

RENDCOMB
COLLEGE
CHRONICLE

Vol. 11, No. 7.

December, 1958

Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 11, No. 7.

December 1958

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HONOURS.

F. S. G. Richards, Peterhouse, Cambridge, Wrangler.
M. D. Rayner, Magdalene College, Cambridge, 1st Class Honours in
Part 2 of the Natural Sciences Tripos.
S. R. Merrett, Stapledon Exhibition, Exeter College, Oxford.
L. V. Crawford, Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship, University
of California, Berkeley, U. S. A.
M. E. Knight, Batchelor Research Fellowship, Sheffield University.
J. Kitto, City of London 'Cello Scholarship, Guildhall School of Music.

County University Awards.

J. R. Alder. I. A. N. Campbell. M. A. B. Forster.
C. Handoll.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Christmas Term, 1958.

Senior Prefect—R. D. Comley.
Group Leaders—R. D. Comley, R. F. Stebbing, P. G. S. Airey, R.
Bolton King.
College Workman—R. F. Stebbing, †
Public Workman—R. D. Comley.
Music Warden—G. Harrison.
Music Librarians—L. de V. Wragg, P. J. Callaghan, D. G. Griffiths.
Q. P. Concerts—I. S. C. Airey.
Pictureman—R. P. S. Harrison.
Lamp Men—M. Whittering, F. A. G. Ferguson.
Church Ushers—J. B. Gooch, M. van den Driessche.
†Furniture Committee—D. A. Hodges, D. M. Tucker, M. C. Jones.
Church Collections and Deck Chairs—G. J. Taylor.
Stagemen—R. F. Stebbing, R. A. Dauncey, N. J. Price, J. C. Malpass,
H. E. Gough, D. M. Tucker.
Librarians—J. B. Gooch, M. van den Driessche, I. S. C. Airey, J. R.
Windsor, D. R. Poole.

Manual Foremen—H. E. Gough, D. R. Poole, R. D. Comley, J. C. Malpass.
Poultrymen—H. E. Gough, D. M. Tucker, T. C. Bass, P. K. Dale, D. J. Tudge, C. J. Webb, J. Mitchison.
† General Meeting Elections.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Summer Term.

Correction. —We greatly regret, and offer our warm apologies to Mr. J. H. Simpson for, an error in dates that occurred in the obituary notice of Mrs. Simpson. In fact she came to Rendcomb in 1921 and she and Mr. Simpson were married in December 1921.

* * * * *
Various outings were arranged during term. Almost everyone went to see “Around the World in Eighty Days,” in Cheltenham; Form III visited Billy Smart’s Circus, also in Cheltenham. Then for the Festival of Contemporary Music: senior members of the School saw the Royal Ballet, and also went to a concert given by the Halle Orchestra.

* * * * *
We offer our good wishes to the following boys who left at the end of the term: J. R. Alder, D. W. Brown, C. Handoll, J. E. Gooding, G. H. G. Herbert, P. G. Auden, M. A. B. Forster, J. F. W. Beard, R. W. Taylor, I. A. N. Campbell, D. R. G. Griffiths and D. A. Cook.

* * * * *
It is with regret that we have to report the resignation from the staff of Mr. Frank Haywood. He left at the end of term to take up an appointment at Wem Grammar School in Shropshire, and we wish him every success.

Mr. K. S. Perkins also left at the end of term and we send him our good wishes, coupled with our congratulations on his marriage.

* * * * *
It is with regret that we record the death of Mrs. Arthur Browne, the Headmaster’s mother, and we offer him and his family our sincere sympathy. Mrs. Browne will be well remembered by many generations of Rendcombians. For twenty-five

years, except during the war, she never missed Founder's Day, and since she and Dr. Browne came to live in Cheltenham a few years ago, she had been a frequent visitor to Rendcomb.

* * * *

We acknowledge the following gifts, with our grateful thanks:

From Mr. Edward Thorne, a number of Physics and Chemistry Books for the Science Library, and a book on Modern Accountancy, another on Economics, and a third relating to the story of the Battle of Cassino, all for the main library.

From Mr. C. H. Dauncey, two "Encyclopaedias of Plastics," and various technical magazines. We much appreciate Mr. Dauncey's promise of a further supply of these journals when his firm has finished with them.

From Peter Hayes, O. R., from Nigeria, a collection of preserved insects—especially interesting being two mature Queen Termites.

From Peter Binks, O. R., two very fine Bunsen burners, specially designed for use with Calor gas.

From the Reverend V. S. M. Wheeler, a violin and a considerable quantity of Sheet Music of all kinds; and a fitted wardrobe for use in a Staff Bedroom. What a debt we owe to him for these and other gifts.

From Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, the Town Clerk of Cirencester, and Mr. W. W. Smith, of Siddington, the gift of two stuffed badgers which are now in the Biological Laboratory.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, 1958.

