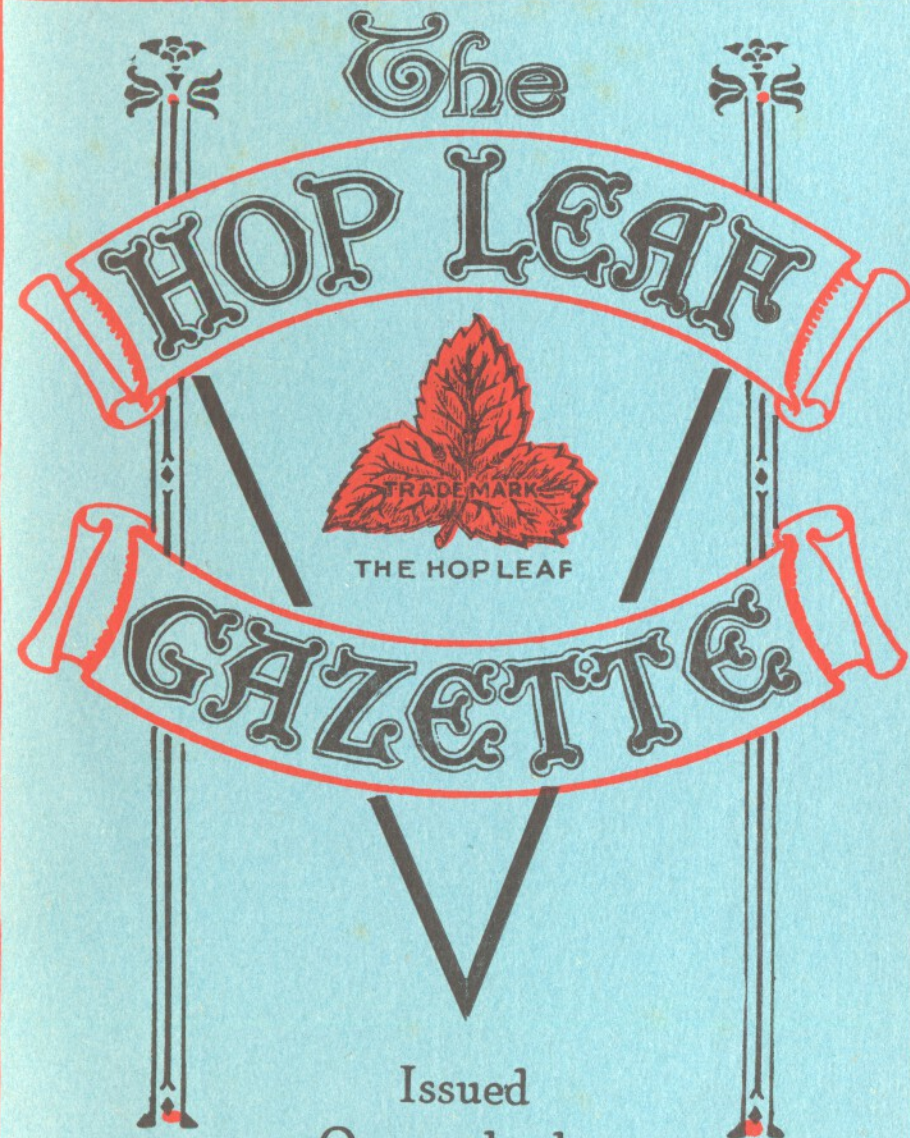


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MARCH, 1950.

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H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.

A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

The Journal of H. & G. SIMONDS, Ltd.

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. XXIV.

MARCH, 1950.

No. 2.

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All communications should be addressed to—
The Editor, HOP LEAF GAZETTE, The Brewery, Reading.



MR. F. H. BURGE, M.H.C.I.

MR. F. H. BURGE, M.H.C.I.

In this issue we publish a portrait of Mr. F. H. Burge, a member of the staff of our Hotels and Catering Department, who is now officiating as a Catering Supervisor, in which capacity he is responsible for a large number of the outdoor functions controlled by the Department, in addition to other duties. He joined the Company soon after the inception of the Hotels and Catering Department in September, 1935, when he was appointed to the management of the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, and, in turn, managed the Marquis of Lorne, Reading, the Anglers' Hotel, Egham, and the Cheddar Cheese, Reading.

Born in 1907, Mr. Burge was educated at Tiffins School, Kingston-on-Thames, and comes from a family of hoteliers. He served his apprenticeship at the Berkeley Hotel, Piccadilly, and gained further experience at the Trocadero, the Popular Cafe, the Midland Grand Hotel and the Taymouth Castle Hotel, Scotland. He then very wisely spent two years in France, and on his return to England was appointed Assistant Manager at Sherry's, Brighton, under the control of Mecca Cafes, Ltd. Subsequently he was licensee of the Hampton Court Hotel. Mr. Burge is a member of the Hotels and Catering Institute.

With this background of wide experience and high achievement, and imbued with lofty ideas concerning the conduct of the perfect hotel, the correctness of reception, the presentation of a meal for the gourmet, or for plebeian palates, Mr. Burge's artistry is reflected in the services of the Hotels controlled by the Department to which he is attached. His efficiency is also evident in the catering for outdoor events, in which he has excelled.

Mr. Burge joined the R.A.F.V.R. in 1940, and passed out after a nine months' course as Wireless Operator. He was almost immediately posted to Singapore, and, subsequently, with a small force, to Pakan Baroe, Sumatra, and thence to Java in an effort to hold up the Jap advance and keep open communications and a refuelling point for aircraft. His experience of the horrific jungle warfare, with all the ailments inseparable from tropical conditions and dwindling medical supplies, the final retreat and eventual shipment of remnants of allied Units to Australia is a story which has already been chronicled by historians. Mr. Burge's party of three R.A.F. were attached to the R.A.A.F. for two years under Australian regulations and via Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, were posted to Canberra. At the end of the two-year period, he embarked at Brisbane, and returned home via San Francisco and New York, thus having completed a trip round the World.

Although his occupation permits very little leisure for hobbies, Mr. Burge is a devotee to music and swimming.

Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine oft infirmities.—The Bible.

CHAT *from*



THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Two hundred children of H. & G. Simonds' employees had a very delightful time, when they were taken by coach from the town centre to the newly-erected building on the Sports Ground, Berkeley Avenue, for a Christmas party given by the Firm's Social Club on Saturday, January 7th. Games, a conjurer and a ventriloquist filled in the time until tea, arranged by Miss A. M. Prosser, with the help of the Firm's canteen cook. The room was gaily decorated, and a Christmas tree in one corner carried presents for every child, later distributed by Father Christmas (Mr. L. Povey), a groundsman at the Sports Ground. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Simonds were visitors to the Party during the afternoon. After the children had been taken back to town, the adult members of the Social Club took over the Pavilion for a party of their own.

MISS HAWKES' APPOINTMENT.

Miss F. G. H. Hawkes, daughter of Mr. F. C. Hawkes, who has been appointed Sister-in-Charge, First Aid Station, at the Brewery, has an outstanding record in the noble profession to which she belongs. She trained and qualified for Staff of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester; also held posts at the Hospital of Tropical Diseases, London; and the Queen Victoria Plastic and Jaw Injury Centre, East Grinstead, under Sir Archibald McIndoe. As to her War Service, Miss Hawkes was Sister, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve) and also served at Slough Emergency Hospital, the Royal Berkshire (Blagrove Hospital) being Sister-in-Charge, male wards. She is indeed following in the footsteps of her late mother, who also had a fine record in the same great profession.

LAD LANDS FINE PIKE.

Although only 13 years old, M. Palmer, of the Fox Inn, Winchester, succeeded in landing two fine pike on the last day of December. One weighed 18½ lbs. and was 33 ins. in length, and the other 14¾ lbs., 32 ins. long. They were caught in water at The Moors, Winchester, the bait being a 2 oz. roach. The lad was fishing with a trout rod, and in his struggle with the fish he was twice pulled into the water.

THE RIGHT BRAND!

In the daily Press there is a picture of a man in two beds placed end to end—31 stone Ernest Evans, who is more than nine feet tall. He's in hospital at Chertsey, Surrey, for a minor operation on his knee. Six people help to make his beds. And if he has to be moved it's a job for 11 men. Ernie is 25, lives at Englefield Green. Pouring a drink for him is Nurse Phyllis Smyth, and the bottle containing the refreshing beverage bears the famous Hop Leaf label!

"BEER IS BEST"—FOR CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

No less an authority than that great journal, *The Field*, mentions that beer is best for growing chrysanthemums. It states that a club steward at Ipswich succeeded last autumn in growing a chrysanthemum 9 feet tall by feeding it on dregs from beer barrels. This 9 feet chrysanthemum, and the diet on which it grew so tall, must stand out as one of the memorable things of the 1949 season. There is no doubt about its having been the beer that made the chrysanthemum grow so tall, adds *The Field*. If ornamental flowers must take a liking to beer, which among them is better entitled to do so than the one whose name means golden flower? Golden Glow, Etoile d'Or, Amber Bright, Bronze Duchess—the very titles of distinguished chrysanthemums are redolent of well brewed mellow beer.

NINETY YEARS OF AGE!

On the occasion of her 90th birthday, Mrs. Ann Bright, who is the licensee of The Globe (Off-licence), Sherfield-on-Loddon, received a letter from our Home Trade Manager (Mr. W. Bowyer) warmly congratulating her on the happy event. He also sent a gift on behalf of the Firm.

In reply, Mrs. Bright wrote a very appreciative letter expressing her sincere thanks. Despite her great age, the letter was very legibly written. She said:—

"Please convey my sincere thanks to H. & G. Simonds for their gift to me on my 90th birthday. I gratefully appreciate their kindness. I had a most wonderful day. It took me some time to go through the letters, cards and telegrams. I also had a lovely bouquet of chrysanthemums from the Women's Institute, and a lot of other gifts. My doctor called specially to congratulate me, and although I was in bed I felt like sitting up in State. I received so many callers I felt overwhelmed with their kindness."

SACCONE & SPEED, LTD.

Mr. Kenneth F. Simonds has been appointed a Director of Saccone & Speed, Ltd. (U.K. Company). Mr. B. L. V. Ellis, H.H. Prince Vsevolode of Russia and Mr. E. Grant have also been appointed Directors of that Company. Mr. E. Willmott has been appointed Secretary, and both he and Mr. J. A. Gerrard will act as alternate Directors for the Directors in Gibraltar.

Mr. B. L. V. Ellis has also been made Assistant Managing Director of Saccone & Speed, Ltd. (U.K. Company).

MR. H. C. DAVIS, F.H.C.I.

Mr. H. C. Davis, Manager of Hotels and Catering Department, has been honoured by the Hotels and Catering Institute in having his name on the first list of Founder Fellows. The Hotels and Catering Institute has been set up with the approval of the Board of Trade to give professional status to this important industry.



SIMONDS' ANNUAL STAFF BALL.

A BRILLIANT AFFAIR.

To the employees of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., Friday, February 3rd, was a red letter day, when about 900 assembled in the Large Town Hall for the Annual Staff Ball.

The Hall was artistically decorated with bunting, flags, balloons, etc., also palms and flowers. The music was provided by the Blue Star Players, of Oxford. The Bar and Buffet were in the hands of our Hotels and Catering Department, and a fine job was done by Mr. H. C. Davis, who superintended the arrangements.

We were honoured by the company of the Mayor (Col. G. S. Field) and Mayoress, also that of Mr. F. A. Simonds, Major G. S. M. and Mrs. Ashby, Mr. R. St. J. Quarry, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Simonds, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. V. Keighley, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Cripps, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Downes and Mr. and Mrs. N. Phillips. General Sir Miles and Lady Dempsey were prevented from attending owing to illness.

