# SWAN



Richard Whiteway (left) being awarded the Rothman trophy for his services to sport by Michel Alexander, assistant sports editor for the Express and Echo.

# SHOWERINGS FILL KEY APPOINTMENTS FROM

appointments from within the Company's own executive ranks.

David Drew, 39, formerly sales administration controller, is appointed national sales manager, the vacancy resulting from David Boswell taking up a senior appointment with Teachers Ltd.

Tony Maloney, 32, moves up from being sales analysis manager to the appointment as sales administration controller.

Born and educated in the Shepton Mallet area, David Drew joined Showerings straight from school as an office boy in the sales department, seven years later becoming sales office manager then he became area manager for the South West and more recently Southern Regional manager. His new job will give him responsibility for Showerings total sales force in the field, including the development of sales and merchandising programmes

Tony Maloney, a Somerset

Showerings are filling two senior man also, began his career as a student of the Royal College of Agriculture, Cirencester, with appointments in Bibby's and Ralph Blatchford and Co., before joining Showerings seven vears ago as sales administration assistant. His new appointment is the third promotion since that time and gives him responsibility for the sales administration function for both Showerings and Coates Gaymers Ltd.

The new appointments continue Showerings policy of promoting from within wherever possible. Both men will report to Peter Hall, senior sales executive, who commented:

The Company is fortunate to be able to draw two such able men from within its own ranks. David and Tony have been members of a closely knit sales team for many years. David has served his apprenticeship in the sales side and his experience of the licensed trade coupled with Tony's excellent administrative ability will be of inestimable value to Showerings."



David Drew, newly appointed national



Anthony Maloney, newly appointed sales administration controller.

# Ron Levison drops in



Ted Webb, finance director and Ron Levison (right) enjoying a Babycham in the Kings Arms, Shepton Mallet

Ron Levison, president of Showerings Inc., in the United States, visited Shep-ton Mallet during March for a few days to discuss plans for Babycham in America for the year ahead and to review progress during the previous

year.

Interviewed by SWAN he said Showerings Inc., situated in Havre de Grace, Maryland, is "in the infant stage of our development, but we are penetrating new markets. We have six months to a year behind us with our product and I think the future is bright. We have a very modern facility here which is capable of producing a very high volume and it is a matter of increasing the output and that is what I think we are going to do." is what I think we are going to do.

Before bottling began at the plant it was exported from the UK from 1974 and sold primarily in Ohio. Today Babycham distribution in the United States is in about 20 of the major mar-

Ron and his wife Naomi have two Ron and his wife Naomi have two daughters, Stacey, aged 12, and Andrea, aged nine. They live in Bel Air, Maryland. He has been managing the American side of Showerings since its inception in 1977. Ron previously managed the Goldwell later before Showerings, took it over

plant before Showerings took it over. Camping and sport are his main leisure activities. GRAPEVINE due out June/July, will carry a full report on Babycham in America.

# A GREAT SPORT! **ROTHMAN TROPHY** FOR RICHARD WHITEWAY

Richard Whiteway, chairman of Whiteways, has always had a great interest in sport both on the playing and administra-tion sides. In conjunction with Roth-mans, the Express & Echo, local newspaper have recently sponsored a number of awards for services to sport and Richard has been awarded the latest Rothman Trophy.

He was nominated for this by Exeter Crickets Hockey Club of which he was a founder member and has been the Secretary for the last 24 years.

retary for the last 24 years.
Simon Molineux, the club captain,
mentioned that "Dick" Whiteway has
the ability to get on with people and to
handle the various ticklish situations
which arose from time to time.

Richard, a former goalkeeper for the Crickets, has been secretary of the Devon Knock-Out Competition since its inception in 1971 and president of the Devon County Hockey Association since 1976. He is also the chairman and Devon representative on the committee of the Debenhams West Hockey League which was formed in 1977. At the last A.G.M. of the Western Counties HocPresident.

President.

Before playing hockey regularly, he was a rugby referee for five years and is very keen on cricket and squash. For 35 years he has been Secretary of Whimple & Whiteways Cricket Club and still plays regularly for them. Besides being chairman of the Devon Cricket Association since 1958, he has also been a member of the Devon County Cricket Club Committee for about the same

He is immediate past president of the Devon Dumplings Cricket Club. In squash, Richard is a vice-president and secretary of the Devon Squash Rackets Association. For many years he used to play for the East Devon Squash Club at Tiverton.

Richard also received a £20 cheque, which he kindly donated to the Roger Penbury Trust Fund. This is a trust set up to provide financial assistance for the He is immediate past president of the

up to provide financial assistance for the family of a Devon rugby player, who was paralysed as a result of an injury sustained while playing rugby.

# **PRINCE PHILIP ACCEPTS BABYCHAM** CHEQUE FOR L.V. HOMES

Showerings chief executive trade rela-

Showerings chief executive trade relations, Harry Tavener, recently had the honour of presenting HRH The Duke of Edinburgh with a £250 cheque for the Licensed Victuallers National Homes.

The memorable occasion was the impressive Change of Keys ceremony at London's Connaught Rooms, where the traditional giant keys of office are handed over by the L.V.N.H.'s outgoing chairman and president to the new incumbents.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who has

The Duke of Edinburgh, who has twice before been a president of the L.V.N.H., was guest of honour at the function attended by over 800 licensees and members of the licensed trade from

and members of the licensed trade from all over Great Britain.

This year Harry is again personally spearheading the new Showerings "5p per dozen" campaign, which last year resulted in total donations of £21,000 to the L.V. charities. The scheme relates the sales of Babycham to donations to the L.V. Trade Charities.

But he aims to double the amount raised this year: "Our target is to double the results achieved in the first campaign," he said. This mammoth task has begun already with letters mailed out to every LVA and Auxiliary in the Country asking for support.



Harry Tavener hands over the cheque to Prince Philip.

The L.V. Homes are established throughout the country to care for the retired and needy members of licensed trade and their dependants

Showerings have long been involved in schemes to benefit these charities, which rely for their well being and exis-tence on such support. Another example of an event sponsored by Showerings which benefits the Homes, is the Pony which benefits the Homes, is the Pony Ladies British Individual Darts Champ-ionship with proceeds from the entry fee being donated to them. Last year the competition's winner. England captain and International, Maureen Flowers and International, Matreen Flowers presented a £200 cheque on behalf of the company to the Homes.

An occasion like the Change of Keys

ceremony, is only one example of the banquets, dinners and social events Harry attends on behalf of the Company. A West Countryman, he has been associated with either Showerings or the related companies all his working life. He lives at Croscombe with his wife Joy, and has two sons, Roger, 25, a journalist, and Robin, 19, a sales representa-

#### SHOWERINGS PAVILION

Plans were announced during February for a new £750,000 project on the Royal Bath & West showground at Shepton Mallet. The Show Society's governing Council approved the building of a new multi-purpose pavilion, to be ready for the 1982

The financing of the building has been made possible by a substantial loan on very favourable terms from Showerings. In return, Showerings and its associated companies will be more involved in supplying the showground's catering require-

The building, which will be called the Showerings Pavilion, incorporates 13 trade stands.

The 210' x 100' arena (a little larger than Wembley) will be used for showing cattle during the Royal Bath & West Show. For the rest of

the year, its primary use will be for events such as machinery and live-stock and exhibitions. In the winter months, it will also become an indoor equestrian and sports centre. It will have built-in requirements for indoor sports and TV coverage of events

This is the final phase of a three part plan of which parts one and two (the new cheese pavilion and the Unigate demonstration theatre) will be ready for the 1980 show. These three buildings (costing between them over £1m), together with the cattle buildings and British Farm Food Fair, will provide 70,000 sq. ft. of permanent under-cover exhibition space — the largest available area south of London.

The Royal Bath and West Show-

ground is now the agricultural centre of the South and West.

# SEEING **STARS**

#### SHEPTON MALLET

Famed Romany astrologer, Leon Petulengro, made a personal appearance at Shep-ton Mallet last month much to the delight of Showerings people, who took advantage of the occasion to have their personal horoscopes read.

