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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE OWEN OWEN GROUP

Scene

CHRISTMAS 1978



Christmas came early for this five year old, one of the first visitors to the grotto at Clayton Square. He is pictured here with Santa.

FEARLESS BILL IS FOR THE HIGH JUMP

BUYER Bill McDonald leapt out of an aeroplane over the Lake District all because his policeman son wanted to take up an interesting hobby.

At 54 years of age, he signed on for a two-day parachuting course in Grange-Over-Sands and made a 2,500 foot drop.

"My wife and my friends at work thought I was crazy," he said, "But it was one of the most exciting events of my life."

But Bill's plans to participate, were almost grounded before he took off. "Because of my age I had to produce a medical certificate."

But Bill got the O.K. from the doctor and joined his son Ian and two friends for the course.

"We were told how to fall and what to do if our parachutes didn't open!" he said. "Then on the Sunday the big day came. I don't mind admitting I was apprehensive but there was nothing to worry about. It was fantastic."



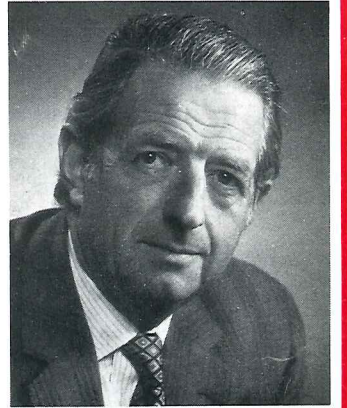
Chairman's Christmas Message

The Christmas edition of *Scene* presents a marvellous opportunity to thank everybody for their work and contribution to the company during the year—and particularly in the very busy weeks up to Christmas Eve.

This year includes those who have joined us through the 'Suter' stores in Slough and Uxbridge and also in the new Robinson store in North Waterloo, Canada.

So our 'family' grows and may I wish you all a happy Christmas.

John A. ...



Chef Jim explains where Mum went wrong



YOUNG PAUL READ could not understand why his mother could not cook Welsh rare-bit like they do in the Owen Owen store in Southampton, so he wrote to the chef for the recipe.

Chef Jim Haines never normally gives his secrets away, but he was able to tell Paul that his mum had made the sauce too thin.

The exact recipe is in Paul's safe keeping, and he gave Jim his 'Scout's honour' that he will keep the secret.

However Paul and his mum were invited to a training session with Jim, and now Paul is a very happy boy.

Retailing was a vocation he almost missed

PETER FLEMING has made friends on both sides of the Atlantic during an association with Owen Owen which goes back to 1946.

But if it had not been for a stroke of luck he might never have gone into retailing.

For Edinburgh born Mr. Fleming was offered a place at Cambridge to study physics.

"The only problem was I had to wait a year, and quite honestly I didn't have the money to," he says. The opportunity came up to join Owen Owen as a management trainee and I took it. It was one of the best decisions of my life."

He had begun training to be an

Blackpool as general manager. "In those days the stores were very much centrally controlled," he said.

Soon afterwards he joined the Export Division and was sent off to Canada for six months on a fact finding mission.

"During that time I travelled from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island talking to people all day and spending the evenings pumping back airmail letters to head office. It was very gruelling work, but it

in Canada I was packed off to Hamilton as merchandise manager and assistant to the general manager.

Mr. Fleming stayed in Canada until 1959 when he came back to Britain as general manager, Southampton. He stayed there for five years and two years at Coventry followed.

"Then I left Owen Owen to join another retail company, as chief executive," he said. I stayed for five years until they started to close down the retail side of their business."

"I found I couldn't live without selling. Bill Plumb offered me a job and I jumped at the chance. It was like coming home."

Mr. Fleming rejoined the Group as general manager of T. J. Hughes and since then in his own words: "I have had five extremely happy years."

Married with two children he lives in a large Victorian house in Formby with his wife Jane, whom he met when she was staff supervisor at Doncaster, and their two West Highland terriers, Tippy and Sam. They have a big garden which Jane tends fastidiously.

His daughter, Sara, who is studying French and Italian at Liverpool University, also lives at home. Son Ian, a Cambridge Graduate, is working for ICL in Windsor.

When the family do get together it is often in the Scottish Highlands where Mr. Fleming's brother has a house.

They also enjoy sailing—an interest he took up in Blackpool—and keep a dinghy on Southport's Marine Lake.

"All my life I have been lucky," said Mr. Fleming. I have a great family, I work for a great company and I have some great friends. What more could any man want?"



On holiday in Scotland. Peter Fleming, son Ian, wife Jane, and daughter Sara, with the dogs Sam and Tippy.

Actuary in 1939 just after he left school. "But the war killed that," he said. "Instead I volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm and served as an observer in the Atlantic and the Indian and Pacific oceans."

After completing his training in Clayton Square, and a short time at T.J.'s, Mr. Fleming was sent to

was rewarding too and I made a lot of friends."

Back in Britain he joined the Central Merchandising Office and then became central buyer of Dress Fabrics, and in 1954 became merchandise controller.

"Then the Robinsons purchase came up and with my experience

Kidderminster leads the field

DUE to the interest expressed by many stores, after the last *Scene* magazine, with regard to their store's performance in the Owen Owen Top Six Competition, we have listed the performance by stores on a league table basis.

These are the results up to the end of November, so there is still time to improve before the end of January.

Slough and Uxbridge are as yet not included in the competition, but we look forward to their participation in the new half year.

Store	To end of November
Kidderminster	+40.45
Evesham	+38.18
Hereford	+35.57
Weston-Super-Mare	+33.60
Preston	+32.13
Richmond	+29.95
Colwyn Bay	+27.12

Company Objective
+25% on last year

Brighton	+23.92
Shrewsbury	+23.75
Chester	+22.94
Southampton	+22.88
Liverpool	+22.36
Stourbridge	+18.62
Coventry	+18.48
Newport	+15.99
Wolverhampton	+14.42
Bath	+13.71
Finchley	+11.29

Goodbye party at Brighton



BRIGHTON staff said farewell to general manager Frederick Dodson, with a party and a presentation in the store.