On entering the Dance Hall the Mayoress was presented with a beautiful bouquet.

Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman and Managing Director), in a short speech, extended a very hearty welcome to the parties from Basingstoke, Brighton, Bridgend, Bristol, Cirencester, Devonport, Farnborough, London, Newport, Staines, Swindon, Woking, and Saccone & Speed from London; and also thanked Mr. W. Bradford and his Committee for the splendid work which had been put in to make the evening a success.

Miss Stephanie Stevens' School of Dancing gave an excellent Cabaret which was thoroughly enjoyed.

It must have been a proud moment for the Directors to see so many of their employees assembled to renew old acquaintances from Branches, also make new contacts. By all reports the evening was voted a huge success, and everyone is looking forward to a similar occasion next year.

We must give credit to the courage and enthusiasm of the Branches who travelled by road from such long distances as Devonport, Newport, Bristol, Bridgend, etc., many of them undertaking the return journey after the Dance, arriving home at breakfast time on Saturday morning.

This does display great credit to the person responsible for the organisation at their respective Branches.

We, at Reading, all thoroughly enjoyed welcoming other members of the "Hop Leaf" family.

This great gathering was made possible by the generosity of the Firm in granting a subsidy on the cost of the tickets, also on the travelling costs of the long distance employees.



(Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd).

The Mayor and the Directors.
 Left to right (seated) : Major G. S. M. Ashby, The Mayor, Mr. F. A. Simonds,
 Mr. R. St. J. Quarry.
 Standing : Mr. W. P. Cripps, Mr. E. M. Downes, Mr. E. D. Simonds,
 Mr. F. H. V. Keighley.



The Mayor and Mayoress with the Directors and some of their Guests.
(Photographic Services (Berks) Ltd.)



A section of the party watching the Cabaret.
(Photographic Services (Berks) Ltd.)

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

A WALK IN SPRING.

THE NEST OF THE STICKLEBACK.

To me there are few experiences more delightful than a walk in spring. What a wealth of beauty there is to be seen in mead and wood. And the joyous song of birds—I think I know them, every one—add greatly to the joy of the journey. I love to linger for hours in a meadow through which a little trout stream wends its way. I keep a watchful eye on the trout, observe where they lie, what flies they are taking, hoping that the information thus gathered will serve me in good stead when I visit the scene again with rod and line.

A MODEL FATHER.

But trout are by no means the only living things that interest me. I go bird-nesting, though I do not rob the nests of their eggs and there is another kind of nest which I never tire of watching. It is the nest of the little stickleback. This is composed of the stems of weeds, etc., which it binds together with the mucus of its own body. The male stickleback is a fierce fellow, will watch over his nest with great vigilance, and woe betide any intruder! He will drive the lady of his choice into the nest, keep her there until she has laid her quota of eggs, and then allow her to work her way out of the closed end. Other lady sticklebacks are dealt with in the same way, and father keeps a very watchful eye over his property and makes doubly sure that meanwhile the womenfolk do their duty. He, too, will watch over the young for he is indeed a model father.

HERON'S MIXED MENU.

An old heron will pass over the meadows and wing his way home. Here he will find a hungry family eagerly awaiting his arrival. The young are fed day and night, so the parent birds must have a very busy time. Arriving at the nest, father and

mother heron disgorge their cropful of food to the delight of the baby birds. Herons eat a great variety of food, including newts, fresh water snails, mussels, frogs and voles. On several occasions I have watched herons seize water voles, give them one or two vicious stabs with their powerful beaks—and then swallow them whole!

DRAGONFLIES.

And then in the bed of the river you may espy the larvae of the dragonfly. In its nymph stage the dragonfly crawls up the stem of a water plant and, as it were, hang itself up to dry. There for a time it remains motionless, eventually emerging from this stage to the perfect insect in much the same way as a butterfly emerges from its chrysalis. There are some forty or fifty different species of dragonflies in this island, and many of them are brilliant in colour, the blue insects being particularly noticeable. Dragonflies do not sting.

MAYFLIES.

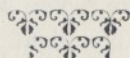
Also under the surface of the water you may see the larvae of the mayfly. On a May morning nymphs will rise to the surface in their thousands. Their skins split and a new creature emerges. The insect at this stage is known to anglers as the green drake. How eagerly I wait for its appearance, for with a good artificial imitation attached to my line I am pretty sure to bank a few speckled beauties. I can say that during the past fifty years, at least, I have never failed in my quest in this direction. The green drake splits open again and here we have the true adult mayfly. Fishermen term this fly the grey drake. The insects live but for a day. You see them dancing in the air in countless thousands. This flight is the sole event in the mayfly's life. It is just for the purpose of courtship—their nuptial flight. Birds have a rare feed on such occasions, and when the insects drop on to the water—the females to lay their eggs—the trout have a wonderful feed, and anglers fill their creels with many fine fish.

No man looks forward to this aerial dance of the mayfly more than I, for to me it means so much !

THE KINGFISHERS' NEST.

As I strolled along the riverside I paused for a few minutes near a spot where, last year, a pair of kingfishers had their nest. Then I heard the familiar note of one of the birds. She perched on the twig of an alder and then made her way into a hole in the bank. She soon returned to her perch and was joined by her mate. He was evidently in courting mood and uttered little love notes to his future bride. I think he must have asked her if she was hungry, for he suddenly flew off a few yards, hovered over the water like a kestrel, dived down, and returned from the water with a little fish. This he at once took to "Mrs. Kingfisher," sidled up to her, and placed it in her beak. It was a delightful little movie picture, the brilliant colouring of the birds, emerald, azure and gold, adding greatly to the beauty of the scene. The nest of the kingfisher is quite a commonplace affair. It is to be found at the end of a hole, two or three feet in length, in the bank, and is composed chiefly of some dry mould of the hole and disgorged fish bones. The yolk shows through the shell of the eggs, giving them a beautiful pink appearance.

When the young from this nest are old enough to leave their home, I shall be there to watch them. There they will be, five or more in a row, being repeatedly fed on fish by their parents—a ever colourful and animated little scene !



THE LATE MR. W. N. MACKENZIE, M.C.

CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EAST AFRICAN
BREWERIES, LTD.

We were greatly shocked when the news reached us of the passing away of Mr. W. N. Mackenzie on the 25th January, 1950, after a short illness.

A great man in mind and stature, with considerable local prestige in Nairobi and Mombasa, he had endeared himself to all those with whom he came into contact during his visits to the Brewery, Reading, by his sterling qualities. It will be recalled that he attended the Luncheon which followed the Conference of Branch and Departmental Managers on the 13th May, 1949.

Below we reprint, by courtesy of the *East African Standard*, an appreciation from his local colleagues, to which we would add an expression of our own deep sorrow at the premature demise of such a stalwart and outstanding character, whose special attributes for the position he filled will be sadly missed.



The late Mr. W. N. Mackenzie, M.C. (left) with
Mr. Wingrove Tench.

(Photograph taken at Heath Row, July 21st, 1949.)

THE LATE W. N. MACKENZIE : AN APPRECIATION.

(From a Correspondent.)

" Golfers throughout East Africa will experience a feeling of loss by the recent death of Mr. W. N. Mackenzie, ' Macko ' to his intimate friends. Many will remember with pleasure matches played with or against him in his palmy days when, as Captain and later President of the Nairobi Golf Club, his sportsmanship and enthusiasm were a tonic to all.

" The Easter Tournament and the ' internationals ' of those days were occasions when he was at his best. When playing he could be recognised from afar, by his unusually quick, almost whippy swing with which, nevertheless, he won the Club Championship in 1924. His knowledge of the etiquette and rules of the game, to which he always adhered rigidly, was remarkable.

" He was one of the band of golfers now sadly depleted, who were instrumental in obtaining the highly honoured prefix of ' Royal ' to the Club.

" Very few, even of his close friends, knew that he was awarded the Military Cross and Bar when serving as a gunner in the 1914-18 war. He retired with the rank of Major. He never referred to these decorations; an example of modesty unusual but typical of ' Macko.'

" Since his all too early retirement from active golf, he never missed meeting old friends at the Officials versus Settlers match at Kiambu. His interest in that event may have been due partly to his affectionate remembrance of the late Mr. Charles Day who with Mr. H. R. Montgomery originated the meeting and donated the trophy. His presence at future meetings will be greatly missed.

" Another golfing function which he thoroughly enjoyed was the Grigg Cup.

" It was largely due to his enthusiasm and popularity that, on one occasion, no fewer than seven couples from his old school, Winchester, were drawn from far and wide to compete at what he came to term the ' Gathering of Griggers.' His delight at the victory of Messrs. C. H. Fergusson and the late A. L. ' Toby ' Gibson for Winchester, in 1937, was a joy to witness.

" Shortly after becoming Chairman of Directors of the East African Breweries he gave practical evidence of his interest in the welfare of Africans by arranging for the formation of a Breweries football team, whose progress he followed with eagerness.

" This interest was born of his real understanding of, and consequent affection for, the African. The Africans' response to such feelings was evident from the general expression of sorrow in the bearing of the large number attendant at his funeral."

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

MARRIAGE OF MR. J. VICKERY AND MISS IRIS HODGES.

On Friday, January 13th, a large gathering of the members of the staff took place in the General Office to mark the occasion on the following day of the marriage of Mr. J. Vickery, of the Estates Department, to Miss Iris Hodges, of Woodcote.

Mr. F. C. Hawkes, Manager of the Home Department, opened the proceedings by welcoming all present, and then called upon Mr. C. Bennett, Manager, Estates Department, to make the presentation.



(Photo by Latter and Son, Wallingford-on-Thames.)
The Bride and Bridegroom.

Mr. Bennett, after a witty speech, then presented Mr. Vickery with a wireless set which he asked him to accept from the staff on behalf of himself and his wife-to-be, and wished them both every happiness in the future.

Mr. Vickery suitably responded by thanking Mr. Bennett and the staff for their good wishes and gift to himself and the future Mrs. Vickery.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mr. N. J. Crocker, Foreman of Fermentation Department, on the death of his wife which occurred on January 16th, after a brief illness.

Mr. Crocker himself has for some time not been in the best of health, so that this bereavement has unfortunately happened just when his wife's companionship was most needed.

Our condolences are also extended to his son, who thereby loses his best friend.

THE SECRETARIAL DEPARTMENT.

It was with regret that we had to lose the services of Miss Phyllis Knight who joined the Secretarial Department in April, 1949, and left to take up an appointment with the Vicar of Lambourn in February of this year. During the comparatively short time she was with the firm she showed initiative, tact and efficiency. She was popular with her colleagues in the Brewery, and took an active interest in the social activities of the firm.

Her assistance in typing copy for the HOP LEAF GAZETTE was much appreciated, and we all wish her success and happiness in her new appointment.

We welcome in her place Miss Randall, the daughter of Mr. F. A. J. Randall in the General Office.

We are very sorry to lose the services of Mr. R. P. Huddy, of the Estates Department, after 33 years' service with the Firm. As a token of their esteem his colleagues presented him with a silver cigarette case.

The following changes in tenancies have taken place during the past few months, and to all new tenants we wish every success :—

H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

The Morning Star, Datchet—Mr. W. J. Sams.
 The George, St. Mary Bourne—Mrs. K. Andrews.
 The Victoria, Hayes—Mr. R. S. R. Pether.
 The Dog and Partridge, Sunninghill—Mr. S. J. Letford.
 The Castle, Cold Ash—Mr. R. F. Gooch.
 The Rising Sun, Burghfield—Mr. G. E. Dickinson.
 The Heron, Aldershot—Mr. H. W. Dowse.
 The Red Lion, Upper Basildon—Miss N. Skinner.
 The Bridge House, Theale—Mr. E. Noble.
 The Shades, Reading—Mr. S. F. G. Peach.
 The Eight Bells, Newbury—Mr. S. C. Redding.
 The Bricklayer's Arms, Reading—Mr. W. G. Coxall.
 The Saracen's Head, Reading—Mr. W. H. Spencer.
 The Morning Star, Datchet—Mr. E. J. Morris.
 The Wheatsheaf, Grazeley—Mr. E. J. Norris.

Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.

The Beaconsfield Arms, High Wycombe—Mr. S. C. Cathery.
 The Three Horse Shoes, Radnage—Mr. E. Rawden.

THE LATE MR. V. W. M. MUNDY.

We much regret to record the passing of Mr. V. W. M. Mundy, which occurred on Monday, February 27th, and we would express, through this medium, our deep sympathy with his widow, sons and daughter in their great loss.

Mr. Mundy entered the Company's employ as a junior clerk at Oxford Branch in June, 1910, and after serving there for six years he was moved to Brighton as acting chief clerk to meet an emergency created by the First Great War. For two years he was in sole charge of Brighton and Hove Branches, leaving there in 1919 to take up the position of chief clerk at Slough Depot.

Upon the acquisition of Messrs. Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd., in 1930, Mr. Mundy was transferred to Staines and appointed Assistant Secretary. He moved to Reading in January, 1932,

when the Registered Office and Staff of the Company were transferred to the headquarters of the parent Company. Upon the liquidation of the Staines Brewery, Mr. Mundy was appointed as an assistant to the Secretary of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

Throughout all the stages of his advancement, Mr. Mundy has left an imprint of meticulous efficiency, reliability and good solid work.

We recollect that in earlier years Mr. Mundy was a keen fisherman and had a great fondness for heavy literature and the countryside. R.I.P.

MR. W. VENNER.

THREE GENERATIONS OF FAMILY WORKING AT THE
BREWERY.



Left to right: Mr. W. Venner, Jim (Son), and David (Grandson).

It is by no means usual to find three generations of one family employed by a firm at the same time. But this is the fact concerning the Venner family. Mr. W. Venner, our Transport Foreman was still rendering fine service to the firm up to the time of his retirement on the 28th February, while his son, Jim, has been driving a lorry since 1928, and his grandson, David, was apprenticed to the Coopers in 1949.

It was in 1908 that Mr. Venner started in the stables, when they used to commence work at 4 a.m. The following year he

began station driving, which included Army Camps, Manoeuvres, etc. The worst Camp he visited was in Somerset. There was continual rain, with mud as bad as at the Somme. Mr. E. S. Phipps, he says, will have vivid memories of the scene. But, with a grand pair of horses, Mr. Venner always succeeded in delivering the goods! In 1914 there was the War, and after that Mr. Venner continued lorry driving, being appointed Transport Foreman in 1930. Mr. Venner still holds that position. He has indeed been a fine servant and not afraid of hard work. His close attention to duty and the willing way in which he performed it has been a good example to all. He was an excellent boxer in his younger days, and he enjoyed a game of football. He coached the Brewery tug-of-war team which was doing well before the War, winning several Cups and other prizes. A rather alarming incident occurred at Windsor on one occasion. The opposing team dropped the rope and our men finished all in a heap, several yards from the actual "tug." It was very fortunate that no one was hurt. Naturally, they were very badly shaken, and what they said to the other side is best left untold.

You have a fine record in work and games, Mr. Venner—well played!

His son, Jim, started work at the Brewery in 1925, and has been driving a lorry since 1928. He is a good footballer, and played for Simonds when they won the Town Cup. He also played for the Reading Reserves for two seasons and Oxford City for five seasons. He served throughout the War.

Mr. Venner's grandson, David, was apprenticed to the Coopers in February, 1949. He is keen on football and boxing, and has won a couple of contests in the latter "game."

JOHN MAY & CO., LTD., BASINGSTOKE.

CHEQUERS INN, CROOKHAM.

We regret to announce the death of our tenant, George Cowley Ivil, on February 18th, 1950, aged 76.

Mr. Ivil was born in this house and held the licence since 1902.

This licence has been in the same family for 137 years.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Fear not the future ; weep not for the past.

Nothing is so atrocious as fancy without taste.

Our ideals are our better selves.

Praise Peter, but don't find fault with Paul.

Rules of society are nothing ; one's conscience is the umpire.

The common "keeping up appearances" of society is a mere selfish struggle of the vain with the vain.

Shallow streams make most din.

The mastiff is quiet while curs are yelping.

Cultivation is as necessary to the mind as food to the body.

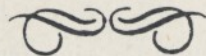
Give your tongue more holiday than your hands or eyes.

So behave that the odour of your actions may enhance the general sweetness of the atmosphere.

Study to be what you wish to seem.

The stone that lieth not in your way need not offend you.

Nature trips us up when we strut.



A GREAT THOUGHT.

DELIGHTS OF EVENING.

There are two periods in the life of a man in which the evening hour is peculiarly interesting—in youth and in old age. In youth, we love it for its mellow moonlight, its millions of stars, its thin, rich and shooting shades, its still serenity ; amid those who can commune with our loves, or twine the wreaths of friendship, while there is none to bear us witness but the heavens and the spirits that hold their endless Sabbath there—or look into the deep bosom of Creation, spread abroad like a canopy above us and look and listen till we can almost see and hear the waving wings and melting songs of other worlds. To Youth, evening is delightful ; it accords with the flow of his light spirits, the fervour of his fancy, and the softness of his heart. Evening is also the delight of virtuous age ; it seems an emblem of the tranquil close of busy life—serene, placid and mild, with the impress of its great Creator stamped upon it ; it spreads its quiet wings over the grave, and seems to promise that all shall be peace beyond it.

BULWER LYTTON.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT NAVIGATION HOTEL.



Photo by Turner, Newport, Mon.)

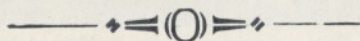
Some of the sixty children present at the Christmas Party.
Landlady, extreme left (smiling).



Photo by Turner, Newport, Mon.)

The Landlord of the Hotel with six children at the Christmas Party.

The above photographs were taken at a Children's Christmas Party given to the children of the patrons of the Navigation Hotel, Cwmba, Mon. The party took place on Friday, December 23rd. It was entirely free of charge to the children, the cost being met by organising whist drives, etc. Mrs. Jones, wife of the landlord, organised everything. Each child had a gift from the Christmas tree and they were entertained, after a grand tea, by a Punch and Judy show. A most enjoyable time was spent by all. Nothing like this has been done before in this area, and it is all the more creditable to Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Jones, who are newcomers to this business and this area. They took over the hotel in July, 1949, and have since, with the co-operation of the Brewery, opened a new Music Room which has provided the patrons with many happy hours of entertainment.



CRICKET.

ANNUAL REPORT—SEASON 1949.

The Club carried out their planned programme as far as they were able in glorious weather, and the games were thoroughly enjoyed by all who played in them. Both "A" and "B" teams had one game cancelled, and one "B" team game was abandoned due to the weather, this being the only wet day during the season.

Thirty-one players took part in the "A" team's fifteen games, three of which were won, six drawn and six lost.

On several occasions the "A" team were pleased to call upon members of the "B" team, all of whom well accounted for themselves.

Thirty-five players took part in the "B" team's fourteen games, one being won, one drawn, eleven lost, and in one no result was possible owing to its being abandoned.

The aggregates of these matches are as follows :—

"A" Team.

For	1,271	runs for	129	wkts.	Average	9.85
Against	1,744	"	"	136	"	18.55

"B" Team.

For	868	"	"	94	"	6.38
Against	1,486	"	"	109	"	13.63

Mr. E. G. Crutchley again captained the "A" team after a season's rest, and soon showed that he had lost none of his capabilities as skipper. Mr. J. Buswell proved a capable captain of the "B" team and his sporting spirit was shared by all his players in their not so successful season. Messrs. W. G. Neville and H. K. White gave them every support and were good deputies when needed.

Mr. A. J. Hawkins headed the "A" team's batting list with an average of 15.8, and therefore has the honour of holding the "Louis Simonds" Cup. Mr. E. G. Crutchley was runner-up with an average of 13.7. Mr. E. J. Scott took the bowling honours with an average of 8.71.

The "B" team's best batting average was that of Mr. P. Hammond with 8.87 and Mr. K. Cottam was top of the bowling with an average of 6.46. All these players are to be congratulated upon their fine performances.

The Inter-Departmental League again proved a great success, and the twenty matches played during the longer evenings were greatly enjoyed by over eighty players. Results and league positions duly appeared in the September issue of the HOP LEAF

GAZETTE, and the Engineers and Wine Stores team, comprising personnel of the engineers, wheelwrights and wine stores were successful in winning the league after a great struggle in their final game against the Building Department. Mr. N. L. Tott, assisted by Mr. E. J. Scott, acted as captain of this team, which becomes the holder of the "Directors" Cup. The Branch Department were runners-up.

In September a Social was held in the Sports Pavilion, and during the evening the Inter-Departmental Cup was presented by Mr. R. B. St. J. Quarry to the winners of the league. Unfortunately, owing to illness in the family, Mr. Hawkins was unable to be present to receive the "Louis Simonds" Cup from Mr. Quarry. The Trophy was presented to Mr. Hawkins by the Chairman of the Club, Mr. J. W. Jelley, during the following week.

Once again we say "Thank You" to Miss Prosser and the other ladies who so kindly gave of their time to prepare and serve the teas. Also to those very important gentlemen, our Umpires, Messrs. G. Kelly and E. J. Brown, and Scorers, Messrs. F. J. Dyer and D. J. Neville.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1950.

At the Annual General Meeting held in the Social Club on Friday, 19th February, it was confirmed that "A" and "B" teams be run again this year, and for whom the following fixtures, at the time of going to press, have been arranged:—

FIXTURES, 1950.

"A" Team.

Date.	Opponents.	Ground.
May 6	Wokingham "A" ...	Home
" 13	...	Away
" 20	Waltham St. Lawrence ...	Home
" 27	...	Away
June 3	Royal Household ...	Home
" 10	Elec. Wing, R.E.M.E., Arborfield ...	Away
" 17	Courages ...	Away
" 24	Turquandia ...	Home
July 1	Reading University 2nd ...	Home
" 8	Wokingham "A" ...	Away
" 15	Elect. Wing, R.E.M.E., Arborfield ...	Home
" 22	Royal Household ...	Away
" 29	...	Home
Aug. 5	...	Home
" 12	Waltham St. Lawrence ...	Away
" 19	Courages ...	Home

"B" Team.

Date.	Opponents.	Ground.
May 6	Mortimer ...	Away
" 13	Woodcote ...	Home
" 20	St. Sebastians "B" ...	Away
" 27	Moreton ...	Home
June 3	Woodcote ...	Away
" 10	Wokingham "B" ...	Home
" 17	Rotherfield Greys ...	Home
" 24	Sutton's "B" ...	Away
July 1	...	Away
" 8	St. Sebastians "B" ...	Home
" 15	Moreton ...	Away
" 22	Sutton's "B" ...	Home
" 29	Rotherfield Greys ...	Away
Aug. 5	...	—
" 12	Mortimer ...	Home

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Several of last season's officers expressed their inability to stand for re-election, notably Mr. G. Kelly who was obliged to decline the "Umpireship" of the "A" team. However, Mr. F. W. Chapman has offered to assume that position. The following officers were duly elected:—

Presidents : The Directors of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

Captain :

"A" Team : Mr. E. G. Crutchley.

"B" Team : Mr. C. R. Josey.

Vice-Captain :

"A" Team : Mr. W. G. Neville.

"B" Team : Mr. H. K. White.

Umpire :

"A" Team : Mr. F. W. Chapman.

"B" Team : Mr. E. J. Brown.

Scorer :

"A" Team : Mr. F. J. Dyer.

