



## AN EXPORTS BOUQUET FROM THE GOVERNMENT

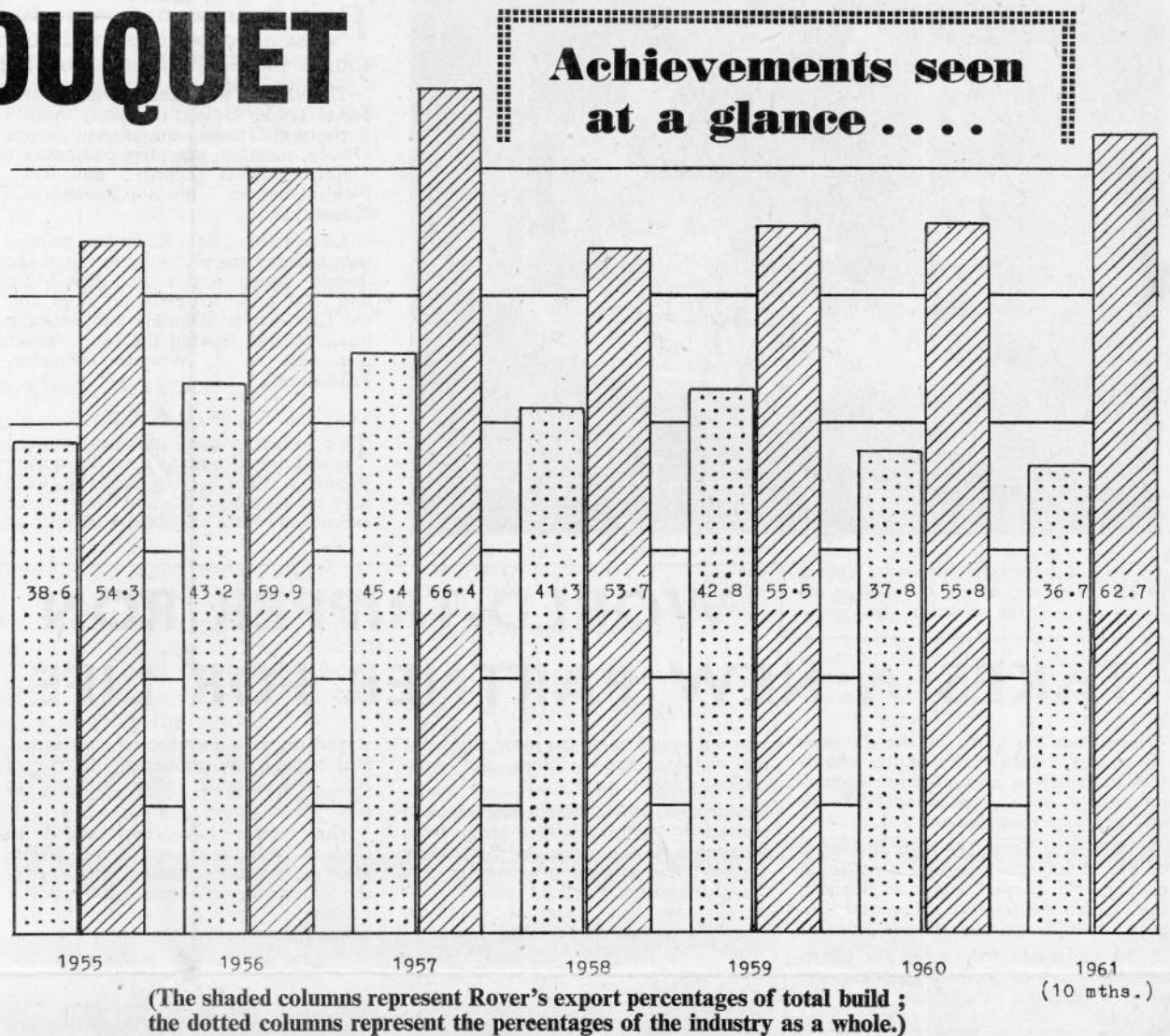
The Government's congratulations to the Rover Company on its export performance have been conveyed by Sir Keith Joseph, M.P., Minister of State, Board of Trade, to Mr. L. G. T. Farmer, Executive Vice-Chairman.

In a letter to Mr. Farmer, Sir Keith said that he was most impressed by all he had seen during his visit to Solihull on February 8. He said he found the "smooth progress of such complex manufacture really admirable."

Sir Keith continued: "The precision of the production line and the high proportion of your sales abroad reflect the greatest credit on you all — whether involved in management, design, research and development, production or sales — and I do congratulate you on behalf of the Government on your export performance."

The adjoining chart shows how in percentages the Company's export of cars and commercial vehicles compares with the total exports of the United Kingdom vehicle industry.

It will be seen that the Rover export percentage has always been appreciably higher than the average for the industry as a whole. For the first ten months of 1961 it was more than 60 per cent.



### Deputy Production Director appointed

Mr. W. Winters, formerly Director of the Automotive Division of B.S.A., will join the Rover Company on Monday as Deputy Production Director. He will occupy the office immediately adjacent to that of Mr. A. J. Worster, Production Director.

### Assembly plants for Persia and Nigeria

A plant authorised some time ago for the assembly of Land-Rovers in Iran has now been completed. It has already started operating on a small scale and is expected to be opened officially in the near future.

The plant is being administered by the distributor for Iran, Messrs. Sherkat Sahami Sanaati Towlidi Morratlab, with technical and some financial assistance from the Rover Company.

Capacity of the plant is about 1,000 Land-Rovers a year.

Assembly is also to commence in Lagos, Nigeria. This decision was taken by the Board and its been agreed to start shipments of K.D. parts in April.

### Subsidiary in Germany

Formation of a German subsidiary company was announced on February 16.

The new company would be known as Deutsche Rover GmbH, said the announcement issued from Solihull. Preliminary agreements had been completed concerning its formation for the purpose of the promotion and sale of Rover products in Germany.

Full facilities for sales and service, including a showroom, spares depot and a service school, will be available at the Frankfurt headquarters.

The new company is expected to commence operations in the near future.

"This new venture will ensure that the Rover Company will be represented fully in the increasing European motoring markets," the announcement concluded.

A selection of Rover vehicles has already left Britain for displaying in the new company's Frankfurt showroom, and Land-Rovers suitable for the building industry were shown at an important exhibition of builders' contractors machinery in Munich on March 17.

### Land-Rovers attract Chilean inspection

Two Chilean Army officers who are on a world tour inspecting various makes of vehicles suitable for adaptation to military use, spent a week in England this month as guests of the Rover Company.

The officers, Colonel F. Aracena and Major H. Opitz, arrived with their wives from Milan on March 10 and a reception party at London Airport included Rover representatives.

Demonstrations by a short wheelbase petrol and long wheelbase diesel and forward control Land-Rovers were given for the visitors' benefit at the Fighting Vehicle Research and Development Establishment at Chobham and also at Bagshot.

The Chileans then saw for themselves the versatility of the Land-Rover in its adaptation to military requirements when they visited the 7th Parachute Regiment, R.H.A. — a unit entirely equipped with Land-Rovers — at Oudenarde Barracks, Aldershot. On display were a short wheelbase FFR 24-volt vehicle, a long wheelbase gun tower with howitzer, Land-Rover two and four stretcher ambulances, a Pilcher civilian two-stretcher ambulance, and a Land-Rover mounting a recoilless gun. The gun tower was then driven to



Colonel F. Aracena (right) and Major H. Opitz (centre) display keen interest in proceedings during a maintenance demonstration at the Service School.

a tank testing ground and put through its paces.