His busy schedule started off at about 1 a.m., when his conspicuous motor



A personalised horoscope chart from Leon for Gayle Toogood and Jackie Keane

car, decorated with signs of the zodiac, pulled up in the reception parking area and attracted a lot of attention from

After a quick cup of coffee, he met chief executive trade relations, Harry Tavener, to discuss his personal appearances for Babycham this year. He then entertained the Swan editorial panel with some of his predictions using a "magic phial" that reacts to "luck in love." A few blushes were in evidence. Following lunch, Leon was taken by Shirley Wheate around the Babycham



Pat Blinn an hears what the future has in



Leon on the bottling line with from left to right: Anna Oliver, Helen Loosemore Loraine O'Doherty and Rita Massey. e with from left to

where he met some of the staff and told them what was in store for them

During tea some ladies from the offices came along to the old staff dining room to have their palms read to see what their prospects were regarding health, love and happiness. Photo-graphers and reporters from the local newspapers recorded Leon in action.

Shepton Mallet people will have another opportunity to see Leon Petulengro, when he appears every day at the Bath and West Show in the Showerings pavilion.



Having their palms read in the old staff dining room are: back row – from left to right: Myra Helps, Diane Gilham, Leon Petulengro and Carol Andrews. Front row – from left to right: Ruth Emery and Emily Poole.



Leon getting into the swing of things in the Babycham factory. From left to right Bridget Whittaker, Mary Miles, Wayne Brooks, Leon Petulengro, Shaun Kierle Beverley Blinman and Doreen Tapscott.

### THE FINAL OUTCOME

by Susan Day of Wm Gaymer & Son

After knowing my husband for nearly eight years, our marriage in mid-February was the final outcome for a number of matchmakers.

When I started work in the laboratory at Gaymers all those years ago, Trevor had been working there for nearly a year. Marion, the senior technician, and I, parted company with Trevor the following year, when he left to work in a local

Marion left the year after that to have a baby, and the three of us kept in touch by a succession of rather silly letters and



an occasional meeting

When I became engaged to someone else Marion gave up hope of Trevor and me ever making a match, but when things went wrong between my then fiance, Trevor appeared on the scene again — a shoulder to cry on!

When we announced our engagement on St. Valentine's day last year Marion was "over the moon" and looked like a Cheshire cat for weeks. We bought an old terrace house from

the company last August and spent the next six months frantically installing a bathroom, and kitchen, and decorating and generally modernising our nev Eventually everything was ready

and THE day set.

Attended by my sister Karen and Marion's two little children Damian and Nadine, Trevor and I were married at St. Mary's Church, Attleborough on February 16. The reception was held in Gaymers works hall.

I don't know who was more pleased our parents, glad to be rid of us, or Marion and her husband Paul, successful in their matchmaking at last.

Outside St. Mary's from left: Damian Alger, Karen Hurn, Trevor and Susan, Nadine Alger.

## RETIREMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



Pictured at the occasion are from left to right: Ed Reilly, production manager (processing), Bobby Sturman, Alan White, Jack Ellis, Jack Hazel, Fred Coates, Michael Watling and Andrew Murgatroyd, production manager (packaging).

## **GAYMERS**

FRED COATES has been with the Company for more than 50 years. During the war he spent some time in the Middle East; he was in the D-Day landings at Aramanches and was badly burnt in Belgium when his tank

received a direct hit. Fred is a great gardener and chose a greenhouse as his retirement gift from the Company; he received a barometer from his colleagues.

BOBBY STURMAN is another

"old timer" having spent 46 years at Gaymers. He too was in Europe during the war; and is a keen supporter of Attleborough football club, having played goal for the team during the 1930s.

His retirement gifts from the Company were a portable television and a wristwatch, and from his friends he received a clock

JACK ELLIS - although he has only been with the company for the last two years, he has long associations, having driven for the haulage companies hired by Gaymers in the past - in fact he drove the first vehicle in the Gaymer colours when it was collected from London, and it was only when the Company bought their own heavy transport that his longtime driving association ended.

Jack received a carriage clock from his friends and colleagues. All three men retired in March.

#### FAR SIGHTED GIFT!

# WHITEWAYS



### **QUALIFIED**

John Smith, who joined the Cost Office at Whimple in January 1977 as cost accountant, received a welcome letter last February telling him that he had passed as a qualified cost and management accountant after many years of hard work. Congratulations, John!

#### **SHOWERINGS**

#### Congratulations!

To Tina and Rocky Cerabona on Febru ary 23, a son, Julian, (brother for daugh ter, Tina Maria).

Alan McCann, aged 21, who has worked for two and a half years at Showering's North Cadbury farm, married Sandra Day, of Castle Cary on March 8.

Tony Williams, sales service manager at Showerings, whose wife Christine gave birth to a 9 lb 2 oz baby boy, Paul Glyn on Saturday April 12, and Tony's horo-scope prediction from Leon Petulengro was right on target. A few days earlier at the SWAN editorial panel meeting Leon predicted a son for Tony and his wife.

#### Promotion

Philip Mobbs has been appointed line supervisor after working for nine years in the bottling hall at Shepton Mallet. He is married with three children. He is fond of sport. Philip began his new job in June year. Congratulations Philip

Eric Whiteway making a retirement presentation of a pair of binoculars to Doll Cutland after 25 years service in the bottling hall at Whimple.

#### S.V.W. Distribution, Attleborough

Mrs. Kay Allen and her husband Bruce are the proud parents of a daughter Hayley Claire, born on March 29.

#### Two new faces for **Babycham factory**

Peter Law, newly appointed factory foreman, of Babycham bottling hall came to work at Showerings in April last year from Wallington Weston, where he had worked for 15 years. Married with two children he lives at Whitstone Rise, Shepton Mallet. He is a keen sportsman and a dab hand at cooking.

Mark Chinnock, also new Mark Chinnock, also new to Showerings, came from Wallington Wes-ton (Marley Floors) in May last year after 15 years service there. He was appointed line supervisor in the Babycham factory. Married with one child, his favourite pastines are foot-ball, cricket and shooting.

#### New keeper for water deer

Charlie Hubbard has taken over the job of looking after the water deer. He came to work for Showerings from Somerset and Dorset Railway in 1966.

#### Retirements at **Showerings**

Irene Heal recently retired from capper line 3 in the bottling hall. Irene joined Showerings 10 years ago. During her leisure time Irene works to raise money for the Norton Carnival of which she is a committee member. A widow for several years she has one daughter and a granddaughter. On the occasion of her retire-ment she received many cards and gifts from her colleagues.

Alice Short retired early recently after being in ill health for the past year. Alice, a Yorkshire lass, first started work as a canteen assistant and was trans-ferred later to the bottling hall as a capper on line 2. She received parting gifts from management and her friends in the bottling hall. She has four daughters, one of whom works in the wages office at Showerings and another in the bottling hall. We all wish Alice good health and a long and happy retirement.

# SCHOLARSHIP FOR SAMANTHA



For her outstanding contribution to the life of the Licensed Victuallers School, Slough, 16-year-old Samantha Deane, has been awarded the Showerings Scholarship for 1980.

Awarded annually to a fifth former at the school, the Scholarship contributed by Showerings is designed to encourage further education.

The selection panel, consisting of the headmaster, Mr David Bland and Showerings international co-ordinator, Ken Cleary, selected Samantha from a short list of three pupils for: "Her outstanding contribution overall to the life of the school, as a House Prefect — the only one in the fifth year — and, as a key member of the orchestra, to the musical life of the school."

The scholarship is for £350 for two years and contributes substantially towards the chosen pupil's continued education.

Buchanan House Mistress, Mrs Marion Aytoun, recommended Samantha to the panel because: "She has contributed significantly to the musical life of the school, as well as being a tremendous all round helper in a range of activities from being involved in school plays to being an active member of the school orchestra. "The Showerings Scholarship is one of the more difficult ones for which to nominate. There are invariably a number of worthy pupils, but for this scholarship the pupil has to have made a significant contribution to the school."

Samantha last year won a Royal Academy of Music junior exhibition. This provides her with Saturday morning tuition in cello and singing at the R.A.M. in London.

