

St Dunstons
REVIEW
JULY





Making an adjustment to his first model, a vertical steam engine.

Ways of Life 16

OUT OF MISCHIEF — Bill Chamberlain

"This model business has got me altogether and I get satisfaction from it. I like it and, of course, it keeps me out of further mischief". The man who needs to be kept out of "mischief" is 77 years old Bill Chamberlain, a St. Dunstaner of the First World War, who lives at Earley, near Reading.

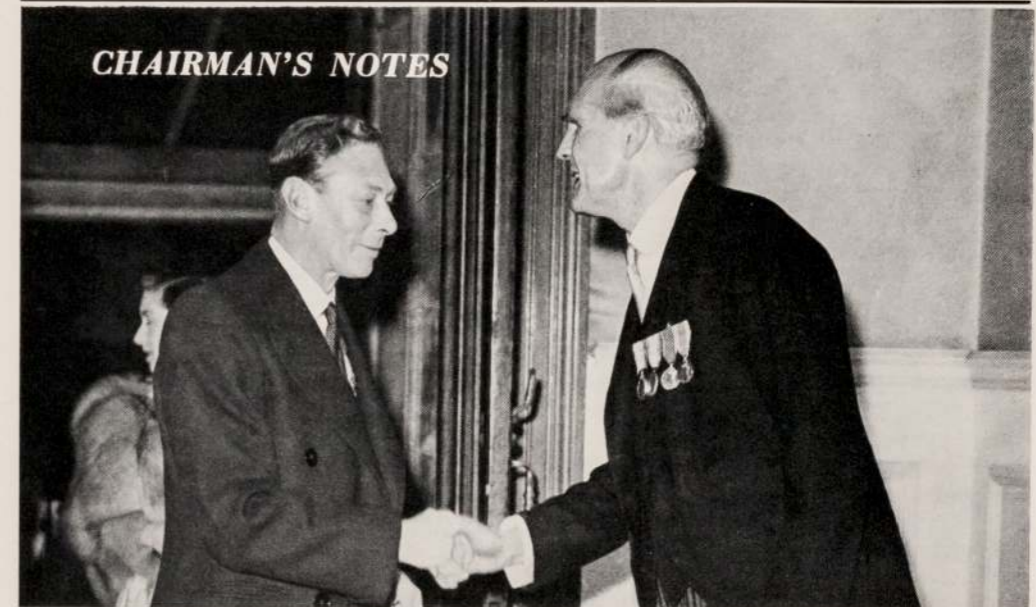
Bill keeps regular hours in his workshop. Each weekday and Saturday he is there at half past nine to continue with the building of a detailed model of an ocean-going tug. He is fully equipped for woodwork and

metal work with a small engineering lathe which he taught himself to use. "By asking questions and by trial and error". On a bench nearby is his first model, a vertical steam engine which really works. Its metal parts turned, and drilled on the lathe. "That was the first—after making several mistakes and trying things out".

"I've made two steam engines. Then I had the idea of making a model tug. So I got this drawing from a model shop in Reading. The drawings give you the dimensions and tell what kind of material is used in the real thing. There are two drawings for the tug. One is the full scale

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COVER PICTURE: Bill Chamberlain's sea-going tug on the stocks.



As the then President of the British Legion, Lord Fraser greets his late Majesty King George VI at the 1948 Festival of Remembrance.

Legion Golden Jubilee

All down the pages of history soldiers have been admired in wartime, but often neglected thereafter. Not so in our lifetime!

Our organisation was started by Sir Arthur Pearson, our founder, in a house in the Bayswater Road in February 1915, but officially we recognise the 26th March, 1915, as our opening day because that was the date upon which we went to St. Dunstan's Lodge in the Outer Circle of Regent's Park and that was where our name came from.

Organisations to represent ex-Servicemen generally—such as the National Federation of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors, mainly in the great towns, and the Comrades of the Great War, mainly in the countryside—came into existence during and soon after the 1914-18 War. In 1921 they were merged in the British Legion under the leadership of Earl Haig. Thus the British Legion celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year.

For fifty years St. Dunstan's and the British Legion have worked together, where our interests have required this, in the utmost harmony. For example, together in Parliament, in the Press and in the country generally we have urged upon one Government after another, irrespective of Party, improvements in war pensions, allowances, hospital services and recognition with a very large measure of success.

Many individual St. Dunstaners have played a part at National, Area, County and Branch level in the development and conduct of the Legion as officers and members of councils and committees. Large numbers of St. Dunstaners have enjoyed the comradeship of British Legion branches and clubs.

Now, in its Jubilee year, the Queen has been graciously pleased to grant the British Legion the use of the prefix "Royal", so that its new name is the "Royal British Legion".

We congratulate the Legion and all who have been and are connected with it upon their history, which records their splendid service to the Old Country, the Commonwealth and, especially, to ex-Servicemen and women and their families.

Fraser of Lonsdale

Reunions 1971

LIVERPOOL

Forty-three St. Dunstaners accompanied by their wives or escorts met at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, for the third of the 1971 series of Reunions held on Thursday, 6th May. Taking the Chair was Mr. Nigel Pearson, member of the St. Dunstan's Council, who brought to the meeting a special word of greeting from his father, Sir Neville, our President. Mr. Pearson also brought a message from Lord and Lady Fraser.

"We have one sad absentee," Mr. Pearson announced. "I am sure you will all send your warmest good wishes to Miss Everett. I gather that she is progressing well but it will be some weeks before she is back to full activity."

Mr. Pearson explained that Miss K. M. Broughton was deputising for Miss Everett as Welfare Visitor responsible for the arrangements. He also referred to the presence among the guests of Mrs. J. Harris and Mr. J. Thwaites of Burnley, a St. Dunstaner attending the Reunion for the first time.

Mr. Pearson went on to discuss some of the lessons in life he and his family had learned in farming about 25 acres of land on the south side of Ashdown Forest.

Philosopher Types

"Living in the country one ruminates more," he said. "I have a feeling that revolutionaries are born and grow up in towns and the countryside breeds the home-spun sort of philosopher types." Mr. Pearson then spoke of some of the philosophy he learned in eight years in the country.

"We have certainly learned to be patient. We have certainly learned not to expect too much too easily. One of the things we have learned is perseverance. We have learned, too, that perseverance does not mean being pig-headed when a change of course is inevitable. It means understanding what basically you are trying to do; lead a full and happy and satisfying life."

Mr. Pearson said they had also learned about appreciation: "It is very nice to be helped; nice to see good will. To give help and to feel it is welcome and it is a rather

nice feeling to respond to help. You establish a pleasant relationship with neighbours." He pointed out that there is another side to appreciation, "Which, perhaps, isn't so obvious and maybe it sounds a little bit self-satisfied—that is to say the honest appreciation of what one has managed to do oneself."

"I am sure a lot of people managed to do a great deal, but because we are always expected to be dissatisfied with our own efforts; because we always try to improve on what we have done, we are apt to lose sight of an honest appreciation of what we have, in fact, achieved."

On his own land, said Mr. Pearson, "We look around at the nettles that are still as strong as they ever were, brambles that still remain to be cut, trees that still remain to be thinned. Nevertheless, it is a very rewarding task to take on because one gets some satisfaction from it, but if one is all the time dissatisfied with oneself that is rather miserable."

Looking around at his audience, Mr. Pearson concluded, "But you for the most part are a happy lot. I hope you all still manage to get quite a lot of happiness out of life which is, after all, what we are all trying to do. I hope you will all find some happiness this afternoon, too. Very good luck to you all."

