



HOP LEAF NEWS



STAFF SUPPLEMENT TO THE "HOP LEAF GAZETTE" PUBLISHED BY H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD.

VOL. XXXIII

SPRING 1959

NUMBER 1

PARTIES GALORE!

ANNUAL BALL AT READING

The Annual Staff Ball was held in the gaily decorated Town Hall on February 13th, and was voted a thoroughly enjoyable event by all who attended.

The influenza epidemic cut down the numbers at the Ball, and among those affected were General Sir Miles Dempsey and Mr. E. D. Simonds, neither of whom were able to be present.

Music for dancing was provided by George Watkins and his Orchestra.



The Hollerith girls obviously enjoyed themselves.



A happy group from the Bottling Department.

LUDGERSHALL PARTY

The Ludgershall Branch held their Annual Dinner and Ball at *The Copper Kettle*, Andover, on Friday, the 6th February, the guests of honour being Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wake.

About 50 of the staff and their friends enjoyed an excellent dinner in a comfortable atmosphere of friendly informality. After two short but amusing speeches from Mr. Paice and Mr. Wake, the rest of the evening was spent in light-hearted entertainment, including dancing to the spirited playing of *The King's Corner Band*, and competitions organised by Mr. R. C. Penton, who acted as M.C. Several of our tenants and their wives joined the party as soon as their duties permitted.

The "R. Paice Challenge Cup," in spite of objections (overruled), was won this year by the "Reps," whose considerable stamina and deft handling of trays, shives and other miscellaneous items, in this exciting, if unorthodox relay race, enabled them to capture the handsome trophy from the Office Staff, holders for the last two years.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

There are still several Branch parties due to take place during the next few weeks. The Staines Branch Dance held at the *Pack Horse Hotel* on March 20th is closely followed by the Newport Branch Dinner and Dance at the *King's Head Hotel* on April 3rd.

The party season concludes on April 24th with the West Country Staff Dinner and Dance at the *Duke of Cornwall Hotel*, Plymouth.

NATIONAL SAVINGS NEWS

The interest rate on the present issue of certificates is the most generous ever, and provides one of the finest investments in the world today. In seven years' time each 15/- certificate will be worth £1. However, it is uncertain how much longer this rate will continue, and the advice is "Buy Now!"

Our Savings Group starts a new cycle towards the end of May. Certificates can be bought by small weekly payments, and about seven months' interest is gained in this way. It is hoped that as many employees as possible will take advantage of this opportunity of saving. All Reading Employees who are interested should contact the Savings Group Secretary, Mr. T. W. Kent (Secretarial Department).



The Coopers sit one out.

PENSIONERS' DINNER AT READING

The Annual Dinner and Concert for pensioners at Reading, was held in the Social Club on Monday, the 5th January. Although the weather was appalling, there was a good attendance.

Mr. Duncan Simonds was in the Chair, with Mr. E. M. Downes in support. Mr. Duncan, in a speech that everyone enjoyed, made mention of the fact that Mr. Arthur Heybourne, "a mere 84," was the oldest, but that several others who were attending the dinner were over the age of 80. The total service to the Company of those present was over 2,000 years. Mr. A. G. Richardson, replying on behalf of the pensioners, said how much they all enjoyed this yearly get together. He also thanked the Canteen Staff for the excellent meal and the Social Club Committee for organising the evening for them.

Mr. W. P. Connolly and Mr. H. Stevens had travelled from Herne Bay and Bournemouth respectively to attend, and we were especially pleased to see them.

After the Dinner, a concert was given by Felix Bowness and Marie Hyde.

FUN AND GAMES AT BRISTOL

On Tuesday, February 10th, some three hundred members of our Staff, including the tenants and managers of our Tied Houses, together with their wives, gathered at the Berkeley Cafe, Bristol, for the Fifth Annual Staff Dinner and Party. Guests of honour were Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Downes, who had made the journey from Reading, together with Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wake, and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wadlow. Mr. B. H. Quelch proposed the toast of "Our Firm" and welcomed the guests from both the Tied and Free Trade.

In response to the toast General Sir Charles Allfrey thanked the assembled company for their efforts during the past twelve months, and referred to the closing of the Bottlery at Bristol. Our Head Brewer and Director, Mr. E. M. Downes, also responded.

The Dinner was followed by a short cabaret turn, and the remainder of the evening was spent in dancing and party games. The highlight of the party was the "Hop Leaf Handicap" which this year consisted of a pancake race, as the date was, of course, Shrove Tuesday. It was a relay race between teams from the Tenants, Staff, Transport, etc., and, we are pleased to say, was won by the Staff.