Mr. Dodson, who received an automatic pressure cooker, joined Owen Owen in 1975 when we took over the Macowards store.

ALL IN FUN

MANAGEMENT and staff from the Clayton Square store fought a hard football match recently, with the staff coming out 8-1 winners.

But it was all in fun, and the score could have been much bigger had the management not shortened their goal and widened the staff's!

Carnival capers . . .



CARNIVAL time came to Owen Owen Shrewsbury when staff dressed up as black and white minstrels to parade through the town.

PAT ON THE BACK FOR BRIGHTON

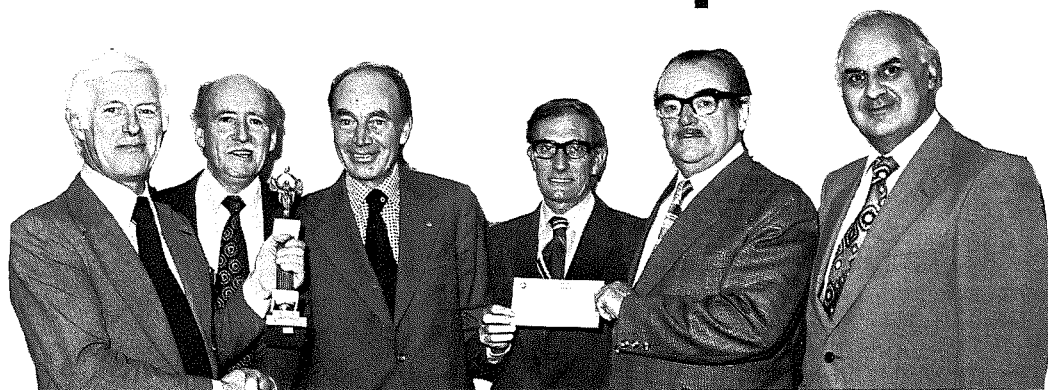


"Last month it was my pleasure to visit your store and purchase some of your beautiful white net curtains. These curtains were purchased in department 63 and I was helped by salesperson 10. This lovely lady is to be commended for her helpfulness and patience. She is one in a million."

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Gladys E. Waters
10503 Inslay Street,
Silver Spring,
Maryland 20902,
U.S.A.

Editor's Note:—Salesperson 10 is Rosemary Stein pictured here choosing the curtains for Gladys. Mrs. Stein is the Central Staff Council representative for Brighton.

T.J.'s team take first prize



IT'S smiles all round from the display team at T. J. Hughes, London Road.

They have won first prize in a national window display competition arranged by Hoover.

The prize, a cheque and a trophy was presented to the team at a sherry party.

Our picture shows the presentation of prizes. From left to right: Joe Murdoch—display manager, James Trelling—display assistant, Mr. Brodegan—Hoover, Bill Ormrod—assistant display manager, Charles Butcher—sales manager electrical department, and Mr. Hart—Hoover.

Meet the new faces...

CHRISTMAS is going to be more hectic than usual for staff at Uxbridge and Slough, the latest stores to join Owen Owen.

For as well as coping with the seasonal rush they are getting used to working for a new company, learning how to handle new stock, and finding out about the Owen Owen way of selling.

But, according to general managers Sandie Graham and Peter Jephcott, everyone is coping famously. "Now we have ironed out some initial problems we expect everything to be plain sailing," said Sandy. "Mind you we have got the backing of a first class bunch of people. Our staff are great."

The two stores, situated on the edge of London's commuter belt, became part of Owen Owen last July after the group acquired Suters, a family company which had been trading for more than 50 years.

Since July it's been a case of all change. New departments like Rare Set, Cosmetics and Gift Shop, have been added and Owen Owen signs have been going up everywhere.

During November the name of Suters came down from outside the store and Owen Owen went up. And next year there are plans to introduce N.C.R. terminals.



Mary Mudge

Exciting time

"At the moment we are using old fashioned tills and tubes," said Peter Jephcott. "The next few months should prove very exciting with the introduction of the new cash registers." Peter has held two general management appointments in the company and transferred to Slough in September.

Gold watch for Sandra



A gold watch for Sandra Dobson from chairman John Norman to mark her 25 years service at Owen Owen, Preston. Mrs. Dobson works in the invoice office.

But how do the staff themselves feel about the change over? We asked them.

Amy Bull who has been running the Uxbridge canteen for 16 years was rather surprised to hear that Owen Owen had taken over. "Obviously we were concerned at first," she said. "but since then everything has been fine. It is a little difficult to get used to all the changes, but I am learning very quickly."

When Amy started work in the canteen she only sold cups of tea and biscuits. She added rolls, salads, and pies and now business is booming.

She reckons she gets through 200 cups of tea, 30 salads and about 60 rolls a day. It's hardly surprising then that her son Brian is also in the catering trade. He is a chief steward with British Airways on the Malta run.

Ground floor sales manager Stella Stentiford, who was with Suters for 15 years, remembers the days when they were a small family business.

"Now we are part of a much larger family business, I expect we will be busier than ever. There will be a much greater variety for the customers."

In her spare time Mrs. Stentiford likes dressmaking and Cordon Bleu cooking and she manages to find a couple of hours at the weekend to work in the garden.

Personnel officer Mary Mudge sees the changeover as "A big step forward. And I am sure there will be many opportunities with Owen Owen."

"There is a big demand in Uxbridge for a good department store. We used to be a little village, but now we are on the outskirts of London, though we are far enough away from the city to need a good shopping centre. They say this is the town where the buses turn from red to green!"

Adrian Grace is hoping Owen Owen will let him change his name! After 11 years with Suters he's a little fed up with being likened to his T.V. namesake. "When my name is announced over the tannoy people look around for a little old man," he said. "I'm not really that old!"

