



BRIMS **NEWS SHEET**

AUGUST 1968

VOL. 1 NUMBER 2

ROAD IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPT.

Brims have won a £645,000 contract for improvements to the Seaton Burn to Stanington Bridge section of the A1.

The scheme involves 2.4 miles of dual two lane carriageway, one overbridge and one underbridge both in concrete and steel.

Client for the project is North-umberland County Council and Consulting Engineers are Mott Hay and Anderson.

The Contracts Manager will be Mr. D. Gibson and the Contract is expected to start in the Autumn.

First Contract in Scotland

The Company has recently been awarded its first contract in Scotland, which involves the construction of New Dock Gates at Carron Dock for the Grangemouth Dockyard Company, a member of the Swan Hunter Group.

The value of the contract is £95,000 and the work, which consists of constructing a temporary cofferdam at the mouth of the drydock, renewing the old dock gates, and concreting the dock floor is expected to take 40 weeks.

BOURNEMOUTH TOWN CENTRE BY-PASS....

Work is well under way on the Braidley Road Bridge shown in our photograph.

The bridge is a four span continuous structure of in-situ prestressed concrete construction 480 feet in length.

The contract, worth approximately £840,000, is basically for a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of dual 24 ft. carriageway (with provision for widening to 36 ft.) including two bridges and a 100,000 cu. yd. cutting, and is scheduled for completion within two years.

The scheme has been planned by the Bournemouth Borough Engineer and Surveyor and the bridge designs have been prepared by E. W. H. Gifford & Partners of Southampton.

Frame Form

As many of you are aware we decided some time ago to extend our activities to include local authority house building.

It was decided that we should enter this market with a system of building other than rather wholly traditional methods, and after inspecting many systems, the Riley Frame Form method of platform timber frame construction was selected and a licence obtained for its use.

Frame Form is basically traditional North American construction adapted to suit the British Building Regulations, and using this system of construction it is possible to

produce traditional looking houses more quickly than by conventional methods. An article with photo-

To date we have obtained the following work for Frame Form:

Tow Law, Co: Durham. 61 Houses and Bungalows for the North Eastern Housing Association Ltd.

Seaton Valley U.D.C. 145 houses and bungalows at Shiremoor and Holywell.

Longbenton U.D.C. 152 houses and bungalows at Fordley.

Blaydon U.D.C. 6 houses at Winlaton.

FACTORY AT MORPETH

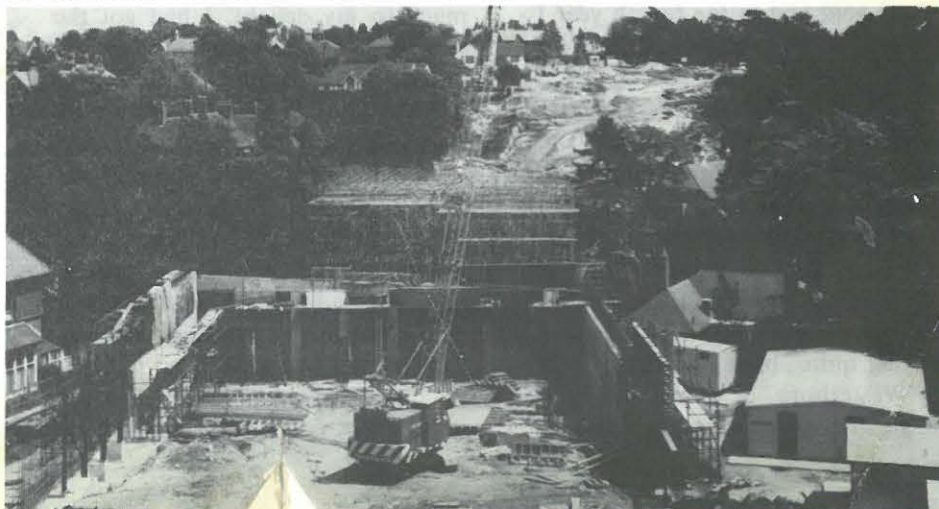
On the Morpeth Heath site West of the A1 at Morpeth the Company recently started work on a factory for G. D. Searle & Co. Ltd., the American Pharmaceutical Company. The cost $1\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds.

The Project Manager, Alan Porter, and his team commenced at the beginning of May and their brief is to finish in 13 months.

The standard of workmanship for this project which consists of office block, warehouse and packaging block, production block and other ancillary buildings has to be high to maintain the required clinical conditions.

The Architects are Thurlow, Lucas & Janes of High Wycombe and our past record was very instrumental in obtaining this additional work.

BOURNEMOUTH TOWN CENTRE BY-PASS, Stage 2



PROFILE

2-

T. GROARK

The second article in this series introduces Terry Groark, one of the Company's Civil Engineering Estimators.

Born in the mining district of Seaham in 1929 he attended the local school until at the age of 11 he was exiled to Scotland where he continued his education at a Boarding School in Dumfries.