Some of the three hundred staff and guests at Bristol.

BRIGHTON PARTY



The Annual Party for the staff of our Brighton Branch took place on Thursday, February the 17th. Following an excellent dinner at Langford's Hotel, Hove, everyone went to the Theatre Royal to see "Wolf's Clothing," a first class comedy, which was much enjoyed.

After the play Mr. and Mrs. Cooper welcomed the party at the *Royal Oak*, where sandwiches and drinks rounded off a most enjoyable evening.

PLYMOUTH STAFF SEE ARGYLE WIN AT READING

The rivalries of Third Division football brought Reading and Plymouth Argyle into opposition at Elm Park, Reading, on Saturday, January 31st. Some 84 Tamar supporters in two coaches also came along to see fair play.

Leaving Plymouth at 5 a.m., before the crack of dawn, the party called a halt at Mere at 8.30 a.m. for an excellent and well-earned breakfast. Journeying on to Reading, the party reached the Social Club at 12 noon, where they were welcomed by members of the Simonds Social Club Committee.

After Plymouth had enhanced their promotion prospects with a 2-0 win, the visitors from Tamar were entertained at the Club, where a dance was held. Many friendships were renewed during the evening, and the stock of "Velvet," S.B. and "Tavern" in the bar was somewhat depleted in the process.

At the conclusion of a highly convivial evening the Tamar party set off regretfully on their return journey home, which they reached soon after 7 a.m. on Sunday. All expressed their gratitude to Mr. C. Lawley for his excellent organisation of the trip from Plymouth, and to those officials of the Club at Reading who helped to make the day a real red-letter one in the history of the Branch.

BRIDGEND CELEBRATES

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wake were the guests of honour at the Third Annual Dinner Party of the Bridgend Branch, held on February the 24th, at the *York Tavern*.

For the first time an invitation was extended to our tenants and their wives, who responded enthusiastically. This, and the fact that Mr. Monks and his staff spared no effort to produce a dinner of the highest order, resulted in the party proving the most successful yet.

Mr. F. R. Scott and Mr. Wake made brief speeches in which the hope was expressed that this first "get together" would be the forerunner of many more pleasant evenings, with both staff and tenants present, in the years to come. During the dinner a message of goodwill was also received from General Allfrey.

Mellowed by good food and wine, the party really sparkled after dinner, when dancing and games took place in an atmosphere of complete informality. That our tenants entered whole-heartedly into the spirit of the evening may be judged from the fact that an impromptu 'Can-can' was performed by four glamorous ladies who, an hour before, had been complete strangers!

CHILDREN'S PARTY AT READING

200 CHILDREN ATTEND

Some 200 children attended the Social Club's Annual Party, held in the Drill Hall, St. Mary's Butts, on Saturday, the 17th January.

They were entertained with music by the Astorians Dance Band, singing by the Tonettes, and dancing by the Club's own Old Time Dancing Class, under the direction of Mr. J. Arthur. After singing and games, the children sat down to tea, which was followed by a Film Show. Father Christmas (L. Povey) was there, of course, and he concluded the afternoon, assisted by the Social Club Committee, by seeing that every child had a present to take home.

SOCIAL CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Social Club was held on Monday, February 9th. There were seven vacancies for Committee members, and the following were elected :—

Messrs. J. D. Richardson (*Chairman*), C. Hawkins (*Vice-Chairman*), M. Wheeler, W. Parrish (*Retiring members*), R. Rylance, S. Davey and K. Ward.



Stan Davey entertains the children.

Berkshire Chronicle photograph

STAFF CHANGES

READING

New Employees

We welcome the following newcomers to our ranks, and wish them happiness in their work with us :—

Mrs. M. Patten—Surveyor's Dept.
Mrs. K. Fryer—Delivery Dept.
(*Previous service, 1941-1957.*)
Mrs. S. M. Greenway—Architect's Dept.
Mrs. D. C. Whitburn—Surveyor's Dept.
Miss S. V. E. Atfield—Telephonist.
Mrs. B. K. Rose—Hollerith Dept.
K. C. Pile—Managed House Accounts.
Mrs. D. E. Seymour—Hollerith Dept.
R. J. Bostock—Staff Trainee.
G. M. Thompson—Staff Trainee.
P. N. Guppy—Arthur Cooper.
Mrs. S. D. Guppy—Telephonist.
Miss P. A. Gilham—Hollerith Dept.
Mrs. M. A. O'Keefe—Delivery Dept.