Commenting on the panel's decision to award the scholar-ship to Samantha, Ken Cleary said: "The standard as usual was exceptionally high, but Samantha has made such a significant contribution to her school and is a most deserving winner."

# BUSINESS BRIEF FOR BRISTOL STUDENTS



Tony Wells, export manager, Paul Weatherald and Sue Butcher. With technical manager, Peter Hatton in the background

# LUCKY HOLIDAY WINNERS

When Mrs B. White, of Abbey Close, Castle Cary, entered a National Contest organised by Addis Household Products, she little thought she would be fortunate enough to win a holiday for two in Italy, plus £100 spending money.

Mrs White had purchased her Addis product at Slades, and because of this the Company automatically became joint winners of another holiday for two, with a cheque for the same amount of spending money.

ing money. Slade then gave all members of their staff an opportunity to win the holiday in the form of a raffle, which took place at their annual dinner dance held at the Centre. Shepton Mallet, the lucky winner was Sue Veryard. Receptionist/Telephonist at the Evercreech Head Office.

Mrs White, and her husband, have chosen to visit Sorrento, the Isle of Capri and Rome; while Sue has decided on Taormina on the Island of Sicily . . . Molte Congratulazioni . . . Buono Vacanza in Italy!

**BARGAINS** 

**GALORE** 

AT

**SLADES** 

When travelling through a foreign country one is often made aware of the tremendous difference in the gardening habits of various countries and no doubt, most English people would be critical

when making comparisons with the high gardening standards achieved back home, to which one is accustomed. Not everyone would agree that "An

Englishman's home is his garden" but it

would be fair to say that the average Briton takes a great pride in his garden and it is something of which the English as a

whole can be justifiably proud — An English Country Garden!

Over the past few years gardening has come, more than ever, to the forefront,

with garden centres springing up every

SLADES have been selling gardening products for many years but they have now greatly extended their field, adding

considerably to their previous range to include: Trees, shrubs, outdoor and indoor plants, greenhouses, mowers, cloches, plant tubs, garden furniture etc.

SLADES hope you will make use of their new Gardening Centre for it is their intention to give good service, with quality products at highly competitive prices. sity students visited Showerings during March.

They were welcomed by director Peter Edwards and met senior executives, who outlined the various aspects of their jobs and their responsibilities.

As part of a programme intro-

ducing students to business, a committee of 12 Bristol Univer-

and their responsibilities.

Production director, Jeremy Henley, explained the processes involved in the production of Babycham sparkling perry; and the chief executive trade relations, Harry Travener, introduced them to the background and history of the development

of Showerings.

The marketing functions involved in handling a major product like Babycham were dealt with by brand manager Gwenda Merriott, with the overseas market and the export side of operation outlined by export manager Tony Wells.



Gwenda Merriott, Babycham brand manager and Paul Hampden-Smith.

Technical manager, Peter Hatton demonstrated quality control work in the laboratories.

The leader of the Party of 12 students, Mark O'Brien, said the group were "tremendously impressed and benefited from their first look at the drinks industry. We have a training seminar for new members later this year and hope to invite some speakers from Showerings".



Mark O'Brien, Jeremy Henley, production director and Claire Spence.

The committee is part of the International Society of Economics and Commercial Students, who operate an international exchange system of jobs for students. Most of the visitors were either first or second year under-graduates studying various subjects which included Economics, Computers and Statistics.

# VIP VISITORS

The Chairman of Breckland District Council, Mr Sam Steward and Mr J. B. Heath, chief executive of Attleborough Council, were recently invited to visit Gaymers Cyder works.

Council, were recently invited to visit Gaymers Cyder works. Mr Steward very kindly brought with him the recently donated Breckland Badge and Chain-of-Office.

As can be seen from the photographs, it is a very beautiful insignia. The chain consists of gold links with the chairman's Badge-of-Office — three enamelled panels showing the Breckland house design of a green stag and on either side of it, links of floral patterns derived from the pargetting on many of the old local buildings. There are four illustrated links on either side of the Badge, one for each



John Norwood, Henry Jones and Andrew Rapley examining the Chain-of-Office.

of the town councils in Breckland and one each for industry, agriculture and forestry.

The gold and silver illustrations for Attleborough, which is historically known for its cydermaking and brushmaking is a cyder jar and apples, and a handmade limer's brush as used for

lining walls of cottages.

During their visit the chairman and chief executive toured the factory and the employees were given the opportunity of viewing the chain.

The Chain-of-Office was presented to the Council by one of the large manufacturing companies in Thetford.



Margaret Fapple, Jane Rowsell, and Sue Gregory.

By Special Request — A keepsake of the Babycham Factory Christmas lunch. (Not available before)



On to the main course

# MINI CAMERA REPORT



Linda Toogood, Rita Fitton, Jean Davis Standing: David Fitton and John Cook



Tucking in!



Enjoying the first-class spread.

# COUNTRY CORNER

Lambing time brought its usual problems for Jack Nation the shepherd on Manor Farm, West Newton, but after 40 years at the job he takes these in his stride.

at the job he takes these in his stride.

One weekend early in April Jack, helped by his 16-year-old son Martin, had 105 lambs from 59 ewes — all in some 48 hours. This was the biggest "drop" of lambs at a single time that has happened on this farm.

Altogether Jack has had 309 live lambs

Altogether Jack has had 309 live lambs from 205 ewes, and the total figure includes two sets of quads. Unfortunately not all lambs survived and one of the sets of quads was soon reduced to triplets.

Not only has Jack been 40 years a shepherd at Manor Farm, the last 21 under Showerings control, but his father before him served 45 years, his grand-father 35 and his brother 10 years — quite a record for one family on one farm!

On the other section of the farm, at North Petherton, Ernest Hooper, helped by Jane Forrest, has not had quite such a hectic time. Of around 150 ewes, of



**AROUND** 

which 50 or so were "hoggs" or first time lambers, 130 have so far dropped 198 live lambs. The remaining 15-20 hoggs have yet to lamb.

As at West Newton, two sets of quads were born and one of the ewes is still suckling her four. Losses of lambs have not been high, but at least four have been taken, presumably by foxes.

taken, presumably by foxes.

Ernest has also been working for 40 years on this farm, while Jane Forrest is just into the second year of a 3-year apprenticeship on the Company farm.

#### Orcharde

Perry pear blossom looks very promising at the moment, and with the first open blossoms being ten days or so later than usual it is hoped that late Spring frosts will not be damaging.

After a lean year in 1979 hopes are high for a bumper crop of cider apples this year. As with the perry pears blossom bud prospects look good so far, but as flowering is still at least a couple of weeks off it is early days yet to be counting too many chickens.



Good preparation of the soil is essential if a good lawn is to be achieved. A lawn constructed in a hurry will inevitably lead to problems which will need rectification at a later date.

The initial cultivation offers the only chance of changing the texture of the soil. Heavy soils can be improved by the addition of course grit and compost, both of which have a tendency to open the soil. Sandy and poor soil can be improved by the addition of well rotted farmyard manure or peat.

A minimum of 4" of good top soil is required for a lawn, but ideally it should be at least 9". The layer should be free of large stones, roots and roots of perrennial weeds, particularly those of grasses such as couch as these cannot be eradicated from a lawn

#### CULTIVATED

The soil should be cultivated by digging or rotavating ensuring that additions to the soil, e.g. manure are worked in well.

Do not attempt to construct a lawn when the soil is too wet to work on as this could cause uneven compaction and hard ground which is not suitable for grass to establish on.

After the initial cultivation, the process begins of forming a seed bed. This is achieved by alternate cross-raking and cross-rolling or treading choosing weather conditions that will enable the removal of all rubbish like roots and surface stones. Raking and rolling continue until the surface is level and evenly firm.

#### SOWING

After this sowing may be done, but it is better to wait for a crop of weed seeds to germinate and then hoed off to avoid heavy competition of weeds with the new grass sward. The best time for fallowing is between May and August.

Choose a grass seed mixture that is suitable for the type of lawn required. That is, a lawn used for games will need to be hard wearing, so choose a mix with rye grass. A lawn intended

#### PREPARATION OF A NEW LAWN FROM SEED

#### By Chris Bath — Showerings horticulturist

for ornamental purposes should be free of rye grass.