Solihull was the Chileans' next destination and two days were spent in seeing maintenance, repair and other demonstrations before the South American visitors left by air for Paris en route for home on conclusion of their fact-finding tour.

### Gas turbine sales top 500 mark

More than 500 Rover gas turbine commercial and specialist types of units have been sold since sales began in August 1954. The 500th unit, an instructional set seen in the adjoining picture while awaiting packing, was one of two ordered for the United States

Military Academy at West Point. The second unit constituted the 501st order to Rover.

Many of the world's leading universities and technical colleges have bought instructional units during the last eight years and the Gas Turbine Dept. is now receiving orders as a result of approaches made 12 to 18 months ago.

A breakdown of sales figures shows that 41 per cent of sales of gas turbine commercial equipment has been effected at home and 59 per cent exported.

Of the 150 instructional sets sold, 110 have been exported — 36 per cent to the United States and Canada, 17 per cent to Commonwealth countries, excluding Canada, and 20 per cent to international countries. The remaining 27 per cent has been sold in the United Kingdom.

The average yearly increase in sales of commercial equipment from 1958 to 1961 was 28 per cent.

Specialist gas turbine units sold total 252; British buyers took 228 of these and 24 units went overseas.





# Japanese trade unionists at Solihull

... then four Persian journalists and thirty-three home dealers see the works

Four Japanese trade unionists had an opportunity to compare working conditions in Britain with those in Japan, when they toured the Solihull works on February 19.

The visitors were Teruo Ogawa, assistant general secretary, General Council of Japan Trades Unions (Sohyo); Akira Ono, chairman, general council of Fukuska Prejectural Trades unions and chairman Fukuska branch of Sohyo; Kazuo Owada, member, executive committee and head of research section, Japan Trades Union Congress (Zenro); and Akira Watanabe, vice-chairman, Federation of Neutral Trades Unions (Churitsuroren) and chairman, National Federation of Gasworkers.

After meeting Mr. R. Hillen, personnel manager, the party drove round the 'jungle' course and toured the 3-litre and '100' and '80' assembly lines and the Land-Rover assembly and finishing lines. Before leaving the four visitors met Mr. A. J. Worster (Director, Production).

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Two other parties of visitors went round the Company's works during February. Four Persian journalists were here on February 22 and thirty-three executives from selected dealers of

David Rosenfield Limited, came on February 28.

The Persians were Mohamed Ali Afsar, head of the Arabic section of Radio Iran; Hushang Mostaufi, script and programme writer for Radio Iran; Ali Asghar Amirani, magazine owner and editor; and Esmail Purvali, owner and editor of the Teheran daily newspaper, "Bamshad".

The dealers' executives met Mr. G. Lloyd Dixon (Sales Director), Mr. B. H. Liggins, Home Sales Manager, and other sales executives before going to Tyseley to tour the engine factory.

Upon its return to Solihull the party split into three groups to drive round the 'jungle' course, tour the Land-Rover and 3-litre assembly lines and Land-Rover finishing line, and visit the car trim shop and finishing line and service school.

## Africa — land of opportunity

A recent quality trip to Africa left Mr. R. Phillips, the Company's Chief Inspector, with the vital impression that Rover four-wheel drive vehicles must be consistently better designed and better made than those produced by competitors.

His visit was on behalf of the Quality Control Dept. to see standards of quality of Rover vehicles and how they could possibly be improved for use in Africa.

He told a meeting of Solihull Supervisors' Discussion Group that he was impressed by the large number of Land-Rovers in use in Africa, many of them in varying disguises. Local users often made their own vehicle bodies for specialised uses.

Mr. Phillips said that while about 1,000 Land-Rovers a year went to Africa, there was still a very big market potential in the continent and the quality factor was all-important in this respect.

As well as giving his observations on the political climate which will have a direct bearing on export sales in the future, Mr. Phillips, in lighter vein, described his air trip and showed slides of Nairobi National Park.



The four Japanese trade union visitors to the Lode Lane works, pictured on the Land-Rover assembly line.

## WORLD-TRIPPER RON TAKES A NEW PARTNER FOR LIFE

Remember the story in the January issue of ROVER NEWS of the round-the-world trip in a Land-Rover accomplished by bush pilot Ronald Martin and geologist Ken Doan?

For Ron, at least, the high adventure of the 35,000-mile trip had a romantic ending. He married Margaret Bennett, the English girl to whom Ron and Ken gave a "lift" from Australia to England!

The globe-trotters' reason for allowing Margaret to travel with them was strictly selfish; they felt that the

journey would be all the more enjoyable for well-laundered clothes and well-cooked meals!

Margaret, from Hertfordshire, had arrived in Australia with a group from Singapore via Indonesia and Portuguese Timor. The original plan was to give her and another English traveller a lift only across the Australian continent from Darwin to Perth. But Margaret

stayed on as a member of the team—and became the permanent partner of Ron five months after arriving in England.

The couple have now sailed to Canada with their Land-Rover which, after the Atlantic crossing, was to take the honeymooners across 3,000 miles of Canada to their new home in The Pas, Manitoba.

## 'Karters' issue a challenge

Sixteen karts will comprise the Rover team competing in Sunday's British Kart Club meeting at Shennington Aerodrome Kart Circuit where the 1961 world championship was decided. The site is off the A422 Banbury/Stratford on Avon road.

Upwards of 100 karts are expected to be competing and Rover club members, taking part in their first race of the season, have challenged the Shennington Novices to a special contest as well as taking part in general events.

Competitors and visitors should use approach roads signposted by the R.A.C., avoiding Shennington village. Rover visitors will gain access to the circuit for 2/6—half the usual price.

## Wanted: YOUR opinions

The Editor will be pleased to consider for publication letters from readers concerning any subject of importance to the Company and its employees.

Letters should be short and to the point. Readers may use a nom de plume for publication purposes, but all letters submitted should bear the names, check numbers and departments of senders as proof of good faith. Preference will be given to constructive letters from readers who do not object to their names being published.

Anonymous letters will not be published under any circumstances. All contributors will receive a formal acknowledgment of receipt of letters.



## Ambulance unit gift to Mali

A Land-Rover ambulance unit consisting of an ambulance and a mobile dispensary has been presented as a gift to the Mali Government by The United Africa Co. Ltd.

The picture above, taken at the handing-over ceremony at Bamako, shows (left to right) M. Wallerston, a U.A.C. director, with M. Kone, Minister of Justice, who received the unit from M. Wallerston on behalf of President Keita, and M. Haidara, President of the Mali National Assembly.

## Apprenticeships Completed

During February the following completed their apprenticeships: Mike Grimes (Experimental Engine Test), Roger Harris (Jig and Tool D.O. Tyseley) and John McGough (Gas Turbine Production Shop).

Trevor Holland, commercial apprentice, recently received his Ordinary National Certificate in Business Studies from the president of the Chamber of Commerce.

£95,000 pools winner picks yet another winning 'line'

A house on the South Coast and a new car—that's what Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boggust, of Heston, Middlesex, decided they would buy when they won £95,397 for 1d. on the football pools.

To help them in their house-hunting the couple bought a Rover 3-litre saloon car from the J. Davy showroom in Kensington High Street. Mr. Boggust received the car keys from Mr. John Davy, chairman and managing director of the J. Davy Group; Mrs. Kathleen Boggust, who filled in the winning line, was presented with a bouquet of spring flowers.

And Mr. Boggust's old car? He's given it away.



