



NO. 150

JULY, 1982

STAFF NEWS

**BIRTHS:** We congratulate **Second Officer and Mrs. Davies** on the birth of a son, **Andrew Mark**, on 18th June. Andrew weighed in at 5 lb. 11 ozs. and he and his Mother are both well. **Mr. Davies** would like to thank the Personnel Department for getting him home in time for the birth.

...

**OBITUARIES:** On several occasions during the last year or so, we have given news of **Mr. George Crabbe, B.E.M.** - the first being on the occasion of his Golden Wedding and the second when he was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 1981 Birthday Honours. In recent Newsletters we have reported his illness and it is, therefore, with great sorrow that we record his passing on 30th June. **Mr Crabbe** became ill in March last and, as one might have expected, true to his character, he bore his last illness with stoicism and cheerfulness also for as long as possible. Readers will know the main events of his life and there is nothing further that can be added now, except to pay tribute to his loyalty in the years he has been with us and to say that he will be missed by his colleagues. Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Mrs. Crabbe and her family** in their loss. At their request, **Mr. Crabbe's** ashes will be scattered at sea from one of the Company's ships, when this can be arranged.

...

**RETIREMENT:** At the end of this month, **Mr. Melvyn Purnell**, Head Office Messenger, will retire. He commenced with the Company in August 1974 and has given conscientious service over the years. We extend our thanks and appreciation to him for his service and wish both **Mr. & Mrs. Purnell** good health and every happiness in what we trust will be a long retirement.

...

**INDISPOSED:** We are sorry to report that **Mrs. Ivy Reynolds**, one of our Pensioners, has been in hospital for nearly three months with arthritis. **Mrs. Reynolds** is the widow of **Mr. A.G. Reynolds**, who was a member of our London Office staff. We send our best wishes to **Mrs. Reynolds** and hope that she will derive comfort from her treatment.

**EXAMINATION SUCCESSES:** Our congratulations to the following Engineer Cadets on obtaining their D.O.T. Class 4 Motor Certificates:-

D.R. Aldus	A.R. Parker	M.G. Adams
M.R. Penny	P. Collins	A.J. Salter
C.B.C. Jones	J.C. Thomas	I.J. Morgan
W.E. Wilkins		

**PRIZES:** Plymouth - **S.F. Broderick** has been awarded the Reardon Smith Prize for Progress - Phase 3 O.N.C. To our knowledge, this is the first time that one of our Cadets has won our Prize.

Glasgow - **A.J. Salter** has been awarded Third Prize for his O.N.D. Endorsement Studies.

Our special congratulations to both the above on winning these Prizes.

...

**CAPTAIN T. LAWSON:** As some readers may be aware, **Captain Lawson** has now left the Company in order to operate his own Manning Agency company. Families wishing to contact the Personnel Department at Head Office should continue to ask for **Mr. Paul Hunt**, as advised in a previous Newsletter.

... ..

CARDIFF SHIP SIMULATOR

The Cardiff Ship Simulator was officially opened on Thursday, 15th July, by **His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales**. The Simulator is not fully operational yet, but within a few months this most advanced piece of equipment will be used to train Officers with a view to a higher degree of safety being obtained. The Simulator, developed by Marconi, was won for Cardiff in the face of fierce competition from other parts of the country and will be operated jointly by the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology and the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education.

... ..

ATTACHMENTS TO NEWSLETTER & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks to **Mrs. J.B.E. Lemon** for this month's recipe.

This month we are pleased to include some news from the Falklands on our "South Atlantic Page". We hope that readers will find this of interest.

"Funny Things Happen on a Trip to a Festival".... I hope this will raise a smile or two. Ed.

Thank you, "**Country Girl**" for your poem "City Supporter". We have certainly started something now!

... ..

**LATE NEWS: SYMPATHY:** Our sincere sympathy is extended to our Purchasing Department Director at Head Office, **Mr. Roy Burston** on the passing of his sister.

... ..

VESSEL	CARDIFF CITY	DEVON CITY	NEW WESTMINSTER CITY	PORT ALBERNI CITY
Master	J.J. Kalnins	J.J. Birrell	W.D. Jones	D.L. Bell
Chief Officer	R.T. Alford	K. Jones*	J.S. Pearsall	J.S. Murray
Second Officer	J.M. Smith	I. Cowan*	M.L. Fraser	D.P. Kirley
Third Officer	G.R.J. Faulkener	M. Cox	C.G. Everett	G.P. Eyles
Radio Officer	E.G. Bromham	B.B. Everett	V.F. Cullen	N.C. Sanders
Chief Engineer	G. Cuthbertson	D.N. Henry	W.J. Gill	R.J. Trigg
Second Engineer	J. Foots	P.D. Slade	W.A. Bruce	R.M. Stead*
Third Engineer	D.J. Coombes*	A.C. Coombs	I.S. Exton	R.M.B. Jenkins*
Fourth Engineer	M. Richards	M.P. Owens	C.B.C. Jones	D.E. Simons
Electrician			K.J. Hinman	K.F. Bean
Catering Officer	A.H. Fox	A.A. Gouldie	P.D. Smith	J.M.V. Pinto
Cadets			M.A. Worsnop	D.A. Littler
			M.I.V. Holman	N.J. Griffiths
			G.J. Provis	C.D. Broughton
				J.C.E. Pink