Mr. C. D. Wills, Welfare Superintendent, reported to the gathering on his visit to Russia and gave a message from the Russian war-blinded.

Vote of Thanks

John Ince, of Southport, rose to speak for the St. Dunstaners at the Reunion. "This is a vote of thanks for everything that St. Dunstan's has ever done for us," he said. "It tries in every way to help us stand on our own feet. It helps us in our problems and we are deeply grateful."

Referring to the message from Russia, Mr. Ince went on, "As for peace in this world, in my experience in St. Dunstan's I have met different nationalities from all over the world. We have lived together, worked together in happy friendship. If the United Nations would take a leaf out of St. Dunstan's book I think they could

organise the nations to live in peace. So therefore, fellow St. Dunstaners, I ask you to extend your appreciation to St. Dunstan's and all they have done for us."

MANCHESTER

The Manchester Reunion at the Midland Hotel took place on Cup-Final day, 8th May. Despite the fact that a Lancashire side was playing at Wembley, there was a company of some 150 guests, including 65 St. Dunstaners with their wives or escorts. This reunion was graced by the presence of five of our women St. Dunstaners. Miss K. M. Broughton, again deputised for Miss Everett, who was the recipient of more hearty good wishes for her speedy recovery.

St. Dunstan's Badge

On the menu was *St. Dunstan's Surprise*, which turned out to be a splendid ice-cream confection with, for each table, an icing sugar St. Dunstan's badge—especially made by the chef.

Lord Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, presided over the luncheon and reminded the guests that 8th May had a significance other than the football occasion. "Today is V.E. Day. It was on this day that the war in Europe came to an end and a great many of you served in the war in Europe. It makes me think of the St. Dunstan's story in relation to the two wars. There were more than twice as many men who were blinded in the First War compared with the Second, although the second war lasted two years longer.

"The reason is that in the First War most of us went to war with our own rifles and that is about all we had. In the Second War there were many more armaments in the hands of the men at the front and, therefore, there were less men at the front and more men behind serving them and feeding them."

Lord Fraser said that it was a curious paradox that 24 men in the Second War lost their sight and both their hands; this double disability was rare in the First War. "I think the reason is that the high-explosive was more destructive and very often it damaged eyes and hands, the blast was very frightful. Also in the Second War new drugs and better medical service led to more recoveries. These are certain facts it may be interesting to remember on V.E. Day"

Turning to the St. Dunstaners at the Reunion, Lord Fraser pointed out that more than 40 of the 65 attending served in the Second War. "Now out of the 65 St. Dunstaners many have retired after a lifetime at work but there still remain 32, that is half the total here today, who are still at work. It is a very creditable record."

Lord Fraser told his audience he had recently returned from a business visit to South Africa. "I found that the St. Dunstaners in South Africa were exactly the same as we are here. They are engaged in the same occupations, having the same problems, having served in the same wars and had the same experiences. They are looked after by St. Dunstan's there which is very similar to our St. Dunstan's here."

Lord Fraser said that he brought a message of greeting and good wishes from South African St. Dunstaners and a reciprocal message was returned from the Manchester Reunion.

After mentioning members of the staff present and describing the ways in which they could be of service to St. Dunstaners, Lord Fraser referred to Miss Everett and the hopes of St. Dunstan's for her well-being. He went on, "Amongst those who have come to help us are Miss P. Coop and Mr. J. Owen of the Red Cross and there is Mrs. C. Eaton, a very old friend of St. Dunstan's, Miss Greaves and Mrs. Harris. We are very glad to welcome them and to have a chance of thanking them."

A.D. 2007

Lord Fraser referred to an assessment made for St. Dunstan's by actuaries, "To enable us to judge how far resources will go over the generations of St. Dunstaners between now and the end of the century. There will still be some St. Dunstaners alive in 2007 so therefore, a careful policy must be advised. At the same time, where we can, we want to improve the benefits which we are able to make." Lord Fraser mentioned some of the increases in grants including over-sixty, and home-heating, and continued, "There are other ways in which we are constantly increasing the help we are able to give, particularly for the older men and this, I am sure, will commend itself, to the whole of St. Dunstan's."

Two St. Dunstaners were celebrating birthdays at the Reunion, said Lord Fraser.



Mrs. Roy Haslam shows the St. Dunstan's badge in icing to her husband.

"They are Mrs. Stanway and Mr. Earnshaw and we wish them a very Happy Birthday."

Lord Fraser concluded by saying that he and Lady Fraser were very glad to be in Manchester again, "Bearing in mind what very old friends some of us are. Our time at St. Dunstan's goes back 55 years. Others of you have had shorter times but we are all of the one blood and we are friends together, whatever our age and whatever our circumstance. There is a bond of experience and of conquest of difficulties and of patience and a very large success. I think about this and rejoice to have taken my part in the life of St. Dunstan's along with all of you."

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. H. Pollitt of Farnworth who referred to the naming of the Northern Talking Book Library in Bolton after Lord Fraser, "I would like to give our congratulations to Lord Fraser for this library being named the 'Ian Fraser Library' for all the work he had done for all blind people.

"We always mention the good work that the staff do on our behalf both here, in London and in Ovingdean. These people know, Miss Midgley, Miss Everett and all the others know, how much we appreciate what they do for us to make our lives easier and more comfortable." Mr. Pollitt thanked the staff of the Midland Hotel and concluded with good wishes to Lord and Lady Fraser, "May they enjoy good health for a very long time to come".

LONDON

Lord Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, was presiding again when St. Dunstaners from the Home Counties to the South and West of London met at the Hotel Russell on 22nd May. Among the 200 people were 87 St. Dunstaners with their wives or escorts including four from Ireland and one from the Channel Islands. Their guests were Miss K. Riley, well-known to campers at Lee-on-Solent and retired staff members, Messrs. D. W. Ferguson, S. C. Hall and P. Townsend.

Opening his speech, Lord Fraser drew attention to the presence of four St. Dunstaners from Northern Ireland including Dr. A. Milne, head of the Philosophy Dept. at Belfast University, not long returned from the United States of America where he had been a visiting Professor.

Lord Fraser again took the opportunity to mention staff members present at the reunion to give St. Dunstaners the opportunity of discussions with them if they wished. He had a special word of welcome for Mrs. D. Adkins, "She has just been appointed Welfare Visitor for the East Anglia area and she has come here as an apprentice to learn what a reunion is like before she takes her first reunion at Ipswich."

Welcome

There was another word of welcome for five St. Dunstaners attending their first reunion, Messrs. W. Brundish, R. Cunningham, J. Kenny, J. Mulligan, and W. Orr.

"Most of you know," continued Lord Fraser, "that I have been in Parliament for a long time—over 40 years and although I am now in what might be called the senate I am still a Parliamentarian and I still take every possible opportunity to remind whatever Government is in power that our war pensions are a matter which ought to be attended to." Lord Fraser alluded to the information on War Pension increases published in the June Review commenting, "At this moment the rise is something like 18-25% depending on the various categories. That is not unsatisfactory, indeed I would go so far as to say it is not ungenerous but, of course, it will depend on what happens to the cost of living in the next year or two and the Government will be left in no doubt that it is very much in our minds."

Lord Fraser told his audience that he had recently started having rowing outings on the Lake at Regent's Park and recalled the days in the First War when St. Dunstaners rowed on this same lake. "Although I am getting a little older I still find it is a very good thing to take a bit of exercise, which reminds me of a story told of Sir Winston Churchill during the last years of his life. He said every now and then he felt he must take some exercise and when this happened he went to bed and went to sleep

in order to forget about it. I don't recommend that to you because one of the difficulties that a blind man must face is that if he likes his food as I do, it is very easy to get too fat."