There are basically two times of the year when sowing can take place, firstly, in Spring, i.e. April-May before the onset of the dry conditions and late Summer, i.e. late August to early September which will give the grass a chance to establish before winter.

#### ROLLING

Sowing should take place on a still day when the surface is dry ensuring uniform distribution. Sow at a rate of 1-11/4 oz per square yard, sowing half in one direction and the other half at right angles to the first. Alternatively divide the lawn into square yards and sow 1-11/4 oz in each plot. The seed should be sown on a raked surface and then lightly raked in using a wire rake. Deep covering may result in non-germination. After sowing the lawn, light rolling, if the surface is dry enough not to cling to the roller, may be done on light and medium soils. On heavy soils it is preferable to omit this operation as caking of the surface reduces establishment. A suitable roller is in fact the roller of a good lawn mower.

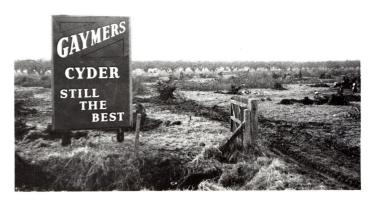
#### INSTRUCTIONS

Given good germinating weather the grass will appear in 10-20 days and will make rapid growth. Unfortunately so will the weed seedings especially if no fallowing was carried out. At the two leaf\* stage take care to follow the instructions otherwise the grass may be badly scorched or even killed.

When the grass is 2" high it may be cut using a well adjusted cylinder mower, removing approx 1", but before topping is carried out the lawn should be lightly rolled especially if it was not rolled after sowing as mentioned earlier.

Gradually the height of cut can be reduced as the grass becomes established, but it is important not to cut too keenly in the early stages as this can only weaken the new lawn.

\*A selective weedkiller based on IOXYNIL may be applied.



# UNIQUE LANDMARK

Some years ago we published an article about the Fenlanders in the Wisbech area of Cambridge-shire, who went to task against officialdom when it was decreed that a hoarding advertising Gaymers cyder, erected in one of the orchards belonging to a fruit grower, who supplies us with apples, should be removed.

There was considerable response from the local public and the hoarding was allowed to remain

Here is a more recent photograph of the renovated landmark, seen by all the thousands of travellers on their way through from the Midlands to the East Anglian coast.

Of course times change and fruit growers in the Wisbech area, like other horticulturists, are in the process of renewing orchards, and so we see the sign denuded of its leafy background but with the promise that GAYMERS CYDER is still the best

Photograph by kind permis sion of GROWER magazine.

# INCIDENT AT FRENCH RIVER



Cecilia Sharam of divisional transport at Shepton Mallet writes about an encounter with a bear in Swan's exciting Embassy Holiday Competition.

See page 8 for more details.

My husband, Graham, and I were staying in Northern Ontario last summer, enjoying the outdoor life—camping, swimming, fishing and lazing around the camp fire after dark, but one thing we missed was a good cross-country walk, so when we found a footpath to some rapids signposted as four miles from the bridge over French River, we were delighted.

French River was one of the major canoe routes for traders and missionaries from Hudson Bay to Lake Huron in the days before motorised transport, and at this point it is very straight and wide, bounded on each side by twenty-foot high cliff-like banks and forest.

The footpath was well trodden for the first half-mile, but petered out and we had to follow occasional faded yellow way-markers on the trees and scramble over numerous rocky bluffs and we were pleased to sit down on a projecting slab of rock and admire a beautiful waterfall. After a rest, we continued on our

way towards the rapids, being bitten alive by mosquitoes and seeing the occasional snake, belatedly remembering that we were at the northern limit for "rattlers", but in true British fashion, determined to get to our destination before turning back. The rapids weren't very spectacular, but we'd made it.

Wandering back, admiring glimpses of the river through the trees, something made me turn my head, and there, peering at us round the trunk of a tree, was a baby bear. I don't know who was more frightened, me or the bear! I shrieked, the bear scuttled away and Graham and I ran in the opposite direction—he was carried along by my momentum, but after all, no-one hangs around to look for a 500 lb Momma bear coming to see who'd scared her little baby.

All the discomforts of mosquito bites and the heat were forgotten as we covered the three miles of difficult terrain back to the car in double quick time, jumping nervously at any rustle in the undergrowth and ready to dive into the river if need be (although bears can swim too).

What a relief it was to get back to the car. When we'd recovered our breath sufficiently, we drove across the bridge in search of a long cool drink in the restaurant at the Trading Post, which believe it or not, was aptly called THE HUNGRY BEAR.

That was the end of our walking in the bush — we'd put up with pavements and civilisation until we came home.



'Well, at last after 40 years we've got the better of those blasted bullfinches.''

Reproduced by kind permission – THE GROWER.

### The Bullfinch Battle

We've tried to trap, we've tried to scare,

But still we find you feeding there. The early buds looked full of promise,

Then greedily you ate them from us With your enormous appetite (appletite)

And belated frost one April night. For this crop I have my fears As I have in previous years, But finally we've beat your greed By taking from you your spring feed,

And no longer are the Finches found

For we've pulled the tree up from the ground.

But alas, as nature has it

Now we're pestered with a rabbit!

Roy Woods, Orchard Foreman, Gaymers.

# **BACK** TO **SCHOOL**

Most Wednesday evenings over the past few months three people from Showerings have been 'going to school''. Not to swot up on things like algebra and geometry though — it's all part of an exercise to help local pupils gain practical experience about

Divisional management accountant Roger Reeson; factory manager, Phil Owens and sales representative Veronica Smith have been helping a project known as Exsentrik Young Enterprise Company" at Shepton Mallet's Whitstone School.

Young Enterprise" national organisation, registered as an educational charity and a limited company. It is non-profit making and depends on subscriptions, mainly from industry and well-wishers

#### ADVISERS

Showerings involvement began when the Young Enterprise Western Regional director, Major John Whorton asked for volunteer "advisers", to guide the school pupils, who formed their own miniature part-time company and operate as a practical business concern.

The Showerings team give one evening a week of their time to the Whitstone School company "Exsentrik".

The company functions for a year, usually from September until May, after which the assets, are liquidated and its accomplishments reported to the Young Enterprise head office in London.

The scheme began last August with the three advisers meeting Major Whorton to hear what Young Enterprise was all about and how Young Enterprise Companies operate.

They were briefed to give the pupils the opportunity of learning about the organisation, management and operation of a business by forming and running their own company.

#### INVOLVED

"Our next step was to go to the school and meet the pupils who were going to be involved. And when we first met them we were as green as they were," said Roger.

Veronica Smith however had heard about Young Enterprise before she became an adviser. "My sister was involved in it so I knew something about it when I was asked to become an

"I've found the whole thing very worthwhile. It's given me an overview into how different departments fit into an organisation by allowing me to see what everyone else does in the same organisation, as well as giving me the chance to see the prob lems of everyday business that perhaps one doesn't necessarily see at work.

Roger too emphasised how acting as an adviser for Exsentrik had helped him to experience the real problems of running a business. "For instance when



Showerings senior sales executive, Peter Hall met Danny Watkins to discuss buying a store of the table mats for the werings canteen and dining

not everyone turns up for a working session or the material doesn't come you've got problems to solve. But we have overcome anything like this with the excellent team work among the members of Exsentrik, concluded Roger.

#### AUTHENTICITY

Phil Owens summed up the production side of the business by saying "the authenticity of the whole set-up was brought home to me when I realised that we were experiencing similar problems in our young company to those you meet in a factory. Phil, like Veronica, felt that he had learnt something during this project about the role other departments played in the com-"I worked very closely with Roger Reeson in setting up the company and had quite a fair bit to do with the stocks and shares side of things.

#### PARTICIPATE

The response from the pupils was equally encouraging with 30 of them volunteering to participate in the venture. This is about 10 more than the average number usually involved in a school company. Their numbers then stabled out to 24 members.

The headmaster, Mr Eric Scofield, also welcomed the venture and said: 'I'm very pleased with the way it began. It stimulated a terrific interest at parent teacher meetings and among the pupils themselves."

