passage
Its--"I'M NOT IN LUV--
TAKE A MESSAGE"
or "HE'LL BE IN A LITTLE LATER"
Thinks--(In the 'loo' with the
morning paper?)

It's not that I am feeling blue
that I have penned this word or two
Sufficient to say I'm not a 'Henny'
Nor as some folk think--a Geni

Just wearing away my double chins
Working for this firm called BRIMS.

Rita

BRIMS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP



John Bescoby Philip Gardiner

BRIMS M.S.G.

Our third annual conference was held at Otterburn on Saturday and Sunday, the 11/12th March, when the subject was Industrial Relations.

Bearing in mind the publicity given to the Industrial Relations Act and the aspect of internally run seminars dealing with the Act, it was decided that it would not only be wrong but extremely boring to waste time attempting to extend our knowledge in that direction.

John Bescoby

John Bescoby, the senior lecturer in Industrial Relations at Newcastle University, was contacted and with his advice a programme was prepared. He opened the conference giving us most fluent thought provoking talks on two subjects—"Our Changing Industrial Society" and "Industrial Relations in the U.S.A. A Contrast in Experience" and later chairing an open forum to close the seminar.

In the first of these talks he traced the history of and looked into the future at the attitudes of man and management. He discussed the changes in technology and their effect on unemployment and leisure and the problems facing trade unions, management and government.

His second talk was again most interesting, as in it he compared the different attitudes to profits, bargaining, management and politics of Trade Unions in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. He recommended that management should train the workforce in a better understanding of profitability. He suggested that Trade Unions, if not already doing so, would require to recruit staff trained in the various techniques of management, so that they, the Unions, would be able to bargain in a more professional manner than heretofore. Their ability to succeed in this way would obviously have an effect on their ability to



Jack Dash

survive or expand, and would present additional problems for management.

Films

Two films were shown, "Dispute" and "The Build Up", dealing with management/labour relations.

Jack Dash

Jack Dash, who has now retired from the shop steward movement, epitomised John Bescoby's description of The British Trade Unions attitude towards management. He gave a forceful talk covering his views on shop stewards, the Industrial Relations Act, Political Motivation, Profitability and the need for management and unions to talk their problems over frankly and for both to honour agreements made. A number of people disagreed with the points of view expressed by him and eventually agreed to disagree with him. Jack's idea of compromise was rather mindful of the husband who stated that his forty years of married bliss were due to compromise—"When he married he learnt that his wife liked coffee and he liked tea so they compromised and they had drunk coffee ever since".

In the evening Jack's ability to tell amusing stories knew no bounds and provided excellent relaxation after dinner.

Philip Gardner

On Sunday morning Philip Gardner, a lecturer in industrial psychology at the University of Glasgow, who was recommended by the Industrial Society gave us a far reaching talk examining the part psychology plays in almost every decision made and how it effects the attitudes and reaction amongst each and every person concerned. He put this across with a pawky humour and an innumerable number of stories real and imaginary to exhibit the pitfalls and successes of management/staff and man to man relationships. An interesting relationship drawn by him

was the need for the manager to be like the mother of a family—able to accept the continual problems without letting them worry or get him down.

Discussion

A most interesting discussion followed each of the talks and the whole weekend was considered, by most, to have been a thought provoking, stimulating and enjoyable, providing as it did an opportunity for coming together from the outposts of the Brims empire.

Brims M.S.G.

For those who have read this far, and for newcomers to the Company and others who have not heard of Brims M.S.G., a few words about the group might be of interest. Four years ago a series of residential courses on management were run at Otterburn under the guidance of management consultants at which a broad cross section of staff attended. Following this a number of the younger managers at that time decided to form the group having as its objective "The Discussion of the Implications of Modern Management Practice", and having as a condition of membership the necessity to be a member in some form or other of The British Institute of Management. At the beginning of this year the latter ruling was suspended on a temporary basis. You will see therefore that it is a self motivating group dependant on the support and ideas of its members. Should you be interested in joining the group which meets once a month during the winter months please contact Eddie Blyth, our Secretary, or for information of a general nature, Andrew Marr.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Post House Hotel, Washington Wednesday 5th March 1972 when the weekend conference will be reviewed and the AGM will be held.

IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

Consideration will shortly have to be given to the programme for next year and recommendation of ideas for subjects will be welcomed from any source and not only from group members.

D. GIBSON

STOP PRESS

We have just heard that the team representing the M.S.G. in the National Management game have won through to the third round. This means they are now in the last sixty-four out of 744 entrants. Is there no stopping them?