"Now there are a few men and women who enjoy loneliness," he continued. "I meet some of them in the mountains of Basutoland and in remote parts of the world, who live alone and enjoy being alone, but that is unusual. Most of us human beings like company and friendship and we tend to meet our friends either in business or in clubs and associations.

"We, in particular, have one thing very much in common. That is our service in the armed forces of the crown. I don't suppose there is one of us here to-day who does not hope and pray that there could never be another war and yet I don't suppose there is one of us who is not proud that we served our Country during our war.

Example

"We St. Dunstaners have a second thing in common and that is, of course, blindness, which we have learned to face and to meet at St. Dunstan's. I want to congratulate you upon the example which you have set for the rest of the blind world.

"You have no idea of the effect St. Dunstan's success over the last 55 years has had. But also the example you have set to others who are not blind, how to meet with disaster and overcome it. I offer you, therefore, my deep thanks for your loyalty to St. Dunstan's.

"Lady Fraser and I express our warm appreciation that you came to join us at lunch to-day and we wish all of you and your families, whatever war you served in and wherever you served, the very best of good luck and God bless you."

Proposing the vote of thanks, Mr. H. Northgreaves of Weybridge thanked Lord and Lady Fraser on behalf of St. Dunstaners, "He has told us about the people from Headquarters. We here at this reunion send all our good wishes and thanks to everyone."

After thanking the proprietors and staff of the Russell Hotel, Mr. Northgreaves concluded with a tribute to "Our wives and our friends and relations who have given up their day so that we can be here to have a sociable and a jolly fine reunion."

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Her Majesty the Queen,
Buckingham Palace.

11th June, 1971.

I am honoured to wish Your Majesty many happy returns of the day on behalf of St. Dunstan's men and women throughout the Commonwealth.

**Fraser of Lonsdale
Chairman.**

and Her Majesty's reply:

14th June, 1971.

I send you and St. Dunstan's men and women throughout the Commonwealth my sincere thanks for your kind message on the celebration of my birthday.

Elizabeth R.

FRANK REVIEWS

"*Cesar of the Narrow Seas*", by John Glog, read by George Hagan. This most interesting novel takes the form of a translation for general readership of an original document found buried in a bronze box, encased in Roman concrete, eight feet under an ancient Temple of Mithras, in Chester.

Priscus, Legate of the Second Legion stationed at Chester, leaves for posterity a true account of his commander General Carausius, who ruled Britain as an independent state from A.D. 286 to 293.

Priscus's account of army life and tactics is fascinating and one is led to surmise that little has changed in nearly two thousand years concerning military life, or for that matter, politics. I must recommend this book for anyone interested in the past history of these islands. I still find it tragic that following the fall of the Roman Empire civilisation took so many

centuries to start re-establishing itself. But who knows? Perhaps, if the Romans had continued to improve their technology through the centuries this planet might have been blown to smithereens long before now—human nature being then, as it still is, unpredictable.

"*The Perfect Mistress and Other Stories*", by Ronald Duncan, read by Colin Keith-Johnston. Not much to say about this little collection of short stories except that they make interesting reading and are mainly of masculine appeal. Although it could be that many of the other gender will also enjoy them too.

"*A Girl of the Limberlost*", by Gene Stratton Porter, read by Marvin Kane. Written at the turn of the century this, I suppose, could be called an Edwardian classic. Only it's American, but it is like its British counterparts in that it is a bit melodramatic and to say the least of it, very elongated. Writers in those days had obviously decided that they must give their readers good value for money.

The greater part of the book is devoted to the heroine's girlhood and is a wonderful piece of writing. Only towards the closing chapters did I start muttering to myself "Come on, get on with it".

"*The Drift*", by Lloyd Kropp, read by David Broomfield. Peter Sutherland, an American professor, takes himself off on a fishing trip following his divorce. Caught in an Atlantic storm his boat capsizes under him; he takes to his dinghy and drifts.

Delirious with thirst and hunger he is at the point of death when he passes through a wall of mist and finds himself in the Drift—a central point in the Sargasso Sea to which all derelict vessels gravitate.

Nursed back to health by other shipwrecked folk, Sutherland is encouraged to stay but whilst he finds this strange society tranquil, it has an underlying bogus quality not dissimilar to the society he has left at home.

Despite the attractions of a beautiful girl he manages to return to the outside world where his adventures are put down to delirium. This is a remarkable novel but it lacks credibility.

OVINGDEAN NOTES

Moments in May

The merry month of May began with temporary alterations to our usual programme, caused by the Brighton Festival, which opened on the 5th and continued for two weeks.

Those among us who enjoy the opera went off to the Royal on Wednesday to hear "The Barber of Seville", presented by the Phoenix Opera Company. The following week admirers of the works of William Shakespeare were thrilled by Ian McKellen's performance as Hamlet. Music-lovers were catered for by a series of excellent concerts at the Dome, there was a flower show, and firework displays on the Pavilion Lawns.

Our good friends, pianists Arthur James and Cyril Haslett, with his partner Dolly, very kindly came along to entertain us with music on the lighter side. Their efforts were much appreciated.

Saltdean Choral Society

Sunday evening concerts this month have been increasingly well attended. Mrs. Phyllis Pescod and members of the Saltdean Choral Society received an enthusiastic welcome on their first appearance here. The Weybridge Male Voice Choir made their second visit and proved just as successful as the first time we met them, just a year ago. The high standard of their performance, allied to a perfectly balanced and presented programme, guarantees the Choir a place on our concert list for next year. On Whit Sunday, St. Dunstaners and their wives flocked into the lounge in such great numbers, that chairs had to be brought in from the dining-room to seat them all. The magnet that drew this vast crowd was the concert given by the Cecilian Singers of Harrow, who have been packing 'em in here at Ovingdean for the past twenty years.

Early in the month, Mr. Victor Sheppard, Curator of Antiquities at Brighton Museum, came to give a talk, illustrated with exhibits from the Museum. His title was "Strike a Light", the story of the various methods used by man to obtain fire. Beginning with friction between two

pieces of wood, on to striking flint on metal, tinder boxes, and early types of matches, right up to one of the first petrol lighters. As each item was mentioned, the actual article was passed round, demonstrated, and examined by each person present.

A discussion of considerable interest was opened by Eddie Allchin and Peter Sumner. The motion "That Divorce Should be Made as Easy as Marriage" called forth some very definite views from the assembled Wednesdayites. After an animated discussion, in which both sides of the question were well and truly argued out, caution won the day, and as far as the majority were concerned the divorce laws should stay as they are for the present.

News for Swimmers

Swimming enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that the work on the small pool at the King Alfred Baths is now complete, and Mr. Jock Carnochan is again taking a party of swimmers from Ovingdean each Friday evening during the summer months.

With the Whit Weekend activities, the house rapidly filled with a gay crowd of holidaymakers, and there were plenty of customers for the Drives, the trip to Fontwell Park Races, the Whist Drive and Domino Tournament, the Concert by the Cecilians—already mentioned—and last, but not least, the Grand Holiday Dance. This attracted a larger crowd than ever. Competition, Novelty and Spot Dances were the order of the day, and as one reveller remarked to another, "Even when this is over, we still have the Derby to look forward to!"

SUMMER

by STAN COE

May shall go with her spectrum drops,
Hanging from beds of rich bright green,
June shall appear with her fresh warmth,
And give sweet fragrance to the scene.
Now the days are warm and quite clear,
Powder puff clouds do now float high;
Blackbirds and warblers sing with mirth
A trilling lark lilt in the sky.
A contented herd chew at sweet grass,
As the clear cool brook ripples by;
Young colt, with Mother seek the shade,
Their tails do lash at the hovering fly.
'Tis on these visions I do dwell,
As I list to that drooning bee;
In my mind this will be Summer,
For my eyes, dear friends, cannot see.