Mr. John Davy, left, presenting Mr. and Mrs. H. Boggust with the keys for their new 3-litre Rover car.

## 14 Wagons for U.N. use in Bolivia

Thirty-eight K.D. long Land-Rovers have been ordered by the Australian Army for conversion into fire-fighting tenders.

The South African police authorities have placed a third order for long

## FROM THE EXPORTS ORDER BOOK

petrol Land-Rovers. Seventy-two vehicles will be shipped before the beginning of June.

Fourteen short wheelbase station wagons are being shipped for United Nations use in Bolivia. U.N. personnel will use them for essential observation prior to making recommendations.

Since mid-1961 when import restrictions were lifted 375 Land-Rovers have been ordered for Iceland—most of them since November when the vehicle began its influx into the island. The short-wheelbase Regular diesel predominates among orders.

More vehicles have been ordered by the French border police (C.R.S.) and an increased demand is expected to supplement Land-Rovers being withdrawn from Algeria into metropolitan France.

The Dutch Army has received for trials the first short wheelbase Land-Rover built to Netherlands military requirements and an additional order has been placed for Land-Rovers which will be tested for Swiss Army use.

Italian sales of Land-Rovers and cars continue to improve and inquiries being followed include one originating from Bulgaria where sales are usually linked with barter.

## Destination Calais

Seagrave Road social club's annual outing this year will venture into foreign parts. Calais has been named as the destination and the date of the trip will be Saturday, September 8.



**FOCUS**  
on a  
factory

# THE EMPHASIS IS ON SERVICE AT SEAGRAVE RD.

There's more to Seagrave Road than meets the eye. That's the impression a visitor brings away after a tour of the Company's London depot, though there is little outward sign of the hive of service and repair activity taking place in premises situated in a back street within a few minutes walk of the Earls Court exhibition hall.

With only 350 employees under the charge of Mr. W. C. Mason, the depot manager, it is not surprising that the working atmosphere is that of a closely-knit family. And a very hard-working, self-sufficient family it is, too. While the number of vehicles passing through fluctuates seasonally, the figure rarely falls below 350 a week and in the summer it can average 450. It is not unusual for up to 100 cars to arrive at the depot between 8 o'clock and noon on a Monday.

### 12,000 items carried in stock

In the words of Mr. Mason, the depot staff deals with "anything from a very bad accident to a complete overhaul or respray." In effect, the depot is a miniature Lode Lane as far as service is concerned. The stores department carries 12,000 items which range in size from washers to complete engines. In stock is any part for which there is reasonable demand.

Most of the work at the depot is provided by Rover cars and less than 10 per cent of the vehicles handled are Land-Rovers. Cars are brought from a very wide area — one recently came from Germany — and while the depot is not concerned with direct sales it does handle a fair amount of home sales exports. Essential work in the Land-Rover shop often includes imparting practical maintenance information to members of expeditions going to many parts of the world.

The Seagrave Road depot, now comprising 130,000 sq. ft. of floor space at ground and first-floor levels, has been in existence since 1922 and the last extension was about seven years



'Reception committee'

● The girls who greet the customers. Mrs. Gwen Sherratt (left) and South African Miss Dorothy Botes sit behind the enquiry window in the reception area office. A loudspeaker system enables them to call the male receptionist allocated to a customer. In the meantime, the customer is shown into a comfortable waiting lounge.

But then a flying bomb subsequently damaged the roof.

Long service is not unusual at Seagrave Road. In fact, one in every nine employees is the proud owner of a gold watch for 25 years or more service. Thirty-nine such awards have been presented and six more employees will become entitled to watches this year.

### Social activity

Among the veterans are the cashier Miss Katie Fielder (51 years' service—she was featured in ROVER News last April—and the longest-serving employee at the depot); her brother, Mr. A. J. Fielder (41 years, maintenance engineer); Mr. A. N. Hooper (43 years, chargehand); Mr. P. Ockendon (42 years, estimator) and Mr. G. W. R. Ramsey (41 years, chargehand).

It is not all work and no play at Seagrave Road. While the variety of social sections is limited by the small number of employees, angling, football, snooker, billiards and cricket find varying degrees of support. In addition, bingo sessions and dances help to keep social contact between the 350 Rover families in London.

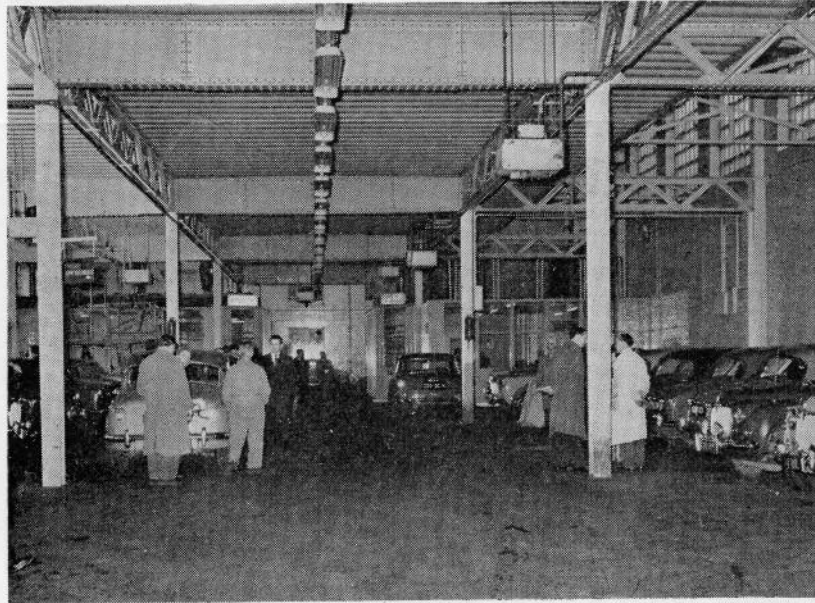
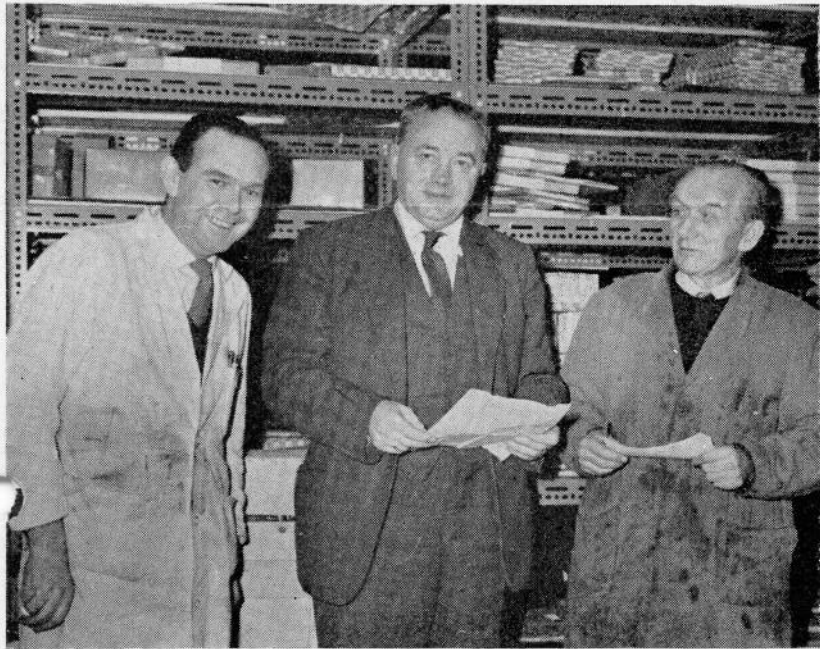
ago. Mr. Mason, a company veteran of many years' experience, began his own service at the old Brewery Road, Islington site, and has been in Seagrave Road since the depot opened in 1922.

