



HOP LEAF NEWS



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

VOL. XXXII

SPRING 1958

NUMBER 2



Father Christmas (Mr. T. Hemmett) makes his welcome appearance during the Children's Party at Devonport.

PARTY TIME

A reminder of how our Branches Celebrated Christmas and the New Year

READING

THE Committee of our Social Club at Reading entertained the members' children at a New Year's Party on 11th January, in the Drill Hall, St. Mary's Butts, Reading.

Approximately 250 children attended.

A good programme of entertainment was provided for them: the Astorians' Dance Band, a Rodeo performance, amusing films, and a Skiffle Band. The children thoroughly enjoyed the concert and

sang with great enthusiasm all the popular choruses of the day. A plentiful tea was prepared for them by the Brewery Canteen, after which each child received a present. Invaluable help was rendered by members of the Committee, viz., Messrs. Hawkins, Whale, Turner, Wheeler and Parrish, and their wives.

The presents were distributed by Mr. J. D. Richardson, Chairman of the Social Club, and the arrangements were in the capable hands of Mr. W. Bradford.

A VERY SPECIAL PARTY

ONE of the most pleasant Children's Parties this year was that given to children from "Homes" in Reading. Held in the Reading Social Club on the 8th February, it was a great success from the word "go". Sixty-four children from six Reading Homes attended and, after a grand tea, kindly arranged by the Manageress and Staff of the Social Club, they were entertained to a film show and some magical moments from conjurer, Max Lester.

BRIDGEND

THE second Annual Staff Party, held at the York Tavern and Restaurant, on 10th January, was honoured by the presence of Mr. E. D. Simonds and Mr. S. H. Spurling.

It was a most happy occasion and it was very pleasant to see our distinguished guests entering so whole-heartedly into the dancing and party games.

Dinner, which preceded the dancing, was provided by the Manager and Manageress of the York Tavern, Mr. and Mrs. A. L.

Herbert. Entertainment included a very polished performance by Mr. Ken Perks (a member of the Magic Circle), Mr. Roy Jones and our Junior Clerk, Mr. Peter Ball, and his charming partner, Miss Ann Rollings.

These two gay young people gave an exciting exhibition of Rock 'n' Roll, which was warmly applauded.

The occasion was, by common consent, an even greater success than our first party last year—which augurs well for the future.



A happy section of the 250 children who attended the New Year party at Reading.

DEVONPORT

THE annual Children's Christmas Party of the Simonds Sports and Social Club was held at the Exmouth Hall, Devonport, on 4th January.

The first item in a crowded programme was provided by Mrs. James' Children's Concert Party. This group of talented youngsters gave of their best, and great credit is due to Mrs. James for the excellent coaching she has given her troupe.

In all, some 140 children attended and undoubtedly they had a most enjoyable and memorable time.

An excellent tea was provided by the Embassy catering staff, after which the children were given a film show of favourites as Pop-eye, Mickey Mouse and "The Chimp-anzees' Tea Party".

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Mr. G. Greber, was in attendance for part of the time, together with Mr. D. J. Simonds, our local Director, and Mr. C. R. Holman, Devon and Cornwall Area Manager.

The highlight of the afternoon, naturally enough, was the appearance of Father Christmas himself (Mr. T. Hemmett). Garbed in the traditional clothing he proceeded to the large Christmas tree which was installed in one corner of the ballroom, and distributed presents, sweets and oranges to all the children.

The Committee of the Simonds Social Club are to be congratulated on a thoroughly successful party which gave infinite pleasure to many young hearts.



"Cool cats" Peter Ball and Ann Rollings warm up at the Bridgend Party!

A SLIGHT CASE OF KIDNAPPING AT READING !

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HOLD THE RECEPTIONIST OF THE SHIP HOTEL TO RANSOM—FOR CHARITY

IT was 8 p.m. on Friday, 21st February. Ann Morse, the pretty 18-year-old receptionist of the *Ship Hotel*, Reading, looked up from her desk to see a girl beckoning to her. "Can you spare a moment to come into the lounge? Somebody here wants to speak to you," said the girl in tones of some urgency.

Puzzled, but unsuspecting, Ann nodded her assent and walked towards the swing door of the lounge. Without warning three menacing male figures advanced, gathered round her and swept her silently through the main door of the hotel.

Outside a car waited, its engine ticking over. A few terse, muttered instructions; the roar of an engine at full throttle—and once again a young girl had been abducted in full view of the citizenry.

Some time later Mr. John Maddox, Manager of the *Ship Hotel*, noticed that Ann was not at her post. Enquiries as to her whereabouts proved fruitless. In the midst of the agitation came the shrilling of the telephone. Anxiously Mr. Maddox lifted the receiver. An unknown voice whispered: "You can have your receptionist back—at a price!"