Welcome back after service with the Royal Berks Regt. in Cyprus :—

W. E. Heybourne—Accounts Dept.

Transfers :

Miss H. Ormond—Hollerith Dept. to Managed House Accounts.
C. L. Hudson—Cask Dept. to Newport Branch.
D. McDonald—Accounts Dept. to Estates Dept.
D. J. Roberts—Accounts Dept. to Managed House Accounts.

Left :

Mrs. G. A. Gardiner left our employ on the 16th January, after eight years' service in the Hollerith Department. Her colleagues presented her with a "Carry-Cot." Mrs. Gardiner is the wife of our Assistant Bottling Foreman.

BRANCHES

New Employees

We also welcome the following newcomers to Branches, and wish them every happiness :—

Mrs. J. Smith—Devonport.
Miss B. A. Grimes—Staines.
M. Saunders—Bridgend.
Miss R. L. Couch, Devonport.
Mrs. J. Cave—Bristol.
Mrs. M. Pedley—Bristol.
R. E. Miller—Staines.
Mrs. R. E. Britton—Staines.
Miss D. Davies—Newport.
D. G. Lord—Newport.
Mrs. J. A. Parker—Plymouth.
Mrs. J. Rainbird—Plymouth.
R. G. S. Batten—Newport.
P. M. Stringer—Staines.

R. Milward—Newport.
J. C. James—Newport.

Retirement :

F. H. Williams—Newport. Retired on 28.2.59.

Transfer :

N. J. Dursley—Gloucester Sub-Depot to Bristol Branch.

Appointments :

R. S. Purdey—Appointed as Wine and Spirit Dept. Foreman at Plymouth, with effect from 1.11.58.
S. R. Gray—Appointed Asst. Manager i/c Gloucester Sub-Depot, with effect from 1.1.59.
B. E. Smith—Appointed Representative at Newport Branch to cover Cardiff area, with effect from 14.1.59.

MANUAL STAFF RETIREMENTS

Several members of the manual staff have retired since Christmas, and we wish them good health and happiness in their retirement.

Reading (On 2nd January 1959).

H. Patey (Beer Cellars, Maltings), after 46 years' service.
H. T. Holmes (Scalds, Cooperage), after 39 years' service.
W. Harvey (Garage), after 27 years' service.
J. Barker (Beer Cellars), after 2 years' service.
(On 30th January, 1959).
E. Tate (Building), after 33 years' service.

Devonport :

(On 27th February, 1959).
P. Spriddle (Loading Stage), after 39 years' service.
C. J. Wootton (Transport), after 36 years' service.
R. E. Tamblin (Loading Stage), after 36 years' service.

Brighton :

J. W. H. Grove (Charge Hand), after 36 years' service.

Presentation to NEWPORT CASHIER

On behalf of the Directors, Mr. Norman Phillips presented an inscribed gold watch and a cheque to Mr. F. H. Williams, Cashier at Newport Branch, to commemorate his retirement on February 27th, after 48 years' service with Phillips & Son Limited and H. & G. Simonds Limited.

Mr. Phillips thanked Mr. Williams for his loyal service, and wished him and Mrs. Williams many years of happy retirement.

General Sir Charles Allfrey expressed similar sentiments on behalf of the Directors.

Later in the day a further presentation of a fireside chair was made by the Staff.

Many were the expressions of goodwill for the future, for Mr. Williams has been a popular member of the firm, and was responsible for the organisation of many happy staff outings in the past.

Inter Departmental Darts Tournament

The Fourth Annual Inter-Departmental Darts Tournament, held in the Social Club, on Friday, February 27th, attracted 25 teams from all parts of the Brewery.

The winning team, Wine Stores

NEWPORT TRANSPORT STAFF DINNER AND OUTING

The Annual Dinner of the Transport Staff was held at the *Castle Hotel*, Newport, on the 21st November, 1958. An excellent meal was provided by the popular host, Mr. George Sunderland. Mr. S. C. Saunders, Mr. F. E. R. Phipps and Mr. A. N. Phillips were the principal guests, with Mr. C. Dobbs in the Chair. Mr. F. E. R. Phipps (Head Brewer) congratulated the Transport Staff on their excellent turn-out, and expressed his pleasure at being able to attend. After the meal and the speeches a Skiffle Group gave an amusing programme of entertainment.

Preparations are well under way for making this year's Annual Transport Outing to London a gala one. Mr. George McManus, the organiser, has arranged an excellent programme, catering for all tastes.

"A," was presented with the Directors' Challenge Cup by Mr. E. D. Campbell.

A set of darts for the highest individual score of the evening was won by "Wacker" Roberts.