"O" Level:

- I. S. C. Airey—Latin, French, English Literature, English Language, History, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.
- J. F. W. Beard—Additional Mathematics.
- R. A. Dauncey—French.
- D. R. G. Griffiths—Music.
- S. D. Hicks—French, English Literature, English Language, History, Mathematics, Physics, Biology.
- D. A. Hodges—Latin, French, English Literature, English Language, History, Mathematics, Physics, Biology. "

- M. D. Naish—French, English Language, History, Mathematics,
Physics, Biology.
- D. R. Poole—French, English Literature, English Language, History,
Mathematics, Biology.
- J. Shaw—French, English Language, Mathematics, Physics.
- R. F. Stebbing—French.
- G. J. Taylor—French, English Literature, English Language, History,
Mathematics, Physics, Biology.
- M. Whittering—French, English Literature, English Language, History,
Biology.

“A” Level:

- J. R. Alder—Chemistry (A), Botany (A).
- R. Bolton King—Physics (A), Chemistry (A).
- I. A. N. Campbell—English (A), History (A).
- R. D. Comley—English (A).
- M. A. B. Forster—Mathematics (S), Further Mathematics (A), Physics
(S), Chemistry (A).
- J. B. Gooch—Mathematics (A), Physics (A).
- C. Handoll—Chemistry (A), Botany (S), Zoology (S).
- R. W. Taylor—Botany (A), Zoology (A).
- G. H. G. Herbert—Mathematics (A), Chemistry (A).
- D. R. G. Griffiths—English (A), History (A).

GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1958.

- Chairman—R. Bolton-King.
- Secretary—G. Harrison.
- Games Captain—P. G. S. Airey.
- Field Secretary—R. Bolton-King.
- Games Committee—R. F. Stebbing and M. van den Driessche. Meeting
Banker—I. S. C. Airey.
- Boys’ Banker—J. R. Windsor.
- Senior Shopman—D. R. Poole.
- House Committee Treasurer—N. J. Price.
- Games Committee Treasurer—G. J. Taylor.

Finance Committee Treasurer—K. A. Walker.
 Auditors—R. A. Dauncey and J. B. Gooch.
 Entertainments Committee—J. B. Gooch, D. M. Tucker, M. A. Gooding, R. A. D. Laws, and A. N. Hill.
 End of Term Entertainments Committee—R. A. Cockrell, H. E. Gough, F. A. G. Ferguson, N. J. Price and S. D. Hicks.
 Cycle Committee—J. M. Webb, M. D. Naish and J. T. Wood.
 Shopmen—K. A. Walker and C. C. Richardson.
 Classical Record Committee—R. A. Dauncey, G. Harrison and I. S. C. Airey.
 Light Record Committee—D. R. Poole and M. Whittering.
 Amplifier Technicians—R. F. Stebbing and M. J. N. Bryant.
 Paperman—R. P. S. Harrison.
 Financial Advisory Committee—D. R. Poole, R. A. Cockrell and J. R. Windsor.
 Rugby Games Warden—J. M. Webb and J. A. T. Goodborn.
 Chairman of the Groundsmen—R. F. Stebbing.
 Billiards Committee—R. Bolton-King, R. A. Dauncey and P. B. Heppleston.
 Senior Rugby Groundsmen—M. Whittering, T. L. H. Benbow and M. J. N. Bryant.
 Junior Rugby Groundsmen—R. C. Jones and R. A. D. Laws.
 Breakages Man—L. de V. Wragg.
 Finance Committee—T. Tucker and M. E. Morris.
 Cricket Secretary—G. J. Taylor.
 Hockey Secretary—J. R. Windsor.
 Rugby Secretary—R. Bolton-King.
 Drying Room Committee—N. J. Price, A. D. Heppleston and M. F. Ashe-Jones.
 Sledge Committee—R. J. Hayes, D. M. Tucker and D. J. Tudge.
 Cricket Games Warden—C. B. Stillwell.
 Tennis Games Warden—D. J. Thomasson.
 Hockey Games Warden—N. R. Meakin.
 Cricket Groundsman—I. S. C. Airey.
 Tennis Groundsman—P. B. Heppleston.

Selection Committee—R. Bolton-King, P. G. S. Airey, J. B. Gooch, M. van den Driessche and J. R. Windsor.
Council—R. Bolton-King, P. G. S. Airey, J. B. Gooch, M. van den Driessche, R. A. Cockrell, G. Harrison and J. Shaw.
Nominations Committee—R. A. Cockrell, J. R. Windsor, M. van den Driessche, J. B. Gooch and P. G. S. Airey.
Magazine Committee—M. van den Driessche, G. Harrison, D. R. Poole.
Rule Committee—G. Harrison, J. R. Windsor and M. van den Driessche.

GENERAL MEETING NOTES.

Summer Term, 1958.

One of the most interesting discussions of the term arose from the report of the Extraordinary Committee elected by the Meeting during the previous term to discuss the future of the Christmas Party. The committee had come to the conclusion that the form of the party was basically sound, but that comparatively minor alterations might effect improvement and ease the burden of the organisers. For example: they recommended that dancing should be made the responsibility of the regular Entertainments Committee for the term, that juniors and non-dancers should receive more attention, and that the allowance for the committee should be raised to £7. The committee thought that fancy dress was a good thing, and although it has often been criticised, no one took up the Headmaster's suggestion that we might have one party without it, as an experiment, in order to judge its true value more easily. The report, having been approved by the meeting, was handed over to the next term's End of Term Entertainments Committee.