"B" Team : —

Hon. Secretary : Mr. N. L. Tott.

Committee : Messrs. F. J. Benham, E. C. Greenaway, W. J. Greenaway, J. W. Jelley, G. Kelly, R. J. Lambourne.

Selection Committee : Captains and Vice-Captains of "A" and "B" teams, and Mr. R. J. Lambourne.

Delegation to Sports Committee :

Messrs. E. G. Crutchley, J. W. Jelley and N. L. Tott.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL LEAGUE.

As this Competition proved once again to be such a great success last season, it was again agreed to run the Competition again this season, but on slightly modified lines.

It is not possible at the moment to give details of team amalgamations, but these will appear on the notice boards at the earliest opportunity.

It was decided that four teams be run this season, to be played on a "home and away" basis; these games to be played on Wednesdays throughout the longer evenings.

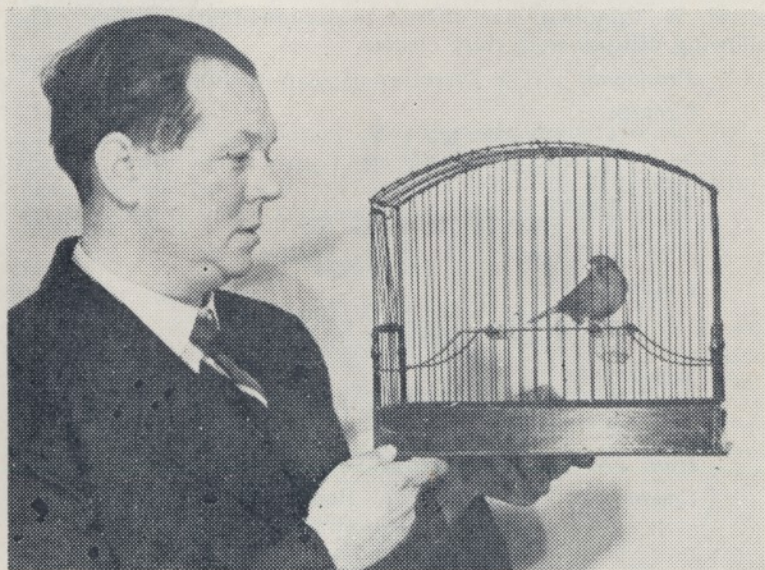
PRACTICE.

Net practice will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, commencing April 18th, and those hoping to play are asked to come up to the nets so that the Selection Committee can get an idea of potential teams.

N.L.T.

CHAMPION CANARY.

MR. WHEELER'S FINE EXHIBIT.



Mr. H. G. Wheeler, of the bottling beer loading stage, was successful in winning 1st Prize for Champion Border Canary at the National Cage Birds' Exhibition, Horticultural Hall, London. He is a member of the Reading Cage Bird Society, of which Mr. F. A. Simonds is Vice-President.

BEACONSFIELD AND HIGH WYCOMBE.

LADIES' AUXILIARY ANNUAL DINNER.

Beaconsfield and High Wycombe Licensed Victuallers Association (Ladies' Auxiliary) held its fourth Annual Dinner and Dance at The Saracen's Head Hotel, Beaconsfield, on Wednesday, January 11th.

The President of the Auxiliary, Mr. S. H. Spurling, accompanied by Mrs. Spurling, presided, and during the course of his toast to "The Auxiliary" he paid a tribute to the excellent work done by the Association for Trade Charities. He made special mention of the success achieved during Mrs. A. Webster's Chairmanship of the past two years, pointing out that over £500 had been given to the three Trade Charities during that period.

Before replying to the toast, Mrs. Webster was presented with a beautiful table lamp by Mrs. G. Matthews (Hon. Secretary) as a mark of appreciation of her good work for the Auxiliary.

In responding to the toast, Mrs. Webster said the success achieved was due to the unfailing support of her Ladies' Committee; every member had been a tower of strength to her, and she had happy recollections of her period in office. She also expressed appreciation to the President and his Firm (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.) for their wholehearted assistance. She then presented cheques of £80 each to Mr. W. J. Weight (Trustee, I.S.L.V. and L.V.S.), to Mr. T. F. Musgrove (Chairman, L.V.B.I.), and one for £40 to Mr. F. P. Gass (Chairman, B. & W. Trade Benevolent Society). These gentlemen suitably acknowledged the gifts on behalf of their respective organisations.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, the retiring Chairman presented Mr. Spurling with a table lamp as an expression of her Society's thanks for his work in their aid.

Mrs. G. Wilkes succeeds Mrs. Webster as Chairman of the Auxiliary, and we are confident it will enjoy continued success under her able guidance.

Mrs. Webster is our tenant at the Dolphin Hotel, Totteridge, High Wycombe, and we congratulate her and all those who have helped her to attain her excellent record for the three Trade Charities.



The President and Committee, Beaconsfield and High Wycombe Licensed Victuallers' Association, Ladies' Auxiliary.
(Photo by Jalmar, Kensington.)

H. & G. SIMONDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

The Annual General Meeting of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., was held on Monday, January 23rd, and Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman and Managing Director) in his very lucid and detailed address mentioned among numerous other matters:—

"... Our Head Brewer, Mr. E. M. Downes, was elected to the Board in March, 1949, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N. (Retd.), and the appointment was confirmed at the Annual General Meeting held on 19th December, 1949. We are confident that Mr. Downes will become a valuable member of the Directorate.

"The Directors regret the delay in presenting their Report and Accounts but, owing to the increased ramifications of the Company's operations at home and abroad, it was found impossible to prepare them in the proper form required by the Companies' Act, 1948, and submit to the Board for scrutiny by the usual date.

"In March, 1949, an offer was made by the Company to acquire the whole of the Share Capital of Phillips & Sons Limited, of Newport (Mon.) by means of an exchange of shares; the offer was accepted by all the holders of shares in Phillips & Sons Limited and, as a result, £160,000 5 per cent. Cumulative Preference Stock and £87,500 Ordinary Stock were issued on 30th April, 1949, in accordance with the terms of the offer. The Share Capital of your Company has therefore been increased accordingly, whilst the Share Premium Account has received a further credit of £390,000 in respect of the premiums on the shares issued in this transaction. Having regard to our existing activities in the South Wales area, the acquisition of the Brewery at Newport, together with 123 licensed properties, should prove to be most advantageous, situated as it is some 30 miles from our Bridgend Stores. The Brewery has a capacity considerably in excess of the present output, and has an adjacent site well situated for the erection of spacious and modern Bottling Stores. Much economy, particularly by way of transport, can also be effected under a policy of centralisation. . . .

"The Directors regret that a considerable decline in trading profits, coupled with a steep increase in working expenses, has entailed a reduction in profits available for distribution. Every item of operational expense shows an increased charge against profits—salaries, wages, fuel, transport, repairs to properties and maintenance of plant—all combine seriously to decrease our earnings.

"The marked diminution in consumption of beer in the first half of the Financial Year was arrested in the summer owing to the long spell of fine, warm weather, and our worst fears of an even more grievous fall in trading profits, which inspired a reduction of 1 per cent, gross in our Interim Dividend paid in June last, were fortunately proved to be to some extent groundless. We have also been encouraged by amendments to the Licensing Act, 1949, which the Government have seen fit to accept and which have dispelled, at any rate for the present, some of our worst apprehensions as to the future of the Licensed Trade. . . .

"We must offer again to thousands of disappointed customers our regrets that we can only meet a small portion of the demands for Scotch Whisky: by far the major portion of the available supply is flowing, by Government decree, in an unending stream on dollar-earning missions.

"The relations with our Licensed Tenants, at all times cordial, have been happily cemented by the acceptance by both parties of the Model Tenancy Agreement, drawn up in collaboration with the Brewers' Society and the Licensed Victuallers' Organisations, whereby a greater security of tenure is provided to the Tenants, who will also be able to purchase many of the products for which they are 'tied' on more profitable terms.

"We have suffered severely from the disastrous result of a full year's impact of the Catering Wages Act on our Hotels and Catering Department: it has become more and more apparent that this Act, far from stimulating efforts on the part of the Hotels and Catering Trades to improve the amenities of this country's holiday and tourist centres, has merely imposed a dead hand on their enterprise and discouraged all efforts to attract travellers generally, and has encouraged indifference and indolence among many of the staff, the majority of whom, to their credit, resent the Act as deeply as do their employers. No efforts should be spared to insist on the Government modifying many of the most burdensome conditions imposed by the Act.

"It is no matter for surprise that visitors from this country, from the highest to the lowest, are flocking in their tens of thousands to the Continent, or farther afield, in search of enjoyment in foreign hotels where the managements, less fettered by restrictions, are free to provide more liberally the amusements and recreations of their choice.

"The Manager of our Hotels and Catering Department, Mr. H. C. Davis, F.H.C.I., and his Executive Staff, have been sorely tried in their endeavours to maintain the excellent traditions of the chain of 'Simonds Hotels.'

"Once again a substantial dividend from our Associated Company, Saccone & Speed Limited, of Gibraltar, has been received, though they are suffering from the experience common to all such businesses in finding the spending power of their customers greatly reduced. The reputation of this Company for the quality of its wines, spirits and tobaccos remains pre-eminent among His Majesty's Forces at home and abroad. The 'Saccone Service' remains as ever the symbol of efficiency in all parts of the world. To the Chairman, the Hon. E. B. Cottrell, C.B.E., J.P., and to his colleagues and the staff at home and abroad, we again offer warmest thanks and congratulations on the results of their unremitting efforts for the success of that Company.

"Our Associated Company in Malta, G. C. Simonds-Farsons-Cisk Limited, has been operating under great difficulties, but it is hoped that during the current year we may see the new brewery at Imrahiel in full production. We regret to report once again that there have been endless and exasperating delays in the completion of this brewery due to the failure of firms in England to make good deliveries of plant and machinery which should have been effected many months ago. The Company has been able to pay us, once again, a substantial dividend, and the merger of interests between Simonds-Farsons Ltd. and the Malta Export Brewery Ltd. (commonly known as Cisk Brewery) has proved a great success.

"The Tripoli Brewery has now passed from the control of Simonds-Farsons-Cisk Ltd., owing to the action of the British Military Authority in handing back this concern to its former Italian proprietors. Simonds-Farsons Ltd. were entrusted with the operation of this Brewery shortly after the occupation of Tripoli by British Forces in December, 1942, and have earned the gratitude of those Forces for all it accomplished under every form of difficulty and obstruction. We fear that the profits which have been accruing from year to year will now cease to benefit Simonds-Farsons-Cisk Limited.

"We must, as last year, extend to Brigadier-General H. Simonds de Brett, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and to Mr. Lewis Farrugia, O.B.E., and all his colleagues and staff our best thanks and congratulations.

"The East African Breweries Ltd., of Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, in which Company we now hold a substantial interest, as reported in my Address of 1948, continues on the path of progress and a commencement has been made in the erection of a new Brewery at Mombasa which should in due time bring fresh revenue into the coffers of that concern. We

send greetings to the Chairman, Mr. W. N. Mackenzie, and all associated with him and offer our congratulations on results to date. . . .

"We are as ever appreciative of the loyalty of a host of friends in the 'Free Trade' many only known personally to our industrious travelling staff, who have continued their support of 'Hop Leaf' Brands, we hope and believe, to our mutual benefit. Our aim and object, as ever, will be to serve them faithfully whether they are H.M. Service Messes, N.A.A.F.I. Institutions, Free Houses, Licensed Caterers, Clubs, Exporters, or Ships' Stores Merchants.

"On 1st January, 1949, Mr. J. D. Richardson succeeded to the important office of Secretary of this Company vacated by Mr. E. S. Phipps after over 50 years of most loyal service, and has carried out his duties to our entire satisfaction.