It is not often that we have the opportunity to "lift the lid" off the underworld in these columns—and we enjoyed writing those first few paragraphs. But we must make an honest editor of ourselves and frankly admit that there was nothing ominous at all about this affair!

It took place during Reading University's Rag Week, and Ann's captors were students who had devised a novel method of swelling the funds of local charities.

At the time of the telephone call Ann was chatting happily with her kidnappers in the car park of the *George and Dragon* at Wargrave. As she explained afterwards, they had not taken her inside because, with feminine logic, she had pointed out that it was a Simonds house where she would surely be recognised!

Sportingly, Mr. Maddox agreed to a ransom of £5 to be paid to the

Reading Children's Hospital Fund—and Ann was free to return to the *Ship*.

But why Ann Morse? you are probably asking yourselves.

Because she is a local celebrity. She is, in fact, Miss Reading, 1958.

Her elevation to this exalted rank took place at the Reading Press Ball on 14th February, when the pick of Reading's pretty girls were judged by a panel which included comedian Benny Hill, Zoë Newton (the famous "milk-girl"), film stars Janette Scott and Tony Wright, and well-known journalists Paul Boyle, Derek Monsey and Evelyn Home.

The list of prizes which Ann won on this occasion reads like the legend of the cornucopia. Bouquets of orchids and freesias; a portable radio; a fortnight's holiday in Italy; a cheque for £75; a three-month modelling course; a new hair-styling; clothes to the value of over £100; a course of ten driving lessons and a sewing basket with a needlework instruction book. (The last-named she gave to the young lady who won third place, having come to the opinion that, with one thing and another, she was unlikely to have much time for sewing!)

When we met her in the *Ship Hotel* the day after her kidnapping she was preparing for her afternoon off. How was she going to spend it? we asked. "With my kidnappers," she replied (which just goes to show that to be a success with the fair sex you really *must* treat 'em rough).

Later we met the kidnappers (very pleasant young men dressed in scarlet uniforms) who arrived in a veteran 1904 Wolseley car. Ann's half-day was spent heading the students' procession through the streets of Reading.

The competition for Miss Reading was notable for what may be termed its Hop Leaf flavour!

Another charming contestant who did very well, gaining fourth place, was 17-year-old Ann Brench, who is the daughter of Mr. Fred Brench, foreman in the Transport Engineer's Department at Reading.



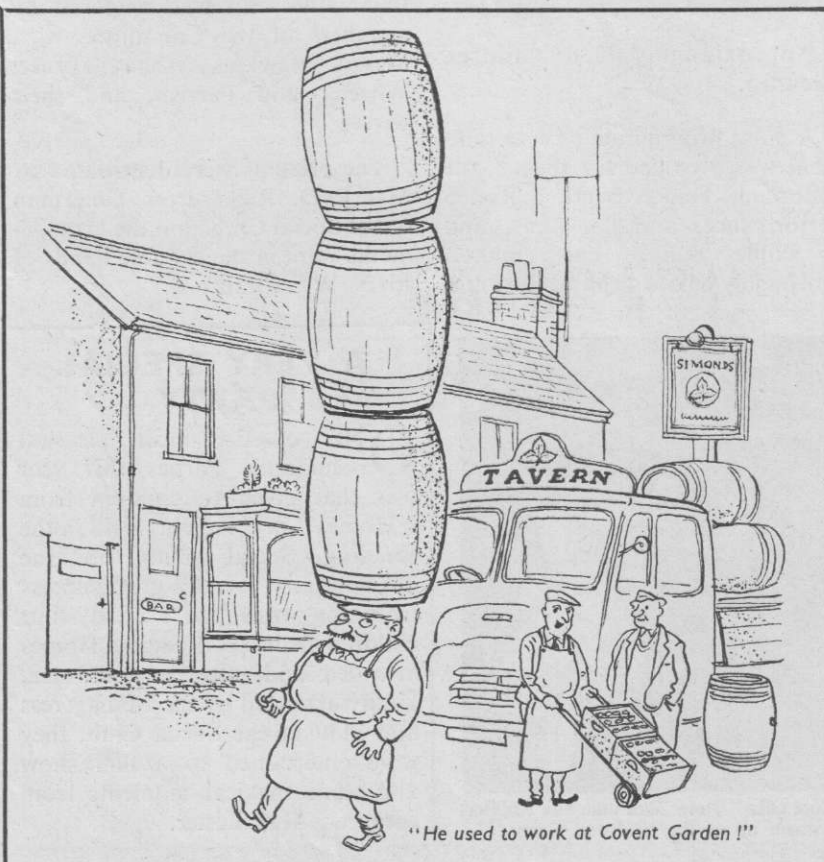
Ann Morse, none the worse for her "ordeal" at the reception desk of the "Ship Hotel."



