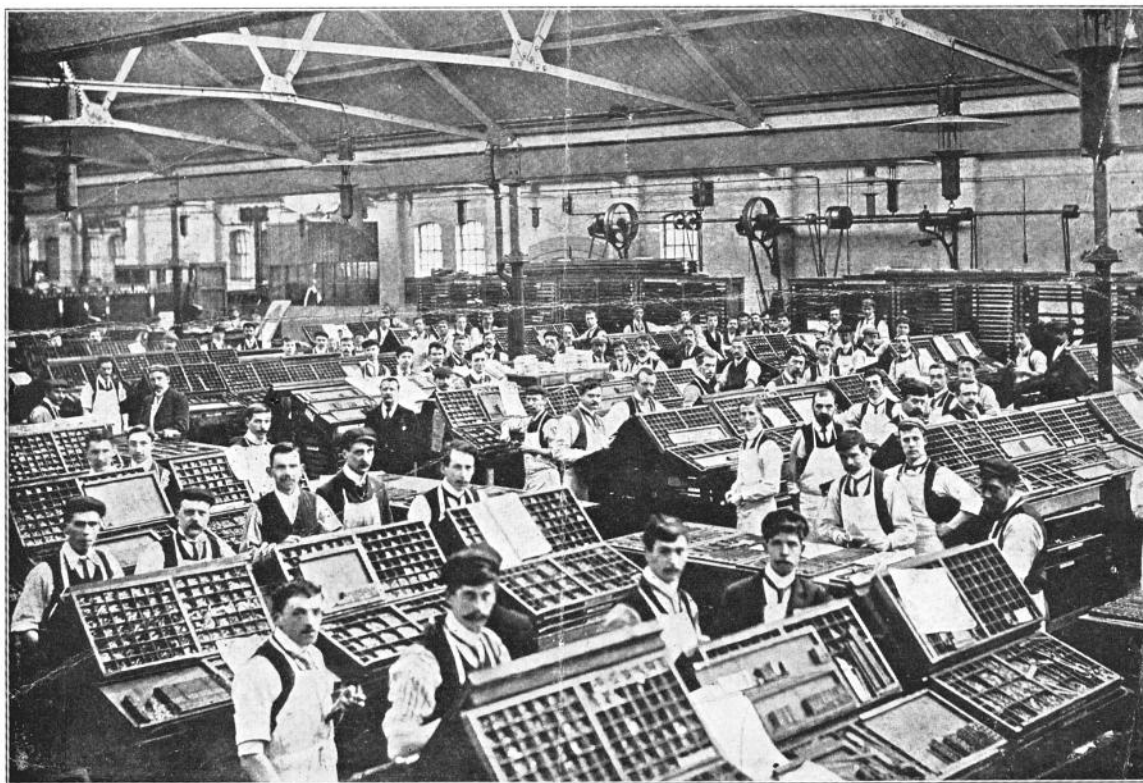
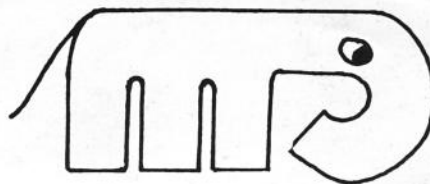


TRUNK-CALL

No. 8

Cox & Wyman Group News



Turning the Clock back at Reading

At the turn of the century Wyman & Sons Ltd was a rapidly expanding company with contracts for a wide range of work which included newspapers and magazines, printing for the Great Western Railway Company, reports of the Parliamentary Debates (now known as Hansard), printing for the Treasury and other Government bodies, as well as bookprinting and binding and commercial printing. This pressure of work soon showed that the London printing works would not be big enough to accommodate the increase in business and so a decision was made to open another factory in the country.

Due to its good communications with London and the fact that the company had the contract with GWR, Reading was chosen and according to a trade article written in March 1903, a site was purchased in March 1901. Building began the following month and was completed in November the same year. However, it took some four months to move the machines, type and other accessories estimated at the time to weigh some 3,000 tons. It appears that the machinery was transported by rail but the vast number of printing formes, lithographic stones and type cases were loaded on to barges for a three-day journey up the River Thames.