"In conclusion, may I on behalf of the Directors and Shareholders, express our sense of deep gratitude to Mr. A. G. Richardson, A.C.A., the Chief Accountant, and his staff, for all they have accomplished during the year under review, as also to the remainder of the staff and employees at Reading and at our other Breweries at Bristol and Devonport, and at Branches, for their loyalty and co-operation at all times."

GREAT MISSENDEN LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Association was held on the 13th February at the Red Lion, Great Missenden, the house of the Chairman, Mr. V. J. Lacey. The Chairman was supported by Mr. H. Cole (Vice-Chairman), Mr. A. Bishop (Treasurer) and Mr. W. G. Lacey (Secretary).

The meeting commenced with the election of officers for 1950, and Mr. V. J. Lacey was unanimously re-elected without any further names being submitted. Mr. Lacey has been associated with the Great Missenden Association for 40 years. All the other officers were also re-elected. The Assistant Secretary explained that in view of the General Election the date of the Dinner and Dance was altered from February 22nd to March 1st.

Major Morris (N.T.D.A.) urged younger members to take the fullest possible interest in trade and association matters with a view to accepting office in due time. He was particularly impressed by the liaison work now evident between the association and their neighbours at High Wycombe, whose officers were always ready to assist in any way, and whose Chairman, Councillor H. D. Rogers, was a regular visitor.

THE LICENSED TRADES STAFF TRAINING COURSE.

(Extract from the Berkshire Chronicle.)

The conclusion of the first licensed trade staff training course to be held in Reading under the auspices of the National Trade Defence Association, was marked by a Dinner held at The Ship Hotel, Reading, recently, to which students invited those responsible for the organisation and conduct of the course.

Mr. E. M. Downes, Director, Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., presided, and other guests included Mr. M. Wingfield-Stratford (N.T.D.A. National Organiser Staff Training), Mr. J. Dimmick, B.Sc. (Principal, Reading Technical College), Mr. S. H. Spurling (Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.), Mr. H. S. Smith (Reading Licensed Victuallers' Association).

GRATIFYING RESULT.

Mr. Dimmick said he must congratulate Mr. Wingfield-Stratford, who was primarily responsible for the organisation of the course. He thought the result was especially gratifying inasmuch as all students who had completed the examination had passed. He was sure that with such excellent results to a splendidly conducted course, approval of a second course would be readily forthcoming from the authorities in Reading. Mr. Dimmick thanked students for their ready co-operation.

Mr. P. Dale proposed the toast of "The Chairman." He thanked him for the personal effort and time expended on the course in the shape of lectures and conducted tours of the brewing plant at the brewery.

Mr. Dale said his task would not be complete without special mention of the wonderful support accorded the course by the Directors of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., and the heads of the various departments who had assisted with lectures and demonstrations.

The Chairman, responding, said he thought the gratifying result was largely due to the personal enthusiasm of the students. He said the general expression of knowledge shown in examination papers was high, and he expressed keen optimism regarding future courses. It was certain the trade and its customers would benefit by the knowledge gained. He thanked Mr. Dale for the kind expression of thanks to his firm and their staff at the brewery.

LIGHTER SIDE.

"He's a man about town!"

"Yes, and a fool about women!"

* * * *

"I always encourage my husband to recline in an easy-chair and put his feet on the mantelpiece."

"Why?"

"When he goes to bed there is usually some small change left in the chair."

* * * *

The world's meanest man. He was deaf and never told his barber.

* * * *

Little Emily ran into the house, crying as though her heart would break.

"What's wrong, dear?" asked the mother.

"My dolly—Billy broke it!" she sobbed.

"How did he break it, dear?"

"I hit him on the head with it."

* * * *

Two sportsmen went duck-hunting. They crouched in a small punt waiting for the birds to appear.

"Duck!" said the first.

"Where?" said the second, as he stood up in time to be shot in the neck.

WINTER SPORTS IN SWITZERLAND.

Mr. Peter Manners-Wood was one of the contestants in the Duke of Kent's Cup downhill race, and was featured in a fine action picture which appeared in the *Daily Graphic* of January 12th, coming down the Lauberhorn slope over Klein Scheidegg, near Grindelwald, Switzerland.

Mr. Manners-Wood, who is Assistant Manager in our Wine and Spirit Department, was one of the London II team taking part in the Winter Sports.

MR. F. A. SIMONDS GIVES A LUNCHEON
AT SAVOY HOTEL.

DISTINGUISHED COMPANY PRESENT.

Mr. F. A. Simonds gave a Luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, London, on December 21st, 1949, to which were invited a large number of the Firm's eminent friends. Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery of Alamein honoured the Company by attending as chief guest.

In the course of his speech, after luncheon, the Field-Marshal referred to the fact that though he was now a teetotaler he had not always been so, and that in his earlier days he had drunk many a glass of Simonds Ale and found it good—just as his successors in the Army did to-day.

COMMAND OF FRENCH LANGUAGE IS NECESSARY.

In explaining to his audience some of the problems with which he was confronted in the International appointment which he held at present, Field-Marshal Montgomery told of the difficulties to which his inability to speak French had sometimes given rise, and illustrated his remarks with one or two amusing examples. "To the Officer of the future," he said, "a command of the French language will be a necessity, and I imagine that that is just as true of the business world as it is of the Army."

The Field-Marshal concluded by thanking the Chairman for inviting him to attend so interesting and pleasant a function.

Those present included Lord Montgomery of Alamein, The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, The Rt. Hon. Lord Willoughby de Broke, General Sir Miles Dempsey, The Rt. Hon. Viscount Camrose, The Rt. Hon. Lord Simonds, Sir Ulick Alexander, Admiral H. A. Packer, Lieut.-Gen. G. G. Simonds, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Allfrey, Air Marshal Sir Leslie Hollingshurst, Major-Gen. R. G. Feilden, Major-Gen. A. H. Hornby, Major-Gen. L. W. Johnson, U.S.A.F., Captain A. G. Mayse, U.S.A.F., The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Cottenham, Sir Herbert Morgan, Sir Bracewell Smith, Major-Gen. W. A. Dimolene, Brigadier S. K. Thorburn, Group Capt. W. J. Pickard, The Right Reverend The Bishop of Reading, Major Kenneth Robertson, Mr. J. G. Girdwood, Lieut. G. L. Weston, Mr. R. H. W. Hope, Mr. E. H. Clark, Mr. C. F. Caiger, Mr. J. A. Hibbert, Mr. J. Olding, Mr. H. H. Leven, Mr. M. Harvey, Mr. E. E. Hardie, Mr. A. H. Bailey, Mr. K. McCallum, Mr. B. L. V. Ellis, Mr. E. Grant, Mr. Iain Macgregor, Mr. I. M. Gluckstein, Mr. J. L. Daniell, Mr. R. A. Hubbard, Colonel W. F. Clarke, Mr. J. Dunbar, Mr. C. R. Wigney,

Mr. C. R. Harper, Mr. H. Mills, Mr. A. H. Jones, Mr. Lindsay Ring, H.H. Prince Vsevolode of Russia, Mr. S. Sweeney, Mr. S. M. Penlerick.

With Mr. F. A. Simonds were Mr. F. H. V. Keighley, Mr. E. D. Simonds and Mr. K. F. Simonds.

THE BREWERS' SOCIETY.

MR. DUNCAN SIMONDS' ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL.

A GREAT AND HONOURABLE RECORD.

The news that Mr. E. Duncan Simonds has recently been elected to the Council of the Brewers' Society will be received with much interest and the utmost satisfaction. He is to be very heartily congratulated and so, too, is the great Society to which he now belongs, for Mr. Duncan Simonds possesses those great qualities of heart and mind which fit him well to follow in the footsteps of the great Simonds family who have rendered such distinguished service to the same worthy cause. Mr. Duncan Simonds is a great, great, great grandson of Mr. William Blackall Simonds, who was Chairman of the Country Brewers' Society so long ago as 1828.

Below is a wonderful record of which any family or firm must feel justly proud :—

W. Blackall Simonds : Chairman of the Country Brewers' Society (1828).

Henry Adolphus Simonds : Chairman of the Country Brewers' Society (1863, 1875 and 1885).

F. A. Simonds : Chairman of the Brewers' Society (1932/33).

L. de L. Simonds : A Member of the Council of the Brewers' Society for a very long period until his death in December, 1916.

F. A. Simonds : Elected a Member of the Council of the Brewers' Society in January, 1917.

E. D. Simonds : Elected a Member of the Council of the Brewers' Society in January, 1950.

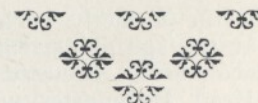
PRIZE-WINNERS IN "NEW NAME" COMPETITION.

A competition was recently held to suggest new names for bottled beers and some interesting details are given below.

Name.	Department.	Branch.	Suggestion.
Mr. F. Allen	... Bottled Beer Loading Stage	... Reading	... Hop Leaf.
Mr. W. R. Brown	...	Bristol	... Golden Gleam.
Mr. S. Davey	... Wages Section	... Reading	... Hop Leaf.
Mr. H. C. Davis	... Hotels and Catering Department	... Reading	... Taverners.
Mr. R. D. Gammage	Clerical Department	Devonport	... Red Ensign.
Mr. S. R. Gray	... Insurance Dept.	... Reading	... Blue Riband.
Mr. L. R. Humphrey	...	London	... Golden Gleam.
Mr. R. Kilroy	...	Woking	... Golden Gleam.
Miss Lilian Picton	... Bottling Stores	... Newport	... Hop Leaf.
Mr. T. E. Southall	... No. 2 Transport Department	... Newport	... Blue Riband.

Unfortunately, no entry contained a name which was completely suitable for I.P.A. Some of the best suggestions were found to be already in use by other brewers or could not be reserved for us alone. The total prize money, i.e.

£5 First Prize ; £3 Second Prize ; £2 Third Prize, will be added together and divided equally amongst the above competitors whose entries were recommended to the Board of Directors for especial consideration.



BRANCHES.

BRISTOL.

We are very pleased to be able to report that after many vicissitudes, our Manager, Mr. J. H. Law, has at last had his major operation, and is fast recovering his health and strength again. His has been a long, wearying illness, necessitating his absence from duty for some four or five months, but we trust that by the time these notes appear, he will have fully recovered, and be back with us again occupying his usual chair in the Manager's Office.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Allfrey, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., was appointed Honorary Colonel of the 312 Medium Regt., R.A., T.A., in August last, and inspected the Regiment for the first time on Friday, February 10th, at the Winterstoke Road Drill Hall, Bristol.

Mr. M. Ridler, who has been with us for several years, latterly as a Free Trade and Military Traveller, was married on January 21st last in the very pretty little village of Nailsea, near Bristol. He was the recipient of a wireless set from his colleagues at this Branch, and we hope he and his bride will have many hours of happy listening in the future! Owing to the reorganisation of areas, Mr. Ridler has been transferred to Messrs. Phillips & Sons, Ltd., Newport, and will now be working in the area west of the Severn. He has settled near Chepstow, and we wish him and his bride the best of health, happiness and all prosperity in the years to come.

Since our last issue we regret to record the death of the following :—

Mr. Jack Hodges, who passed away in November last, after much suffering, had been our tenant at the Knowle Hotel for over ten years, and before then, for four years at the Talbot Hotel, Bath.

Mr. D. V. Thomas, who passed away suddenly at the end of January, had been our tenant at The Grapes Hotel, Chipping Sodbury, for nearly six years.

Mrs. Ellen Jane Martin (formerly Tuckfield), a late tenant of ours, passed away at the age of 85. She had a very long association with the Jacob Street Brewery whilst holding the licence of the Queen's Head, Bedminster, where her daughter is now carrying on the old tradition.