Hectic life

Adrian, who works on menswear, is a member of the Service Team looking after the local scout camp site at Old Windsor. "And that's almost a full-time job," he says. "I spend most weekends there, doing everything from mixing concrete to running courses!"

During the summer he also sails his Enterprise dinghy on the local gravel pits.

Life has been very hectic for general manager Sandie Graham and merchandise manager Barry Jones.

"I have just moved into a flat," Sandie said. "But, at the same time as settling in, I am trying to turn Uxbridge into an Owen Owen store as quickly as possible."

"When I'm all sorted out I am going to find a relaxing hobby like oil painting."

Barry who came to the store from Richmond is looking for somewhere to live. His wife Pam is an assistant sales manager at the Richmond

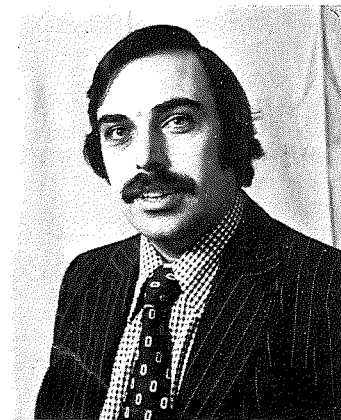
Dealing with the Xmas rush and getting to know their new company means plenty of extra work, but they're coping famously.



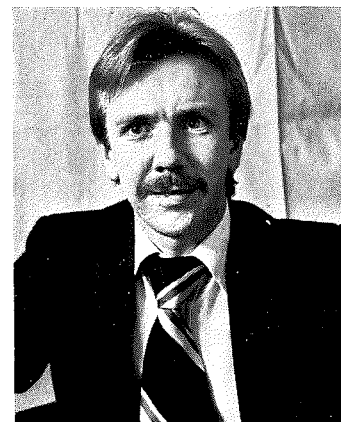
Kenneth Fitch



Louise Simmons



Adrian Grace



Barry Jones



Ellen Bull

store—18 miles away, but his real home is in Liverpool where he started with T. J. Hughes ten years ago. "My main regret is not being able to watch Everton play," he said. "But otherwise I am settling in very well."

Over in Slough there is one person who has not even noticed the changeover; that's Retus the store cat.

Maintenance man Bob Arnold bought him from the R.S.P.C.A. two years ago after he heard he was going to be put down. And now he lives in the lap of luxury in the stockroom.

Bob, and Ellen Bull take it in turns to feed him and although he is locked up during the day, he is given the run of the store at night. "We have been told he can stay as long as he lives," said Ellen.

Retus, by the way, is Suter spelt backwards. Ellen doesn't know if they are going to change his name to Newto!

Warm welcome

If more busy for the Slough staff for the store has also become the Southern Region headquarters and a base for Regional Head Bob Packer, together with Elizabeth Stewardson, Personnel Manager (ex Southampton).

But like Uxbridge the move to Owen Owen has met with a warm welcome.

Ron Buggins who works part time in the warehouse knows more about the store than most. He started work in the store in 1932.

"I just called in on the chance of a job, and got taken on straight away," he said. "I served in the store in the afternoon but in the mornings I went out on the road selling loose covers and window blinds."

"I remember one day I got an order for £360 to supply window blinds for a local Sir. He wanted all the windows in the West Wing of his mansion covering. I got my commission but he never paid up because he went bankrupt soon afterwards."

Part timer Shirley Rogers had only been with Suters for two months when Owen Owen took over. "It's certainly different now," she said. "But I am sure it's a change for the better."

Shirley's husband David is a maintenance man at nearby Windsor Castle, and the couple have met the Queen at one of the staff Christmas parties, held at Windsor every year.

It's the youngsters at the store who reckon they will benefit the most from the change. Sales assistants Lesley Jackson and Louise Simmons feel it's far better to belong to a big group. "The promotion prospects are far better," said Lesley who has been with the store for four years. "We have all found Owen Owen people very friendly and very helpful."

Ethel chats with the Queen



IT was a right royal day for Clayton Square Manager Ethel Trowler when she met Her Majesty the Queen.

Ethel was one of several Merseyside people who were introduced to her when she visited St. Mary's R.C. Church to see the work of the Merseyside Churches Ecumenical Council.

"It was an hour I will always remember," she said later. "The Queen's charming and pleasant personality put us at ease and dispelled any tensions that the long wait and auspicious occasion may have caused. She was obviously genuinely pleased to see Church leaders of different denominations working so hard together in an atmosphere of friendship."

Ethel is pictured here chatting to the Queen.

Selling the old fashioned way . . .

A new idea in the Canada stores was Robinson's first ever—Old Fashion Store Managers Sale.

Employees throughout the chain ransacked their attics looking for their oldest fashions for this special promotion.

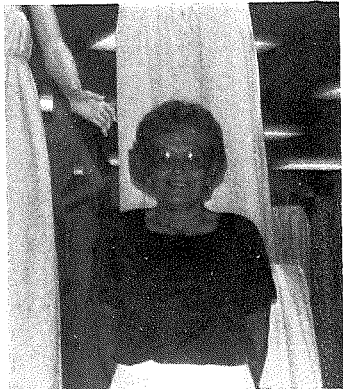
Many of the sales staff turned up in ribbons, lace, high buttoned boots and picture hats.

The customers and staff enjoyed it so much that it may now become an annual event.

First prize went to Miss V. MacDonald—switchboard operator. Second was Mrs. B. Schell from stationery, and third Mrs. B. Ogilvie whose costume was over a hundred years old.



Party for Xmas temp who stayed



BETTY MUNN little realised that she would be devoting the rest of her business life to Robinson's after she joined the Hamilton store as a Christmas temp in 1952.

For the past 14 years, she has been supervisor in the Notions and Fabric department, and her enthusiasm has helped to set up similar departments in the branch stores.

Recently she was honoured at a special party arranged by her friends in the store.

She is pictured here in the department.