A comprehensive range of literature and programme material was issued including instructional material to the advisers and operational material for the pupils, who are called "achiev-

ers''.

The operational material covers all the documents and forms required by the achievers in actually running their company. It included: secretary's book, accountant's book, memorandum, and the articles of association, certificate of incorporation, share certificates, purchase and sales order forms

#### PRODUCT

The whole package cost the company £20 with profits from product sales aimed at raising this at £2.50 a month.

During the first week the advisers and achievers spent much of their time forming the company; drawing up the memorandum and articles of association and discussing the product their company was going to manufacture.

They decided to call themselves "Exsentrik" and to produce sets of table place mats by the second week. A managing director, company secretary and accountant were elected and they began to plan production.

While each achiever has a particular job in the company,



Phil Owens in the workshop with some of his wards.



nan, Danny Watkin examining the finished product.

either in management or on the shop floor, they are all directors of the company. To raise capital they issue shares, usually to friends and relatives. Each member of the company has to purchase at least one share at 25p with a maximum of five, and in the case of executive officers nine shares.

#### **SHARES**

The headmaster, demonstrated his faith in "Exsentrik" by buying shares. The company repays all shares when they wind up their affairs and a dividend to shareholders if they have made a profit.

In the course of running their company the achievers also pay themselves salaries and wages and open a bank account. At Whitstone School they had elected their remaining officers by the third week with a sales manager, production manager. assistant accountant, personnel officer, purchasing officer, public relations officer, assistant production manager and a team of people devoted to research and development.

#### TABLE MATS

A nominal 5p an hour is paid to members of "Exsentrik" with executives receiving 65p a month and the managing director £1.20 per month.

After electing officers and completing administrative affairs, they decided to manufacture sets of table place mats after some discussion and rejecting various other ideas such as key rings, and coat hangers

The 6" square table mats are

made from cork with tempered hardboard and come in a set of six. The company get their raw material from a Bristol firm of timber merchants. With an average attendance of 18 members about 20 sets can be produced at the weekly two-hour sessions. Shortly after Christmas Exsentrik experienced the very real problems of business, when they were unable to get their raw materials because of a shortage.

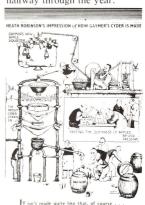
#### EXPERIENCE

"This was good in a way though, as it gave them first hand experience of the type of thing that happens in commerce industry," said Roger Reeson

On the marketing and sales Veronica Smith says Exsentrik have been encouraged to sell their product to friends and relatives as well as in a downtown Shepton Shop. "The company's sales manager has also made a presentation of the table mats to Showerings for use in the dining halls here.

In the entrance foyer in the school there is an attractive display of the sets of table mats for the other pupils, teachers, parents and prospective buyers to

Fifth former Danny Watkins, the chairman of Exsentrik says he joined the project as soon as news of it was posted on the school's noticeboard "because I wanted to learn about manage-ment." The company's public relations officer, Sarah Robertson joined for the same reason. Her job is to draw up the posters advertising the company's products and to show guests how the company goes about making its goods. To give the pupils an opportunity to get actual experience on both sides of industry, officers are usually changed halfway through the year.





This amusing cartoon on the production of Gaymer's Cyder was dug up out of the rchives at Attleborough for a little light copy" for SWAN readers. This and other ingenious little car-

toons were produced by a now deceased former sales and advertising director of Gaymer's, who did them as a gimmick for local licensees and friends.

# BEFORE THE MAST

The once in a lifetime experience of Steve Hammond, line mechanic at Whiteways. A saga of a berth aboard the Sail Training Association Schooner "Malcolm Miller".

The objective said, "to provide young people with an outlet for their spirit of adventure and an opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility, self-discipline and above all an ability to work as one of a team, which will help them throughout their lives." This was all that 39 potential sailors knew about what lay in store for them on joining the "Malcolm Miller", on a wet and grey Sunday evening at Dartmouth.

First job was to sign on ship and meet the permanent crew, then straight into a set of oilskins, an armband, a safety harness and turn out on deck ready to climb the mast. This tradition meant climbing a rope ladder until one arrived 100 ft up at the crows-nest. Then down the other side, quite an experience whilst the ship was stationary, but even more of an eye opener at night in a heavy sea, as we later discovered. Next we were divided into three watches, each with a watch-leader. We remained throughout the voyage in these work groups.

#### FOOD

For the uninitiated a schooner has three masts. Fore (forward), main and mizzen (rear), the watches were named after these.

The evening consisted of a very intensive training programme on hoisting and setting sails until 9.30 when we had our first taste of ship's food, plain but well cooked. Then our time was our own to become acquainted with one another. We soon discovered that we came from quite an amazing variety of backgrounds — from policemen to borstal boys. We were to be woken at five the next morning but many stayed up until the early hours, talking and raiding ships supply of cheese and crackers.

#### TO SEA

Morning seemed to come cruelly soon and it was hard toil with a short stop for breakfast to ensure our readiness to sail. At 10.30 we-cast off from the Naval College jetty and headed out of the Dart to sea. Feeling quite proud already as a sizeable crowd of people waved us goodbye from the seafront. However this romance was short lived. We were soon hoisting sail whilst remarking on the friendly state of the sea.

At sea, duties were arranged so that one watch was on duty at all times, which theoretically meant that an individual did eight hours work in twenty-four. This we soon discovered was quite irrelevant when one was a working crew member on a sailing ship.

By early afternoon having made good progress, a number of trainees began to pass comment on the increasing size of the swell (amidst sniggers from some of the permanent crew). As darkness closed in the wind was howling and the ship was plunging up and down, showering the whole of the decks in spray. By now quite a few trainees were turning somewhat green. They could be seen in a line along the rail with most unhappy looking faces. I recall feeling quite smug, that I had the previous summer acquired some inshore experience on a friend's yacht and had already overcome these little novice hang-ups. Then the bosun called for my watch to

stow the jib foresail, and I found myself climbing out along the bowsprit with two others towards this most forward of the sails. Once in position you fastened yourself on to the ship with your safety-harness and folded the sail as it came down.

#### SEA SICK

Each time the ship went down you were submerged, often to the waist, and a sudden realisation that the Lizard in November was far removed from midsummer hops out of Exmouth, began to register in my head, and alas in my stomach. Struggling to overcome this "novice weakness". I finished my duties on deck and headed for my bunk. Unfortunately, to get down to the trainees quarter meant passing the galley where the chef was busy preparing dinner.

A gust of air carrying the smell of greasy pork was just too much for my already alert stomach. Within half a dozen strides I made the heads (ship's loo) only to be greeted by the sight of other shipmates violently bringing up their last meal. Pushing someone out of the way, I joined the ranks of the novice sailors.

#### DRAMA

The next two and a half days seem very unclear in my recollection, just a constant drama of watch-day, sleeping and not managing to keep one meal down for longer than about 10 minutes.

Only four were unaffected among 39 trainees.

Seasickness, I think, should really merit a chapter of its own, but for someone who had not experienced it, any description would no doubt appear a gross exaggeration So for my account I will just describe a few of the more uncom-fortable details. The actual feeling affects the whole body, causing physical weakness, a bad head and stomach and a feeling that the slightest of tasks is too much trouble The only reprieve is sleep, when you are able to achieve it. Mentally the hardest part is not being able to escape the situation that causes the illness. You are on the ship, isolated, and cannot avoid antagoniser, the sea. I found myself focusing on visions of home and what everyone would be doing and how privileged they were to be on land. In fact the thought of a routine day at work was like an unattainable jewel in my mind's eye.

However, by Wednesday morning the bad weather had subsided and apart from feeling somewhat weak due to our time without food, the Miller's latest trainees were definitely getting back to normal. At around noon we spotted land, in fact we had gone south into the Bay of Biscay and were now entering the 'Baie de douarnenez' in Brittany. As the coastline became clearer and we started to meet inshore traffic, morale was steadily rising. The chef prepared an excellent meal, and once more his efforts were rewarded and we could all eat again. By late afternoon we had stowed our sails and were motoring the last mile into

# Douarnenez. WATCH

By relative size it could be compared with Exmouth, having a small harbour containing some fishing vessels and pleasure craft. Also there was a commercial dock area which seemed to be extremely busy.