Mrs. Tompkins, widow of our late tenant at The Fox Inn, Midford, who passed away in her sleep after a short illness. Mrs. Tompkins spent a great number of years at The Fox Inn, with her husband, who pre-deceased her in December, 1947, but the tenancy is still in the family as her daughter and son-in-law are now carrying on the business there.

We extend to all the relatives of the above, and those near to them, our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

After spending forty years at the Pioneer Inn, Keynsham, from 1910 to 1931, with her husband as tenant, and at his death, as licensee herself, Mrs. H. E. Taylor relinquished the tenancy in December last owing to advancing years. She was a very well known figure in the Keynsham area, and we wish her every happiness in her retirement from business.

The following changes of tenancy have taken place since our last issue, and we wish all tenants every success in their new venture :—

Off-Licence, 1, Hill Street, Totterdown—H. Civil.

Off-Licence, 106, Bath Road, Totterdown—M. H. Griffin.

Pioneer Inn, Keynsham—D. C. Dick.

The Bath Arms, Bath Street, Bristol—C. E. Hatchman.

The Black Horse, Cheltenham Road, Bristol—S. Sims.

The Knowle Hotel, Knowle, Bristol—S. Smart.

BRIDGEND.

ANNUAL BALL.

A party of 27 journeyed to Reading by coach on Friday, the 3rd February, to attend the Annual Staff Ball. It is desired to express through the medium of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE the appreciation of all for the very pleasant evening, especially to Mr. W. Bradford for the catering and other arrangements made on behalf of the party. The unanimous vote after the event was "Here's to the next time!"

MR. L. W. VOADEN.

Congratulations to our representative, Mr. L. W. Voaden, who was presented with a daughter, Rosalynn Jean, on the 23rd December. We are informed that Mrs. Voaden and Rosalynn are both in excellent health.

BRITISH LEGION (GARW) CLUB AND INSTITUTE.

To the ex-Servicemen of the Garw Valley, we say "Well Done!" At long last, the British Legion, Pontcymmer, realised its greatest ambition when a well appointed Club was opened on Thursday, January 19th. It is understood that, when all alterations and improvements have been completed the Club will be provided with a lounge, library, reading, billiards and concert rooms.

We have been honoured with the supply of draught and bottled beers to the Club, and thank the Committee and all concerned for the warm welcome extended to our Assistant Manager, Mr. L. W. Buckingham, who, in company with Mr. L. A. Voaden, visited the Club on the opening evening.



Photographs by kind permission of South Wales Evening Post).
 Swansea and District Licensed Victuallers' Banquet, November 3rd, 1949.



(Photographs by kind permission of the South Wales Evening Post).
 Swansea and District Licensed Victuallers' Banquet,
 November 3rd, 1949.

The above photographs were received too late for inclusion in our December issue.

BRIGHTON.

We extend our thanks to the Directors for their generous assistance which enabled fifteen of our staff to enjoy the Annual Ball at Reading this year. All concerned voted the evening, night, and part morning, an outstanding success.

On January 18th, 1950, the Sussex R.N.V.R. Officers' Club held an inaugural meeting at the Royal Oak, Brighton. The party was accommodated in the new Oak Room, where lusty thirsts were quenched with Hop Leaf ales. The occasion was widely reported, the following being a write-up which appeared in the *Sussex Daily News* :—

"Of the 26 local associations in the 10,000 strong R.N.V.R. Officers' Association, Sussex (with the exception of Glasgow, who have a ship) are the first to have a 'home' of their own.

"At the Royal Oak, St. James Street, Brighton, the new clubroom has been made available through the instrumentality of the landlord, Mr. Jeff Davis, former Naval writer. It is a most attractive centre, cream walled, cosily furnished, and with Naval photographs, ship models and flags to provide the right atmosphere.

"The Sussex R.N.V.R. Officers' Club, formed two years ago, has now a membership of about 50, out of a potential 300 within the county. Mr. E. C. Brooks is the Chairman, with Mr. A. L. Gillingham, Hon. Treasurer and Mr. J. G. J. Wildman, of 106, Longhill Road, Ovingdean, Hon. Secretary.

"Monthly meetings are to be held on the first Wednesday each month. At the inaugural meeting, the Hon. W. W. Astor, Chairman of the National Association Council congratulated the Club upon its splendid 'home' and expressed, everyone's deep thanks to Mr. Davis.

"Mr. C. H. Tross Youle, the National Association General Secretary, was also present."

We welcome to the "Hop Leaf" family our new Traveller in the Brighton area, Mr. C. H. Acteson, and wish him every success.

CIRENCESTER.

Our Office Staff have been fortunate in having had the able assistance of Mr. L. J. Lardner, of Oxford Branch, from the latter part of October to December, and we are deeply indebted to him for all the hard work he has put in for us.

We regret to record the death of Mr. C. Jones, of the Railway Inn, Fairford, on the 24th September, 1949. He has been succeeded by Mrs. E. F. Jones, his widow, to whom we tender our sympathy and our best wishes for many further happy years at "The Railway."

Mr. A. J. Francis, of the Nag's Head Inn, Cirencester, has been succeeded by his brother, Mr. A. H. Francis, who has already shown that the old 'Nags' is by no means defunct, although scheduled for transfer to the London Road housing estate at some future date.

MALTA, G.C.

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH.

The arrival of H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth on Sunday, November 20th, 1949, provided an occasion for a most loyal and cordial welcome by large cheering crowds assembled at Luqa Airport and at Villa Guardamangia, where the visitors stayed.

The visit was primarily arranged to mark the anniversary of the Royal Wedding and to spend a short holiday with Lieutenant H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, who is serving in H.M.S. *Chequers*.

Travelling by Viking aircraft of the King's Flight, Her Royal Highness arrived at Luqa shortly before 7 p.m., where she was met by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, Vice-Admiral The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Lady Alice Egerton (Lady-in-Waiting), and Lieut. Michael Parker, R.N., Equerry to the Princess. After the presentation of various distinguished personages to Her Royal Highness, the Royal Couple left the airport for Guardamangia.

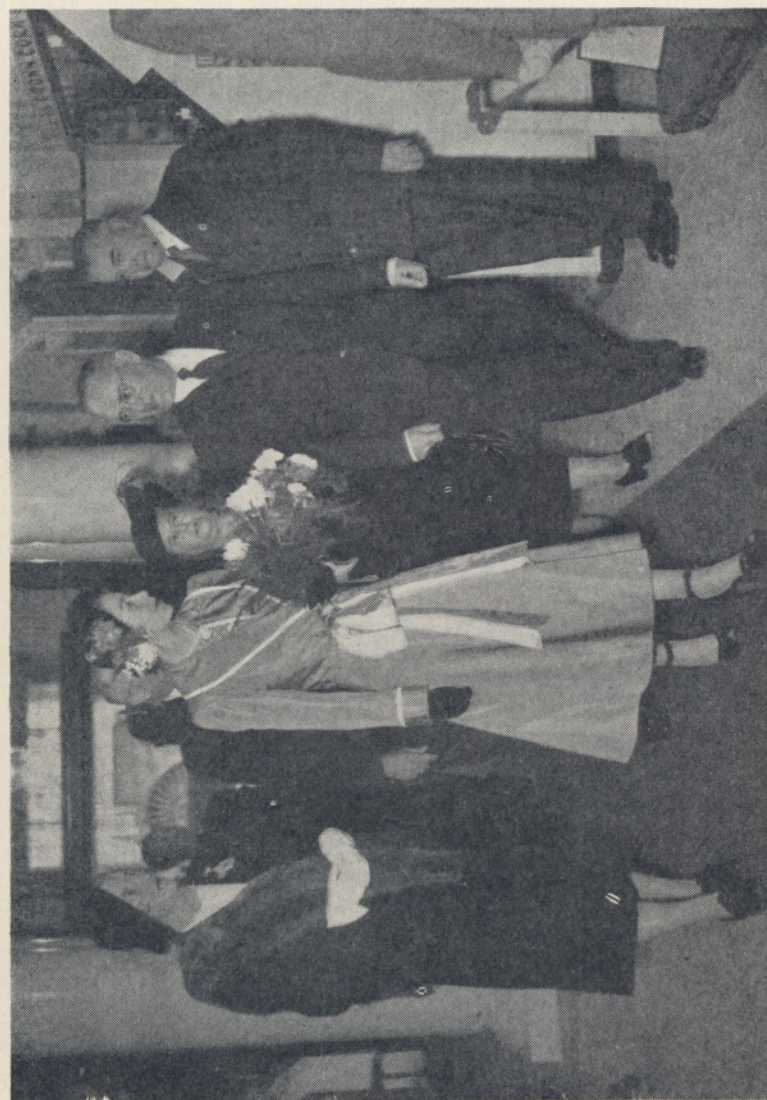
The Princess could not fail to be impressed by the warmth of the reception accorded to her by the people of Malta, who have already, in their hearts, enthusiastically proclaimed her "Princess of Malta," which illustrates the fervour and sentiments aroused by the Royal visit, and which were emphasised by the Prime Minister, Dr. Boffa, who, in Parliament, extended a most hearty welcome to Her Royal Highness, a motion which was approved by acclamation by the leaders of all groups in the Legislative Assembly.

During her stay in the Island, Her Royal Highness paid a visit to the Industrial Exhibition, where she was received by Mr. Lewis V. Farrugia, O.B.E., A. & C.E., President of the Chamber of Commerce and Managing Director of Simonds-Farsons-Cisk, Ltd., Dr. W. Chalmers, President of the Federation of Malta Industries and Mr. B. Camilleri, Minister for Industry, afterwards accepting a bouquet of red and white carnations from Mrs. L. Farrugia.



(Reproduced by Courtesy of Messrs. Allied Malta Newspapers Ltd., Malta.)

Mr. Lewis V. Farrugia, O.B.E., A. & C.E., President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce receiving H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth at the entrance to the Chamber of Commerce where the Industrial Exhibition was held.



(Reproduced by Courtesy of Messrs. Allied Malta Newspapers Ltd., Malta.)

Mr. Lewis V. Farrugia, O.B.E., A. & C.E., escorts the Princess round the various stalls at the Exhibition.

In her tour of the Exhibition, Her Royal Highness manifested great interest in the articles displayed on the various stalls, particularly the making of the beautiful Malta lace, which is so famous as a local industry and of which specimens were graciously accepted by Her Royal Highness, amongst many other gifts from exhibitors. The mementos included a badge, enclosed in a silver box, commemorating the centenary anniversary of the Chamber of Commerce, which Her Royal Highness also graciously accepted from Mr. Lewis Farrugia. Later, Mr. Farrugia presented to the Princess the Honorary President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chev. A. Cassar Torreggiani, and other important members of the Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Malta Industries.

Favoured with fine, mild weather, the Princess was able to drive around the Island sightseeing and visiting places of historical interest, which she appeared greatly to enjoy. Her fondness for riding was evinced by attendance at the Malta Racing Club's Gymkhana.

In the course of a State Drive through towns and villages, the Princess unveiled four Commemoration Tablets at the base of the War Memorial in Floriana at which numerous distinguished personages were in attendance. The four tablets represent the Armorial Bearings of Malta, the message of H.M. King George V at the end of the first World War, the message of H. M. King George VI awarding the George Cross to Malta, and the citation of President Roosevelt of December 7th, 1943. The ceremony included a moving address by the Princess, which touched the hearts of all present.

The Princess attended numerous other functions and ceremonies during her sojourn in Malta and thoroughly entered into the spirit of the impressive and spectacular events. At all public appearances, Her Royal Highness was greeted with tremendous applause, which was smilingly and graciously acknowledged.