### Flying bomb

He has been in charge since the second world war during which the depot had a relatively charmed existence. During the blitz incendiary bombs were smothered, and high explosives which hit the premises did not explode.



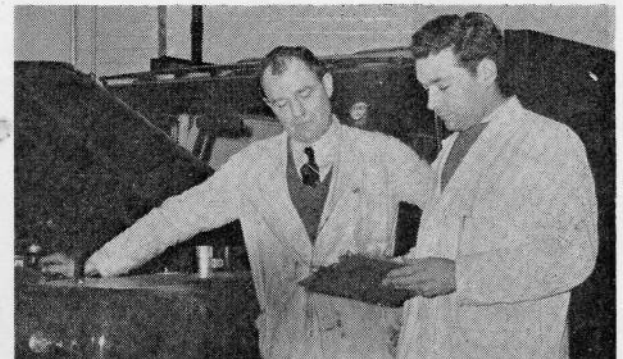
● Mrs. V. M. Bolton, secretary for 12 years to Mr. L. C. Munn (works manager), combined business with civic duties in 1959-60 when she was Mayoress of Fulham. BELOW: Three veterans with 80 years' service between them. Left to right: Messrs. George Nunn (assistant parts manager, 25 years' service); F. E. Cozens (parts manager, 35 years) and George Allsop (stores foreman, 20 years).



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● LEFT: Advice from Mr. Geoffrey Jeary (chargehand, engine section) for 15-year-old H. Brandon, one of the youngest lads at the depot, as he cleans out a sump in the engine test and unit shop. RIGHT: Mrs. Edith Beers, filing clerk, selects a customer's packet from the thousands in the file room. Every file represents a customer and some cars are many years old.



● The Seagrave Road depot reception area where the customer hands over his car to a receptionist, who takes the vehicle to the service or repair department as necessary. The reception office is on the right in the background and the waiting lounge is in left background. ABOVE RIGHT: The depot's 'hello girls', Miss Janet Wright (right) with 34 years on the switchboard and Miss Jill Sheen, who has been with the Company for 2 months. BELOW: Two sportsmen in the Land-Rover shop, Mr. Frank Spalton (shop foreman), left, who runs a boxing club for employees' sons aged between 7 and 13, with Mr. Bryan Chandler (Land-Rover reception), a member of the Kingston branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club. Mr. Spalton's boxing club has 15 to 20 adherents and he has also taken charge recently of the depot football team which plays on Sunday mornings. Mr. Chandler will be free diving at Plymouth at Easter doing work for the Geological Survey. The Land-Rover being discussed is a new one belonging to the Duke of Edinburgh. It has been fitted with gun racks and other extras at Seagrave Road.



### VETERAN WORKER RETIRES AGED 76

Mr. Gilbert Thomas Twining (Transport Dept., Percy Road) retired on February 28 after nearly 23 years in the Company's service. He was 76 years old. Most of his service was spent at

Tyseley, but when the branch factory was opened at Percy Road he was among the first employees to be transferred there.

He remained at Percy Road until his retirement.



## Family of 5 sails for New Zealand

A family emigration to New Zealand deprived the Company of two grinders on March 1.



Mr. F. Bott  
Plymouth, New Zealand.

One was Mr. Fred Bott (Group 446, Percy Road), pictured on the left, and the other was his son-in-law, Mr. Albert E. Walker (Group 58, Tyseley), pictured below. Mr. and Mrs. Bott, Mr. and Mrs. Walker and the latter's son have left to begin a new life in New Zealand.

The family of five sailed on the "Southern Cross". Before leaving, Mr. Bott said he hoped to make as many friends "down under" as he had made at Percy Road, where he had spent a happy time.



Mr. A. Walker

Mr. Bott had been with the Company since May 1960, and Mr. Walker since March, 1958.

## The majesty of Snowdonia — in colour

Colour slides capturing the majestic beauty of the Snowdonia National Park in North Wales were shown by Mr. E. Glossop (Acocks Green) to a Solihull meeting of Rover Photographic and Arts Society on February 21.

Mr. Glossop is an amateur photographer of repute and his collection of slides suggested that he is also something of a mountaineer. He accompanied his display with a talk on the historical, archaeological and geological features of Snowdonia. His efficient projectionist was Mrs. Glossop.

### SLIDE COMPETITION

A sequel to the evening was a successful colour slide competition on February 28, judged by Mr. David Jewsbury, A.R.P.S., and held under the auspices of the Midland Photographic Federation. There were 43 competitors, the maximum number permitted.

Winners were:—1, Mr. Walter Smith (Land-Rover Chassis Line), maximum of 20 points for a slide entitled "The Storm"; 2 and 3, Mr. Ron Mewett (Press Shop Control), 19 and 18 points respectively for "The Pantiles" and "Sunset". Four entrants tied for fourth place: Mr. Frank Teague (Plastics Dept.), Mr. Graham Thomas (Test Rectification), Mrs. Margaret Middleton (Press Shop Control) and Mr. Walter Smith.



# ROVING REPORTS

## Ever-smiling faces despite the weather

Most people would welcome the prospect of nothing but sunshine after the dismal weather of the past few months, but to two young men at the Rover Solihull factory farewell to rain, fog, ice and snow meant a little sadness.

They were two young motor mechanics from Togoland, Peter Mensah and Matheo Womenor, who returned to their home country last week after spending six months' training at the Tyseley and Solihull factories. During their stay, their ever-smiling faces became recognised by many employees in the assembly shops at both factories.

Highlight of their stay was when British Movietone News made a film of their work. This will be shown in their home country.

Peter and Matheo are probably still telling of their experiences to fellow mechanics at the Togoland Government's Land-Rover fleet depot.

Roger Lawden, formerly of Progress Office, Perry Barr, is now a professional musician with the Hedley Ward Dance Orchestra. Roger is 18 and plays the alto and tenor sax and clarinet. He recently returned from a tour of Ireland and will shortly be commencing a summer season at Scarborough. On February 23 he broadcast on the B.B.C. Home Service with Graham Dalley. Rover colleagues may remember that Roger often joined the band at social club dances at St. Johns to give solos on his clarinet.

### YOUR ROVER NEWS

ROVER NEWS is posted free each month to all employees. It is normally published on the last Friday in each month. Date of our next issue: April 27.



## DIED WHILE DRIVING HIS CAR

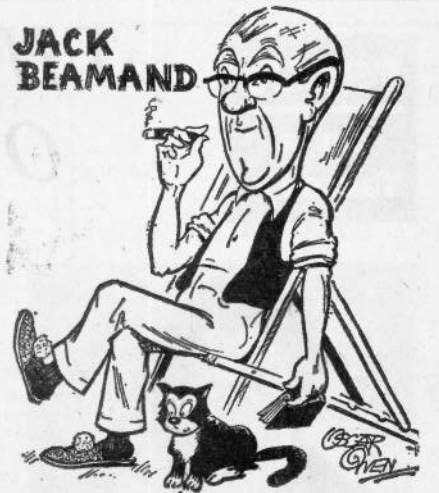
Mr. George A. Smallwood, who died while driving his car in Coventry, was a well-known and respected senior member of the Stores Department at Solihull and earlier at Coventry.

He joined the Company in 1922 and retired because of indifferent health in 1959 after 37 years' service.