John and Evelyn Cowan with his Guide Dog "Cindy" and guests including St. Dunstaner, Francis Roche, enjoying a cigar

LEGION HOSPITALITY AT BOREHAM WOOD

For the past six years our St. Dunstaner John Cowan and his wife Evelyn have organised an entertainment for ex-service men, senior citizens and others from the proceeds of money raised by raffles, etc., during the preceding twelve months.

John Cowan is Chairman of the Entertainments Committee of Boreham Wood Branch of the Royal British Legion and in celebration of the Legion's Golden Jubilee the guests on this occasion, Saturday, 5th June, were ex-service men.

At the Party

There were some 80 guests, including 15 St. Dunstaners with their wives or companions, 13 Chelsea Pensioners and five local disabled people. The principal guests were Mr. R. C. Crump, Chairman of Elstree Rural District Council and Mrs. Crump, the Royal British Legion Area Vice-Chairman, Mr. Pledger and his wife, and Lieut.-Commander and Mrs. Robin Buckley, representing Lord and Lady Fraser.

Boreham Wood is a large Branch with 600 members and a truly splendid after-

noon and evening's entertainment had been arranged. Shortly after arrival an excellent dinner was served at 4 p.m. and this left plenty of time for talking with friends, dancing to Terry Charles's Band and partaking of both solid and liquid refreshment. The band was first class with male and female singers and cabaret turns were provided by Les Paul.

Vote of Thanks

During the course of the evening Lieut.-Commander Buckley thanked John and Evelyn Cowan and the Royal British Legion members, including the ladies on behalf of the guests and Mr. Crump also spoke in praise of the arrangements. It was obvious that a tremendous amount of work had been undertaken to make this a truly wonderful evening for everybody. The Royal British Legion members showed their guests the utmost kindness and hospitality and the Women's Section did wonderful work preparing and serving the food. The party ended at midnight and everyone carried a gift from the Legion when they went home in a state of great contentment.

Bridge Notes

L.C.C.B.A. (The Masters) v St. Dunstan's

This most popular Annual Event took place at Headquarters on Saturday afternoon, 12th June. It had attracted six St. Dunstan's teams of four players, coming from all over the country, to confront six visiting teams, amongst whom were several of international repute. It was not a question, so far as we were concerned, of beating our opponents but of which team would have the lowest minus score and which of the opposing teams would score the highest plus.

The final result on twenty hands played was as follows:

L.C.C.B.A.

1. G. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. Garfield, D. Edwin +6,400
2. Mrs. Gatti, C. Leighton, Mr. and Mrs. Nunes +6,350
3. Miss Daly, G. Connell/D. Dodd, J. Gibson, R. Mallya +4,320
4. D. Maeer, D. Gritt, J. Cooke, Mrs. Jenkins +2,890
5. J. Amesbury, J. & R. Sharples, Miss Berman +2,300
6. E. Schön, Mrs. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lodge +810

St. Dunstan's

1. P. Nuyens, A. Caldwell, M. Delaney, Mrs. Delaney -3,060
2. E. Carpenter, L. Douglass, W. Allen, R. Freer -3,240
3. R. Bickley, A. Dodgson, W. Lethbridge, R. Goding -3,550
4. R. Evans, R. Armstrong, H. King, B. Ward -4,190
5. R. Stanners, F. Pusey, J. Carney, J. Lynch -4,410
6. R. Fullard, M. Tybinski, W. Phillips, J. Whitcombe -4,620

The members of the winning L.C.C.B.A. team were each presented with a prize selected from products made by St. Dunstaners, while those of the winning home team each received from Miss Vi Daly, Secretary of the London County Contract Bridge Association, a bottle of port for their successful efforts. In addition, the Association gave all our players a bottle of sherry.

In his speech, Bob Evans on behalf of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club, thanked our visitors for coming along and Miss Vi Daly for arranging this year's event so efficiently, as well as Mr. Percy Charters for directing the Tournament. Bob also stressed the fact that this match constituted the "Highlight" on our fixture card for the year and how much all our members were looking forward to our meeting again next year.

A hearty vote of thanks was also given to our "untiring" Steward, Norman Smith, always here, there and everywhere, as well as his wife and her helpers for serving such an excellent "spread" which certainly provided the finishing touch to a most memorable afternoon of bridge.

PAUL NUYENS,
Bridge Secretary.

Sloppy Bids

BY ALF FIELD

There are some hands which give you a little "Tingle" as you sort them, one such came my way recently playing in a good school I dealt.

Love All—As South (say)

♠ —
♥ A 10 8 6 4 2
♦ A 4
♣ A J 10 7 5

Three Aces—6 cards and 5 card.

Suit plus a void! The Bidding went:—

S.	W.	N.	E.
1 ♠	3 ♠	—	—
4 ♣	—	4 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♥	—	—	—

I was "One light" and said to my partner "Sorry Tommy, that was a sloppy bid of 5 Hearts." He agreed. I excused myself weakly saying, "The void went to my head." His reply was "Well, it would be at home there!" You have no doubt seen my error—I have bid two suits to the "Four" level now I MUST leave it to partner—that's what partners are for!

His hand was:—

♠ J 10 9 2
♥ 9 7 3
♦ K 8 6 3
♣ 6 4

He would double "Four spades" and we gain 300 at least instead of losing 50. The lesson is that in very competitive situations you must think just a fraction longer before bidding. After a week or so in the wilderness I played again and as South received this one:—

♠ A 10 9 8 6 2
♥ 10 4 3
♦ 4
♣ Q J 5

My partner North, had dealt at Love All and opened "One Heart", to which I responded "One Spade". Partner now bid "Two Clubs" and I rebid my spades. This was passed out and I made an over trick—was I wrong to rebid my six card spade suit? Just examine my hand and make your bid—Did you bid Three! Hearts? Suppose I had taken one minute to think on these lines. "Partner must have 5 hearts plus 5 or a 4 card clubs. He would bid clubs first with 4-4 or 4-5. He must have 14 points at least or he would "sign off" with "Two Hearts"—He must have 3 points in the Club suit to bid it at the two level, say A, K or Q J on top of 4 cards. He has left the "Tentative" and moved into the "suggestive" (Game?) mood.

You now gaze at your Hand, your goodies look much better? You make it an 8 card trump suit 5-3 that '10' X X looks like a ruff or even two ruffs in Diamonds, that Q J X of Clubs will make partner beam. The spade Ace is a Jewel (1st Round Control). The losing Trick count can now be applied (8 Trumps), it is 8, and 8+7=15 from 18. Now you don't want a large brandy to bid "Three Hearts" do you?

Partner's Hand was:—

♠ 3
♥ A K J 8 5
♦ A 3 2
♣ K 10 9 4

15 points and 6 losers (one in reserve) he would be bid four hearts which should be made in some comfort.

Now finally the ethics. I did say "Pause a fraction before bidding," on Hand I, even if you say "No Bid" it is acceptable that a high bid in a very competitive situation requires this pause but in Hand II where you are going to make a positive bid (two spades or three hearts) it is quite

ethical to ponder for a couple of minutes. It is, of course, unethical to ponder unnecessarily and then say "No Bid."