The Nominations Committee was this term again the subject of discussion. A proposal was put forward concerning a discussion which had taken place during the previous term. The proposer, the originator of the present system of nominations, stated that he had proposed that the Nominations Committee should not nominate for the offices of Chairman and Games Captain. An amendment had been added, he said, to the effect that the Committee could nominate, if they wished. This directly contravened the purpose of his original proposal. There is much interest in the nominations for these particular offices; for the Nominations

Committee even to have the option of nominating for them, would detract from the open nominations. A proposal that the Nominations Committee could nominate for these offices, but only after nominations had been made in open meeting, was passed by nineteen votes to one.

A proposal was brought in soon after the beginning of term to the effect that fixture cards should be subsidised by the meeting by the payment of £1 a term to cover the setting rate for the print. The College apparently made a loss on selling the cards at the present price. There was some discussion as to whether or not it would be better to fix the price of the cards and let the meeting make up the difference, but finally the proposal was passed.

The exceptionally small size of the Sixth Form threatened to make elections difficult. Some members thought that the existing rule, that a member may hold a major and a minor office or three minor offices, should be abolished or amended. After some discussion it was decided that members who were willing to hold more than their prescribed quota should be allowed to do so. In practice this worked quite satisfactorily.

There was an important, if rather confused, discussion during the middle of the term on the subject of newspapers. The first proposal on the subject was that the meeting should buy the "Daily Telegraph" instead of the "Manchester Guardian" because the former would be a more suitable paper for the middle school, and because four papers would be a bad thing on account of the additional expense, and untidiness in the library. The proposal, having been amended to the effect that we should buy both papers, was passed. In the following meeting the original proposal was again presented, though in a slightly elaborated form, and passed—so we now have three papers, including the "Daily Telegraph"!

FOUNDER'S DAY.

This year Founder's Day was held on the last Saturday of term, when all G. C. E. Examinations were over, whereas it has previously been held in June, midway between "O" and "A" Levels. The experiment of having it later was quite successful though there proved to be advantages both in mid-term and at the end. Whether the later date will be adopted as a permanent fixture does not depend entirely on internal College requirements and a decision on the date for 1959 has not yet been made.

The Guest of Honour was the Lord Bishop of Gloucester,, The Right Reverend Wilfred Askwith, who was introduced by the Chairman of the Governors.

The Chairman, in welcoming the guests, said it was the day of the year on which we kept in memory our Founder's vision, foresight and great generosity, to which the School owes its existence, and he also paid tribute to the Founder's family and thanked them for the love and care they lavished on the school.

The Headmaster in his Report referred to the impending departure of the Rector of Rendcomb, the Reverend V. S. M. Wheeler, who is resigning the living to go to Burma. The Headmaster then went on to School matters and mentioned the need for a change of attitude, to which he had referred last year, on the part of boys to their year in the Lower Sixth. He said there was still the lingering idea that this form was the place of ease, leisure and pleasant conversation: a well-earned rest after "O" Level. This is a grave mistake and one from which all concerned would do well to deliver themselves. "The Lower Sixth is a beginning," he said. "It should be the laying of foundations. If the beginning and the foundations are good, there need be no anxiety for 'A' Level."

The Bishop of Gloucester said he had come straight from London, where he was at the Lambeth Conference. There he was meeting, day by day for five days a week, bishops from all parts of the Group of Churches which has its origin from our own Church in this country. One met bishops from South and West Africa, both European and native, Indians, Pakistanis, and others who are taking the places of European Bishops, men of great integrity and vision.

We were face to face with a very alarming world in which we could not tell what was going to happen next. There were some young people who got angry and frightened, not quite sure how to get over their difficulties or how to become adequate to meet the situation in the world.

His Lordship continued: "There is nothing more needed than a mind to make your own judgments. We are becoming more and more a people who take our opinions ready made from the Press and speeches or from somebody who talks on the radio or television. Very few think for themselves and form their own judgments of right and wrong on serious questions of the present time. What kind of a man are you becoming?"

Are you the sort of man who is facing the things of this world with a sense of responsibility and judgment? Pray God you are.”

The Bishop was thanked by the Chairman, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Major P. E. Birchall, a Governor.

Later there was a performance of Christopher Fry’s play, “The Boy With a Cart,” in the open-air theatre, of which a separate account appears below.

THE FOUNDER’S DAY PLAY.

Christopher Fry’s play, “The Boy with a Cart,” proved an admirable choice for Founder’s Day. Both in content and setting it is ideal for production in an open-air theatre.

The play, based on an old Sussex legend, enacts the story of Cuthman, the Cornish shepherd boy, who was inspired to build a church at Steyning, in Sussex. Thither he wheeled his mother in a home-made cart and, overcoming opposition from some of the villagers by miraculous means, began and finished his chosen work. The dialogue ranges from lovely and fanciful verse to deliberately commonplace prose; and the action of the play, in itself rather slight, is emphasised or amplified by the choric speech of a group of the People of South England.