(BELOW) Mr. and Mrs. John Maddox join Miss Reading, her kidnappers and her vintage Wolseley outside the "Ship."



Reading students pledge a "no-hard-feelings" toast in (naturally) a glass of Tavern.



Personal Paragraphs

MAINLY ABOUT SIMONDS PEOPLE

TERRY WINTERBOURNE, who completed his apprenticeship in the Cooperage before his National Service, is now with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in Cyprus. Terry is a good footballer and played for our First XI. He has represented his battalion at both soccer and boxing. A photograph of Terry checking passes in Cyprus was published in a Reading newspaper, and if any of his friends would like a copy they should contact his father Mr. S. Winterbourne, Chargehand in the Bottling Department.

BEST WISHES to Bob Seymore, of the Building Department, who was married on 22nd February.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. G. Whitbread (of the Advertising Department) on the birth of a baby daughter, on Thursday, 6th February.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. W. O'Mara, of the Fermenting Department, Reading, whose wife gave birth to a fine boy weighing 9 lbs. on 1st January.

AND to Mr. and Mrs. L. Twiney on the birth of a son on 28th October. Mr. Twiney works in the Cashier's Department, Reading.

CONGRATULATIONS to Vic Smith, of the Building Department, on being selected to play for Berks and Bucks F.A. Junior XI. Vic is also a member of Reading Exiles F.C.

WELCOME back to Terry Hawkins (Export Dept). He has rejoined us after National Service in the Far East, and is already playing football for us again.

PETER BALL, Junior Clerk at our Bridgend Branch, is in the limelight these days.

A stalwart of the Welsh Association of Boys' Clubs soccer team, he is also a bright star in the Rock 'n' Roll firmament.

With his attractive partner, Miss Ann Rollings, he gave a most energetic display of the latest convulsive art at the Staff Party in January—and stole the show.



Not exactly Simonds people, maybe, but Tinker and Umpire are popular members of the Reading Transport Staff.

CONGRATULATIONS to John Graham Gerry, son of Mr. W. G. Gerry (Clerk of Works in charge of Reading Borough Area), who has been selected to play for Berkshire County Rugby XV at the early age of fifteen.

LISTENERS to the Radio Luxembourg Show "Shilling a Second" on 14th March will doubtless remember the young lady who answered Gerry Wilmot's questions on cookery with such assurance.

She was Miss Ann Levey, of the Branch Department Staff at Reading.

The show was recorded at the Palace Theatre on Sunday, 9th

continued on back page

STAFF CHANGES

THE following staff changes have been notified to the time of going to press :—

READING

Transfers

- C. R. Wyatt—ex Plymouth. Assistant-Manager Estates Dept.
- B. E. Smith—ex Swindon. Special Representative.
- S. R. Gray—ex Bristol. Staff Training Course.
- A. G. Smythe—Accounts Dept. to Surveyor's Dept.
- H. Jones—Surveyor's Dept. to Cask Dept.
- Miss E. Davies—Estates Dept. to Secretarial Dept.
- E. F. Munt—Surveyor's Dept. to Hollerith Dept.
- A. Hitchman—Delivery Dept. to Surveyor's Dept.
- P. Loader—Cask Dept. to Accounts Dept.
- L. Fullbrook—Hollerith Dept. to Accounts Dept.
- A. Laws—Cask Dept. to Accounts Dept.
- L. Pratt—Cask Dept. to Architect's Dept.
- D. G. Thomas—Cask Dept. to Surveyor's Dept.
- T. Kent—Accounts Dept. to Secretarial Dept.

New Employees

- Mrs. A. D. Morton—Stocktaking Dept.
- Miss G. Pearce—Laboratory.
- D. W. Handley—Architect's Dept.
- Miss N. M. Aitken—Export Dept.
- Miss J. Kelly—Delivery Dept.
- J. S. Jeffery—Accounts Dept.
- Miss A. Thompson—Surveyor's Dept.
- Mrs. B. Vause—Delivery Dept.
- Mrs. R. G. Hunt—Managed House Accounts Section.
- D. C. Wardle—Cask Dept.
- P. L. Pratt—Cask Dept.
- C. Crew—Cask Dept.
- L. Trendall—Cask Dept.
- D. Thomas—Cask Dept.
- P. R. Wilson—Cask Dept.
- Mrs. W. M. Campbell—Surveyor's Dept.
- Mrs. L. Ince—Hollerith Dept.