Miss V. MacDonald



Mrs. B. Schell



Mrs. B. Ogilvie

NEW STORE IS HOST TO PENSIONERS

THE new Conestoga Mall store in Waterloo, Ontario, played host to 35 V.I.P.'s recently.

That's 35 very important pensioners. They spent the day at the store and enjoyed lunch in the restaurant.

The new store is the latest in the Robinson chain, and is only an hour's bus ride from the parent store in Hamilton.



ONE for the scrapbook—Hamilton's champion bowling team. Pictured left to right are: Ed Morris, Irma Ainsworth, Urban MacLellan—store manager and Hannah Hastie.

Joined store back in 1918 . . .

ESTELLE STEVENS who joined Robinson's way back in 1918, was guest of honour at the company's Annual Pensioners' Party.

Estelle was celebrating her Diamond wedding anniversary.

The happy pensioners are left to right:—Gladys Whatley, Doris Morley, Wilfred Spence, Mayme Lackey, Eleanor Anderson, Estelle Stevens and Ida Reid.

CANADIAN COLLEAGUES ROLLED OUT RED CARPET FOR JOAN

STOURBRIDGE office manager Joan Deacon received V.I.P. treatment when she called in at Robinson's Hamilton store during a recent holiday in Canada.

When Joan mentioned that she worked for Owen Owen she was taken on a tour of the Canadian store and even allowed to use her discount card to buy some souvenirs.

Said Joan, "It was nice to visit a store I had only read about in Scene. Everyone was so kind, particularly the manager Mr. Blais who had a long chat with me."

"Through the columns of Scene I would like to thank all our Canadian friends for their hospitality."

Fifty years without a bump

FIFTY years on the road and not even a bump, that's the proud record of chauffeur Ernie Gibson who has just retired after a lifetime with Owen Owen.

During that time he has earned every safe driving medal the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents can award, and the friendship and respect of everyone in the company.

Born within a stone's throw of where T. J. Hughes stands today, Ernie joined Owen Owen as a 15 year old messenger boy in 1928.

"In those days the parcels were delivered by private chauffeur driven car and the shop stayed open as long as there were customers inside," he recalls.

We were paid 7s. 6d. a week, which was great money when you consider we were lucky to have jobs.

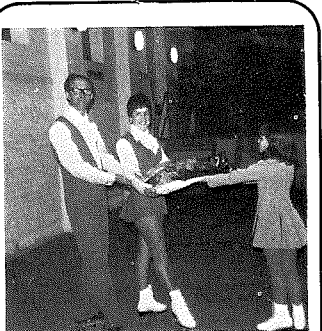
Ernie drove an old Morris Oxford which belonged to one of the manageresses. Up till then horse drawn waggons had been used. "The car was still very much a novelty," he said.

Delivering the days takings to the bank was another one of Ernie's jobs. "There was no such thing as a security van then," he said. "I had to make four or five trips a day on foot, weighed down with moneybags full of coppers."



During his time with Owen Owen, Ernie has seen many changes. "I have grown up with the company," he said. Mr. Norman was only five when he joined . . . "I have been one of the two chauffeurs for the past few years."

A keen Everton supporter, he now plans to spend more time at Goodison Park. "It keeps me away from gardening and decorating," he says. "They scare me stiff!"



Allen needs his skates on

ALLEN RAYMEN needs to put his skates on if he wants to keep up with his wife Jackie, assistant sales manager of Lingerie at Finchley.

For Jackie is a roller skate dancer with bronze and silver certificates to prove it.

She is pictured here with Allen who also dances. They spend a lot of their time tutoring youngsters. "It is catching on", says Jackie.

Stepping into the electronic era

by Ona Moulding
(Management Services Director)

ON October 1, 1978, the Purchase Order Control Project was born when the Computer Department started to print the Delivery and Transfer Advices for the new Torrington Avenue Midlands Regional Warehouse.

The new baby is well and strong. The few hiccups of its early hours have subsided and we want to thank all the people who helped at the birth:

The Buying Team—Liverpool and London.

The General Managers and staff of the Midland stores.

The members of Central Accounts.

The Torrington Avenue Warehouse Team.

The P.O.C. Project Team, and the new Purchase Order Control Unit in Audley House.

On the selling side of the business, electronic terminal registers have been installed in seven more stores: *Coventry, Southampton, Chester, Wolverhampton, Finchley, Bath, Richmond*, on Major Fashion, Menswear and Rare Set departments.

The majority of the stores balanced their terminals to the penny on the very first day's trading.

Starting in February, 1979, terminals will be installed in all Owen Owen stores on the same groups of departments, along with "light pens" to read all the price ticket details at a stroke—no keying in.

The Buyers of Major Fashions, Menswear and Rare Set will then have splendid coverage of customer demand in all regions.

All Buyers will receive improved control information from the computer master file on all central orders.

T. J. Hughes, London Road, is also experimenting with a new conventional N.C.R. register.

So—into 1979 with all flags flying, the electronic era holds no fears for us!

NEW G.M.'s AT FOUR STORES

NEW general managers have been appointed at four Owen Owen stores.

Brenda Tufton at Newport joined the store in 1958 when it was owned by Macowards. She transferred to Owen Owen in 1975 when she was appointed sales manager of Fashion Accessories and Perfumery.

A rapid career path followed. She was appointed merchandise manager in February 1978 and general manager in August 1978.

Sandie Graham at Uxbridge joined the company as a management trainee in Clayton Square in 1971 after graduating from Dublin University.

She held sales management appointments in Erdington, Doncaster and Taunton before her promotion to merchandise manager in Newport in 1976.



Brenda Tufton

After six months as merchandise manager in Brighton, Sandie has been appointed general manager of the newly acquired store in Uxbridge. A much travelled lady!

Ken Speddings at Kidderminster joined the company in 1962 as a junior trainee in Coventry and has held sales manager appointments in

Coventry, Bootle Strand and Wolverhampton.