The play’s impact depends largely on the extent to which the balance of poetry and homely realism is maintained. This was well held in the production and almost made credible the supposed storm of rain and the tremendous gusts of wind which discomfited Cuthman’s sceptical opponents. Even the temporary transformation of Alfred and Demiwulf into oxen seemed feasible.

R. A. Cockrell, as Cuthman, conveyed remarkably well a sense of dedication. His rapt indifference and self-absorption set him apart from the other characters and provoked the conviction of his ultimate success although he always remained the naive country boy. His long verse passages were clearly and thoughtfully spoken, and he gave an excellent performance.

R. P. S. Harrison, as Cuthman’s mother, had a difficult part. His vigorous garrulity and boisterous manner made him an effective contrast to Cuthman and the humorous turns of the action, such as the fall from the cart, were well achieved. He tended to let his gestures become monotonous but his rendering as a whole deserves warm praise. The Chorus, speaking as a unit, surprised the audience by the clarity and precision of their speech in the open

air. The division of the verse between the six People of South England had been made by the producer, and the poetry was given additional weight and emphasis by the varied voices of the characters to whom it was allotted. Both individually and as a whole they are to be congratulated.

Among the minor characters one remembers particularly the contempt and arrogance of P. J. Callaghan and R. A. D. Laws as Alfred and Demiwulf, which was so condignly punished; the slight figure of Malpass, as Mrs. Phipps, whirling across the grass, borne by the hurricane; and the querulous greetings of the village gaffer, Old Tawm, taken by Hill.

The clothes maintained the high standard of design and colour set by Mrs. Lee-Browne and the Linen Room Staff in previous years. Against the sombre background of conifers the bright garments of the villagers of Cornwall and Sussex made a pleasant pastoral scene. The deep blue of Cuthman's doublet in the last part of the play emphasised his saintliness, as the vivid yellow and green of his clothes in the first scene suggested his country origins. The difficulties of making-up a cast of thirty for an open-air production were made greater by the changing light of the late afternoon. Several of the principal actors were full-face to the sun for part of the time which increased the problem, but Mr. R. D. Salter and his assistants surmounted it with great success. Background music, written for the production by Mr. Tooze, and played by D. R. G. Griffiths on a solo flute, sustained the atmosphere of fantasy. Mr. D. de G. Sells, as producer, has every reason to feel that the immense amount of time given to planning and rehearsal was amply justified in the result.

THE OUTDOOR THEATRE.

With the chaos left by the timber cutters in the Wilderness the task of those responsible for preparing the theatre was daunting indeed. This is and will always be a big job; for the forced neglect and consequent overgrowth during the war years can never be completely righted. Moreover, the demands on our labour for the many projects we carry out make it impossible to supply a permanent group of theatre gardeners—so that much of the ground gained when a play is produced is lost in the bye period of two or three years before the next production.

The 1958 task was formidable. Not only was the entire theatre area shoulder high in nettles but the approaches were

blocked by the legacy from the timber gangs and the whole length of the terrace from the stone steps to the theatre was intermittently blocked by fallen boughs and brushwood. This territory is not normally part of the theatre-men's work. On top of everything else the wet season made the job almost heartbreaking; for they had hardly turned their weary backs from mowing at this end before the splendidly growing nettles and grass were jeering at them from the other end. However, it was worth it—afterwards! We salute John Beard and his gang, and we are grateful for the help, both voluntary and compulsory, of the additional labourers, without whose aid the theatre could not have been ready in time.

THE NEW CHANGING ROOMS.

During the last year we have watched, with considerable interest, a large new block of buildings being built. This is situated at the back of the College in the maze of cellars, passage ways and courtyards, below the wilderness. The block contains new changing rooms and the additions to the lavatories.

Now completed, they take up the site formerly occupied by the old ground floor changing room and also most of the area between the gardeners' sheds and the old lavatories. The old changing room has been enlarged by the addition of a small annex at the north end and is now used exclusively for dressing. A washing and a shower room have been added, and the lavatories, almost entirely rebuilt, now form an "L" shape round two sides of them. A first storey contains facilities for visiting teams, fitted out in the same way but on a smaller scale.

The old ground floor changing room could not accommodate the whole school, as much room was taken up by wash basins and foot baths. For this reason the bathrooms on the first and top floors had to be used as changing rooms. This is no longer so. With the addition of the annex and the removal of the wash, basins the whole school can be accommodated and each person has more room than before. The room now has cream walls and a ceiling of pale turquoise. It is lit by strip lighting, as are the rest of the new buildings.

The washing room is decorated with cream paint and green tiles. There are 22 hand basins, and the taps used are of the latest spray-mixing type. Their surprisingly small flow of water obviates the necessity for plugs in the basins. The shower room is decorated in the same way and the showers, too, are of the latest type. The user can adjust the temperature of the water, subject

to the maximum temperature being controlled thermostatically from the boiler room. The sides of the ten shower cubicles are aluminium.