In his early days with the Company he was a car tester: in those days testers carried out their own rectification work. Later he joined the Service Department as receptionist and subsequently transferred to Production as Chief Store-keeper under the late Mr. Jack Nagington.

His great interest was Methodism and for many years he was trustee and senior chapel steward at the Central Hall, Coventry.

The funeral service in the Central Hall was attended by many of Mr. Smallwood's friends. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. Lincoln Minshall, of Manchester, assisted by the church minister, the Rev. James Grottick.



This drawing of Mr. Jack Beaman (Land-Rover Assembly) was specially drawn for ROVER NEWS by Mr. Bob Owen (same department) on the occasion of Mr. Beaman's retirement on February 9 at the age of 65.

Mr. Beaman—quiet, unassuming and well-liked in the department—had worked on car and Land-Rover assembly for 15 years. His departure was marked by informal presentations from workmates, who gave Jack a writing case, wall plaque, wallet and cigarette case.

As a permanent reminder of the years spent at Lode Lane, all the gifts carried the Land-Rover monogram.

## Apprentices plan future events

Jim Randle was elected chairman at the annual meeting of the Apprentices' Association. Trevor Holland was re-elected treasurer and Dave Baxter secretary.

A programme of motor racing films followed the meeting.

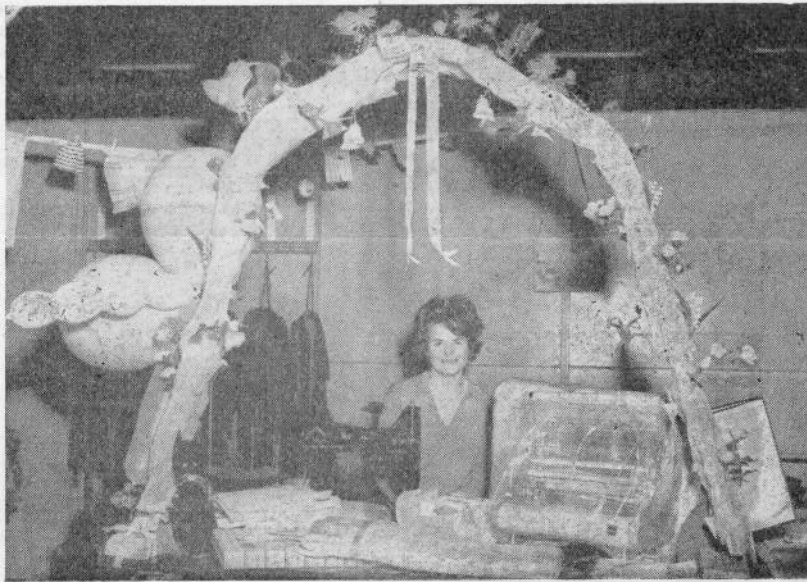
Future events planned include the annual dance on April 14, a canal trip, barbecue, hay ride and barn dance and several motor rallies. One on February 18 had thirteen competitors and results were: 1, David Searle; 2, Frank Parkes; 3, Stanley Bramley.

## Designer's death at 25

Mr. Barrie Moseley (Design Research Dept.) died on February 15 after a long illness. He was 25.

He joined the Company on February 10, 1958 as a draughtsman, and quickly graduated to designer level because of his intelligent approach to all design problems. His thirst for hard work would have led him to a very promising career in engineering.

Barrie left a widow, who works in the Body Tracing Office. Sympathy to her and other relatives is extended by all Barrie's colleagues at Rover.



A picturesque send-off for Miss Florence Round of the Car Trim Shop, North Block, Solihull, before her marriage to Mr. Denis Stevens on March 3. The girls in the shop made an archway of rose petals which they decorated with wedding bells and balloons; they also smothered Miss Round and her bench with confetti. In the background can be seen a line of washing—a reminder of things to come. In the foreground are the many presents she received from her colleagues.

## 160 at party

A party was given to 160 children of employees of Percy Road works on February 17 at the Friends Meeting House, Berkley Road, Hay Mills. After tea the youngsters—some of them are pictured below—were entertained by Uncle George on the piano and Uncle Hobo.

The party was organised by employees and friends at Percy Road.

## PERSONAL NEWS FROM THE FACTORIES

### BIRTHS

We offer our congratulations to...

**BABBINGTON**—To Mr. and Mrs. John Babbington, a son (Duncan John) on February 10. Mr. Babbington works in the Gas Turbine Planning Dept.

**DREW**—To Mr. and Mrs. John Drew, a daughter (Sharon) on January 20. Mr. Drew works on Group 347, Perry Barr.

**EDMONDS**—To Mr. and Mrs. K. Edmonds, a son (Mark Andrew) on February 13. Mr. Edmonds works in the Machine Shop, Acocks Green.

**HORTON**—To Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Horton, a son (Kevin Roy) on January 21. Mr. Horton works in Transport.

**HUGHES**—To Mr. and Mrs. E. Hughes, a son (Paul Tegrid) on January 24. Ted Hughes works in the Land-Rover Assembly Shop.

**LIVINGSTONE**—To Mr. and Mrs. Edward Livingstone, a daughter (Jayne) on February 19. Mr. Livingstone works in the Maintenance Dept., Perry Barr.

**SMITH**—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, a son (Scott Adrian) on February 7. Mrs. Sheila Smith formerly worked in the Booking Office, Perry Barr.

**TUBY**—To Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Tuby, a daughter (Karen Lynn) on February 27. Mr. Tuby works in Gas Turbine as an Installation Project Engineer.

**SALMON**—To Mr. and Mrs. Salmon (nee Oakley) late of the Drawing Office, a son (John Francis) on February 19.

**WATKINS**—To Mr. and Mrs. F. Watkins, a daughter (Jennifer Anne) on February 9. Mr. Watkins works in the Plant Layout D.O.

### MARRIAGES

Congratulations and good wishes to...

**BASTIN-NICHOLLS**—On March 10 at St. Nicholas Church, Elmdon, Mr. Graham Bastin to Miss Jean Nicholls of the Purchase Invoice Dept.

**BECKETT-HIGGINS**—On February 17 at Wyken Church, Coventry, Mr. Alan Beckett (Hardtop Section, Clay Lane, Coventry) to Miss Patricia Higgins.

**GRIFFITHS-GRIFFEN**—On March 5, Mr. Edward Griffiths to Miss Elizabeth Griffen. Mr. Griffiths works in the Installation D.O. Gas Turbines.

**HOUNSOME-CRAVEN**—On March 10 at St. Margaret's Church, Olton, Mr. John Hounsome to Miss Maureen Craven (Hollerith Dept., Solihull).

**STEVENS-ROUND**—On March 3 at Hall Green Church, Mr. Denis Stevens to Miss F. Round (Car Trim, N.B.).

**WHATLEY-TUCKLEY**—On March 3 at St. Giles' Church, Sheldon, Mr. W. J. Whatley to Miss K. Tuckley of Land-Rover Trim Shop.

### SILVER WEDDINGS

We offer our congratulations and good wishes to...

**BROWN**—To Mr. and Mrs. E. Brown who celebrated their Silver Wedding on March 27.

Mr. Brown is a Machine Shop Foreman at Tyseley and his wife an ex-Tyseley employee, will be remembered as 'Cider' by her friends in the Progress Department, Tyseley.

**LAWDEN**—To Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lawden who celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on March 29. Mrs. Doris Lawden works in the Booking Office, Perry Barr.