He was appointed merchandise manager in 1974, and held this position in Wolverhampton, Clayton Square and Chester.



Sandie Graham

After eight months as the Branch store merchandiser for the Northern Region, Ken returned to the Midlands as general manager of Kidderminster.

Michael Thomson of Brighton rejoined the company in February as senior merchandise manager in Chester after a two year break. In

October Michael was appointed general manager in Brighton at the time of Mr. Dodson's retirement.



Ken Speddings



Michael Thomson

25 years in Coventry



A gold watch for Bernard Stone to mark 25 years at Owen Owen Coventry.

Bernard, sales manager of the furniture department receives the watch from Mr. M. G. Rider, Group Financial Director.

£4,000 raised for charity

THE Merseyside Branch of the Drapery Trades Charities has raised more than £4,000 during the last year under the Chairmanship of David Rennison, general manager of T. J. Hughes, Birkenhead.

Ken sets the house on fire

KEN DODD joked and jested with staff during a visit to T. J. Hughes, London Road.

He was in the store to promote Modern Solid Fuel Appliances. Miss Liverpool and Miss Coal Board were with him.

Bill found fisherman's dream

HUNTING and fishing in the Catskill mountains, that was Bill Halloran's formula for a dream holiday.

The local Forest Ranger also took him to a trout farm and a man-made beaver lake during his stay in Downville—a small town about 130 miles from New York.

Bill, sales manager of Menswear in the Clayton Square store, was paying a return trip to

Downsville after first calling there during a football tournament in 1974.

During his stay he also went to New York City where he visited the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty. He also saw the musical 'Grease' on stage on Broadway.

Results — great improvement but a good January stocktake is vital

GROUP TRADING

The first six months to the end of July produced a profit of £281,000 against a loss in the six months to July, 1977 of £581,000—a very great improvement.

U.K. STORES

Most of the gain was achieved by the U.K. stores, with sales up by nearly 20%, partly in response to our own trading initiatives (in particular in response to our 'Top six' promotions) and partly on the back of the so-called "consumer boom". Although wage increases had been apparently smaller than in some previous years, the falling rate of inflation and the beneficial effect of tax reductions meant real increases in wages instead of increases in "confetti" money. Our customers had more to spend. However, on the debit side, the end-July stocktaking results were highly unsatisfactory. Our security systems and our paperwork accuracy were just not good enough.

PLUMB CONTRACTS

Contributed a satisfactory increase in sales and profit with increased employment.

ROBINSON'S

The trading results were disappointing in Canada, with difficult economic conditions generally and with the Niagara Falls store, opened in August 1977, contributing a material loss in its first Spring half-year.

THE PRESENT HALF-YEAR

The "consumer boom" in the U.K. has slowed somewhat in October and November, and trading conditions are not getting much easier in Canada.

In the year to January 1978, we had a poor first half and an excellent second half—indeed the second half-year was a record in the U.K. This year we have had a better first half—now we have to make sure, firstly, that our trading in December and January (two of the best trading months in the year) is just as good as it can be to match or beat last year; and secondly that our January stocktaking shows we have improved our security and our paperwork.

Retirement takes director back to the Lakes

JEREMY BARKWAY, merchandise director of the Household Division has retired to his adopted home in the Lake District after more than 30 years with Owen Owen.

He came to Owen Owen after a war career with the Sixth Airborne Division which took him to North Africa, the Rhine, and Palestine.

"After the war I had three interviews lined up but the position with Owen Owen looked fascinating," he said. "I came in as a management trainee and have never regretted the decision.

Mr. Barkway soon became sales manager of Stationery, then buyer of Stationery and Books and later buyer of China.

He was made merchandise manager at Coventry and then moved to Southampton as staff controller. A spell as buying controller of furnishing preceded his appointment as general manager of the Chester store.

Then in 1970 he was made personnel director. Soon afterwards he was made regional director of the Northern Division and then merchandise director of the Household Division.

Although he was born in Liverpool, Mr. Barkway has long considered Kentmere his home. "I was brought up there," he explained. "I am now going to take things easy, do a bit of fishing, some gardening, and a lot of walking. But I will certainly miss my friends in Owen Owen."



Lively Legs open Rare Set

AN official opening of Rare Set in Clayton Square was held on November 3.

In situ on the Rare Set department was the Radio City Road Show with two disc jockeys, Dave Eastwood and Norman Thomas, who were in the building from 9.30 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. During this time a live recording was sent out from the store whilst they played records and held competitions.

Proficiency Distinction Winners

They are pictured here, left to right: Caroline Phillips (Brighton), Neil Swanick (Clayton Square), Sue Huxley (Chester), Andy Jones (Chester), Sue Ross (London Road), Alison Barrie (Bath), Kit McMurrugh (Wolverhampton), Carol Bonsor (Coventry), Jane Montgomery (Clayton Square), Gary Burton (Wolverhampton), Sue Briggs (Wolverhampton), and A. Beasley (Coventry).



Safe Driving Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to eight Owen Owen employees who have received Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents safe driving awards.

They are: Brian Bird—driver, Richard Laidlaw—driver, Edward Bevan—porter, Alfred Mitchell—ex-driver, Robert Lloyd—porter, Joseph Woodward—driver, John Gardener—mechanic, Edward Laven—driver, Reginald Powell—driver.

It was a proud day for Freda

IT was a day to remember for Freda Laird from the Chester fashion floor—when she joined her Grenadier Guard son at Buckingham Palace.

Son Martin, who used to work at the store was on parade with his regiment who were receiving their new colours from the Queen.

Lifetime dedicated to fighting crime . . .



SECURITY controller Walter Gittings has retired from Owen Owen after a lifetime dedicated to crime fighting.