The lavatories, also decorated in cream, contain three hand basins and they, the shower room and the washing room, are ventilated by an electrically controlled extractor fan system. There are also electric heaters in these rooms to prevent the freezing of cisterns and outlets in very cold weather.

The changing room for visiting teams is something with which we are especially pleased. It is a pleasure to show our guests to their temporary quarters.

The architect for these buildings was Mr. A. Saint, A. R. I. B. A., and the builders were Messrs. Newcombe, Beard, of Swindon. We are indeed grateful to the Governors for a block which saves so much domestic work upstairs and so greatly increases not only our own comfort and convenience but also that of our visitors.

MODERNISING THE LABORATORIES.

During February 1957 a grant of £2,300 was received from the Industrial Fund for the advancement of Scientific Education in Independent Schools. Of this £1,300 was for specified laboratory extensions: a new physical laboratory which could be entirely darkened, a new workshop and improvements to the existing chemistry laboratory, all of which are now finished. The remaining £1,000 was to be used in purchasing equipment and apparatus.

To make the new laboratory and workshop, the ground floor of that part of the stable block between the clock and No. 1 flat (the N. W. corner) was stripped of the original stalls and fittings. Drains were laid, the floor levelled, and in place of the stalls went benches, their water supply, a blind frame for the windows and other equipment. These benches, the blind-frame and much of the other woodwork were made in the workshop. In the chemistry laboratory the cupboard space and the glassware racks were enlarged and made more serviceable. All this we executed ourselves. Work was done regularly on P. W. afternoons, by non-cricketers on games days, and in the Summer terms, after G. C. E. "A" level examinations, by a number of VIth Formers of all denominations. Valuable service was carried on throughout the year by volunteers.

Professional labour was employed for certain jobs. The central

heating system was extended; the chemistry and dark laboratories' floors were asphalted; the electrical wiring for power and light put in; and some of the decoration was done by contractors.

The equipment purchased with the grant is all now delivered. New tools for the workshop include a Myford "Super 7" 8½-inch lathe, a ½-inch power drill and a double-ended grinder. The chemistry laboratory has two new analytical balances, while, besides a large quantity of electrical and general apparatus, the physical laboratory has a high-vacuum pump, a spectrometer and two travelling microscopes. The result is a chemistry laboratory with a smooth, clean floor and adequate weighing facilities, a physical laboratory which can be completely darkened for experiments with light, and a workshop with modern tools.

We are indeed grateful to Mr. Fell and his helpers, and to the Industrial Fund for making this work possible.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

The London Old Rendcombian Dinner was held at the Bedford Corner Hotel at 7:30 on Saturday, September 27th. This was indeed a memorable occasion, for which Austen Magor, the Secretary, is greatly to be congratulated. Fifty-seven Old Boys, wives and friends accepted invitations, speeches were kept to a minimum and conversation never flagged until the gradual turning out of the lights finally forced us all to retreat. The generations were widely represented, from Mr. Simpson with 10 Old Rendcombians from the very early years, all the way to people who left the College quite recently. It was a pleasure once again to welcome Mr. Simpson, who carries his 75 years with the ease betokened by his warm and humorous speech. These mixed gatherings are greatly enjoyed by everyone.

The following were present: J. F. Alder, M. J. Bedwell, Mrs. Bedwell, R. G. Betterton, W. S. Boardman, C. J. Brisley, B. J. Brooks, Mrs. Brooks, A. P. Browning, Mrs. Browning, C. W. Clarke, L. V. Crawford, Mrs. Crawford, D. Dakin, Mrs. Dakin, J. A. Davies, Mrs. Davies, P. F. Gurdon, Mrs. Gurdon, D. B. Haes, Mrs. Haes, L. H. Hyett, D. G. Knight, D. W. Lee-Browne, Mrs. Lee-Browne, J. C. Maslin, Mrs. Maslin, A. C. Magor, S. R. Merrett, E. J. Miller, Mrs. Miller, R. W. Muchamore, Mrs. Muchamore, J. W. Neads, Mrs. Neads, J. B. O'Brien, J. D. Painter, N. A. Perkins, Mrs. Perkins, P. D. Quick, F. C. Raggatt, Mrs. Raggatt, A. G. G. Richards, A. E. Shield, J. H. Simpson, K. A. Statham, Mrs. Statham, N. C. Stone, R. M. Sumsion, A. R. Tenty, Mrs. Tenty, D. C. Terrett, Mrs. Terrett, D. C. Vaughan, Mrs. Vaughan, R. T. Wood.

Noel Durham has been appointed Head Postmaster at Shaftesbury, and Cyril Eyles is Assistant Postmaster at Warminster.

* * * *

N. A. Perkins represented Scotland at the International Chess Tournament at Munich in October.

* * * *

Richard Hayter has been awarded a National Coal Board Scholarship in Mining Engineering at Nottingham University.