OBITUARY

We deeply regret to record the deaths of :

W. H. HORSMAN (Cask Beer Loading Stage) in mid-December, 1958. He retired in December, 1956, after twelve years' service with the Company.

H. R. KING, on January the 5th, 1959. He had served for two-and-a-half years with the Transport Department.

E. S. TURNER, on January the 11th, 1959. He had spent most of his twelve years with the Company in the Maltings, before being transferred latterly to the Transport Department.

F. HUDDLESTONE, on February the 19th, 1959. He had fourteen years' service with the Company as a cooper.

SPORTS REVIEW

FOOTBALL

Cup Run Ends.

All we needed was just a little bit of blooming luck, as the song says, but our hopes of reaching the Reading Senior Cup semi-final were dashed when, practically at the end of the game, a Cholley forward crashed the ball past Bert Sims, while our defence stood still, thinking the referee had blown for hand ball. Although we played the better football, a goal each by John Rose and John Rowlands was not enough to continue our best Cup run for many years. In the league we are roughly halfway, and with nine games to play it looks likely that this will be our final position.

Our reserve side has developed into a draw specialist, and its league position shows a slight improvement. This is a trend which we hope will continue.

Newport v. Bridgend

The long awaited football match between Newport Branch and Bridgend Branch finally took place at Coronation Park, Newport, on 1st March—St. David's Day—1959.

The score of 4 goals to 3, a win for Bridgend, reflects a fair decision in a keenly contested game which was thoroughly enjoyed by both sides.

For Newport, L. Stokes (Capt.) and T. Mort, were outstanding, with T. Freeman, T. O'Connell and Goalkeeper, B. Lamb, giving a good account of themselves. On the Bridgend side, P. Ball, M. Fry, T. Jones, A. Evans and Goalkeeper "Dare-devil" McCarthy were on top form.

ANGLING CLUB

Reports and Results

SEASON 1958-59.

This season has again been a successful one, with the Brewery waters providing plenty of sport. These waters hold several fine dace, many of which have been caught.

Our stalwart, Fred Weston (Aggy) is again running away with top honours, but a newcomer, Mick Gibbs, is showing great results in his first season with the Club.

Both challenge matches fished, versus Gascoignes A.C., were won by Simonds A.C.

Here are the first four in the final placings:—

F. WESTON ..	20 lbs. 4½ ozs.	57 pts.
M. GIBBS ..	7 lbs. 11 ozs.	33 pts.
R. FULLER ..	6 lbs. 10 ozs.	12 pts.
D. FRY ..	2 lbs. 6 ozs.	12 pts.

(SPECIMEN PERCH
1 lb. 2½ ozs.)

The new season ahead has already brought forth an offer of a challenge match with Flowers Brewery A.C., and we hope for yet more new members, so all you anglers, why not join?

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. A. Fry (Production Office) will be pleased to give you full details.

HOCKEY

This has been the most successful season in the history of the Club. Up to date with 15 games to be played, 17 games have been won, 5 games drawn, and 4 lost.

In a record breaking year the Club also has a record fixture list of 46 games. These include matches as far afield as Andover, Winchester, and a very exciting match to be played in April against Guinness Brewery.

For most of the season the Club has operated with no more than 14 players, and despite Saturday and Sunday fixtures, such keenness exists in the team that it has been very difficult at times to select 11 players out of an available 14.

The team has been very ably captained this year by Ted Spary (Brewing Room), who is the pivot of a fine defence, including Vic Foxton (Customs and Excise), Ted Noon, Don Simons, and McKinnon (Mac).

Special credit must be given to our goalkeeper, Barry Peoples, whose fine keeping has contributed much to our record. Unfortunately he leaves us at the back end of the season, and we are faced with the problem of finding a new goalkeeper.

Our forward line has amassed a grand total of 83 goals so far this season, and a special pat on the back must go to our centre-forward, Geoff Beckett, with a total of 32 goals, and also to Tom Cheeseman, our Vice-Captain, and left inner, with a total of 25 goals.

NETBALL

Although the bad weather and the 'flu epidemic have caused the cancellation of a number of matches quite a few friendly and league games have been played.

Future matches arranged so far include one with H.M.S. *Dauntless*, the local W.R.N.S. establishment.

TABLE TENNIS

The "A" Team are enjoying a fairly successful season and are still competing in the Reading and District Handicap Competition. The "C" Team, while showing great keenness, have not been too successful, but the experience gained should enable them to improve their position next season.

In the Reading and District Championships, held at Brock Barracks on the 3rd/6th February, three Simonds players distinguished themselves: R. Wheeler (Hotels Dept.) reached the quarter-finals of the Men's Singles, and J. Rose and A. Dines were finalists in the Men's Doubles.