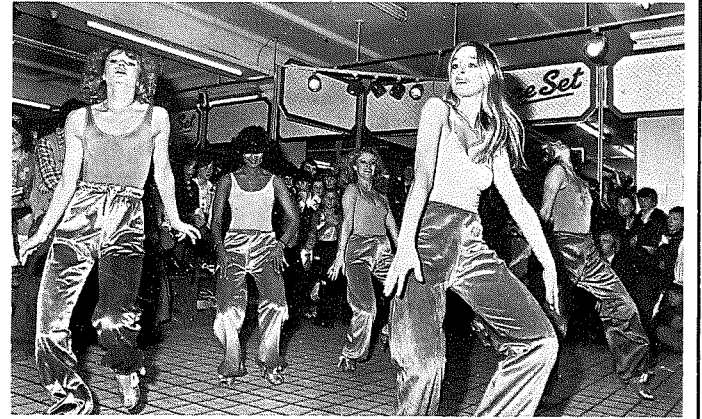
He joined the company in 1964 after 30 years as a policeman with the Liverpool City force where he rose to the rank of Divisional Detective Inspector. During his police career Mr. Gittings won 26 awards and commendations for detective work and the King's Police medal for trying to rescue a man from a canal in 1935. During the war he served in the Liverpool C.I.D.

Since joining Owen Owen, Mr. Gittings has been responsible for supporting the security staff in all our stores, as well as other aspects including burglar alarms and television cameras.

"I am sorry to be leaving," he said. "My main regret is that I haven't had the time to get around everyone who has sent me their good wishes."

Mr. Gittings plans to take things easy now. "I have no definite plans but I have bought a new set of bowls," he said.

But he won't be forgotten—Mr. Gittings at his retirement party gave a Gittings Security Award to the Company which will be presented annually for outstanding achievement in security.



The response to the advertising for this event was terrific and before the arrival of Legs and Co., there were about 4/500 people in the department.

Legs & Co. arrived at Lime Street Station from where they travelled in an open top bus around the city centre, reaching Clayton Square at approximately 12 noon. They went into Rare Set where they did a dance routine, and

then spent the following three hours signing autographs and speaking to the disc jockeys.

The opening was a great success and the trading which followed was very good. New merchandise had been brought in for the occasion and the window display for the opening followed the fashion portrayed in the current film "Grease".

25 YEAR AWARD



CHAIRMAN John Norman presents a gold watch to Bill Matlock—Warehouse Manager, from Bootle centre to mark his 25 years with the company. Also in the picture is personnel director Elizabeth Rees.

Over 40 years in Transport



OVER 40 years service each. That's the proud boast of six employees of the transport department in Bootle Centre.

They are from left to right:—Edward Bevan (44 years), Alfred Mitchell (46 years), Harold Grice (41 years), Thomas MacDonald (46 years), Robert Usher (43 years), and Ernest Cowley (48 years).

Tucking in for Christmas

By Harry Collings
Food Controller based in Coventry

NOW is the time to make your preparations and buy the foods which will enhance your Christmas table.

Buy early to avoid disappointments, as the nearer Christmas comes, the quicker all the goodies are sold out.

This year prices are only slightly up and indeed turkeys can be obtained at last year's prices.

Some of the things to remember when food shopping:—Turkey, Capons, Ducks, Cooking foil, Stuffing, Chestnut Puree, Bread sauce, Apple sauce, Cranberries or Cranberry sauce, Chipolatas, Pork joint, Gammon joint, Branston pickle, Pickled onions, Red Cabbage, Beetroot. Piccalilli, Christmas pudding, Brandy sauce, Cream, Custard, Tinned fruit, Truffles, Trifle sponges, Jellies, Marzipan, Glace cherries, Cocktail cherries, Mixed peel, Mixed fruit, Sultanas, Currants, Raisins, Chopped walnuts, Sweet almonds, Almond flakes, Brazil nuts, Mince-meat, Canned and bottled drinks, Crisps, Selection boxes and confectionery items.



Good enough for Robbie

ONE of the most popular customers in the Shrewsbury store is Robbie, a Cairn Terrier.

When a sales assistant asked his elderly owner if he could help her she answered, "I'm quite all right dear. I only come in because Robbie likes it in here!"

TOM'S NOT 'CRYING' ABOUT IT

CHESTER Town Crier is world champion—and that's official.

Tom Clarkson who has been ringing the praises of Owen Owen for only four months, beat 15 contestants from all over Europe and the Commonwealth to win the title.

Although he publicises other companies as well, he is a familiar sight to Owen Owen staff who like his way of publicising our products.

It's serious see! So don't laugh With the figures so bad, I'd be ever so glad, For two Christmases! One in each half!

And two managers wrote ditties to the Partridge in a Pear Tree song, and they go as follows:—

From **Barry Boycott** at the Shrewsbury store:—

- 12 Extra people—selling.
- 11 More Christmas windows—showing.
- 10 Entrance doors—beckoning.
- 9 Store detectives—apprehending.
- 8 Zebras crossing—(note clever play on words).
- 7 Sales managers—winning.
- 6 Top departments—swinging.
- 5 Choir boys—(what for I don't know, but it's in the song!)
- 4 Buying controllers—praising.
- 3 Sales floors—throbbing.
- 2 Clasped hands—praying.
- 1 Course of lessons—in writing prose!

John Prince from Wolverhampton wants his interest in fishing to the same tune:—

- 12 Fishing rods,
- 11 Spools of line,
- 10 Splendid hooks,
- 9 Cans of lager,
- 8 Spinners spinning,
- 7 Swimfeeders baiting,
- 6 Ledgers sinking,
- 5 Packs of hemps,
- 4 Bags of groundbait,
- 3 Bags of casters,
- 2 Pints of maggots,
- and a huge fish in a pear tree.

All they want for Christmas . . .

WE asked the general managers to tell us what they would like for Christmas, and here are just a few of the amusing answers we got back:—

Sandie Graham from Uxbridge wants "The Incredible Hulk" to assist with some of the muscle power during department moves.

Basil Disley from Bootle Strand would like "A set of long hitting golf clubs and a ball with a homeing device—all to produce low scores."