* * * *

B. J. Brooks, D. F. M., has retired from the Royal Air Force and is now living at Bournemouth.

* * * *

W. S. Boardman (1926-32) is an Industrial Consultant in London. After the war he did two tours of 18 months in West Africa and was then for some years Works Manager of Chiswick Products, makers of "Cherry Blossom," "Mansion Polish" and a host of other industrial polishes. After entering consultancy he had assignments with British Railways (West Region) and A. E. Reed Ltd., the paper makers. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

* * * *

The following Old Boys visited the College during the Summer Term, in addition to those who came on Founder's Day: J. W. Neads, H. A. Gough, R. Betterton, D. A. Godfrey, J. R. Ellis.

* * * *

We congratulate:

Peter W. Sumsion and Mrs. Sumsion on the birth of their son.

E. J. Miller on his marriage to Miss Josephine Taylor, on May 31st, 1958.

Peter Field on his appointment as Senior Lecturer in charge of the Basic Art Course at the Birmingham College of Arts and Crafts.

* * * *

A. R. Tenty, having been manager for ice cream production at J. Lyons and Co., has now been invited to become manager of their refrigeration section.

P. F. Gurdon is married and is a pilot for a commercial air line in the Channel Islands.

* * * *

D. G. Knight is working as a barrister in London.

* * * *

C. W. Clarke visited the College during the Easter holidays. He is the Editor of the technical publication, " Highways and Bridges and Engineering Works. "

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Powys Thomas spent six months of 1958 at the Stratford (Ontario) Shakespeare Theatre. After six weeks in Toronto he went to New York for the winter season with parts in two plays.

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The following accepted invitations to Founder's Day: P. J. L. Swaite, E. Webster, T. W. Rowley, K. Bowley, A. C. Magor. R. W. Muchamore, O. David, John Ellis, Peter Burns, R. Pilkington, David Hart, Christopher Brisley, R. H. Jones, P. B. Marwood, G. E. Page, P. Rose, Roger Alder, Peter Barter, John Rolfe, Stephen Richards, R. F. Butler; S. /Ldr. and Mrs.

B. J. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Sterry, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Cutts, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. T. Griffiths, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Dutton, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bye, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. F. Nevel, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Harries, Mr. and Mrs. J. Eyles, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Bullen, Captain and Mrs. W. T. Greenway, the Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Hook, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Cooper.

CRICKET REPORT. Summer Term, 1958.

1st XI and " A" XI. Played 10, won 1, lost 7, drawn 2.

Saturday, May 17th.

1st XI v. Cheltenham Town 2nd XI. Home. Lost by 5 wickets.

Rendcomb 42 (Cockrell 29). Cheltenham 43 for 5.

Wednesday, May 21st

1st XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's 1st XI. Home. Lost by 4 wickets.

Rendcomb 47 (Campbell 19). Sir Thomas Rich's 48 for 6
(Handoll 4 for 8).

Saturday, May 31st

1st XI v. Cirencester Grammar School 1st XI. Away. Drawn.
Rendcomb 90 for 9 dec. (Comley 51 not out). Cirencester 52
for 7.

Wednesday, June 4th

1st XI v. King's School, Gloucester, 1st XI. Home. Drawn.
King's School 101 for 9 dec. (Handoll 5 for 33). Rendcomb 57
for 5 (Alder 20).

Saturday, June 7th

1st XI v. Old Rendcombians. Home. Won by 58 runs.
Rendcomb 97 for 7 dec. (Cockrell 45 not out).
Old Rendcombians 39.

Saturday, June 14th

1st XI v. St. Stephen's C. C. 1st XI. Home. Lost by 4 wickets.
Rendcomb 58 (Herbert 22). St. Stephen's 61 for 6.

Saturday, June 21st

1st XI v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI. Away. Lost by 9 wickets.
Rendcomb 65 for 8 dec. (Gough 31). Cheltenham 67 for 1.

Saturday, June 28th

1st XI v. Marling Grammar School 1st XI. Away. Lost by 1
wicket.
Rendcomb 36. Marling 37 for 9 (Handoll 5 for 22, Alder 4 for
15).

Thursday, July 10th

"A" XI v. Dean Close 2nd XI. Away. Lost by 42 runs. Dean
Close 162 for 6 dec. (Stebbing 4 for 29).
Rendcomb 120 (Gough 33).

Friday, July 11th

1st XI v. North Cerney 1st XI. Lost by 49 runs.
North Cerney 76 for 9 dec. (Handoll 3 for 13, Stebbing 3 for
13). Rendcomb 27.

Individual reports of each match are not necessary—for the most part, the results give a true indication of the state of affairs. None of the defeats, excepting those against Cheltenham College and North Cerney, were disastrous. Rendcomb were well placed in the two draws, but the less said about our loss to Marling the better.

At the beginning of the season the 1st XI was generally thought to be strong in bowling but very weak in batting. No miracle happened, and this weakness did not magically right itself, nor did the bowling fulfil what was hoped for.

C. Handoll came up fully to expectations: with three years' 1st XI experience he bowled very well, and on certain memorable occasions maintained an immaculate length. He finished with 26 wickets from nine matches; a very good achievement for an opening bowler.

J. R. Alder shared the task of opening the bowling. He was somewhat faster, but had not such an enviably smooth action as Handoll, and was consequently less accurate. As a batsman Alder soon graduated from No. 7 to No. 2, where he stayed for the rest of the season; he had a very solid defence, and several good shots off the back foot.