A harbour watch system was organised, then if not on duty, we

were free to explore the town. By popular agreement we toured the local cafés sampling French wine and beer. But it was expensive and bore no comparison with the English variety. However after talking to two fishermen from the Seychelle Islands, we found a semi-English type pub and spent the rest of the evening teaching the French our rugby songs.

Next morning was spent buying souvenirs and sightseeing. Late in the afternoon we set sail. That night we anchored off the town of Morgat, until dawn when we headed back to open sea — destination Cornwall.

#### GALES

During our crossing back to England, the Captain addressed the trainees to tell us that the gales we had encountered heading into Biscay were force eight, and the sea conditions in his own words were some of the worst he had experienced. This knowledge of what we and the ship had come through, together with close working and living conditions had started to create a very strong feeling of our being a team in what amounted to less than one week.

On Saturday evening, we spotted lights from the Cornish coast and were looking forward to a run ashore, however as often happens on a sailing ship, the weather took control of our situation. A gale warning was received and the captain was forced to drop anchor near Mevagissey.

When the weather cleared, we left our haven off Mevagissey and sailed along the coast to Torquay, where we spent a peaceful Sunday. On Monday we crossed to Cherbourg, where we were joined by our sister ship, the "Sir Winston Churchill". We arrived at Cowes, Isle of Wight on Thursday and anchored overnight. We completed our voyage triumphantly docking in Southampton, clad in oilskins and lined along the decks in formation. The pride in ourselves was overwhelming.

#### Robert retires

Robert Witcombe has retired from Showerings after 23 years service with the company as a painter and decorator. At his farewell presentation he received a cheque from the Company and a lawnmower and cassette radio recorder from his colleagues.

Gardening, painting and decorating feature among his retirement plans, as well as visiting his sons and their families. His son Alan is a pilot and lives in Canada and the other, David, is a captain of a fishing research ship in Papua, New Guinea.

Robert and his wife Doris live in Oakhill, Bath.



Steve at the Wheel



eve busy mopping up



At sea



Surrounded by his colleagues, and wife, Doris, Jack Witcombe receives his farewell gift from director Simon Neale

#### Jim's 25 year presentation

Jim Marable, plant maintenance foreman at Showerings celebrated 25 years service with the company in March and received a gift of hi-fi equipment at a special presentation.

Jim is responsible to the chief engineer at Showerings for repairs and maintenance in the bottling and mill plant of the Babycham. Coates Gaymers and Charlton factories.

His three sons, Robert, Ronald and Alan also work at Showerings. His daughter, Patricia, is a student at Manchester Polytechnic. Ballroom dancing and music are among his leisure interests.



ack row, from left: Ray Onslow, John Norgrove, Richard Lay, John Gaiger, Roger llsopp. Front row: Ken Tibbals, Jim Marable, Derek Cook and Dennis Wilkins.



# SPORTS PAGE

#### WINNING WORDS

Mr and Mrs Brian Hazell were entertained to lunch at Gaymers when they were presented with their prize for having written the winning verse - with a Gaymer connection — in a competition arranged by Mr Allen Tills, Coates Gaymer representative for Norfolk, and the Norwich City Football Club. Here is the winning jingle:

A briar pipe for Uncle Jack, A brolly for Auntie Ida. What shall we get for dear old dad? Let Gaymers be the de-cider.

### £1,000 WIN

Angela Cooper of the Cost Office at Whimple had a surprise in December when she realised that she had won £1,000 on the Exeter Football Club Lottery.

The Canteen staff sell about 200 tickets every two weeks. All the money goes to finance the Football How did she spend the y? "I didn't. I put it into the money? Building Society for a rainy day, said a jubilant Angela.

#### **GAYMERS FISHING CLUB**



Peter Salter presents the "Peter Salter trophy to Andrew Rapley, with Peter Roberson receiving the Gaymer trophy.

The end of season meeting was held in order to discuss past season's events, elect officers for the coming year and

present the trophies.

There was also a sale of second-hand tackle, donated in order to help new members build up their collection

The match dates and venues for the coming season were also discussed and agreed

# **SCRAMBLING** FOR YOUNG DAREDEVILS!

By Barry Weeks of Coates Gaymer

One of the fastest growing sports in the country today is Schoolboy Scrambling. Youngsters start from the age of six to seventeen. Showerings have three employees in distribution with sons who ride for the "Corsham Schoolboy Scramble Club." This club has had some very well known riders amongst their ranks such as Graham Noyce the "1979 World Motor Cross Champion." Barry Weeks, Colin Brine and Denis Banwell spend most Sundays all winds and weathers on a hill somewhere in Wiltshire watching their sons trying their utmost to either blow up the engine or get it as muddy as possible for dads to spend all the week preparing for the next Sunday's meeting. Most people consider scrambling a dangerous sport, but I might add it costs most parents well over £100 just for protective gear which includes leathers, strong boots and A.C.U. approved crash helmets. Mums also play a big part on Sundays with the sandviches and tea and a consoling word for the occasional bruise and scrape. All the boys, Darren Weeks, Nicky Brine and Andrew Banwell ride powerful "Yamaha" two-stroke

Swan-Word



Young daredevil Nick Brine scrambling on his Yamaha. Nick is the son of Coates Gaymer driver, Colin Brine

No. 7

machines and can't wait to see dads riding in the "Father Races" so look out Sister Pink for three extra customers on Monday mornings. and who knows we could have a future champion in Motor Cross with a dad working for Showerings!

# HORSE JUMPING OUTING

An event for all horse enthusiasts to watch for is the Summer Jumping Event at the Royal Bath and West Showground

on Sunday August 3.

Described as a microcosm of the Bath and West Show, it provides the opportunity for an ideal family day out.

#### PERSONAL COLUMN

Welcome to the following new employees at Showerings:

#### STARTERS

Miss E. J. Turton, Mr R. G. Miles -Mr K. W. Hooper — assistant regional internal audit manager in internal audit

Mr P. Parker — fork lift fitter in garage. Miss L. Dickens — empties reconcilia-tion clerk in distribution dept.

Mr R. Carter - workshop manager in Mr E. J. King — storeman in tachograph services dept.

Mr L. Hunter, Mr R. Ashman — security patrolmen in security dept.
Mr C. Tongs — maintenance fitter in

factory maintenance dept.
Miss S. R. Stevens — laboratory techni-

cian in technical dept.

Mr R. F. Luton — assistant quantity surveyor in architects dept.

Mrs T. A. Hollands — raw materials and packaging technician in technical dept.

#### TRANSFERS

Mr C. Pratten was transferred from point of sale administration to sales force.

#### RETIREMENTS

Mr A. E. Gibbs - fitter/chargehand in

Mr A. E. Globs — Inter/chargenation in garage after 19 years service.
Mr P. T. Ward — sales representative in C. G. sales dept. after 32 years service.
Mr P. T. Ball — production operative in bottling hall after 15 years service.
Mr C. J. Norman — farms adviser in

farms dept. after 22 years service.

#### OBITUARY

We regret to record that Jim Taylor died on April 13, aged 62. He had been unwell following a heart attack recently. For the past three years he has been a member of the Post Room team, Shepton Mallet. He leaves a wife and family, to whom we extend our sympathy

#### STOP PRESS

#### FAREWELL DAVID



Senior sales executive Peter Hall pre-sents David Boswell with his farewell gift.

David Boswell, formerly Showerings National Sales Manager, was presented with an Edinburgh Glass Lead crystal set at a farewell during March at the 'Foster Rooms', Bristol.

JUNE 24 1980 David has taken up a senior appointment at Teachers Limited.



From left: Robert Grunberg, general manager, Gaymers: Mrs June Hazell; Kevin O'Brien, depot manager, S.V. W. Distribution Ltd; Allen Tills; Mr Brian Hazell (the winner); and Mr N. S. Mackay, commercial manager, Norwich City Football Club

#### PONY DARTS



Dawn Berryman, a member of the stores staff at Showerings, played for the Ring of Roses team from Holcombe in the Somerset County Final.