By 1903 the factory was fully established with a large composing room (part of which is shown in the accompanying photograph), a foundry producing flat and curved electros and metal stereotypes, a letterpress machine-room with 16 perfectors, a number of Wharfedale-type single-siders and two colour machines and two web rotaries for illustrated magazine work, a lithographic department complete with artists' department, proving presses and printing presses all working with stones, and a bindery capable of handling all types of work from magazines and brochures to bound books.

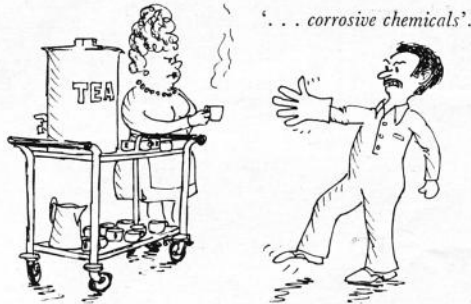
The lithographic department produced linoleum pattern designs, maps for the Ordnance Survey Department which required up to 20 workings and a whole range of show-cards, posters and circulars. The bindery, which employed a large number of girls for folding, collating and stitching operations also had responsibility for producing cut-out paper patterns for dressmaking which were then inserted in the magazines. The patterns were cut on bandsaws 1,000 at a time following a tracing on the top sheet. These were then individually folded and inserted in the magazines, output being about half a million each week.

For those people whose memories go back to prenationalization days it may be of interest to remember that the site in Addison Road was chosen so that electricity could be obtained from the Reading Electrical Supply Co. and so that the office could be connected to the National Telephone Company's Reading system. Communications with the London Head Office (directly to the desk of the Managing Director) was by a separate private wire.

Since that time, the factory has been enlarged and the output has changed as technology has changed, but there are still links with those early days, one being the work still produced for British Rail.

Safety Corner

HANDLING CHEMICALS



Many chemicals are used in printing processes and care must be taken when storing and handling them. Some are corrosive or flammable or give off poisonous fumes.

Make sure that all containers are clearly marked and that the labels are firmly attached.

Handle all chemicals with care. If necessary, wear goggles and other protective clothing.

When using flammable liquids, don't smoke or use naked lights.

Replace any leaking containers.

Chemicals in bulk should be kept in a special storage area. As little as possible should be kept at your place of work.

Store different chemicals separately to avoid accidental mixing which can be very dangerous.

Find out what to do in cases of spillage or splashing.

Never enter enclosed spaces or tanks if you have reason to believe that poisonous fumes may be present.

Always check how corrosive, flammable or other dangerous liquids should be disposed of. Never pour them down the drains.

Absent Friends

Good wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr Bob Kent (of our Truro factory), who is now recovering from a serious illness.

Lucky Streak

Tom Forristal, winner of the Burton's Mix & Match Competition, has certainly had plenty to celebrate recently. As you may have seen on ITV's 'Sale of the Century' on 17 and 23 August, Mrs Mary Forristal (wife of Tom) competed, and was twice successful. The programmes were in fact recorded on successive nights at the Anglia Television studios in Norwich.

Mary's tactics for the first programme were to buy as much as possible along the way and hope for the best. As it happened Mary bought goods to the value of £580 and still found herself the winner with £75. With eyes only for the major prize – a car for £96 – Mary decided to return and attempt to win once more.

Having spent a sleepless night, Mary prepared to go 'into battle' against two new contestants. These proved much more formidable opposition than the previous pair.

After a breath-taking contest (particularly for Tom and his two daughters Janet and Maria who were in the audience), Mary emerged triumphant with sufficient money to buy the car.

Among the other prizes were a dishwasher, two portable televisions, three bicycles, luggage, cutlery and record tokens.

P.S. Tom now has for sale an N.E.C. 14-inch Colour Portable TV. Normal Retail Price £192. All offers considered over £120.

Ed.

Burton's Mix & Match Competition

The correct answers to the Competition in Issue No. 7 were as follows:

- (1) Dior. (2) Oxford bags. (3) Made-to-measure.
- (4) Mr Fish. (5) Kaftans. (6) Co-respondent shoes.
- (7) The bob. (8) Plus-fours.

The winner was Mr Tom Forristal, Litho Origination Administrator at Fakenham. Tom's winning sentence was:

'I think Burton's new Mix & Match made-to-measure suits are great because you double your change with Mix & Match range.'