**RODGERS**—To Mr. and Mrs. A. Rodgers who celebrated their Silver Wedding on March 27. Mr. Rodgers works on Group 303 Perry Barr and has been with the Company 20 years.

**TAYLOR**—To Mr. and Mrs. Reg Taylor who celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on March 27. Mr. Taylor is a grinder at Perry Barr.

### DEATHS

We record with regret the following deaths, and offer our sympathy to relatives...

**ALLEN**—Mr. Harry Allen died on February 16, aged 49. Mr. Allen had been with the Company since 1937 and was promoted Foreman in the Machine Shop, Acocks Green, in 1950.

**CAPP**—Mr. William Capp died on February 18, aged 40. Mr. Capp had been with the Company since 1949 and was employed in the Machine Shop, Acocks Green.

**MOSELEY**—Mr. Barrie Moseley died on February 15, aged 25. Mr. Moseley worked in the Design Research Dept. and had been with the Company for 4 years.



# THE LAST DARK DAYS OF PEACE

## Big changes in the 'Ten' and a new model 'Fourteen' as Company prepared for war

The Munich crisis and its disturbing influences will always be a vivid recollection in the minds of those who lived through 1938 and remember the grim international outlook of that period.

Readers who were then old enough to take an active interest in Britain's troubles will no doubt find it difficult to appreciate that it is now nearly 24 years since the start of the world upheaval that led to the second world war. Indeed, many present-day Rover employees (most of them now married with families) will have only the vaguest recollections of the trials and tribulations then prevalent.

As previously mentioned, the Rover Company was one of the "Shadow" companies managing and operating a separate factory for developing and producing aeroplane engine parts under the control of the Air Ministry and we were able to report a substantial and satisfactory output.

With international tension running dangerously high air raid precautions were necessary. These involved the provision of trenches and shelters, the selection and preparation of gas protection rooms, decontamination centres, etc. Every effort had to be made to prepare employees to meet any emergency and Mr. Liggins was appointed Air Raid Precautions Officer.

### Slight Variations

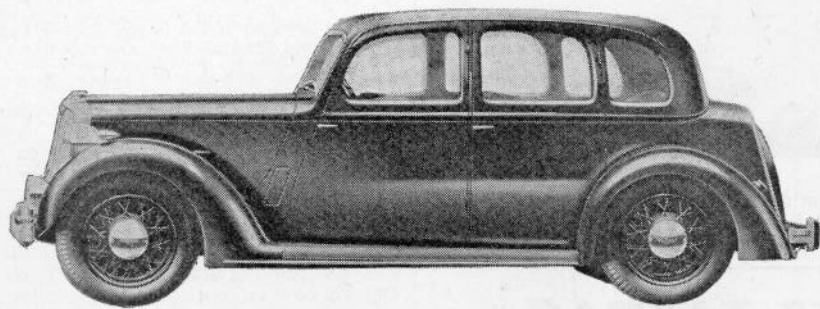
Tension lessened, however, when Mr. Neville Chamberlain returned from Munich with his "peace in our time" message, and the international situation took on an outlook which, while still gloomy, was less immediately ominous. As a nation we were at that time grateful to Mr. Chamberlain for his efforts in avoiding a world war.

Even during those days of stress and anxiety for the future, the Company had to continue normal peacetime planning.

"Change merely for the sake of change" formed no part in the policy of the Company and the models introduced for our 1938 season's manufacturing programme followed the same pattern as for 1937, with slight variations only in detail and equipment and no alterations in general design.

### Duo-tread tyres

The full range of models was continued, i.e. 10 h.p., 12 h.p., 14 h.p., 16 h.p. and 20 h.p. models. Avon duo-tread tyres were introduced and fitted to our cars and we incorporated D.W.S. jacking system in the specification of the 16 h.p. and 20 h.p. models.



Old and new. ABOVE: The Rover 10, a four-cylinder saloon, as it was in 1937. BELOW: The 1939 version of the same car.

No difficulty was experienced in disposing of all our output in 1938 and sales for the season were greater than at any time in the Company's history. A tribute to Mr. S. B. Wilks was made by the chairman of the board, Mr. Ransom Harrison, at the ordinary general meeting in October, 1938, when he said:—

"I am quite sure that you will wish to express your appreciation of the skill, organising ability and foresight of our managing director, Mr. S. B. Wilks, which has enabled us to accomplish so much during the past six years. I can assure you from my personal knowledge that everyone associated with the Company has the greatest confidence in his leadership, and he can fully rely upon their support".

To give a good start to the 1939 season's programme and to introduce our new models we held another Luncheon Meeting of Rover Distributors and Dealers at Coventry works in September, 1938. After a pleasant lunch, the toast "The Rover Company Ltd." was proposed by a well-known distributor, Mr. J. Gibbon (Glasgow), to which Mr. Ransom Harrison replied. Mr. S. B. Wilks proposed "Our Guests", and another well-known distributor, Mr. W. T. Grose (Northampton), responded.

### New Coachwork

In spite of a background of uneasy thoughts about war we still had to produce cars and give full play to the enthusiasm of our employees. Introduction of our 1939 models indicated that we were really producing and evolving a motor car of very distinctive, dignified and attractive design, which was going to appeal to the discerning motorist for many years.

## HOLIDAY PLANS IN DETAIL

Final details of the itinerary planned for the Land-Rover Trim Shop employees' holiday in Italy were outlined by Mr. John Tabberrer, agent for the scheme, at a meeting in the Junior Staff Canteen, Solihull, on February 16.

After an interval when refreshments were served, deposits were received from members and questions regarding baggage, insurance, currency, passports, etc., were answered.

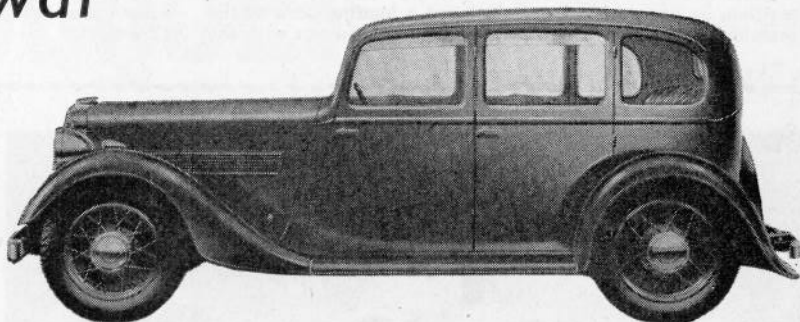
Finally, two cine films of the places to be visited were shown.

It was agreed that a Sunday outing should be arranged to Luton where the charter company will entertain the prospective holidaymakers and allow them to inspect the Constellation aircraft in which they will fly.

## LAND-ROVER NUMBER 39 . . . .

Derbyshire County Fire Service took possession of its 39th Land-Rover at Solihull recently. The vehicle, finished in Vulcan Red, was accepted from Mr. A. J. Joyce, Publicity Dept., by Chief Officer H. J. Terry, M.B.E., M.I.R.T.E., and Mr. A. Newbold, the county service's transport officer.

The service has been using Land-Rovers since 1950. A front capstan winch, hard top in plain red, interior mirror, flasher equipment and carburetter heater were features of the 39th vehicle.



SIR GEOFFREY SAVAGE — a familiar figure to pre-war Rover employees.

We made big changes in our popular "Ten", giving it an entirely new and very attractive coachwork, and the familiar built-in luggage compartment and concealed spare wheel brought it into line with the "Twelve", "Fourteen" and "Sixteen" models. We offered the saloon at £275 and the coupe model at £285.