NEVER-ENDING BRIDGE

The following tapes are now available:

1. Simple rebid by opener. (D.P.).
2. Bridge Quiz No. 1. (L.P.).

The fifth Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 15th May. The results were as follows:—

F. Mathewman and S. Webster	75
J. Chell and Partner	67
F. Griffie and P. Pescott Jones	60
A. Dodgson and H. Kerr	59
W. Scott and J. Whitcombe	59
R. Bickley and F. Rhodes	58

The sixth Individual Competition of the Brighton Section was held on Saturday, 6th June. The results are as follows:

R. Bickley and J. Chell	66
W. Scott and H. Kerr	64
S. Webster and F. Griffie	63
F. Rhodes and J. Whitcombe	63
F. Mathewman and M. Clements	62
A. Dodgson and J. Huk	60

The cumulative positions are as follows:—

F. Rhodes	352
F. Griffie	345
F. Mathewman	343
M. Clements	340
J. Huk	331
J. Whitcombe	330
S. Webster	323
W. Scott	319
J. Chell	317
R. Bickley	313
H. Kerr	296
A. Dodgson	291
W. Burnett	246, after 4 matches
P. Pescott-Jones	210, after 4 matches
S. Smith	208, after 4 matches
R. Goding	189, after 3 matches

The sixth Individual Competition of the London Section was held on Saturday, 5th June. The results are as follows:

W. Allen and F. Pusey	71
H. King and M. Tybinski	67
J. Lynch and Partner	67
P. Nuyens and R. Evans	59
R. Fullard and Partner	58
R. Stanners and R. Armstrong	56

LONDON INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION LEAGUE TABLE

The cumulative positions are as follows:—

Pos.	Name	Played	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1.	F. Pusey	6	66	76	61	71	66	71	411
2.	R. Armstrong	6	72	62	62	66	83	56	401
3.	R. Evans	6	64	76	59	67	64	59	389
4.	R. Stanners	6	66	58	67	67	48	56	362
5.	W. Allen	6	66	62	59	55	48	71	361
6.	R. Fullard	6	66	43	61	67	61	58	356
7.	J. Lynch	5	82	67	67	64	67	—	347
8.	H. King	5	64	82	56	56	67	—	325
9.	M. Tybinski	4	73	71	83	67	—	—	294
10.	H. Meleson	5	52	57	62	52	56	—	279
11.	P. Nuyens	4	57	73	55	59	—	—	244
12.	Miss. V. Kemmish	4	58	56	66	61	—	—	241

AVERAGES PER MATCHES PLAYED

Position	Name	Average per Match
1.	M. Tybinski	73.50
2.	J. Lynch	69.40
3.	F. Pusey	68.50
4.	R. Armstrong	66.833
5.	H. King	65.00
6.	R. Evans	64.833
7.	P. Nuyens	61.00
8.	Miss V. Kemmish	60.50
9.	R. Stanners	60.333
10.	W. Allen	60.163
11.	R. Fullard	59.333
12.	H. Meleson	55.80

Last year's winner:— H. King (Average 70.20)

BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Saturday, 29th May, MRS. ELIZABETH DACRE, J.P., President of our Brighton Club, gave a party in the Rottingdean School Hall to Club members and their wives to mark the 80th birthday of Frank Rhodes, the Club's Secretary and Chairman. Some eighty guests were present including 10 prison officers and their wives from Lewes Prison.

The Royal British Legion and Women's Section members of Rottingdean helped with refreshments and drinks. The High Sheriff of Sussex and his wife were guests of honour and Iris Gilett entertained the gathering with her guitar.

Warm thanks and a bottle of "good spirit" were given to Frankie Rhodes who has been the life spring of the Club for the last 18 years. The party ended with a sing-song and "Auld Lang Syne".

Radio 2

GERRY BRERETON of East Molesey, Surrey, tells us that he will be featuring on the Pete Murray's B.B.C. programme "Open House" every day from Monday, 12th July to Friday, 16th July on Radio 2 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

WITH SYMPATHY

Frank Rhodes, skip of the St. Dunstan's Bowling Club team, has received a letter from Mr. A. G. Vallance, Superintendent of the Scottish National Institution of the War Blinded, asking that the condolences of the Scottish bowlers should be recorded on the death recently of three members of our own team, Jock Macfarlane, Ernest Edwicker and Albert Toomey.

Club News

London

Winners of our Domino Games in the month of May were as follows:

- 6th May 1 **R. Armstrong**
 C. Hancock
13th May 1 **R. Armstrong**
 2 D. Watkins
 W. Miller
 J. Padley
20th May 1 **W. Harding**
 2 D. Watkins
 J. Padley
27th May 1 **W. Harding**
 2 J. Padley

W. Miller

Midland

On Saturday evening, 15th May, a small party of club members with their wives, spent a very enjoyable evening at the North Birmingham British Legion. Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Hordyniec for arranging this social event for us. We also thank the British Legion for the entertainment and the refreshments which were laid on for the party.

Sunday, 6th June was the day of our annual outing and this year the trip was to Chester Zoo. It was a rather cloudy day when we left Birmingham and after a stop for coffee *en route* we arrived at the Zoo in time for lunch. As there were four restaurants to choose from everyone went their different ways to find the one most suitable for them.

It is a very large Zoo with plenty of interesting animals in it so everyone had lots to see and talk about, especially the children in the party.

We left there at 5.30 p.m. and had a very enjoyable coach ride to Stoke-on-Trent where we stopped for liquid and solid refreshment.

Quite a good day's outing, everyone enjoying it and we are now looking forward to the next one in September.

Next Club Meeting, **Sunday, 11th July.**
D. E. CASHMORE,
Secretary.

Epsom Flyer

A party of fifteen St. Dunstaners with their wives and friends left H.Q. in the Old Marylebone Road on Wednesday the 2nd of June for our Annual Derby outing.

Fortunately it was a glorious day as the happy party journeyed Epsomwards to join their contemporaries from Brighton. Intermingling with our friends from Brighton is always such an agreeable interlude on Derby Day.

The green grass of the downs is a perfect foil for the many hues of jockeys' colours as well as the ladies of fashion. Her Majesty, the Queen (I am told) was beautifully dressed in a blue ensemble with a white hat.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the varied packed meal which had been arranged by the H.Q. canteen. Thank you, Miss Strang, and also your staff.

It was with great reluctance that the tired but happy St. Dunstaners climbed back on board the coach for the journey to return to Old Marylebone Road. Our flagging spirits were revived by the welcome cup of tea which awaited us there and so another Derby Day was over.

D. WATKINS

DERBY RESULTS

We sold 2,910 tickets in the Derby Sweepstake and as the price of a ticket this year was 15p the prize was correspondingly more. There were 21 runners in the race, and after the cost of printing the tickets had been deducted the prize money was divided as follows:

1st Prize: **MILL REEF. P. Carman of Ipswich.** Ticket No. 718. £214.77.

2nd Prize: **LINDEN TREE. H. Boorman of Ovingdean.** Ticket No. 2857. £85.91.

3rd Prize: **IRISH BALL. G. Bowen of Ovingdean.** Ticket No. 2774. £42.95.

There were eighteen other runners in the race and the St. Dunstaners holding tickets for these horses received £4.77.

TWENTY YEARS' SERVICE

HAROLD EARNSHAW, of Manchester, was recently presented with a special gold watch for his twenty years' service to his firm, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Ltd.



Glynis in the garden at home.

After training at the International Training College in Denmark Hill, in London, Glynis Andrews, grand-daughter of EDWIN BRADFORD of Sheffield, was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Salvation Army at a ceremony held in the Albert Hall attended by her father, mother, brother, and married sister with her husband and children. Glynis has been attending Salvation Army meetings in Heeley, Sheffield, since she was two years old. She now has a post at the Stratford Goodwill Centre in London.