Reinstatement after Military Service

- M. Hopkins—Delivery Office.
- S. J. Jennings—Engineers, Brewery.

BRANCHES

Appointments

TAMAR

- M. F. Ridler—Appointed Assistant Manager.
- A. J. W. Barnett—Appointed as Cellar Foreman.
- F. C. Trust—Appointed Brewery Foreman.

BRISTOL

- J. W. Vickery—Appointed Assistant Manager.
- N. J. Dursley—Representative i/c Gloucester Sub-Depot.

SWINDON

- J. W. Avery—Appointed Representative.

BRIGHTON

- H. E. Ticehurst—Appointed Representative.

New Employees

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| M. B. Weaver—Bristol | R. Davies—Newport |
| D. S. Thomas—Bristol | Miss J. Cheshire—Newport |
| E. N. Gange—Brighton | W. K. Crook—Devonport |
| Miss I. L. Jenkins—London | H. J. Wright—Staines |
| R. S. Scrivens—Newport | Mrs. J. E. Cook—Tamar |

RETIREMENTS

AT the end of last year we said "goodbye" to the following old friends of the Company. We are sure that everyone will join us in wishing them many happy years to enjoy their leisure.

	Name.	Department.	Age.	Service.
Reading ...	F. C. Main ...	Brewery Engineers	75	17 years
	A. L. Delement	Garage ...	68	38 years
Devonport ...	S. Davies ...	Night Watchman ...	72	8 years
	Mrs. S. May...	Bottling Forewoman	73	17 years
London ...	H. C. Stephens	Office Cleaner and G. D.	70	4 years
Bristol ...	P. Blandford	Watchman ...	68	53 years
Oxford ...	C. H. Stewart	Storeman ...	68	23 years

After 37 years' service with Phillips & Sons and H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., at Newport, Mr. F. McKay decided to retire and settle in Bridgend, Glam.

Most of the time he had spent on the fermenting floors of the Newport Brewery, but his fellow-workmen from all parts of the Brewery gathered together when, on their behalf, Mr. F. E. R. Phipps presented him with a fireside chair and a bouquet of flowers for Mrs. McKay.

After congratulating him on his loyal service, he wished them both, on behalf of all present, a happy and long retirement.

* * *

Mr. W. Henshall, after 46 years' service at the Newport Branch, was reluctantly forced to retire recently, at the age of 68, owing to a disability which had persisted since being wounded during the First World War.

Before a gathering of his fellow workers he was presented, on their behalf, by Mr. F. E. R. Phipps, with a chiming clock and a brooch for Mrs. Henshall.

Mr. Phipps expressed his admiration of the way in which Mr. Henshall had co-operated during the busy times we have recently experienced and wished them a long and happy retirement.

* * *

We also bade farewell to Mr. A. Johns, who retired from his position as Cellar Foreman at Tamar Brewery, Devonport, on the 31st October last, owing to ill-health. Foreman since 1943, Mr. Johns was extremely popular, both with the brewing staff and workmen.



Another flash-back to the festive season. Mr. Danny McCarthy, genial host of the "Wain-y-Clare," Pontypool, had his own ideas about musical bars!

February, and Miss Levey was warmly applauded for her performance by an enthusiastic audience.

She won a long-playing record of her own choice.

HIS colleagues at the Tamar Brewery are delighted that Mr. John Jewell is once again with them after a long spell in hospital. Mr. Jewell underwent a serious eye operation, having borne a most painful disability with great fortitude and courage.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. E. P. Blackford, Night Watchman at Reading, who, in June this

year, will complete 50 years' service with the Company.

He began employment in the Bottling Stores in 1908. From 1914 to 1919 he was on active service, and returned to the Company in 1919 to work in the Beer Cellars. In 1923 he was transferred to the Brighton Branch Stores. He returned again to the Beer Cellars in 1933, remaining in that employment until he became Night Watchman in 1949.



Married in March: Mr. E. Bates and Miss M. Loney, both of Staines Branch.

Returned

DARTS AND SOCCER SUCCESSES AT READING

Ken Shepherd scores 10 goals for First XI in two matches

THE Annual Inter-Departmental Darts Tournament was held on 21st February in the Social Club. Organised by Bill Parish (helped, of course, by members of the Darts Club and the Social Club Committee), the evening was once again a great success. Twenty-seven teams from all parts of the Brewery competed.

The final was played off between the Building Department and the Engineers' "A" teams, the former being victorious. Their team of Vic Smith, Fred Smith, Jimmy Nevitt and Peter Douce were presented with the Directors' Challenge Cup by Mr. F. J. Riden, and each member received a miniature cup.