The Princess concluded her visit on the 28th December, after waving farewell to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, who sailed in H.M.S. *Chequers* the previous day. The Island will long remember the charm of Her Royal Highness and the pageantry which is inseparable from such an auspicious visit, which was primarily intended to be of a private nature.

PHILLIPS & SONS, LIMITED, NEWPORT, MON.



(Photo by Craely, Cardiff).

New Lounge Bar at the Queen's Hotel, Newport.

PRESENTATION TO MR. ROBERTS AND MR. PAYNE.

The whole of the Office Staff were present at the Queen's Hotel at the invitation of the Directors on November 19th, 1949, when a presentation was made by the Directors to Mr. Percy C. Roberts, traveller, recently retired, and Mr. Alfred E. Payne, of the Wine and Spirit Department who had served the firm for 54 and 50 years respectively. Mr. H. J. Powell, Director, paid tribute to them and referred to the change in conditions since the day they entered employment with the Firm. He wished them both a very happy future. Mr. Powell then announced his resignation, to become effective at the end of December, which he explained he had tendered owing to the change in conditions brought about by the merger with Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, and resulting in the centralising of his department (Wines and Spirits) in the parent Company.

Mr. Powell introduced Mr. A. Norman Phillips, Chairman of Directors, who made the presentations.

"Mr. Roberts and Mr. Payne have been with the Firm for over fifty years. They served my grandfather, my father, my

uncle and myself," said Mr. Phillips. He wished them well and presented Mr. Roberts with a silver salver and a cheque, and Mr. Payne received an inscribed gold wrist watch and a cheque.

In response, both Mr. Roberts and Mr. Payne were reminiscent, and referred to the days when beer was 4s. 6d. a cask and whisky 2s. 6d. per bottle. Mr. Payne recalled the time, when, as an office boy, he was paid 4s. od. per week. "I took the money home to my mother and she gave me sixpence back. I was made!" he concluded.



(By Courtesy of the South Wales Argus.)

The Presentations.

Col. H. Phillips, Mr. A. N. Phillips, Mr. W. E. Hall, Mr. P. C. Roberts, Mr. A. E. Payne, Mr. H. J. Powell.

SIX FEET OF GENIAL PERSONALITY.

The Staff gathered together on 30th December, 1949, to pay tribute to one, who, during his comparatively brief sojourn among them as a colleague, had endeared himself to all. I refer to that upright six feet of genial personality, Mr. Alf. Lanning. Tributes were paid by Mr. S. C. Saunders, General Manager, Mr. H. J. Powell, Director, and Mr. C. W. Snell, of the Transport Department. All spoke in similar vein of Mr. Lanning's willingness and efficiency, and Mr. Snell presented him, on behalf of the Staff, with a chiming clock.

In response, Mr. Lanning expressed his thanks for the gift and his pleasure at the kindness and friendliness shown him during his nine years' employment with the Firm.

RETIREMENT OF CELLAR FOREMAN.

On Thursday, the 2nd February, the Staff were pleased to wish a happy retirement to Mr. A. E. Cook, Cellar Foreman, who, during his 35 years with the Firm, was well known for his cheerful personality by all with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Weller, Head Brewer, was in the Chair, and said that although he had known Mr. Cook for a short time only, he had a great regard for him, and was sure that he would miss his cheerful presence in the Brewery. He wished him a long and happy retirement, and called upon Mr. C. W. Snell to present, on behalf of the Staff, a fireside chair. "I am pleased at this retirement!" said Mr. Snell, "I feel that he has richly earned it." He has been a very efficient and helpful colleague, and we are going to miss him very much. "We all wish you a long and happy retirement, and hope that this chair will help you to enjoy it."

Mr. Cook thanked them all for their kind remarks and for the handsome gift, which he assured them he would enjoy in front of a good fire in the winter evenings.

The members of the Staff who attended the Annual Staff Dance at Reading thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and wish to express their appreciation to all who did so much to make their first visit a memorable one.

A UNIQUE BAR.

Introducing Mr. Don Miller, who has recently taken over the licence of the Talbot Hotel, Newport. This energetic ex-Sergeant Major of Commandos appreciates that the customer to-day expects comfort, and the best of service allied to the very fine range of drinks available in his bars. He has, therefore, set out to give of his best in this direction. His bar fixtures have become a shining example, with brightly labelled bottles, highly polished glassware, gleaming mirrors, and with the aid of concealed lights, his wares have a very appetising appearance. One bar, however, which was constructed on three sides of glass and timber was not patronised and therefore Mr. Miller decided a few weeks before Christmas to make it more attractive. After approaching the Firm for permission, he enlisted the aid of a friend, and with much hard work and considerable ingenuity, was able to open the bar a few days before Christmas.

The original walls were completely covered, partly with timber, and partly with canvas, painted to represent rocks and encrusted with sea shells. The original ceiling was too high, so a false ceiling was erected with timber and plaster board, giving the effect of a timber building, using as one wall the cliff face. Hanging on the walls are ships' canvas, nets, pulley blocks, ropes, etc. A fine ship's wheel surrounded by various weapons embellish one wall, and over a very neat service bar at the entrance is hanging a ship's bell. On top of the cash till is a specimen of handiwork beloved of seafaring men—a ship in a bottle. The bar has a certain amount of concealed lighting, but is mainly lit by two ship's lanterns, the subdued lighting effect giving a very comfortable and snug appearance to the bar.

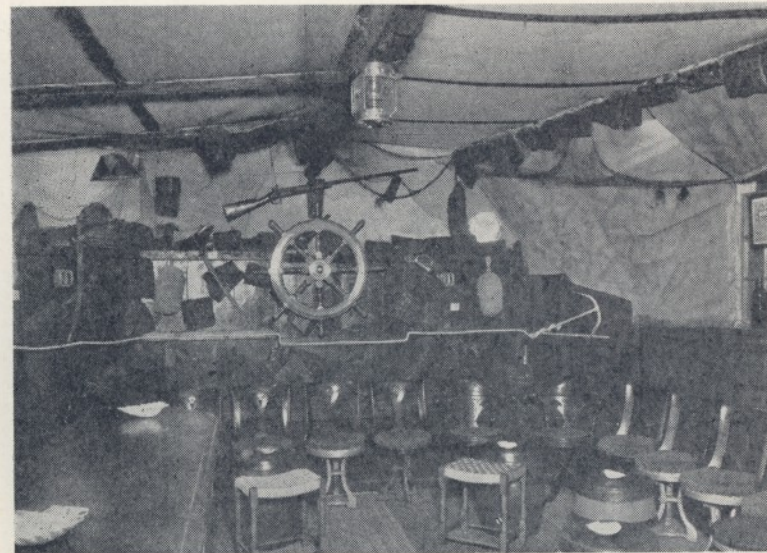
It was an immediate success, and has attracted much new custom to the house. Mr. Miller has named the bar "Smugglers' Creek."

Congratulations, Mr. Miller, a fine effort!"



Photo by John Carr (Newport), Ltd.)

Smugglers' Creek (1)



(Photo by John Carr (Newport), Ltd.)

Smugglers' Creek (2)

OXFORD.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. A. CLINKARD.

On December 31st, 1949, Mr. J. A. Clinkard retired from the employment of the Company as a traveller, after over forty-five years of efficient and loyal service.

To mark the occasion an informal meeting was called at the Oxford Branch main offices on Friday, January 27th, when a presentation was made to Mr. Clinkard. This took the form of a canteen of cutlery, and was subscribed for by members of the staff and employees at Oxford. Mr. W. T. Sanders, Oxford Area Manager, with a few brief words of appreciation on behalf of all present, made the presentation to Mr. Clinkard.

The canteen of cutlery also contained a letter from his colleagues which read:—

"To James Arthur Clinkard from the Staff and Employees of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., Oxford, as a mark of their esteem and as a token of their appreciation of a valued colleague, on his retirement after over forty-five years' service.
December 31st, 1949."

Mr. Clinkard suitably replied, saying how much he had enjoyed his service with H. & G. S. Ltd. He thanked his colleagues for their present, on his wife's as well as his own behalf.

Mr. Clinkard was invited to "drop in" and see us when he felt inclined, and the gathering then dispersed.

THE GERSTON HOTEL, PAIGNTON.

An interesting ceremony took place on the Hyde Road frontage of the Gerston Hotel on Wednesday, November 23rd, 1949, when a Plaque was unveiled by Hugh Tierney, Esq. (Chairman of the Bristol Branch, Gilbert and Sullivan Society) commemorating the first performance of "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Royal Bijou Theatre, Paignton, on the 30th December, 1879.

The Royal Bijou Theatre ceased to exist over 50 years ago, and the room now forms part of the dining-room of the Gerston Hotel, one of the hotels conducted by our Hotels and Catering Department.

The Plaque is affixed to the Hyde Road frontage of the hotel, adjoining a doorway which was the original entrance to the Theatre. The wording on the Plaque reads:—

THE FIRST PRODUCTION IN
ANY COUNTRY OF THE
COMIC OPERA
"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE"
(or "Love and Duty")
BY
W. S. GILBERT
AND
ARTHUR SULLIVAN
WAS STAGED AT THE
ROYAL BIJOU THEATRE
(formerly within this building)
ON 30TH DECEMBER, 1879.

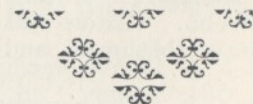
The Original Performance.

In each of the two recent series of Programmes by the British Broadcasting Corporation on the story of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, reference was made to the first and unique performance of "The Pirates of Penzance" at Paignton in 1879.

At that time, Paignton had a population of five thousand. Victoria Street, Torbay Road and Hyde Road had not been constructed, but the Town was fortunate in having in residence a far-seeing landowner and patron of the Arts, Arthur Hyde Dendy, who, in constructing the Gerston Hotel, arranged that a rear part of the premises should be equipped as a Theatre. The B.B.C. described it as the smallest theatre in England, as indeed it must have been, as it seated about seventy persons.



Bath Arms Hotel, Cheddar : Saloon Bar, Christmas, 1949.



PORTSMOUTH.

HAMPSHIRE HUMMINGS AND PORTSMOUTH POT-POURRI

We bid farewell and good luck to our Mr. D. Baldry on leaving for service in the R.E.M.E. Mr. Baldry joined our staff as a junior clerk in November, 1947, and we hope he will enjoy his period of military service.

On Wednesday, February 7th, two of the leading Bowling Clubs of Portsmouth, namely, the Alexandra and Waverley, held their respective Annual Dinners, both of which were their usual great successes.

On Wednesday, January 25th, the Annual Dinner, Dance and Prize-Giving of the Southsea Sea Angling Club was held at the Rock Gardens Pavilion. To this Club, its President, and other hard-working officials, we say Well Done—another “good show.”

Mr. F. Stratford, the well-known and popular Steward of the Southsea Sea Angling Club, has been seriously ill; although on the road to recovery, he has not as yet resumed full duties.

Mr. F. Odds, the genial manager of Messrs. Saccone & Speed, Ltd., Portsmouth, scored another acting success in the part of Algernon Moncrieff, in “The Importance of being Earnest,” by Oscar Wilde. We look forward to seeing him perform in the evergreen “Belle of New York” in the near future.

The Havant British Legion Dinner on Friday, February 3rd, was very well attended: many remarked on the excellence of the organisation and catering. This was a good break out after the Club was broken into at Christmas, and stock stolen.

High enthusiasm at the Portsmouth Sailing Club's General Meeting augurs well for a successful sailing season. Their new signal station should prove a great asset.

Readers will be sorry to hear of the recent illness of that pillar of the trade, Harold Privett, of Ye Olde Inne, Copnor, and through the medium of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE we are sure all connected with the trade will join with us in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Welcome to the Portsmouth trade, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Clay, the new Manager and Manageress of the famous “Bastion” Roadhouse, for Mr. J. Webb. Visitors will find it worth their while to call at this unique establishment, and where “Hop Leaf” products are obtainable.