R. F. Stebbing, unfortunately, did not regain last season's form. He was not so fast off the pitch, and found difficulty in maintaining a good length. He has a high trajectory, and the batsman consequently has plenty of time to punish his full toss. He was a carefree batsman who well understood his task as a tail-ender, and he frequently hit the ball very hard indeed.

D. R. Griffiths and R. W. Taylor were our other fast bowling hopes. Griffiths had half a season in the 1st XI, but was only really useful as a shock bowler. He bowled faster than anyone else, but was erratic. Taylor had shown promise as a bowler at the end of last season, but did not renew our hopes. He was, however, a very useful fielder in the gully, who seemed always to be on the alert.

M. Van den Driessche was the side's only other regular bowler. He started off at a medium speed, but was eventually "harnessed" as a slow spinner. He was able to bowl both leg- breaks and off-breaks with considerable effect, but he was always experimenting in his new position. He would be invaluable if he could realise how much a side depends on a constant and reliable spinner.

In practice games, R. Bolton-King progressed well as an off-spinner. He spun the ball a lot, and often provided catches for the short legs by bowling at the batsman's leg stump. He played in a good proportion of matches, and proved that he is a good defensive bat, and may be useful as an opener next year.

The most successful batsman was R. A. Cockrell. He has a good forward defensive dead-bat shot, but he showed a tendency to use this too often—he would often have found a hard drive more profitable. He has also some good shots off the back foot; his main fault is that he does not attack the bowling enough. With such a technique and eye he is overcautious.

H. E. Gough was the 1st XI wicket-keeper throughout the season. He was very reliable, and we were soon able to dispense with the wicket-keeper's old friend, the "fine leg." He should prove invaluable, but needs more experience against slower bowling. Towards the end of the season he emerged as a competent batsman; he has a good defence, and also an aggressive spirit, too often absent from our batsmen this year.

G. H. G. Herbert was the only left-hander. He was useful for this reason, but a habit of hitting across the line of the ball too often cost him his wicket. He fielded at forward short leg and took several neat catches.

I. A. N. Campbell knew only one creed—to hit each and every ball as hard as possible. Luckily for us, this policy often succeeded. He was a good ground fielder, and was noted for his hard, straight throws.

J. Shaw played for the 1st XI on several occasions—when he was not needed to captain the Junior XI. He also was a good ground fielder, and seems to have growing understanding of the principles of batting.

R. D. Comley captained the side, and carried out the difficult task with credit. In spite of its lack of success the team rarely seemed dispirited. Sometimes Comley's field-placings were inclined to be too static but he was remedying this towards the end of the season. His batting was much better than it was last year, as he adopted a more positive approach to the problem of scoring runs. It was, however, a pity that he allowed the team as a whole to play defensively for long periods. As always, Comley's fielding, particularly in close positions, was excellent.

The 2nd XI: Played one, lost one.

Saturday, June 14th

v. St. Stephen's C. C. 2nd XI. Home. Lost by 9 wickets.
Rendcomb 36. St. Stephen's 37 for 1.

The following played in the 2nd XI: M. A. Forster (capt.),
D. W. Brown, J. E. Gooding, R. W. Taylor, R. Bolton-King, J. Shaw,
P. Heppleston, P. Airey, P. Harrison, R. Dauncey, M. Whittering.

There was a great variation of age and ability in the team.
Several of them eventually played in the 1st or "A" XI's. It was
heartening to note the gallant, and in many ways successful, come-back
of people whom we had previously presumed lost to Rendcomb cricket.

The Junior XI's

Saturday, May 31st

Under 15 XI v. Cirencester Grammar School Under 15 XI.
Away. Lost.

Grammar School 70 (Price 6 for 6). Rendcomb 8.

Wednesday, June 4th

U. 15 XI v. King's School, Gloucester U. 15 XI.
Home. Lost.

King's School 47 (Price 6-13). Rendcomb 30 (J. Webb 16).

Saturday, June 21st

U. 15 XI v. Cheltenham College Junior Colts XI.
Away. Lost.

Cheltenham 61 (P. Heppleston 3 for 5).

Rendcomb 47 (Tovey 16).

Saturday, June 28th

U. 15 XI v. Marling School Colts. Home. Lost.

Marling 104 for 5 dec. Rendcomb 24.

Enthusiasm and progress were most noted in the junior school;
there was a persistent demand for nets and a great deal of
disappointment when rain prevented many games towards the end of
term.

Shaw captained the junior team, and was faced with a difficult task, for the average age of his team was invariably well below that of their opponents.

The main task of run-getting lay with Shaw, P. Harrison, P. Heppleston, Tovey, Callaghan, G. Bartlett and Whittering. To a certain extent they were successful; Shaw undoubtedly has the technique; P. Harrison is dogged and hits the ball hard; P. Heppleston has style, but is not prepared to force himself; Tovey can also be well described as “dogged,” he too hits the ball very hard. It was hoped that Whittering would be able to use his strength to good advantage, and score some good quick runs, but he was unlucky. G. Bartlett and Callaghan were both hard-hitting left-handers who were attractive to watch when driving off the front foot. The criticism of Callaghan is that he uses this drive to almost any kind of ball.