We also introduced an entirely new model "Fourteen", which was developed from the earlier "Fourteens" that were held in such high esteem by the motoring public.

The Royal Automobile Club rating of the new engine was 14.9 h.p. and the cubic capacity 1901, as against 13.9 h.p. and 1577 in the earlier 14 h.p. models. The engine was now similar in design to those in the 16 h.p. and 20 h.p. cars.

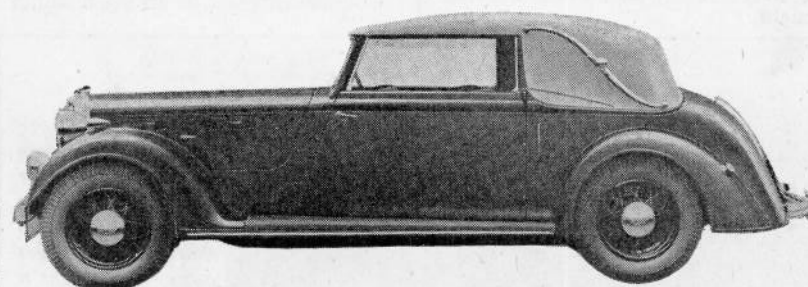
Our policy of producing only cars of the highest possible quality once again resulted in our turnover, both in number and value, exceeding any previous year in the history of the Company. At the end of the 1939 season's manufacturing programme we recorded a trading profit of £331,455 with a net profit of £205,000.

## THE ROVER STORY

continued by  
H. B. LIGHT

During the months from the Munich crisis in 1938 to the end of our 1939 programme the international situation worsened and by the time the Company's 44th ordinary general meeting was held on October 11, 1939, we had been at war with Germany for several weeks.

We had to curtail our output, and arrangements were quickly made for employing the Company's resources for war work. The Company was in close liaison with the Government and we were organising ourselves to enable us to take a full share in work of the highest national importance.



The Drophead Foursome Coupe Model of 1939



All the fun of the pantomime is evident from the happy faces of these Tyseley employees' youngsters, caught by the camera as they seated themselves in Birmingham Hippodrome before seeing "Cinderella".

## Rover man's name drawn in houses ballot

Second name out of the ballot box in the recent Birmingham City Council house draw was that of George Blake (Extras Pool, Land-Rover Assembly). He and his wife and two daughters, aged 4½ and 2, qualify for a "buy-your-own" home at Rednal.

Nearly 2,000 couples originally applied for homes and just over 400 applications were in the ballot box when the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Ald. E. E. Mole, drew 108 names and 15 more in reserve.

Essential requirements for applicants were: married, Birmingham-born and of Birmingham parentage, aged under

30, earning a specified minimum weekly wage and living in lodgings.

Mr. Blake—he has been with Rover for 2½ years—and the other 107 successful couples will buy £2,200 homes on 99-year leases, with 100 per cent mortgages available at 4½ per cent interest rate.

## Staff holidays to remain unchanged

Though manual workers will work on Whit-Monday and August Bank Holiday Monday, there will be no alteration to statutory holidays in 1962 for Rover staff employees.

As stated in ROVER NEWS last month, the manual workers prefer to work on Whit-Monday and August Monday and have a two-day break in September.

Inquiries indicated that the staff wish to retain their normal holidays, and the management has stipulated that statutory holidays for the staff will be as follows:—

Easter: Monday, April 23 and Tuesday, April 24.

Whitsun: Monday, June 11 and Tuesday, June 12.

August: Monday, August 6 and Tuesday, August 7.

All staff required to work during any of these holidays will be notified. Because the works will be working through the Whitsun and August holidays, staff providing office services and allied to production will be required to work.

Staff attending work at the departmental manager's request during these holiday periods will be allowed to take corresponding time off in lieu. Payment will not be made in lieu of any holiday not taken.

### DRAMA GROUP

A meeting will be held in the staff canteen, Lode Lane, on April 5 with the aim of forming a dramatic society within the Rover Company. Everyone interested at Solihull, Acocks Green and Tyseley is invited. Further details from Mr. A. J. Finney (Turbine Buying Dept., Internal 694).





## Judo instructor says farewell

Rover Judo Club lost an enthusiastic stalwart when Gordon Smith (Electrical Development) left to join another vehicle-making company near London.

Mr. Smith—he is pictured above—was a member of the old club which folded up when its instructor left the company. Last November he was approached to restart the section and was one of 2 instructors until his departure.

Thanks to keen members like Mr. Smith, the club now has about 30 members and the average attendance is about 18. The recent acquisition of judo kit has stimulated members' keenness.

## Golf fixture details ready

Members of The Rover Golfing Society will have many matters to discuss at their annual meeting this evening. The secretary has been busy arranging fixtures and competitions, details of which will be presented in printed form to members.

Subscriptions are due and members are invited to pay them to the treasurer tonight.



★  
Mr. Derek Green (Experimental Car Shop, Engineering Dept.) with the chub that really didn't get away. He caught it at Hay-on-Wye on legered cheese and a 4 lb. line three hours after leaving home with a friend on a fishing expedition that was Derek's first after a lapse of several years. The chub, which tested Derek's new equipment for more than five minutes, was 18½ ins. long and weighed 3 lb. 4 oz. (by weight to length scale).  
★

## IN WINNING FORM ...

The Tyseley table tennis 'A' team has hit good form and is now fourth in the league.

Results:—'A' team (3-a-side). Jan. 23, won 6-4 at home against Evening Despatch; Jan. 30, won 6-4 at home against Southalls; Feb. 14, won 6-4 away against B.S.A. Marston Green; Feb. 20, won 6-4 at home against City Police.

'B' team. Jan. 16, drew 5-5 at home against Bromford Tube; Jan. 26, drew 5-5 away against

Ridgmere; Feb. 15, drew 5-5 at home against Fisher and Ludlow; Feb. 20, won 7-3 away against Lucas, Marston Green.

Solihull's second team, playing in the South Birmingham and District League, is leading the fourth division. One more point was required from the last three games to enable the team to finish the season as division champions. D. Tonks is the leading individual player.

## Archers have a field day

Rover bowmen were hosts at a big game round held on the Lode Lane sports ground last Sunday. It was the first big meeting of the year and it is hoped to hold a similar event again in September or October.

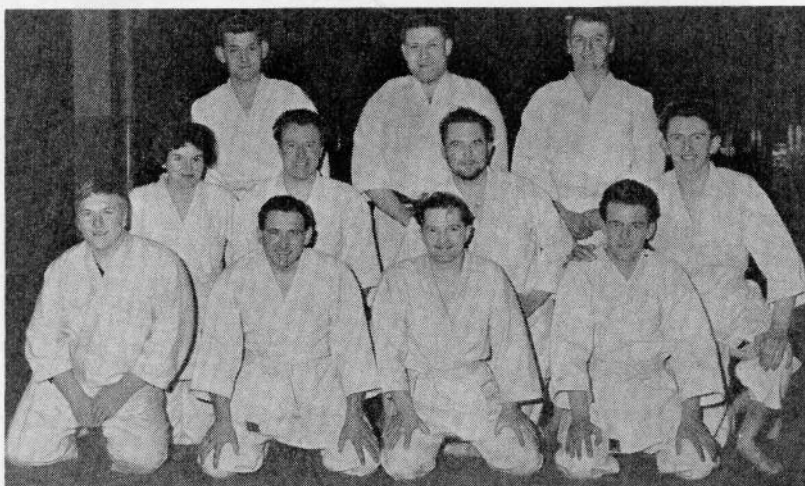
Details of the round and results will be given in the April issue of ROVER NEWS. Targets were positioned on the sports field, in an adjoining field and in the woods.