At the age of 18 he was drafted into the mines as a "Bevan Boy" and on completion of his National Service attended a commercial course at a Government Training Centre before joining a firm of local building contractors where he worked for 4 years as a bonus clerk.

In 1953 Terry began his career with Brims and he worked on a variety of contracts as a site clerk, never missing the opportunity to get out and see what was happening on the site.

At this stage of his career Terry's yo-yo-existence took him from the



site into the accounts department from where, after a short period, he again appeared on site before joining the buying department. He enjoyed this work because it kept him in contact with the site.

Eventually ambition took the upper hand and he left the Company for a period of one week (is this a record?). However, during this week the opportunity to rejoin the Company as an assistant estimator was presented and here Terry felt was the opportunity he had really been seeking. He has been a Civil Engineering Estimator now for some

time and at last he feels that he is settled in his work.

Terry lives in Sunderland with his wife Margaret, their daughter who is 13 and his son who is 3.

His interests include taking the family for runs in the car particularly to places of historical interest, gardening, and for some reason supporting Sunderland Football Club where he generates his raucous support on a Saturday afternoon.

He has been a member of the Association of Conservative Clubs for 18 years and serves on two committees.

...From School to Work...

I left school a year ago and have never really had time to think back over the last two years or so. Since the third year of Secondary School, I had made my mind up to what form of a career I would like to follow after school.

I wanted to work in the Building Industry as a Site Engineer, a job which suited all my interests. I had set my goal and in the fourth year I selected the best subjects to achieve this aim in examinations.

Whilst I waited for the results I wrote away to various firms and Companies seeking employment and details of their training schemes. My first interview was with Brims & Co. Ltd., on 12th May—an unforgettable day. I was given the afternoon off school to attend. All dressed up and looking quite smart I made my way to Westerhope. I remember preparing myself on the way by thinking

of all the questions that I thought I may be asked and putting the answers to them. It is amusing to think back that I was very nervous and very serious at the time.

The interview was a successful one and Brims & Co. would offer a good sound training provided I obtained the necessary results in school exams.

When my results came through, much to my delight, I had got the subjects necessary to start on an O.N.C. course at Technical College and I was offered employment with Brims & Co. It was on the understanding that I would begin in the Civil Engineering Estimating Department before practical training on site.

I have found the work very interesting and have learned a great deal on the Tendering side of Contracting as I have been working alongside an experienced Estimator.

On the less academic side I have

taken part in one or two of the Cygnet Club activities including the Five-a-side Football and the Venture Club. The latter included two weekends in the Lake District to take part in Rock Climbing and Mountain Walking as well as an exciting swimming lesson in a washed out tent.

With Brims & Co. I have had an opportunity to be present at a Technicians' meeting in London and also have taken part in a five day Setting Out Course at Otterburn. This has taught me how to use the various surveying instruments and to study the more important setting out techniques.

The training received from Brims & Co. has been very beneficial and I look forward to a profitable and successful future with them in the coming years.

PAUL K. DRYDEN



NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

TYNESIDE

Cost & Bonus Dept.

Congratulations to Bill Maughan on his marriage. We are only sorry we could not supply anyone to hold the Tape for him when he returned to work. We are pleased to welcome John Hindmarsh, Derek McGill and Ross Emerson who has joined the Company as a management trainee and is spending his first few months with us working at Morpeth. It should be pointed out that it is really essential in this Department to wear Safety Helmets especially when announcing the bonus. Jim Carr's wife has given birth to their first son—congratulations Jim—keep up the good work ! !

Bill Burn has been accepted as a student by Manchester University—our heartiest good wishes Bill, we will follow your career with great interest.

PLANT DEPT. - Unforgettable Characters



"Hard lines, Lad! You should get your requisitions in sooner thah than this!!!"



"For next Monday, it'll be a pleasure!"

On the strength of his fast-fading batchelor days (he married on 29th June) Roger has been appointed our Social Secretary, and we have already had one successful party at a New Forest pub.

The other two resident batchelors Martin Shipman and Terry Trenerry show no sign of changing their state until some (or perhaps most) of the joys of Bournemouth have been run to earth and representative samples inspected in the best engineering manner.

Another "bull" point about Bournemouth, particularly for our key labour from Portsmouth, has been the provision of the "Hall of Residence" (not, please, "The Doss House" or worse), a most superior establishment run under the genial patronage of Mine Host Ken Sharples.

Included in the residents is David James, straight from his successes at Hilsea Gas Works, who had the original inspiration about the Hall.

Another guest, Mike Gaffney, has recently been appointed to Staff status along with Mike Riley, and we offer them our congratulations. Our other foreman, Mike Ferris, is on loan to Beverley, where he may improve the standard of darts playing if nothing else.

John Corstorphin who has successfully worked his way up from labouring is now a well-established Junior Engineer. Another Junior Engineer, Roger Purchase, has increased his personal labour force and is now the proud father of two boys.