Alan Burrows (Engineers' "A") received a set of darts for the highest individual score of the evening.

AS we go to press in March, we hear that the Football Club are having an exciting and successful season. With six games left to play, the First XI are four points ahead at the top of Division I (b) of the Reading and District League. Only three points have been dropped, but some very strong teams have still to be met.

In the fifth round of the Berks and Bucks Junior Cup we lost to East Reading, by 7-2, but turned the tables in the league match with a resounding 9-1 victory. Another high-scoring game was against Midgham, whom we trounced by 12-1. Ken Shepherd (Engineers) score five goals on both occasions.

The Reserve Team, after a successful start to the season, have had bad luck. Injuries have been heavy, and on two occasions we have had to field 10 men only, after being in the lead in the first half.

Two First XI men have been *hors de combat* for some time, and we wish them each a speedy recovery. They are Don Paul, who has suffered a few cracked ribs, and John Walters (damaged knee).

READING DINNERS

TWO Annual Dinners, organised by the Social Club Committee, were held in the Social Club Canteen during the Christmas season.

The first was the Annual Dinner and Dance of the Social Club. About 70 people sat down to dinner, and Mr. J. D. Richardson was in the Chair. Music was provided by the Three Rhythmics.

On 3rd January, pensioners of the Company were entertained at

their Annual Reunion Dinner. The oldest pensioner present was Mr. Arthur Heybourne, who is 84, and the youngest was Mr. A. G. Richardson, who had retired only three days previously.

Mr. E. D. Simonds was unable to attend due to indisposition, and the Chair was taken by Mr. E. M. Downes, supported by Mr. K. P. Chapman.

A smoking concert followed, provided by Max Lester and his entertainers.

EVEN BETTER TO COME Says Bristol Area Manager

SPEAKING at the fourth Annual Dinner held by our Bristol Area on 11th February, Mr. H. B. Quelch (Area Manager) forecast another record sales year for Simonds in the area. The Company enjoyed a record year in 1957, he said, but sales in Bristol were running even higher this year.

He greatly amused the guests by claiming that if ever dehydrated beer goes to the moon, Simonds, who led the field in canned beer, will have their trade mark on it.

Mr. W. P. Cripps, who attended in the place of Mr. E. Duncan Simonds (who was indisposed) said that the Bristol Branch had made a praiseworthy contribution to the total output of the Company. He announced that the Company would be opening a branch in Bournemouth about the end of March, and another in Gloucester at about the same time.

The local Director, Lt.-General Sir Charles Allfrey, paid tribute to the work of the tenants and managers in the area, and said he was delighted to see so many members of the free trade and allied trades among the 260 guests.

NEWS FROM STAINES

Mr. E. BATES, No. 2 Unit Charge-hand, married Miss M. LONEY, of the Bottling Department, at St. Paul's Church, Egham Hythe in February.

Mr. A. GRIMMETT, lorry driver, married Miss Rita Thomas at Ashford on 8th March. He was presented with a cheque subscribed by his colleagues.

Mr. J. HALL, Checker, was married to Miss S. HIBBERT, of the Bottling Department on 23rd March. The ceremony took place at St. Peter's Church, Staines.

Mr. R. BROUGHTON, lorry driver, and Miss Beryl Hammond were married at Egham Parish Church on 22nd March.

Also married on 22nd March were Mr. D. WELLS, lorry driver, and Miss M. Taylor. The ceremony took place at St. Paul's Church, Egham Hythe.

Married on 29th March, at St. Mary's Church, Horton, were Mr. J. BEESLEY (Engineers) and Miss C. ROGERS, late of the Bottling Department.

Mrs. S. DRUMEY, of the Bottling Department, left for Australia on 21st February. She is to make her home in Sydney, and sailed on the s.s. *Oransay*. A few years ago she was the champion swimmer of south-east Middlesex. She was presented with a cheque subscribed by her colleagues.

STOP PRESS

Mr. W. Bailey, Checker at our Staines Branch, retired on 29th March after 17 years' service. He began work at Woking Stores in the Beer Cellar in November, 1940, and was transferred to the Staines Branch when Woking was closed. He will be spending his retirement in Woking.

* * *

Mr. E. D. Eyles, Chief Machine Operator in the Hollerith Department, Reading, resigned on 14th February to enter business in the retail trade. His colleagues presented him with a chiming clock and a set of glasses. Mr. Eyles has been an employee of the Company for nearly 25 years, and rendered valuable service in connection with the expansion of the Hollerith Machine Room during the last eight years.