More than 100 entry forms were sent out for the competition, an open one. Prizes included a hunting horn as the premier award, and shields for the man and woman with the

highest scores. Small spinners were awarded to winners of the junior and children's classes.

The Rover Archery Club has been presented with a cup by Mr. A. B. Smith (Supplies Director). It will be awarded to the outstanding Rover male archer of the year. The club is now anxious to acquire a similar trophy for its best bow-woman.

Recent archery competitions resulted as follows for Rover bowmen: A 6-2 defeat in an archery darts match against Wilmot and Breedon; a 4-2 win over Morris Commercial (12-a-side).



A group of Solihull judo enthusiasts. From left to right, back row: B. Sheldon, G. Smith, B. Llewellyn. Centre: Pat England, J. Llewellyn, C. Lovell, J. J. Phillips. Front row: C. Plenty, R. Pitt, J. Cash, C. Stimpson.

## ALL-WEATHER TARMAC FOR TENNIS COURTS

Tennis courts on the Rover sports ground, Lode Lane, have been recovered with an all-weather tarmac surface during the close season. This will enable play to be resumed soon after it has rained.

This was reported to the annual meeting of the Solihull Tennis Section which also heard that the wire-netting has been replaced by plastic-covered netting. In the committee's opinion, the courts are now "second to none".

Tournaments will be arranged within

the section and also friendly games with other clubs. Vacancies exist for anyone interested; the 10s. a year subscription includes the provision of balls.

Officers elected:—Chairman: Mr. R. Plenderleith (726 Maintenance Dept.); secretary: Mr. A. S. Manley (535 Works Liaison); treasurer: Mr. P. Wilkes (312 Cost Office). Committee: Messrs. Boucher, H. V. London, L. Roger, Mrs. I. Plenderleith, Miss C. King and Miss Dingly.

Dates of interest for members of the Acocks Green Lawn Tennis Section are:

May 1: closing date for entry into the many competitions and tournaments; May 3: league match away to Earlebourne; May 6: American tournament (all members); May 7: coaching session; May 8: league match away to City Transport; May 14: coaching session; May 15: league match away to Ellison; May 17: league match at Mirfield with R.A.F.A.; May 21: coaching session; May 23: league match at Mirfield with City Transport; May 28: coaching session; May 30: league match at Mirfield with Dovedale; June 3: American tournament (all members); June 4: coaching session; June 8: league match away to Little Aston; June 11: coaching session; June 15: league match at Mirfield with Earlebourne; June 17: first round of scratch competition, ladies and gents; June 18: coaching session; June 22: league match at Mirfield with Ellison; June 25: coaching session; June 27: league match at Mirfield with Fisher & Ludlow.

## Suggestions paid off for four

Suggestions earned four Solihull employees a total of £23 during February.

Recipients were: Mrs. D. Bennett (Press Shop) £10; Mr. G. Dolloway (Press Shop) £5; Mr. W. S. Hands (Inspection) £5; and Mr. V. F. Short (Press Shop) £3.

## Three goals in last 4 mins.

After a drawn game with the E. J. Leek team in the first round of the Lockett Cup, Perry Barr F.C. won the replay 5-3, snatching three goals in the last four minutes of the game.

The winning team, seen in the adjoining photograph, comprised left to right (standing) B. Jeavons, D. Lindsay, R. Jarvis, J. Palmer, A. Jarvis, J. Evans, A. Rodgers, manager; (kneeling) M. Lindsay, W. Evans, B. Struggles, D. Cordelle, J. Taylor.

## TYSELEY IN SOCCER CUP FINAL

Tyseley F.C. meets Birfield 'A' on Hamstead Colliery Ground, Old Walsall Rd., Hamstead, Great Barr, tomorrow in the final of the Central Challenge Cup.

The side is maintaining a good record. C. Osborne netted 8 goals in Tyseley's 14-1 win against Rootes.

The junior team is now fielding an improved side, and B.S.A. Junrs. were lucky to force a 4-4 draw on February 24.

Results of recent fixtures:—Feb. 3, drew 2-2 against Lucas Formans Road and won 9-0 a week later; Feb. 17, won 3-2 against Clifford Covering; Feb. 24, won 14-1 against Rootes.

## Autocourse pupils face test time

It will be exam time for autocourse pupils of Rover Car and Motor Cycle Club on April 8. The test will be on the five navigation lessons previously given and will be over approximately 40 miles.

## RIVER BANK ODE

Some Rover workmen always seem  
To spend their week-end fishing;  
I get annoyed when they tell me—  
'You don't know what you're  
missing'.

I can't see why, it seems a waste  
To sit there by the river.  
I've known men just to catch

a cold,  
Then sit all day and shiver.

Still, if they enjoy it, what care I,  
It seems to be their glory,  
And when they come home  
with the fish,

Oh my, can they tell a story.

So all you men who fish,  
Lots of luck from me,  
And happy at your hobby  
I hope you'll always be.

(Miss K. McIntyre,  
Bulk Spot Welding).

## Elected president

Mr. B. Dickerson (Foreman, No. 6 Machine Shop, Tyseley) has been elected president of Warwickshire and Worcestershire Bowling Association.

## Jenifer in last 8 at first try

A place in the last eight—that was the achievement for Mrs. Jenifer Crane (formerly Miss Gidwell) on her first venture into the British women's open squash rackets championship competition.



Jenifer, who is secretary to Mr. H. W. Hayer, works superintendent at Perry Barr, was defeated 3-0 in the quarter final by Miss Clare Hargreaves, regarded as number 2 seed.

Undeterred by her defeat, Jenifer hopes to do well in several forthcoming competitions.

A minimum crew of three, including driver, is almost essential. All comers will be welcome to this tough motoring and navigating session, though the best prize will be reserved for the winning autocourse pupil.

Entry fees are: Members 3s. 6d.; visitors 4s. 6d. Start and finish will be at Solihull.

Prize winners of the Norseman Trophy rally held on February 25 were: 1, R. D. Baxter (Quality Control, Solihull) Trophy replica and two vouchers valued at 22s. 6d. each; 2, J. Rhead (visitor); 3, S. Bramley (Tyseley); 4, C. Halls (Quality Control); 5, C. Sanders (Jig Shop, Solihull); 6, Mrs. G. Rothwell (Engineering); 7, K. Broadfield (Tyseley Laboratory).

## Mixed fortunes in snooker

Tyseley's snooker team struck a bad patch during recent league fixtures. In the match against Ravenscroft Social, J. Lee scored a break of 64.

A. Morecock has been eliminated from the Efficiency League Individual Championship but H. Bilston is still in the competition.

Recent results:—Feb. 5, lost 4-1 at home to Midland Red; Feb. 13, lost 4-1 away to Acocks Green British Legion; Feb. 19, lost 4-1 at home to Ravenscroft Social; Feb. 26, lost 3-2 away to Wolsley 'B'; March 5, won 4-1 at home to Rover Acocks Green 'A'.

Acocks Green details:—'A' team. Feb. 6, won 4-1 at home against Grange Social 'A'; Feb. 28, won 3-2 at home against Stechford Social.

'B' team. Feb. 7, lost 4-1 at home to Grange Social 'B'; Feb. 12, won 3-2 away against Farrington; Feb. 21, lost 3-2 at home to Lucas British Legion; Feb. 27, won 5-0 away against Grenville.