Another ex Reed & Mallik man, Denys Barron, continues to fascinate us all with his daily application of yoghourt to beard and moustache. If all else fails he should at least make a living as a beach entertainer this summer.

The job itself is wide open, and we feel that with the team of staff and men that we have at site we should have an interesting and successful contract.

SOUTHAMPTON

The winter campaign of seminars, training courses and business games behind us, the Southampton contingent have moved into summer quarters at Bournemouth.

Joining the old troops, veterans of previous engagements along the south coast from Poole to Portsmouth, we are pleased to welcome Tom Moulard, Allan Fowler and Roger Arnold. Tom and Roger have come to us from the big boys Costain and McAlpine, while Allan is a former local competitor having recently worked on the Totton Flyover for Reed & Mallik.

TEESSIDE



"LARRY THE LAMB"



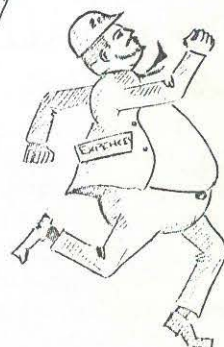
"TWIGGY"



"HARRY THE NICK"



"SLIMMING SID."



"FAT JACK"

"THE BRIMS GUT RACE or ESTON SPORTS"

CYGNET CLUB

Venture Club



The first expedition, like all its successors to date, was held in the Lake District and the party duly arrived in a vehicle masquerading as a mini-bus after frequent refreshment halts.

Saturday it rained and those foolhardy enough to venture out returned to the cottage in which the party was staying completely saturated having spent the day running up and down the Langdale Pikes. One enthusiastic member so misjudged his leap across a mountain stream that he disappeared completely into the froth and was found some yards downstream mouthing rude words and water.

The next day was somewhat brighter and the drive to the crags on which rock climbing was to take place was enlightened when rounding a corner the mini-bus struck a large car. This was nothing serious and, after the usual pleasantries with the other driver, the crags were reached and the air was full of such things as "You go first I'll go last—perhaps" and "I want at least 5 pints before going up there". In fact, the climbing was completed without incident and most enjoyed their first attempts.

A few months later the second expedition was held and further climbs were undertaken.

In October, 1967, the third expedition set out and camped by the River Derwent in Borrowdale.

The weather was not good and by morning four out of the eight tents had been demolished.

The party was divided into two, one group to climb, the other to canoe on Derwentwater. Fortunately, the canoeists were wearing life jackets for two canoes capsized in the

high winds and the instructor distinguished himself by disappearing into the lake in a flurry of spray, reappearing like the Loch Ness monster muttering unintelligible phrases in broad scottish.

The following night three more tents collapsed and an all night jamboree was held in the mini-bus by the survivors.

The weekend finished with a mammoth game of football where one of the goalkeepers distinguished himself by flying across the goal in his pyjamas, these being the only dry clothes he had left.

In March the club held its first annual dinner at an inn in Little Langdale. More shall not be said.

The club is planning an eight day expedition to Torridon in North-West Scotland during September where a dozen or so members are taking one week of their holidays to participate in the most ambitious programme of the club to date.

ANDREW M. MARR

Football Club

A meeting was held in Newcastle on Wednesday, 17th July when arrangements for the coming season were discussed. Brims have a team in the North East Sunday League and anyone who is interested in joining the club should contact the Secretary, Mr. S. Batey, of Head Office. It is hoped to arrange training sessions and practice matches in the near future. The season starts on 18th August.

Five-a-side Football League

A five-a-side football league is being formed consisting of teams from both sites and Head Office. Commencing mid-September these games will be played in the Sports Centre at Ponteland which has been booked on Tuesday evenings from 8.30 to 10.30 p.m.

Anyone interested should contact Andrew Marr at Head Office.

Social Club Car Treasure Hunt

On Thursday, 1st August, twelve carloads of staff, families and friends took part in an evening trip round Northumberland (although at least one carload thought a journey into County Durham would be nicer!).

Points were awarded for supplying answers to clues, producing various odd articles, including a nylon stocking, and a dozen eggs, and answering a questionnaire in the Wheatsheaf over beer and sandwiches.

The winner turned out to be the car driven by the "Mad Monk of West Allotment", more commonly known as Mike Key who clinched it by guessing almost the correct number of bridges crossed by the simple expedient of dividing the total mileage by two! Tom Neill's arithmetic and David Weatherly's twisted sense of humour made the evening most enjoyable.

B. E. YOUNGS

Penny Black Club



Interested in philately? Then why not join the Penny Black Club. The club has been started in Head Office.

The object is to swap stamps on a value for value basis using Stanley Gibbons "SIMPLIFIED" Whole World Catalogue 1968 edition.

Anyone interested in joining should contact me at Head Office. The information I would require from you is your name, Dept. No. or Site, Telephone No. and what kind of stamps you collect. I will then compile a list of members and forward you a copy.

TERRY RICHARDS
Head Office

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE EDITOR - A. M. MARR