Our friend, Mr. C. Simms, of the “Suffolk Arms” (Martha's Bar), Portsmouth, has sold his well-known yacht *Droleen*, and taken to the road in his new Sunbeam Talbot. Knowing his love of the sea, we should not be surprised to hear he has purchased another boat, now the sailing season approaches.

Large alterations are taking place at the above-mentioned Suffolk Arms, and we congratulate Mr. Simms and his staff on their work in the face of many difficulties.

Portsmouth and Gosport District Licensed Victuallers Association held their Annual Dinner at the Savoy Ballroom on January 10th. This event was extremely well attended, and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Eagerly sought after were tickets for the City of Portsmouth Freemasons Club New Year's Eve Dance, so ably organised and conducted. Heartly congratulations to all concerned! Their popular and well-known Steward and Stewardness, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gibbens, and the Secretary, Mr. A. A. Moore, appear to thrive on hard work.

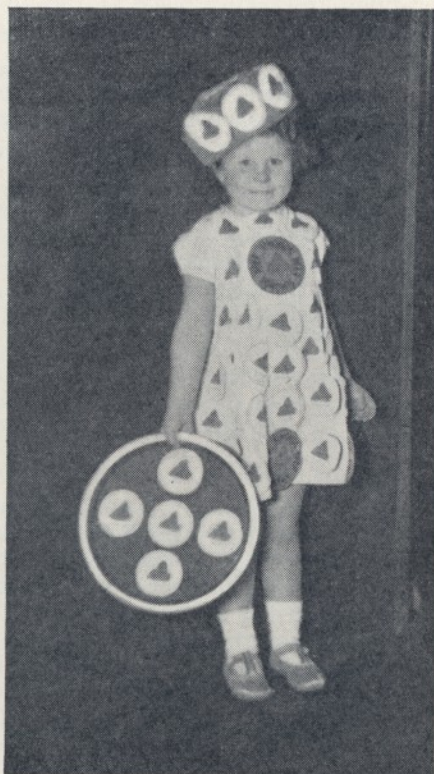
We are pleased to welcome back to duty our Foreman, Mr. F. Collins, after a serious illness commencing last December. We most sincerely trust “Fred's” health will greatly improve.

PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB: LEAGUE CHAMPIONS, 1948-49.

In the last issue of the GAZETTE, we endeavoured to sum up the prospects of Portsmouth Football Team. At that comparatively early stage, we were daring enough to suggest that they might emulate their performance of last season, and win the League Championship for the second year in succession or, maybe, the Football Association Cup. Possibly some of our readers thought this to be rather a wild speculation, but as the season progresses, it seems that one, if not both of these achievements, are getting within their grasp. At the time of writing this article, they are placed fourth in the League, only four points behind the present leaders, Liverpool, and will be going into the “hat” for the draw for the sixth round of the Cup. This is no mean performance to date. Keep up the good work, Pompey, and put Portsmouth on the “sporting map” once again!

We at Portsmouth were all sorry to see our friends at Reading, Bristol, Plymouth, Swindon and Brighton make such an early exit from the Cup Competition, but would like to congratulate the Plymouth Team for putting up such a gallant fight against Wolverhampton, who are the present holders of the much coveted Trophy.

Little Miss Stephanie Newell, aged 4, daughter of our friend, Mr. S. H. Newell, the Commissionaire of the N.A.A.F.I. Club, Portsmouth, won a prize at their Children's Party as a “Beer is Best” Girl. Her photograph is given hereunder, and from her appearance we suggest the title might have been “Simonds Beer is Best.”



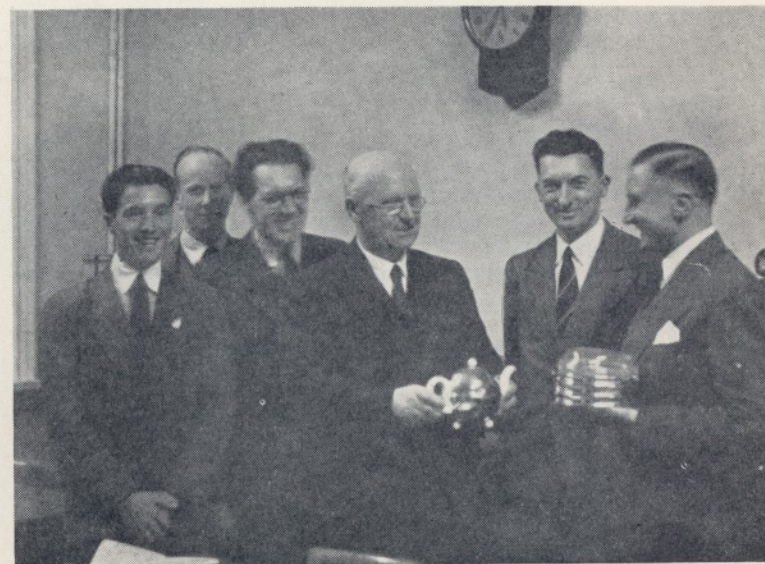
"Beer is Best" little girl.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. E. P. Hingston, outdoor representative, on his marriage to Miss Jean Matthews, at Southsea, on December 10th, 1949.

At the conclusion of business on the day prior to the wedding, Mr. C. R. Holman (Manager) and Mrs. Holman, together with a large number of the Portsmouth staff, gathered in the General Office where a pleasing little ceremony was enacted. Mr. Holman commenced with a few well chosen words and afterwards a presentation was made by Mr. R. B. Bryson (Chief Clerk) of two useful household items, in the form of a "Heatmaster" teapot and a set of "Pyrex" dishes on chromium stand. Mr. Bryson, on behalf of himself and the subscribers, wished Mr. Hingston and his wife-to-be good health, every happiness and long life in the years to come.

Mr. Hingston, in his reply, thanked Mr. Bryson and all the staff for their kind wishes and gift to himself and the future Mrs. Hingston.

At the conclusion Mr. Hingston received the personal good wishes of all present, and there were many congratulatory handshakes before the happy gathering dispersed.



The Presentation.

STAINES.

STAINES AND DISTRICT "HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

The Staines and District "Hop Leaf" Darts League is enjoying another successful season, and at the time of going to press the league positions are as follows:—

Section 1.	Points.
Prince of Wales, Englefield Green ...	31
Jolly Butcher, Staines ...	30
The Swan, Staines Moor ...	29
Beehive, Egham ...	27
Three Tuns, Staines ...	26
Duke of Wellington, Hatton ...	23
The Feathers, Laleham ...	23
Load of Hay, Bedfont ...	23
Stag and Hounds, Virginia Water ...	22
Rising Sun, Stanwell ...	21
Robin Hood, Thorpe Lea ...	20
Jolly Gardeners, Sunbury ...	19
Royal Oak, Bedfont ...	19
The Turk's Head, Laleham ...	16

Section 2.

The Nag's Head, Slough	...	...	35
The Crown, Harlington	...	...	29
Three Horse Shoes, Feltham	...	...	28
Morning Star, Datchet	...	...	25
Railway Arms, Wraysbury	...	...	23
The Harrow, Langley	...	...	21
Garibaldi, Staines	...	...	21
Shears, Sunbury	...	...	20
Criterion, Clewer	...	...	19
The Crown, Langley	...	...	17
Ostrich, Colnbrook	...	...	17
Plough, Horton	...	...	12

HOUNSLOW AND DISTRICT "HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

Like the Staines League, the Hounslow and District "Hop Leaf" Darts League is maintaining much interest among the customers at the competing houses, and the latest league positions are as follows:—

	Points.
Elm Tree, Heston	33
Three Pigeons, Ealing	25
North Star, Hounslow	24
Jolly Waggoners, Hounslow	20
Prince Albert, Whitton	19
Jolly Farmer, Lampton (Public Bar)	19
Royal Horseguardsman, Brentford	19
Jolly Farmer, Lampton (Saloon Bar)	17
Prince Arthur, Ealing	16
Royal Albion, Hounslow	16

The Lamb, Kingston, is the only "Hop Leaf" house competing in the Norbiton and District Darts League, and at the time of going to press occupy the leading position in the league, and they are very confident of ultimately winning. We wish them the best of luck!

THE "PRINCE ALBERT," WHITTON.

The members of the Prince Albert, Whitton (Saloon Bar Social Club), together with their wives and friends, thoroughly enjoyed their fourth annual dinner, dance and cabaret which was held on January 11th. The function is the principal event of the year for the Club, whose members are all "saloon bar customers" of the Prince Albert, Hounslow Road, Whitton. Mr. Monty Sargeant (Chairman) presided, supported by the Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Emmett, licensee of the Prince Albert, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Bailey.

The toast of "The Club" was proposed by Mr. G. Lucioni, and the reply was by Mr. S. Callow. The "Visitors" was proposed by Mr. J. Wooton and the response was made by Mr. E. Gosney.

The Club is believed to be unique in the licensing trade, and organises regular visits to the theatre and summer outings.

WOKING.

WOKING AND DISTRICT CLUBS' STEWARDS' ASSOCIATION.

Representatives from over forty Clubs throughout Surrey were present at the Woking Railway Athletic Club on Tuesday, December 6th, for the fifteenth annual dinner of the above Association.

In proposing the toast of "The Association," Mr. A. E. Wake, who presided, said he was glad to see the road open again for the Dinners which had, unfortunately, been discontinued during the war years. He then went on to describe the various types of Stewards that one met in Clubs: "there is however the perfect Steward," concluded Mr. Wake, "those who do everything to a nicety, who never discuss Club affairs over the bar, and who open and close at precisely the right time. The toast was responded to by Mr. J. H. Brown (Steward of the Woking British Legion Club). Mr. B. H. Quelch proposed the toast of "The Visitors," and regretted the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Mr. W. H. Rolfe (Secretary of the Woking Railway Athletic Club). He welcomed Superintendent Collis of the Woking Police, and Mr. W. F. Winniffrith, Station Master and President of the Woking Railway Athletic Club. Mr. W. F. Winniffrith responded to the toast.

The arrangements for the dinner were made by Messrs. J. H. Brown (Woking British Legion Club), W. Austen (Woking Working Men's Club), L. T. C. Brown, J. Holloway and J. V. Marett (Hon. Secretary). The Association is indebted to Mr. S. Evans (Steward of the Woking Railway Athletic Club) for his assistance with the dinner arrangements at the Club.

"HOP LEAF" DARTS TOURNAMENT (KNOCK-OUT).

The above tournament has now reached its final stage, and we now await with interest the match to be played between the Woburn Arms, Addlestone ("A"), and the Queen's Head, Knaphill ("E").

Many will be interested to know the teams which succeeded in reaching the quarter-finals and semi-finals, and we accordingly list them below:—

QUARTER-FINALS.

Woburn Arms, Addlestone, "A"
 White Hart, New Haw, "C"
 Queen's Arms, Addlestone, "A"
 White Hart, Bagshot, "B"
 Woburn Arms, Addlestone, "B"
 The Crown, Knaphill, "D"
 Royal Oak, Addlestone, "A"
 Queen's Head, Knaphill, "E"

SEMI-FINALS.

Woburn Arms, Addlestone, "A"
 Queen's Head, Knaphill, "E"
 Queen's Arms, Addlestone, "A"
 The Crown, Knaphill, "D"

As in previous games, the above matches were played with zeal in the customary friendly spirit, and provided much enjoyment for the spectators who followed the games with their usual enthusiasm.



The Staff College, Camberley, Draghounds outside the "Hen and Chickens," at Bisley. An annual call is now made at this House, due largely, no doubt, to the warm welcome extended to them by our tenants, Mr. and Mrs. W. Jaques. The Master of the Hunt is Major J. A. H. Mitchell, D.S.O.

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