Pictured at the Avon County Final from left: winner Marie Brown, Arthur Coom-bes, BDO organiser Mr Roger Pullin and runner-up, Jean Smith. (Below)

Somerset and Avon sent Sue Brazell of Yeovil and Marie Brown of Bristol through to the Great Britain Final of the Pony Ladies British Individual Darts Championship at Gt. Yarmouth on May 17, to compete against the best national and international players in the country.

Showerings marketing assistant, Arthur Coombes, who was involved in much of the administration of the competition, attended both county finals to represent Showerings, who sponsored the tournament.

The British Darts Organisation year nominated the Pony Championship as a major ranking competition carrying points for the **BDO** rankings



Clues Down

Clues Across

who will shortly receive a £2 gift token.

This was the first correct solution opened. Have a go at this one, and as before, a gift token will be given for the first correct solution opened. Cut out the grid or write answers on a sheet and send with your name and department to: SWAN-WORD, c/o Post Room, Showerings Limited, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, to arrive by June 27.

1, Bitters. 8, Overt. 9, Canisters. 10, Eerie. 11, North Star. 12, Intemperately. 15, Army Corps 18, Cokes. 19, Touch Wood. 20, Barge. 21, Holland

Solutions Down

1, Bacon. 2, Tenor. 3, East Ham. 4, Sweet Vermouth. 5, Poser. 6, Tea-rose. 7, Utterly. 12 Ice-cube. 13, Tankard. 14, Alcohol. 15, Aster. 16, Rioja. 17, Sided.

#### WAITING FOR YOUR NEWS

SWAN Editorial Panel Members:

Michael Bull - Whiteways of Whimple Eddie Cheasley - Showerings produc-

Maurice Clark — Showerings distribu-Maureen Henderson — Coates

Gaymers John Lee/Gwenda Merriott — Mar-

Geoff Rowson — Orchards Tony Williams — Sales

Jean Williams - Bottling Hall Or send direct to:

The Editor
SWAN POST BOX POST ROOM SHOWERINGS LTD SHEPTON MALLET SOMERSET

News, photographs, articles and poems

NEXT COPY DATE

# "BETWEEN THE LINES"

#### A LOOK AT SHOWERINGS NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM DESIGNED FOR THE NEW AGE OF COMPUTERISED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The ITT Unimat 4080 is one of the most advanced and versatile telephone systems.

programmed to meet our particular needs.

So spoke Showerings communications officer, Margaret Martin, of the Company's new telephone system. The first in the West Country and one of only 10 in England.

Responding to the obvious question: Why? She explained how it complied with the modern technological innovation towards convergence and the shrinking of the whole con-

vergence and the shrinking of the whole con-cept down to as small a size as possible.

In fact the whole telephone system is housed in four cabinets like a computer. It's an electronic, fully computerised PABX — the logical "extension" of the previously used Electro-Mechanical Strowger equipment, which with a similar number of extensions would take up a much larger space and require an addition to the building.

#### ADVANTAGE

The advantage of the 4080 with its compar modular system comes from the use of micro processors. In computer jargon this means single integrated circuit performing the basi functions of the central processing unit of functions of the central processing unit of a small computer.

What all this boils down to is that with a

What all this boils down to is that with a saving of maximum space and cost, the micro computer telecommunications equipment outdoes the dated electro mechanical systems by far. With a considerably lower heat output, the 4080 eliminates the need for air-conditioning in the telephone room.

#### PERFECT SYSTEM

PERFECT SYSTEM

A few years ago when the seeds of getting a new telecommunications system first began to germinate in Margaret's mind, there were four types on the market. After convincing her director and accountant of the necessity of investing in one of them, there followed hours of deliberation with the contractors to choose the perfect system for her company.

"In choosing one of these, we had to ask ourselves what each of the systems could do and then decide on exactly what we wanted from the system for our company," said Margaret.

from the system for our consparet.

The 4080 came up trumps: a sound, economy-conscious system with the beauty of allowing one to buy just what one required for the company at the present moment, but the option of adding more modules as needed, each with its own microprocessor.

"When you decide to opt for a system like this you have to be sure that you know what you want, because it can be very expensive."

explained Margaret. "Our system has 38 exchange lines with 400 extensions."

The 4080 can provide up to 96 different classes of services with a great many variables based on these services. "Our users wanted about 117 variables, but we refined them to 64 based on some 30 facilities." said Margaret, who as communications officer had the intimate knowledge of her company and its divisions to set about selecting specifically what sions to set about selecting specifically what she wanted from the 4080 to meet Showerings'

needs.

Basically the system is made up of five "lib-raries" each containing 100 variations of num-bers. These are computed into the system and provide among other things the time saving facility of abbreviated dialling. This works on numbers needed most by the user having an abbreviated code to replace the full public exchange number. exchange number

#### FEATURES

FEATURES

Described as the telephone system with multi-different features to meet the particular needs of different people, just what are some of these features at the fingertips of some 1000 Showerings employees every day?

The prime aspect is the system's duplex ability, which means it has pairs of components of independent but identical function. It can therefore double its function and in additional transfer of the prime aspect.

can therefore double its function and in addi-tion is self correcting. All of which, explains Margaret, minimises faults. Where a fault does occur in the 4080 system, a lamp flashes and a buzzer sounds on the operator's console. Pressing the button activates the screen where the fault message is displayed and the relevant information can be passed immediately to the

information can be passed immediately to the maintenance system.

The versatility of the 4080 is embodied in a range of functions all fed in from a software programme (the term describing all the unseen parts in the four cabinets) on magnetic tape. Extra or different features can be fed into this when necessary too. Most of the simple day-to-day changes in the running of the system can be made by the operator merely typing in new instructions on the printer-keyboard.

#### PRINCIPAL SERVICES

At Showerings the principal services used in the system are:



Communications Officer, Margaret Marting the Communications

- Abbreviated codes for dialling mentioned earlier, which triggers short code dialling from the operator allowing a telephone number of up to 17 digits to be obtained by keying as little one digit.
- Add-on third party" calls this brings another extension into an established call to create a three way conference call.
- Telephone conference involving up to five people (four using internal extensions and one
- Private wire network for inter-company we At an annual rental this feature saves the cost of paying for each call between groups in the division. "With some 26 companies currently within the private wire network, you within the private wire network, you can appreciate the saving this makes," said Margaret. Allied Breweries at Burton-on-Trent is the focal point of this system.

  Follow-me transfer calls which operate
- through the Babycham/Coates Gaymer Charlton Brewery. Users dial their new exten-sion number into their own telephone so that when a call comes through for them it can be rerouted to their new extension
- Group hunting a number of extension lines in the same department can be grouped together with a single extension number. Incoming calls are then distributed automatically through the group, missing out engaged

Other useful features include priority but Other useful features include priority but-tons on the switchboard allowing certain executives to have a priority operator service to avoid keeping them waiting. A "repeat code" service saves much pulling of hair because of interminable engaged fores. If the number dialled is engaged first time, the same number can be automatically re-dictable Designer.

dialled. Relieving stress on the operators is the facility to type in details on the keyboardprinter each time someone moves their office or changes their extension number. This allows the user to keep their old number each time they move and the operator to keep track

#### NOT OVERNIGHT

To reach this highly efficient state of tele-communications at Showerings wasn't an overnight affair, however, as Margaret and her three operators, Rosalind Youdle, Jenny



House and Karen May will testify

House and Karen May will testify.

"A tremendous amount of paperwork is involved with a system of this kind. We went 'on line' that is became operational, on December 3. But prior to this however there was a very busy installation period of six months," said Margaret. Before even getting to the installation stage there were the long hours deliberating which contractor to choose and then which facilities to include in the chosen system.

sen system.
In 1975/76 we decided to look at and discuss in 1957/b we decided to look at and discuss electronic systems. The main advantage of course was that the microprocessor system doesn't need to be housed in a special environment. We then began seeing the various contractors during 1976 right up until 1978. With a decision taken on the 4080 the lengthy installation process got underway with fre-quent 18 hour days studying precisely what facilities Showerings staff needed.