TENNIS

In an effort to get Tournament matches played off quicker, entry forms are being issued this year, and they must be returned to R. Wheeler (Managed House Accounts) before April the 10th. Anyone who would like to enter, but who has not received a form can obtain one from L. Twiney (Cashiers').

WEDDINGS

The marriage took place on Saturday, January 17th, 1959, at St. Mary's Church, Plympton, between Miss Joan Avent, Machine Accounts Section, Tamar Brewery, and Third Engineer R. Oxland, Union Castle Line.

Mr. C. Goss, Chief Clerk, deputising for Mr. C. R. Holman, presented Miss Avent with a clock, the gift of the staff at Octagon and Tamar Breweries.

On January the 17th, Miss Diana Jenkins, a member of the staff of our Bridgend Branch, was married to Mr. Gary Jenkins. We are pleased to say that Mrs. Jenkins is remaining with the firm.

Miss J. M. Keates, who has been employed in the Hollerith Department at Reading since 1954, was married on February the 7th to Mr. F. A. Grainger at St. Michael's Church, Tilehurst.

Miss A. Randall, also of the Hollerith Department, fulfilled the duties of chief bridesmaid.

Miss Keates was presented with an electric iron and ironing board with the good wishes of her colleagues.

On November 22nd, 1958, at St. Peter's Church, Earley, Miss Maureen Mundy, of the Managed House Accounts Section, became Mrs. Reeves.

Her colleagues presented her with a folding ironing table, together with their best wishes for future happiness.

Mr. Vincent Warner, a member of the Beer Cellars Staff, was married to Miss Viola Haynes at Greyfriars Church Reading, on December 6th, 1958. Vincent, who is a very popular member of the firm's Cricket Club, was given a canteen of cutlery by his colleagues.

The marriage took place between Miss P. J. Hill, Surveyor's Department, and Mr. J. W. King, on October 11th, 1958, at St. Peter's Church, Caversham. Her colleagues gave Miss Hill a contemporary table lamp, coffee table and electric coffee percolator.

Mr. F. E. Small, of the Transport Department at Bristol, recently married Mrs. E. M. Davies at the Bristol Registry Office.

On February the 21st, Mr. William Clift, of the Bottling Department, married Miss Diane Potts at St. Bartholomew's Church, Reading.

Among the wedding presents were an alarm clock and some blankets given, with their best wishes, by the bottling staff.

MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

We send our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Maskell, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Boxing Day.

Mr. Maskell, who is now 81 years of age, was Brewery Watchman at Reading before his retirement.

Congratulations also go to:—
Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Bennett on the birth of their first child, Susan Jean. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have been managers of the Arthur Cooper Brighton Branch since its reconstruction in 1953; prior to that Mr. Bennett was on the staff of Simond's Branch at Bristol.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Shepherd on the birth of a daughter, Teresa Marion. Mr. Shepherd is chief machine operator in the Hollerith Department at Reading.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Spary on the birth of a daughter on February 3rd. Mr. Spary is a shift brewer at Reading.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Salmon on the birth of a daughter on February 11th. Mr. Salmon is assistant engineer at Reading.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Beckford also on the birth of a daughter on February 14th. Mr. Beckford is statistics brewer at Reading.

Finally, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Wooldridge on the birth of a daughter, Alison June, on December 28th. Mr. Wooldridge is in the Wages Department at Reading, and has recently passed the Intermediate Examination of the Society of Commercial Accountants.



Mr. and Mrs. Reeves leave the church.



Mr. and Mrs. Grainger and attendants.



Mr. and Mrs. Warner after the ceremony.

Another successful examinee is Mr. R. W. North, of the Production Office, who recently passed Part I of the Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants.

THE LAST BOTTLE

On December the 23rd, a large number of employees of the Bristol Bottling gathered to watch the last bottle of beer being filled by the bottling plant before it closed down. Among those present were Lt.-General Sir Charles Allfrey, Mr. B. H. Quelch, and Mr. J. Vickery. As the last few bottles passed through the labeller they were taken from the machines, opened, and a toast was drunk by the assembled company.

Prior to this a farewell party for the bottling girls had been held on December the 16th, at the Cumberland Hotel in Bristol. During the evening Lt.-General Sir Charles Allfrey thanked all the girls for their services in the past, and mentioned that all those who wished to continue in the brewing business had been found jobs with another local brewery. Miss M. Winter, the forewoman, who has been with the Company for no less than 28 years, was presented with a bouquet of flowers by General Allfrey, and Mr. Halse, the bottling foreman, received a barometer from the bottling girls.