Family News

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to MR. AND MRS. GODFREY RONALD BELCHER of Birmingham, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 19th February, 1971.

Many congratulations to MR. AND MRS. CLIFFORD HOYLE of Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs., who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 25th May, 1971.

Grandfathers

Congratulations to:

DENNIS BINGHAM of Shoreham-by-Sea, on the birth of his ninth grandchild, Patricia Anne Bingham, who arrived on 18th April, 1971.

WILFRED EVANS of Upton St. Leonards, Gloucestershire, on the arrival of a grand-son, Bryn David Evans, on 15th May, 1971.

FRANK JEANMONOD of Eltham, S.E.9, on the arrival of his first grandchild who was born on 5th May, 1971, in Boston, U.S.A. She is to be called Judy Ann.

BILL PHILLIPS of Plaistow, E.13, on the arrival of his fourth grandchild—a third grand-daughter, born to his son, Bill and his wife, Susan on 14th May, 1971. She is to be called Donna Sharon.

Great Grandfather

Many congratulations to:

ROBERT CHANDLER of Richmond, Yorks., on the arrival of a seventh great grandchild, Nigel Graham, born on 21st March, 1971.

Great Great Grandfather

Very many congratulations to:

THOMAS GIBBINS of Kineton, Warwicks, who recently became a great great grandfather when his great grandson's wife gave birth to a son.

Marriages

Susan, daughter of PETER LOGAN of Worthing, Sussex, married Brian Dawkins on 22nd May, 1971.

Janet, daughter of GEORGE ROAKE of Catford, S.E.6, married Robert Evans on 3rd April, 1971.

Peter, son of MRS. ROSIE CULSHAW, and of our St. Dunstaner, the late Joseph Culshaw of Peacehaven, Sussex, married Vicky Mitchell on 22nd May, 1971.

Edward, son of JOHN MORTON of Saunderton, Bucks., married Rosalind Preston on 6th February, 1971.

JOSEPH NICOL of Hull has been made Chairman of the Northumberland and Durham Society for a year, and in a couple of year's time he will be made President of the same Society.

Family News

John, son of TOM DABORN of Bexleyheath, Kent, is now a fully qualified member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. John is working for a well known firm in London.

Paul, son of WILLIAM CHARLES CLAYDON, of Morecambe, Lancs., has now obtained his Degree at Surrey University and will receive this at a Graduation Ceremony on 17th July, 1971.

Wendy, nine years old daughter of DONALD GROVE of Ilford, Essex, gained a certificate of merit in the London heats of the All England Sunshine Dancing Competition held on 6th May, 1971.

Deaths

We offer our deepest sympathy to:

DONALD SLEE of Penrith, who mourns the death of his Mother early in May, 1971.

In Memory

It is with deep regret we have to record the deaths of the following St. Dunstaners, and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, families and friends.

Charles Albert Blackett. *18th Duke of Cornwall's Regiment.*

Charles Albert Blackett of Plymouth, Devon, died on 16th May, 1971, at the age of 77 years.

He enlisted in the 18th Duke of Cornwall's Regiment and served with them from 1915 to his discharge in 1918 when he came to St. Dunstan's. He had trained as a fitter's mate before the war and on his discharge from the Army a post was obtained for him in the Electrical Engineer's Department at Devonport Dockyard. Mr. Blackett continued in this work until his retirement in 1953, when he and his wife moved to Plymouth. In 1966, Mr. Blackett was taken seriously ill. His health deteriorated gradually and he eventually became bed-ridden. He was nursed devotedly by his wife and family and Mrs. Yard, a friend of the family, who assisted Mrs. Blackett. He leaves a widow, a son and daughter-in-law.

Ernest Herbert Edwicker. *Tank Corps.*

Ernest Herbert Edwicker of Saltdean, Sussex, died in hospital on 1st June, 1971, at the age of 77 years.

He enlisted in the Tank Corps and served with them from 1914 to 1919 but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1947. He trained as a basket maker and continued with this work until recently. Following the death of his first wife in 1950, Mr. Edwicker managed to keep on his home by employing domestic help and also added poultry-keeping to his list of activities. Mr. Edwicker re-married in 1955 and a few years later moved to his present home in Saltdean. Unfortunately, Mr. Edwicker has not enjoyed very good health

in recent years and he was taken suddenly ill at the end of last month. He leaves a widow.

Wallace (Wally) Smith. *Royal Field Artillery.*

Wallace Smith, late of Southport, Lancs, died on 1st June, 1971, in Brighton, Sussex, at the age of 75.

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1927 and was trained in boot repairing, mat making, in addition to learning Braille and typewriting. He spent most of his life in the North of England and earned his living by opening a boot-repairing shop which he continued successfully for many years. His wife died in 1955 and Mr. Smith became a resident at Pearson House until 1965, when he went to reside at the home of Mrs. Randwell in Brighton where he stayed until his last illness. He leaves two daughters, and other relatives and friends.

Edward Geoffrey Rosling. *Royal Air Force.*

Geoffrey Rosling, of West Meon, Hants, died on the 10th May, 1971. He was 69 years of age.

He enlisted in 1923 and was commissioned in the Royal Air Force; in 1924 he was injured in a plane crash in England, losing his left leg and one eye. He ultimately became a St. Dunstaner in 1943. He was then living in Surrey and had farming interests, but he later moved to the Isle of Wight and finally to Hampshire. His wife died in 1965 after a long period of illness, and he continued to lead a quiet country life. He had had some ill-health, but had managed well at home; he had been admitted to hospital only two days previously when he died.

He leaves a married son and family.

In Memory

George Henry Pollard. *Royal Engineers.*

George Henry Pollard of Worthing, Sussex, died at Northgate House on 7th June, 1971, at the age of 69 years.

He enlisted with the Royal Engineers and served with them from 1938 to his discharge in 1943 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1950. Prior to his war service, Mr. Pollard was employed on the railways and after his injuries the railway authorities found him various jobs mostly concerned with telephone work. Mr. Pollard continued to work for British Rail until his retirement in the Summer of 1965, when his wife became seriously ill and died a few months later.

A few years later Mr. Pollard married again and settled in Worthing. Since his retirement his main hobby has been gardening and greenhouse work. Unfortunately, earlier this year Mr. Pollard was taken ill and in March was admitted to Northgate House. He made a progressive recovery but had a sudden relapse. He leaves a widow and step-son and sons and daughters of his first marriage.

Lawrence Prior. *1st Battalion Machine Gun Corps.*

Lawrence Prior of Hastings, Sussex, died on 20th May, 1971, in hospital at the age of 71 years.

He enlisted in the 1st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, in 1918 and served with them until his discharge in 1920. He was employed by British Rail until his sight deteriorated and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1963. Since his retirement Mr. Prior has worked on homecrafts, but in the last years of his retirement his health has unfortunately given cause for concern, and he was admitted to hospital on 13th May. He leaves a widow and three married daughters and grandchildren.

George Rowley. *The King's Shropshire Light Infantry.*

George Rowley of Canterbury died on 5th June, 1971, a few hours after being admitted to hospital. He was 74 years of age.

He enlisted in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1917, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1949. Before enlisting in the Army, Mr. Rowley was a bootmaker and when admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1949 he was given a refresher course in bootmaking and continued with this employment on a part-time basis until he moved to Ramsgate in 1953.

About a year later, Mr. and Mrs. Rowley moved to Canterbury where they have remained ever since. Mr. Rowley gave up boot-repairing work and concentrated on making rugs for our Stores Department. He and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1968, and they both usually attended the annual reunions.