We hope to publish a picture of Tom in his new apparel in a later issue.

Ed.

Fish & Quips

The fishing trip to the Needles proved successful for only two of our members – the rest did not catch anything. The Chairman started the ball rolling, boating a Thornback within two minutes of anchoring, but could only muster a Bream and Pout for the rest of the day.

The real hero of the day was John Lovegrove, a cross between a Submarine Captain and a Yorkshire Pudding. John fished consistently throughout the day, his catch culminating in the form of a writhing, squirming Conger Eel of 30 lb., which doubled the club record. Well done, John! He also broke the Red Gurnard record that day and boated Skate to 9 lb., Dogfish and Black Bream.

Ray Lloyd

P.S. Club Secretary Ray Lloyd boated a large rock, which sets a new club record, weighing in at nearly 3 lb.

Personal Column

Fakenham Branch

Engagements

Mr Desmond Hurn (Reader) to Miss Lyn Sizeland (Bindery) on Tuesday, 9 July.

Mr Stuart Woodhouse (Apprentice Compositor) to Miss Catherine Oglesby on Saturday, 10 August.

Marriages

Mr Harry Groom (Accounts Department) to Miss Brenda Dack (Bindery) on Saturday, 27 July, at Baron's Hall, Fakenham.

Mr Graham Lumsden (Reader) to Miss Diana Flowerdew on Saturday, 3 August, at Baron's Hall, Fakenham.

Mr Michael Brooks (Folders) to Miss Gladys Tuddenham (Bindery) on Saturday, 3 August, at St Mary & All Saints Church, Sculthorpe.

Retirements

Mr Ron Cracknell (Reader) on 26 July. Mr Cracknell joined Cox & Wyman in May 1963. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Reading Branch

Engagements

Mr Bob Lewington (Machine Room) to Miss J. Harris on Saturday, 3 August.

Farewell

Mr Malcolm Walder, Group Personnel Manager, left the employ of Cox & Wyman on 16 August to further his experience by taking an appointment in the Social Sciences Department within the public sector.

FAKENHAM SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

At a dance held at the Club House on Saturday, 17 August, the draw took place for the 200 Club and 150 Club.

£700 (200 Club) winner was D. Hurn (Readers) and £200 (150 Club) winner was V. Nelson (Production).

What's On At Your Club House

Saturday, 21 September

'The Rostyles'

This dance also includes the Miss Cox & Wyman 1974-75 Contest.

The winner of this competition goes through to the East Anglia Printing Queen Competition to be held at The Tower Ballroom, Gt Yarmouth on Friday, 25 October.

Saturday, 5 October

Dance and Cabaret with 'The Jackie Lynn Showband' and Carl Adams

Looking Back

CASTING A LONG SHADOW

My favourite pastimes during the summer months were swimming, rowing and cycling, and it was a period known as 'week-ending'.

Together with a friend of mine we would set out to explore the upper reaches of the Thames, Bray, Clevedon Woods, Maidenhead, but finally settled on a beautifully tranquil spot at Henley. We would obtain accommodation at a commercial hotel in Reading, not far from the station. It would cost us about ten shillings for a day's board.

Our favourite port of call was the 'Boar's Head', and Reading offered us other attractions to pass an evening away.

On the Saturday morning we would set out on our cycles, ride over Shiplake Hill and into Henley. A boat or a skiff was easily obtainable, and so we spent our summer week-ends. It was absolutely blissful.

I must admit quite honestly that at that time I had never even heard nor knew of the existence of Cardiff or Cremyll Roads.

Nonpareil

Laugh with Gordon . . .



The blind leading the blind for the blind?

Fakenham on the Box

Fakenham factory appeared in the BBC 1 programme 'Made in Britain' on 22 July and repeated 28 July. The programme was about Sherlock Holmes and there were a number of 'shots' of the operations in the factory together with a short statement giving details of output, etc.

It is interesting to note that the whole thing was very hurriedly arranged and the BBC came and completed the filming within a few days of the first approach being made. They spent the whole day at the factory and the film they took would have run for approximately half an hour - it was subsequently edited to the 2 or 3 minutes which appeared on the screen out of the total programme of 15 minutes. Because at the time we were not scheduled to produce any of the Sherlock Holmes books until the middle of September, everything had to be simulated and this was even more difficult as the Sherlock Holmes books all have coloured tops.