Ethel Trowler from the Clayton Square store wants "A telephone without a bell."

Russel Ford from Weston wants a "Gypsy caravan, complete with a crystal ball."

Brenda Tufton from Newport wants a "Handsome merchandise manager—gift wrapped of course."

Phil Draycott from Evesham would like "A fur lined boot—because he has a very temperamental spare tyre."

Pat Telkman from Coventry wants "A moving staircase to the fourth floor."

Ken Speddings from Kidderminster would like "Arms like Steve Austin."

George Harrison-Bryant from the Colwyn Bay store would like a "Welsh Wizard" for Christmas.

Tom Brent from Chester wants "Seven league boots to run between Eastgate Street and Bridge Street."

Peter Fleming from T. J. Hughes London Road wants, "A machine for locating bargain purchases with a special open-to-buy over-ride attachment."

Others turned to verse to let us know what they wanted. **Dave Rennison** from Birkenhead:—

I don't want no socks or a scarf

CATERING FOR THE RICH AND FAMOUS

CUSTOMERS at Owen Owen stores come from all walks of life; we pride ourselves in having something for everyone.

But just for fun we asked our stores to tell us about the famous people they serve and we were surprised at the list!

Richmond staff offer the best service in town; they have to with Esther Rantzen of 'That's Life' fame regularly calling in!

And they have plenty to laugh about with comedian Lesley Crowther, and Paula Wilcox from 'Man about the house'. Kate O'Mara from 'The Brothers' and Bamber Gascoigne from 'University Challenge' also live near by and often pop in when they are shopping.

Stourbridge staff have a whole "Who's Who" of famous customers, they include; Mike Baldwin from Coronation Street, Bob Plant from Led Zeppelin, who used to work at the store, Roy Wood from the Wizzards, Annie, the lead singer in Renaissance, Peter Powell from Radio One, Dorothy Round, ex-Wimbledon Champion, Patrick Grogan of Crossroads, Cilla Black and Dora Bryan.

Common sight

At Clayton Square where the staff are football crazy it's quite a common sight to see Liverpool and Everton players doing their shopping. Recent visitors include Ray Clemence, Tommy Smith, David Fairclough, Jimmy Case, Billy Liddell, Brian Labone, Mike Lyons and Gordon West.

Many actors and entertainers use the store too, including Mollie Sugden, Nerys Hughes, Alan Rothwell, Alfred Marks, Ian Ogilvy, Frankie Vaughan, Ken Dodd, William

Rushton, the Scaffold and Champagne.

Jack Watson, the well known character actor, can be often seen in our Bath store.

Jack who has appeared in "Z cars" and "When the boat Comes In" as well as in the cinema in Bathampton, just outside the city. He is a keen do it yourself enthusiast and loves converting old houses and cottages.

Dame Flora Robson and Lady Olivier have called at our Brighton store, while at Preston, Renee Bradshaw and William Roache from Coronation Street are regular customers.

Oh dear! What a clanger

PAM GUTHRIE, Corocraft consultant at Wolverhampton store had a funny thing happen to her on the way back from lunch.

A lady customer stopped her and asked, "what is your honest opinion about this?"

"Well Madam" Pam replied, "if you want my honest opinion, that hat doesn't do a thing for you."

The lady replied, "It was the coat I was going to buy."

Hard work being a musketeer!

SOLDIER Jon Rothwell takes his musket and sword when he goes away at the week-ends. For Jon, an assistant sales manager in Bootle Strand is a member of the 'King's Army', an organisation which travels the length and breadth of the country recreating battles in aid of local charities.

And the scenes they recreate are very realistic. They even have suitably costumed women in the group to comfort and tend to the 'wounded' soldiers on the battle field.

"I am a musketeer," says Jon, and damned hard work it can be too! There are six separate actions involved in loading and firing a musket, and each action must be done in the correct sequence."

"Muskets are dangerous if not handled properly, however we are all trained, and accidents are rare," he said.

And after the battle? Well then both victors and vanquished retire to the local tavern, still in costume to drink ale and boast of the battles they have fought.

As evening draws in, to keep in with the flavour of the time, ballads are sung.

Recruits are always needed, not so much through loss of life on the battlefield, but more because the 'King's Army' has such a full programme ahead.

Anyone between the ages of 16 and 60 who has a sound heart, are welcome. Jon will be only too pleased to pass on details.



LOOK AT FASHION

For big girls . . .

FOR the last few years, fashion has been very decisive and definitely making a strong statement.

The Indian look, the flouncy lacy skirts and the pretty colours of last summer was a natural progression from the masculine cord and hacking jacket look of last winter.

As a rebellion to this predictable theme, fashion rebels every now and again and we have a "non-fashion" season.

Changing looks

This happened last in the early sixties with pop-art—probably before the time of a lot of you—when we had a very difficult but exciting time leading into the biggest change in look of a fashion era.

The hard, practical war years gave way to Dior's new look.

The fifties gave way to the rock and roll era and pop art gave us mini skirts, hot pants and Twiggy.

I feel we are on the verge of one of these periods leading into a new exciting era of fashion.

What will it be?—How will we, Owen Owen, deal with it and turn it into profit? Here is how we in the London Buying Office see it.

Two definite looks have emerged. The military look in trousers, skirts, tops, coats and jackets; khakis, cream, black, rust, clear sharp lines all reminiscent of the forces but with glamorous touches such as satin forage caps, lovely Sam Browne belts and extravagant rows of ribbons and medals—fake, of course!

Born from 'Punk'

Then we have the feminine look born from the "punk" cult. Bright colours—full skirts, petticoats, trimmings, pillbox hats, Greta Garbo hats, circular skirts and drainpipe trousers.

Hemlines are shorter by just two inches and legs and pretty shoes are back. Tight pencil skirts creep back with pretty blouses with details like bows at the neckline and pretty buttons.