Mr. Rowley leaves a widow and a son and a daughter.

Herbert George Smith. *Royal Navy.*

Herbert George Smith of Lowestoft, Suffolk, died in hospital on 25th May, 1971, at the age of 78 years.

He served in the Royal Navy from 1915 to 1919 and suffered an eye injury during action off the Dardanelles. However, his eyesight did not fail until later in life and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1962. He did not have very good health but enjoyed attending Ipswich Reunions. His wife predeceased him in January 1971 and he leaves a daughter, Mrs. Brown, who looked after both her parents assiduously.

Albert Thomas Toomey. *7th East Kent Regiment.*

Albert Thomas Toomey of Lancing, Sussex, died in the Royal Sussex County Hospital on 2nd June, 1971, at the age of 75 years.

He enlisted in the 7th East Kent Regiment in 1914 and served with them until his discharge in 1917 when he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained in netting and boot-repairing and earned his living by working at these two trades. After some years Mr. Toomey gave up his boot-repairing business and went to work at St. Dunstan's Stores Department, Raglan Street, until he secured employment in munition work in 1941.

In the Summer of 1950 Mr. Toomey opened a refreshment kiosk in local playing fields in North West London and carried on this business until the early part of 1957. He was assisted in this work by the lady whom he subsequently married in 1960.

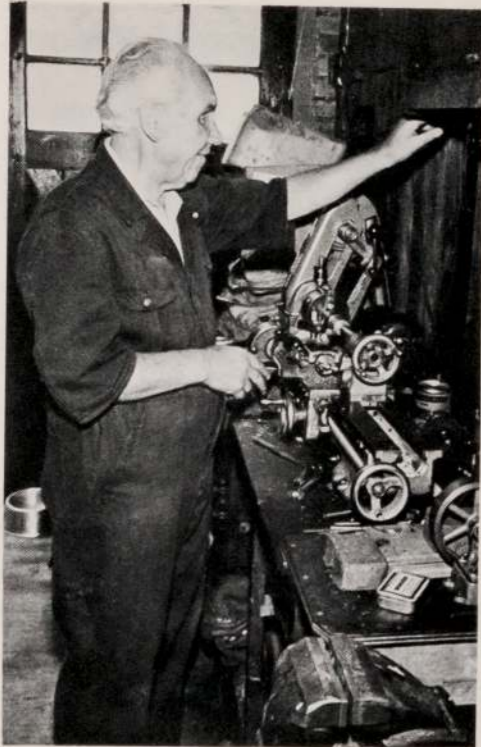
After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Toomey moved to Basingstoke but found the country too quiet and in 1961 returned to live in London. A few years later they moved to Lancing where they enjoyed a happy retirement. Sometime last year Mr. Toomey's health was seen to be less robust and he was admitted to hospital towards the end of May where he died a few days later. He leaves a widow. Mr. Toomey was a frequent visitor to Ovingdean and will be missed by his many St. Dunstaner friends.

Sidney Eric Varley. *Royal Army Medical Corps.*

Sidney Eric Varley of Tottenham, London, N.15, died on 27th May, 1971, in hospital at the age of 76 years.

He enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in January 1917 and was discharged at the end of that year. He came to St. Dunstan's at the beginning of 1918 and trained in netting, Braille, typewriting and telephony. For the first few years he worked as a basket maker but in 1929 he took up employment as a telephonist and carried on in this employment until his retirement in 1957 when his employers suitably commemorated his long years of service.

Since his retirement Mr. Varley has not always enjoyed the best of health, but has had many hobbies which he has shared happily with his wife. He was taken ill in April this year and admitted to hospital but unfortunately did not recover from his last illness. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lucy Varley, a brother, Mr. B. E. Varley, who is also a St. Dunstaner, and a nephew, Mr. Bert Cattermole, who is on St. Dunstan's Headquarter's staff, and other members of his family.



Bill at his lathe, prepares to make a drum for the miniature towing windlass on the tug.

Continued from page 2

of the tug and the other is the details, say the depth of the bulwark or the height of the mast".

Bill had the assistance of a friend, Dick Thomson, in coping with the drawings: "He had a look at them and took them home to study. He brought me back the outline of the tug in sections of wood—just as if they were the ribs of the ship. They were templates in plywood all different as it came from the bows and bulged out amidships and tapered back to the stern. That was on the first one—the one that got broke, you see".

Bill began making his tug 17 years ago. "The one that got broke"—That is a phrase that covers up a heart-break. The tug was well advanced towards completion, its hull carved to those templates out of a solid block made up of 2½" by 2" pieces of timber glued together and much of its upper works complete, when a ladder, lashed to the beams of the workshop, fell on to the model, wrecking it completely.

"I'd been working on it seven or eight

years. Of course I had to start all over again—after thinking about it a bit". In fact it was nearly a year before Bill could bring himself to return to the project and in the meantime he turned out some rather fine brass candlesticks.

When he did return to the tug boat project he decided on a new approach both in design and construction. He gave up the idea of carving the hull and instead chose to build the ship as the full-scale builders would, laying a keel 4' 6" long and making ½" thick bulkheads and ribs on to which the outer hull plates would be attached—although Bill's plates are of 1½ mm. marine ply rather than steel. It is a much more difficult method of building a model ship but to Bill it is a challenge.

With the old tug destroyed Bill looked again at its design, "I thought, well, I'll make one of my own style now. The old one was supposed to be a model of the old Dutch tug, the *Schwarz-Zee*. There were certain things on that: I didn't like the well-deck forward. It sort of suggested that you shipped a sea aboard and it went right aft—nothing to stop it you see. I thought that if I put a whaleback forward up to the wheel-house and cabin it would throw the seas off".

Wheel-house re-designed

The wheel-house itself was re-designed at the suggestion of St. Dunstan's joinery expert, Mr. Douglas Patterson, "He had a look and he said, 'You know, Bill, this is old-fashioned'. He told me how the wheel-house is all covered in and so I got on with that. If anybody describes anything to me I have a photographic memory. I see it. I built the wheel-house out of just what he said. Somebody else told me how the mast were on top of the wheel-house now and that they have tripod masts and somebody told me they have derricks on them now for lifting gear and I thought, well, if that's so, instead of putting a single mast I'm going to put a bipod aft with a derrick on it. It's all my design, you see".

All but the propeller, anchor, capstan and funnel, Bill has made himself, including small metal parts like ventilators, on his lathe. "The boat will be powered by an electric motor which will work through a gear-box. I shall make the gear-box, but it won't be a changeable gear, it will be a reduction gear through a thrust

—a block with a disc in it that is running in oil, rather like a clutch in a car—to take the pull on the propeller". That thrust will be made from Bill's memory from his days working as an engineer on tugs 66 years ago!

A good deal of Bill Chamberlain's life is going into his tug. "Looking back over my life things have led up to this, first my saw-mill days, then the tugs, then a bit of engineering, not a lot—a bit, then the war and St. Dunstan's. Then straight through poultry farming back to my joinery and then engineering at Miles Aircraft and now it has come back to my modelling. It looks as though it has been planned almost".