"We developed a good relationship with the post office during this time. The two years of planning also fostered a steady liaison with the divisional telecommunications adviser Burton-on-Trent."

#### COUNTDOWN

A three-way consultation process developed between Margaret, the divisional adviser and the post office person all working towards getting the 4080 at Showerings to where it is today. Inspections in loco were also necessary during this period to see exactly how the new unit was going to be accommodated in the existing framework. Other people drawn in during this extensive planning and installing period were builders, electricians, plumbers and carpenters, not to mention the post office fitters who for up to a year before "on line" had almost become a part of the furniture at Shepton Mallet.

The countdown, for the new system began

The countdown, for the new system began the weekend before becoming operational on

December 3. "All in all including the post office personnel, contractors and our carpen-ters and electricians, there were some 30 of us involved in the weekend commissioning.

It was quite a hectic weekend to say the least", said Margaret, "but only three telephones faulted during testing. This was a good sign because so much could have gone wrong that weekend " that weekend

Preceding this a week's intensive training programme with 20 to a session running four times a day was conducted to lead the users gently into the intricacies of their new telecommunications system. Involved in the instruction were the ITT training officer, Mr. Victor lent, Terry Dawes from Burton-on-Trent and Margaret Martin.

#### **NEW LOOK**

NEW LOOK

Today the three operators man their consoles exuding an air of complete confidence. But it took three months before the Post Office clerk of works gave it the final nod after a thorough checking process. The present PA system is an altered version of the one that existed. Complementing the new boards is a new microphone wired into the stands. The switchboards are the end product of the hardware, (the functional equipment) you can see, such as the telephone receiver, whereas the "unseen" autocomponents behind the scenes responsible for all its functions are the software.

responsible for all its functions are the soft-ware.

"The prime justification for any telephone system irrespective of the nature of its tech-nology is the service it will offer to its users.
This was an area which concerned me, would the users find the many facilities afforded by the system, of enhanced service in their work-ing day? Would they make use of the functions particular to their extension? I need not have been concerned our extension users were been concerned, our extension users were first class' from day one," said Margaret

#### **HUSHAWAY HOLIDAY**



THE BEAUFORT HOTEL, Tintern, Gwent. This is a lovely old hotel set in the Wye Valle opposite Tintern Abbey. It is BTA commended.

#### SWAN HOLIDAY COMPETITION

#### A LUXURY HUSHAWAY WEEKEND - FOR JUST THE TWO OF YOU

There's still time to win a luxury £100 weekend for two at an Embassy Hushaway Hotel in the exciting SWAN Holiday Competition

Simply write an account of what you did during your last holiday and, if you like, add a photograph or two. It could see you and yours celebrating a luxurious weekend in the comfort of one of 43 Embassy Hushaway Hotels in Bri

Hushaway Hotels all vary in style and Hushaway Hotels all vary in style and character, ranging from antique furnished inns such as the King's Arms, Bicester, near Oxford, to coastal and cliff-top hotels like the Osborne, Langland Bay on the Welsh Gower, or island hotels in North and West Scotland. You could also choose your break in a scenic beauty spot like the Beaufort at Tintern, or the Wild Boar in the Lake District and the Three Arrows, Boroughbridge, North Yorkship. ows. Boroughbridge. North Yorkshire

If you win the competition the choice is ours. You could spend your weekend in the or in the charm and elegance of a one-time country mansion or even the sophisticated environment of a modern, city-centre hotel. The joy of a Hushaway Hotel break is that it can take you off the beaten track and far from the maddening crowd to allow you to relax in splendid isolation. To get the full story about what's on offer at Embassy Hushaway Hotels, readers can write to Hushaway Holidays, 34 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JA.

Queen's Gate, London SW/ MA.

So send in your account of a holiday taken any time since January 1979 describing it overall or simply one entertaining incident. There is no restriction on length. Entries in whole o part may be published in SWAN

The judging panel will comprise the SWAN editor and two others not employed in readers' companies. The Editor's decision on all mat-

companies. The Editor's decision on all mat-ters relating to the competition is final. Remember to include your full name and work address. Send your entry to SWAN Holiday Competition, Post Room, Shower-ings Limited, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. The closing date has been extended to June 24, (See page four for the first published entry in

NEXT COPY DATE

Tuesday June 24

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# IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE CENTRE

Popular local personality Mabs Holland is now in charge of entertainment at the Centre, Shepton Mallet. Recent events there, and forthcoming programmes are good evidence that she has lost no time in using her lively

that she has lost no time in using her lively talents to good advantage.

A look at June's programme and into the months ahead testifies to that. For instance there's the "Royal Grandma's Glorious Birthday Ball" and the Exhibition of Simulated Crown Jewels. "In time we hope to develop into a tourist centre and cater for the passing trade", says Mabs. She believes the Centre could be a focal point for what Shepton has to offer.

to offer.

An information office with all the latest gen
on "what's on" and literature drawing attention to scenic attractions "where people can
point their cameras" are also on her itinerary

point men canners are also on men timerary of future events.

Mabs herself, the personality behind the driving force, is colourful, determined and naturally quite theatrical. In fact her stage career got off to a good footing at the tender age of three, as a solo-dancer in the Highland Fling and as a Nativity Angel in a school production.

Fling and as a Nativity Angel in a school production.

A prolific writer, her work has appeared on television and she has written more than 150 poems as well as panto-scripts, booklets and a couple of plays. A moment of glory for Mabs came with a reference on television to her "Haunting Shepton" booklets containing many local grisly tales (some of which have been published in SWAN).

Other local connections include being a founder member of the Carnival and a member of the Theatre Group and Centre Light Opera Company. She has been a producer and actress with Shepton Players for many years and managed the local travel agency for seven years before accepting Mr Showering's invitation to manage the entertainment side of the Centre.

tion to manage me emeranament.

Centre.

Mr Francis sought to preserve the historical tradition of Shepton Mallet's character when he financed the building of the new town centre for Shepton Mallet some years ago.

After the redevelopment, the sole survivor of a row of tile-roofed shambles, which until 1919 lined the north and east sides of the market place, were reinstated. "Shambles" comes from an Anglo Saxon word for bench or stall, used for the sale of meat. It is believed Shepton Mallet has England's last remaining example of this type.

ton Mallet has England's last remaining exam-ple of this type.

The Centre, housing the entertainment facilities, is unique for a town the size of Shep-ton Mallet. The flexibility of the building and the variety of uses to which it can be put, have

opened a completely new vista in the style of event which can be presented in the town. The versatility of the building comes with the floor, holding 270 seats in auditorium type seats, being able to be raised into the ceiling out of the way, leaving below it another ceiling with lighting onto a sprung dance floor.

Banquets, dinner dances, lunches and evening meals are just some of the events The Centre is becoming well known for. The Black Swan suite, adjacent to the main hall, has a large, well stocked bar, small dance floor and tables and chairs for meals. In fact it caters for just about every taste in historic Shepton Malet.

Afficienados of military and martial music

Just about every taste in instone Snepton Mai-let.

Afficionados of military and martial music were, of course, enthralled by the recent Centre Trophy Brass Band contest with almost 50 bands from surrounding areas com-peting for the trophy won by The Swan Brook Transport Band.

During May a good old Agatha Christie type yarn played for theatre goers with a penchant for thrillers. While for the young, there was a change of mood, when "Dangerous Brothers", a rock band performed in concert in the superbly appointed disco-ballroom. The month had opened with the Festival of Maius, attended by Alexander, The Viscount Weymouth and the colourful festivities depict-ing a by-gone age, were filmed by the BBC throughout the evening.

The nub of the hub is, says Mabs, in "find-

shout the evening.

The nub of the hub is, says Mabs, in "find-thertainment that appeals to the public in Shenton." ere in Shepton."

She certainly seems to be doing just that



and Anne Lowe with electrical and mainte-nance man, Dick Marchant. Below: Centre Secretary, Joyce Minchin and Chef Dermot Daly, with Mabs Holland (far right) and the cleaning maintenance team.





Catering Manager Eugene Flynn, with Josie Carver serving local residents in Kirk's Kitchen