Colours: Two definite themes. For the military look we see khaki, camel, black, soft rust. For the bright look we see hot pink, electric blue, jade green, chrome yellow, and red with everything.

Skirts: Two looks—either soft and bright. Usually a bright print on black or the bright colours cleverly woven into tweeds on a neutral background giving a pretty tweedy effect.

Shapes are narrower and often straight. Button through or plain with deep vents of kick pleats. Plain fabrics such as silk mixtures in the dusty colours or cavalry twills, plainer with pleats and button trims very important.

Trousers: In cord, cavalry twill, drill. Mainly in the dusty colours and black. Either very slim and narrow or the now popular two front pleat "peg" shape.

Knitwear: Very reminiscent of the 40's look. Delicate lacy knits, lots of cardigans and waistcoats, shorter in length. Also we find lush fabrics like velour and linen knits in V neck jumpers and waistcoats to be important. Again all the fashion colours are represented.

T shirts: At last a new look. Deep V necks, back and front and with three-quarter or long sleeves. Here colours are predominantly bright with a lot of black. The bright electric colours look fantastic worn with "drab" coloured skirts or pants.

Blouses: Lovely feminine blouses. Pussy bow the necklines, yokes, padded shoulders and three-quarter puff sleeves. Fabrics are soft, supple and rich in colour. The shawl collar is also very important.

Dresses: Are elegant and lady-like. Padded shoulders with lovely interesting collar and necklines. Usually a yolk with the bodice falling from it. Baby pockets on the bodice and skirt which is straighter and smoother—and waists with exciting belts are back!

Sue Allen, Rare Set Buyer,
looks ahead to Spring



Jackets and Coats: Very masculine with big padded shoulders and pleating detail, straight cut with waists drawn in with a Sam Browne belt and a wide leather belt. Shawl collars or narrow lapels—all very 'Marlene Dietrich'.

Worn with pillbox hats with veils or small neat beanie hats in cloth or felt or extra large 'Rita Heyworth' glamour hats.

Jackets are longer, blouson, in interesting tweeds and cloths. A few traditional "jackets" but either very boxy or with pinched waists and shorter in length.

Accessories are exciting. Lots of belts—wide and shiny or luxurious leathers.

Bonanza summer ahead for hats. Glamorous 'Rita Hayworth' shapes

with larger than life brims and trimmed with flowers. Skull caps, beanies and pillboxes in straw, felt fabric and velvet. Also caps, forage caps, and Nehru caps to go with military looks.

Fun Jewels

Jewellery is not very important but what there is is fun. Medals, diamante, flowers and colour. Also a lot of maribu feathers, Handbags are small and neat and sunglasses are large and extravagant.

Definitely the most varied and exciting stories to emerge from the fashion world since the maxi and the mini era. We are all very excited about Spring 1979—we hope you are too. It's going to be fun!

Velvet and tweeds Menswear by Brian Bolton

THE Velvet Jacket remains a strong favourite for this Autumn's Seasonal Festivities, worn with a pair of smart, well cut, narrower flare trousers.



The shirt will be a small collared or button down style in a brushed cotton in plain or checks. Ties, if they are to be worn, will be narrow and worn loose.

For the less formal party the trend will be much more casual with Tweed Jackets with narrower lapels and elbow patches, these will be teamed up with the pleated front, tapered leg cords.

The shirt will again be button down or the new small collar style with a narrow tie worn loose. To finish off the look, a slipover or sleeveless cardigan is needed, and a toning scarf in a plain or check design.

. . . and little girls

PAULA LEE
Party type Velvet
Trix Dresses.
Ages 2-5 yrs.
Ages 6-10 yrs.



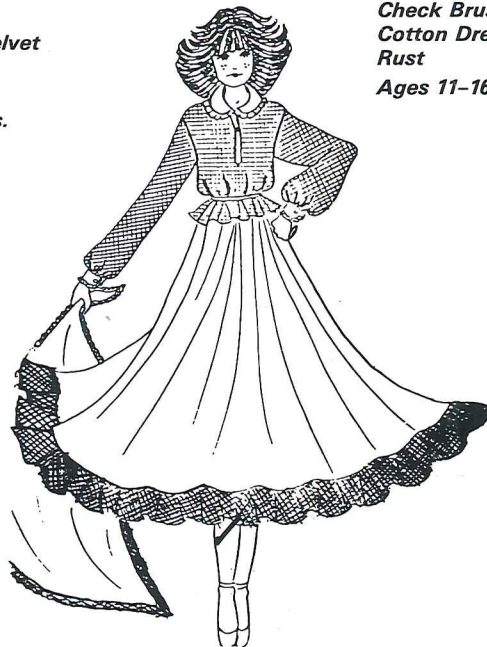
THERE is a very soft feminine theme to the girls fashions in this years 'Party Scene'.

The dresses are mid-calf length, and are softly gathered, coming in rich rust and burgundy colours, and are made from velvets and muted autumn prints.

There are also velvet jeans, satin shirts and velvet jackets for the more casual occasions.

Christine Roughton
Buyer of Girlsweat

SASHA FASHIONS
Check Brushed
Cotton Dress in
Rust
Ages 11-16 yrs.



JOHN ADAMS
JRS.
Check/Plain Shirt
Dress
Ages 6-10 yrs.



Boys love parties too!

PARTY time is here again. What to wear is always a problem with any age, and boys are no exception.

Let us start with the jacket. For the more formal party what could be better than a smart velvet jacket. These are in navy and brown. Or a cord Jacket also in navy and brown.

You may prefer a smart tailored jacket in patterned tweeds and here we have a wide choice of plains and herringbones. You will of course need trousers. Plain colours of black, navy, brown and bottle are the favourites with narrow or flared trousers. With any of these jackets we have a toning print patterned shirt.

For the less formal party a cord zip jacket could be preferred. Or if you prefer to go in a pullover we have the military style or a zip front cardigan.

To travel to the party you must have a warm lined check bomber jacket.

Charles
McFarlane