The bowling was shared between Price, Tovey, A. Heppleston, P. Heppleston, P. Harrison and Malpass. As an opener Price was very fast, but he was not constant and his form was sadly unpredictable. Tovey opened with him; at the beginning of the season he was disappointing, but he gradually showed signs of last season’s promise, and by the end became most proficient with both bat and ball. A. Heppleston showed great keenness, as well as style; he should prove useful in years to come, as should C. B. Stillwell, who was also a good all-rounder. J. M. Webb kept wicket for the latter part of the season, J. T. Wood earlier on. Mead also played for the Junior XI; he is a good all-rounder—a forceful left-hand bat and a good fast bowler.

A special word is fitting for the way in which the spirit was maintained in the Junior XI. Often faced with overwhelming odds, they stuck grimly to their task, and their fielding was always a credit to them.

The third game, too, must have been a happy affair; there was always keenness and interest in the sides chosen. The names of D. J. Thomasson, R. C. Jones, R. A. Wynne, M. Ashe-Jones, R. C. Laws and M. J. Bartlett spring to mind as promising cricketers, and hopes for Rendcomb cricket in the future can well be high.

NORTH CERNEY RACE.

This was held on Monday, July 21st. Result: 1, R. A. Cockrell, 24min. 26sec.; 2, N. J. Price, 24min. 30sec.; 3, P. G. S. Airey, 27min. 15sec.

RINGSIDE SEATS.

On the 11th of June a party from Form III went to see Billy Smart's Circus, at Cheltenham. The show began with the usual parade round the ring by the whole troupe. Three French artists then gave a display and they were followed by some German acrobats who did wonderful things, not only on ladders but with them, such as balancing them at what should be impossible angles.

This circus company is clearly an international crowd, for after the French and German artists came a team of Hungarians whose somersaults were most exciting to watch.

Then came the turn of the animals, chimpanzees and, just before the interval, elephants. The highlight of their turn was a tableau in which one of the elephants put its foot on May Smart's head. Polar bears followed after the interval, and then a trapeze act by two Italians who, among other things, cycled along a tight rope. The clowns, Michael and Sasha Coco, proved that painting a statue is not as easy as might be thought—at least it can be made difficult!

Barshalley, the juggler, gave an astonishing demonstration of plate spinning, and the Grand Finale was a Wild West Show. This, compared with the rest of the show, was rather an anti-climax though it was very entertaining. It began with a variation of "musical chairs," horses being used instead of chairs, and then, no doubt with acknowledgments to Independent Television, went on to tell the story of the capture of a paleface girl by the Sioux and her rescue by Wyatt Earp.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT, December 1958.

Miscellaneous Notes, May 1st to August 31st, 1958.

A small party visited Withington Woods on May 18th. Large numbers of plants of the Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) were in flower and several were found with pale rose-pink blooms. Another plant of some interest, one specimen of which was found in the centre of the woods, is the False Oxlip. This is a hybrid between the Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and the Cowslip (*P. veris*). A Rust-fungus, *Puccinia tragopogi*, was observed on plants of Goatsbeard (*Tragopogon pratensis*), and several fructifications of a much rarer fungus, *Verpa digitaliformis*,

were discovered under hazel and hawthorn hushes in Withington Woods. This species seems not previously to have been recorded from the district.

Tracks of Fallow Deer were noted on this date in various parts of the woods, and on June 3rd a Fallow Deer was killed on the main road near Marsden by a car which then ran off the road as a result of the collision.

In mid-June a specimen of the Ground-hopper *Tetrix subulata* (= *Acrydium subulatum*) was found by the Churn below Rendcomb Lake. Although probably more plentiful than records suggest, this species was not recorded for Vice-county 33 (East Gloster) until two of the insects were taken by I. S. Menzies near Monkham Wood in 1946. The Greater Horn-tail or Giant Wood-wasp (*Sirex gigas*), a large hymenopterous insect often mistaken for a hornet, was twice captured within the College buildings in July. Both were females and one, found in the Manual, had probably emerged from a pupa embedded in coniferous timber undergoing seasoning or in store.

A visit to South Cerney gravel pits on June 16th provided various items of natural history interest. Nymphs or several kinds of dragonfly were dredged from the shallows and these included some of the local and uncommon species *Orthetrum cancellatum*. South Cerney is probably the best locality in Gloucestershire for this insect. Nests of Moorhen, Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting were found, and birds seen included Redshank, Heron and Great Crested Grebe.

In the immediate vicinity of Rendcomb a pair of Hawfinches reared young, Crossbills appeared in July and a female Pied Flycatcher was seen on August 28th. Pied Flycatchers are seldom seen on the Cotswolds, even in spring, and autumn records are very few indeed. The Crossbills were first noted on July 17th when four were observed in lower Rendcomb. About a dozen were seen a little later by members of Form II, and these birds were present all through the summer. Spruce cones showing a typical Crossbill damage were found by many members of the College.

C. M. Swaine, B. Sc.