On the Tugs

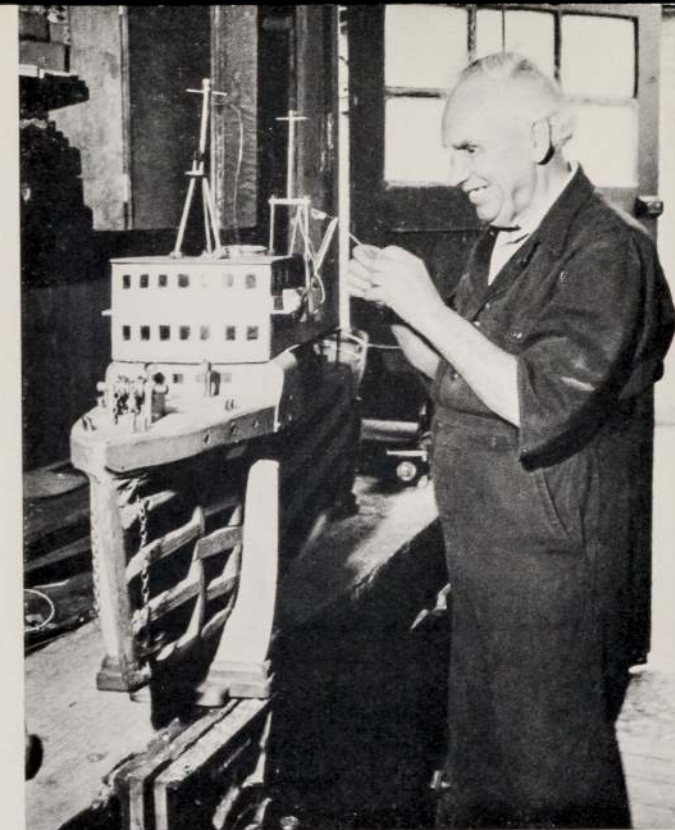
Bill was born in Hull. "My first introduction to woodwork was when I first left school at 14, I went to work in a saw-mill. After three years in the sawmill I left and went on the tugs. The first one I worked on was a river tug, the *Cawood* and then I went from there to a seagoing tug, called the *Tyke*".

When the *Tyke* was sold to the Admiralty in 1912, Bill was one of the crew which sailed her to Chatham. After that he served on several Hull tugs until, at the age of 21, he enlisted in the East Yorkshire Regiment. In January 1915 he was in the Ypres salient and it was there in 1916 that he was wounded by a sniper's bullet in very similar fashion to Lord Fraser and at round about the same time. In fact they met at Regent's Park.

After the initial training at St. Dunstan's, Bill opted for poultry farming, "I fathomed it out this way, I had always worked in the open air, on the tugs, in the army and I did not think it would do to be shut up in an office or a workshop so I went for poultry farming in the fresh air".

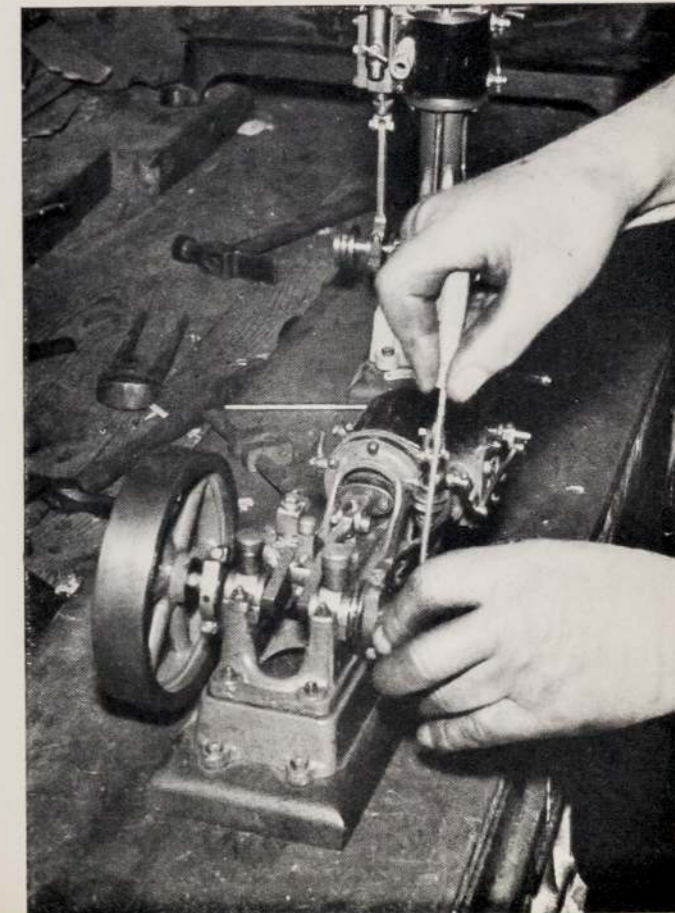
In 1926, however, Bill was back to St. Dunstan's for retraining as a joiner. His mother's health made it impossible for her to continue to help on the poultry farm, "You see, you have to have a sighted person to do your incubators in the breeding season and it was too much for her. St. Dunstan's knew I was pretty handy with jobs and tools—I had built the poultry sheds and coops and that kind of thing. I have a feeling for wood".

He continued to work as a joiner right through to the second world war but in



Bill looks pleased with the working of the derrick.

A craftsman's hands.





Bill Chamberlain using a template to drill port-holes.

1935 at West House, as it was then known, he met and married Jessie, a Yorkshire woman whose brother was a St. Dunstaner, the late Benny Hamilton. Jessie played an important part in one of the big decisions of Bill's life when, in 1941, St. Dunstan's asked him to be one of the first St. Dunstaners to take a job in a factory.

Scared Stiff

"I said No. I was scared stiff. I think I was more afraid of that than I ever was in the trenches. Yet I don't know what I was afraid of. I tried all the excuses I could use but Jessie and St. Dunstan's knew all the answers. After being bombed in the Hull blitz, we deposited our home in different parts of Derbyshire and got the train for London. Jessie said to me on the train, I believe she knew I was afraid, she says, 'You can't turn back now!' The train had started. I said, 'I don't want to'. That fear had left me just like that".

Bill went to work for Miles Aircraft in Woodley near Reading as an inspector. He was given a succession of different jobs to do: "It dawned on me—Why am I here? War effort, yes but wars come to an

end. Why have St. Dunstan's asked me to come? Then I thought of the new men who would be blinded and I thought, well, St. Dunstan's want to put the newly blinded men in industry and I am here just as an experiment. I realised, 'Now I've got to do this job right, I can't slip up anywhere.'"

The attitudes of the sighted workers towards their new blind colleague varied, "according to their intelligence", Bill commented, "Fortunately I got in with a decent crowd of chaps. They were willing to help. I showed them I was willing to learn and I could do it if I learned. I found I started to put the specifications on the drawings into Braille and I had upwards of thirty drawings in Braille".

A Life's Work

Bill worked on for Miles Aircraft and, afterwards, when the company became Biro Pens until illness brought about his retirement in 1950. His guide dog, the help he gives Jessie in the home and reading Braille books were not enough to keep him busy and he turned to model engineering in his well-equipped garden workshop. And so to the tug which has become something of a life's work. When it is finished, Bill hopes before the end of 1971, it will have cost him something in the region of £40 and many hours of painstaking work—"trial and error" as Bill calls it. The vessel will be radio controlled. Will Bill's reward be in finishing the boat, launching it or controlling it by radio?

"A little bit of it all, the finish of it—satisfaction in a job done; launching it—something accomplished and then steering it, trying to steer it by radio control—the ultimate achievement". Bill plans to equip the tug with a siren also under radio control so that he will be able to hear where it is on the pond near Reading he has marked down for the launching. He expects to find his pleasure in sailing the boat through sound, "There'll be the noise of the boat going away and then bringing it back. Sound means a lot to me".

Bill is not going to paint his ship himself. He hopes to arrange that through St. Dunstan's, "What I want them to do is paint it in St. Dunstan's colours with the badge on the funnel and call it—*St. Dunstan*".