Our thanks are due to the various departmental managers and staff who exercised their ingenuity in this connection and we were able to effect the simulation satisfactorily. Bound books were brought back from the customers' warehouse in order that we were able to show finished books being jacketed.

The operators of the various machines deserve full credit for the manner in which they helped the film crew; as, for example, it is no easy matter sewing a book whilst being filmed, with only a few sections at one's disposal, plus the importance of making no errors.

However, all went well and the Publisher has expressed his satisfaction and congratulations.

Denis Strange

Scarlet Coats in Fakenham

Three Chelsea Pensioners - Charles Mitchell, Ben Bloye and George Batty, resplendent in ceremonial scarlet and medals - visited the Fakenham factory on Wednesday, 21 August, to see *A Village in Chelsea*, the forthcoming book about the Royal Hospital, in production.

Members of the press, ITV and BBC television attended the event and the day proved to be highly successful.

The Pensioners, accompanied by the author, Colonel David Ascoli and various members of the Publisher's staff, had arrived in Fakenham the previous evening and spent an enjoyable few hours at the Social Club.

Ed.



Charity Work

As reported in the last issue of *Trunk-Call*, the Fakenham Staff held a Fête and Sponsored Walk at Fakenham Racecourse on Saturday, 13 July, in an attempt to raise £500 to buy a Guide Dog for the Blind.

The procession, as planned, commenced at 1.30 p.m. and gradually wound its way through rain-sodden Fakenham to arrive at the Racecourse just before the opening at 2.30. A lot of hard work and imagination had obviously gone into the floats and a really professional effect was achieved.

Due to the torrential rain the Fête had to be quickly transferred from the actual Racecourse to the restaurant building; sadly this meant that the majority of the outdoor events could not take place.

The Fête was opened by Mr J. P. Seddon, who was accompanied by Mrs Seddon, and Mr Ken Gooch, who brought with him his guide dog Tanya. Mr and Mrs Ron Humphrey very kindly assisted Mrs Jude in judging the children's fancy dress. Mr Humphrey later took part in the Knobbly Knees Competition and was thought by many to have more than a fighting chance; however, Fakenham were able to produce a slightly knobblier pair and the winner was in fact Mr Bob Tustin of the Film Make-up Department.

Despite the continuous rain, the 32 walkers faced the elements with a grim determination that can be looked back upon with a deep sense of pride. They fought on to the bitter end, covering the 10 miles over saturated, uphill and downhill ankle-deep grass. The many styles of dress and umbrellas added a touch of colour to a gloomy afternoon, with several walkers proudly wearing their C & W T-shirts. On behalf of the walkers we would like to thank all those who shouted words of encouragement as they passed the restaurant building at the end of each lap. (At least we think they were words of encouragement!)

We are very pleased to report that this effort was successful despite the handicaps we had to contend with, and our thanks and praise go to all those who took part, especially John Swift, Howard Joynt, Roy Dodman, Danny Boulter and Kenny Dawson.

The grand total raised was in excess of £600. An official presentation of the cheque for £500 will be made to Mr Ken Gooch at the Social Club on Friday evening, 6 September. The surplus cash will be divided between various local charities.

Gloria Webster and Liz Wright



Well Done!

Congratulations to two members of the office staff at Fakenham who have recently been successful in BPIF Examinations. Philip Starks (Purchasing and Costing Office Manager) has passed the Advanced Costing Examination and Carl Zdziebczok (Trainee Estimator) the General Technical Knowledge Examination.

LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Roses. 4 Relish. 7 Inundate. 8 Tram. 9 Imp. 10 Battlement. 13 Outgo. 16 Wardship. 19 Door. 20 Swoon. 21 AA. 23 Erotic. 25 Atc. 26 Apple tart. 27 Siesta. 28 Noise. 31 Reservoir.

DOWN: 1 Rainbow. 2 Shutters. 3 Saddlesore. 4 Reeve. 5 Latitude. 6 Scapegoat. 11 Maintains. 12 No. 14 To. 15 Oracle. 17 Dwells. 18 Hoots. 22 Taunt. 24 Cts. 25 Ada. 29 ER. 30 Si.