VESSEL	PRINCE RUPERT CITY	TACOMA CITY	VICTORIA CITY	WELSH CITY
Master	T.R. McNulty	A.L.G. Gosset	M.W. Slayman	J.C. Lee
Chief Officer	J.R. Ashley	J. Dunk	J.E.S. York	B.T. Hernaman
Second Officer	N. Jerrum	J.P. Andrews	P.C. Coles	M.J. Clarke
Third Officer	P.A. Bullard	A.C. Prosser	J.C. Neale	I.C. Miller
Radio Officer	R.J. Preece	I.F. Bullock	P. Bradley	K. Sellar
Chief Engineer	J. Scott	L. Williamson	D.G. Wedlake*	M. Rayner
Second Engineer	K.R. Negele*	W.R. Shannon	A. Edwards	J.B. Hocking
Third Engineer	R.E. Russell	D.C. Pulley	R.H. Reed	D.B. Evans*
Fourth Engineer	A.J.F. Tuck	P. Deschamps	N.J. Millward	G.E. Ashton
Fourth Engineer		M.R. Penny		A.D. Cowling
Electrician	F.C. Brown	K. Smith-Jaynes	J.P. Crawford	J. Fernandes
Catering Officer	D. Fernandes	R.J. Pierce	L. Hayward	L.B. Surrey
Cadets	T.B. Short	S. Rawlings	D.J.F. Carter	P.J. Gallie
	S.N. Beckett	M. Martyn-Johns	C. Taylor	T. Stanford
		M.M. Taylor	M.G. Moore	M. Hopewell
			D.P. Lockett	N.J. Herod

VESSEL	AMPARO	BIBI	JOSEFA	OLMECA
Master	R. Skinner	A.D. Lightfoot	R.I. Crawford	P.J. Boroughs
Chief Officer	A.K. Smith*	P. Baverstock	E.W. Walmsley	I. Woollard
Second Officer	T.L. Lawrence	A. Tay	T.A. Price	J.C. Pagler
Third Officer	J.M. Coleman	P.C. Weychan	P.A. Vaughan	A. Abel
Radio Officer	R.G. Miller	W.P. Budden	D.C. Short	J.A. Heslop
Chief Engineer	P.W. Evans	N. Shilstone	D. Harrison	H.L. Fletcher
Second Engineer	M.G. Evans*	P. Prendergast	W.M. Powell*	A. Doubler*
Third Engineer	R. Thomas*	T.E. Sperrin*	N.C. Williams	W.J. Lait
Fourth Engineer	W.H. Tucker	A.M. Francis	M.S. Duke	H.D. McLundie
Electrician	D.G. Hunt	J. Grainger	K. Hampton	D.A. Williams
Catering Officer	D. Gowsell	R.A. Peach	J.A. Patrick	N.H. Frost
Cadets	J.G. Townsend	R. Johnson		
	J.R. Greenspan	W.P. Heyman		
	T.J. Wood	R.A. Bracken		
	P.D. Cocker			

Master	B.A.G. Boyer	
Chief Officer	D. Aubrey	
Second Officer	M.R. Lovibond*	
Third Officer	A.P. Morris	
Radio Officer	R.G. Chugg	
Chief Engineer	G.J. Griffiths*	
Second Engineer	A.G. Vincent*	(Temporary Appointment *)
Third Engineer	P. Price	
Fourth Engineer	A.M. Baxter	
Fourth Engineer	A.M. Keast	
Electrician	P. Wilmott	
Catering Officer	F.W. Lever	
Cadets	I.J. Thomas	

Listed below are Officers on voyage leave as at 20.7.82: Every effort is made to ensure this list is as accurate as possible at the time of printing.

Masters: J. Porteous, O.J.T. Lindsay, L.R. Staines, M.J. Bellamy, W.G. Wood, K. Milburn, M.E. Jones, M.C. Hurst, R.E. Baker, R.K. Stuart

Chief Officers: B.R. Hopper, D.C. Toon, I.C. Stutt, R.V. Duncan, T. Haxell

Second Officers: C. Swindells, I.M. Stewart, N. Davies, P.C. Roberts, A.A. Field, T.H. Jowett

Third Officers: R.W. Davies, P.D. Codd, T.J. Fuller, S.J. Laws, A.P. Miller, J.D. Bateman, J.J. Hudson, C.E. Broad

Chief Engineers: M.G. Seaman, D. Archbold, J.C. Cullen, R.U. Bell, K.D. Morgan, R. Chambers, B.M. Draper, G. Hughes, E.R. Morgan, R.M. Paddock

Second Engineers: R.A. Rees, R.E. Diamond, K. Rowney, N. Nesbitt, T. Graham-Russell, C.J. Burton, P.H. Evans

Third Engineers: M.B. Perrott, J.H. Davies, R.C. Butcher, K. Velda, D.A. Roberts, P. John

Fourth Engineers: J.A. Akhurst, M.R. Preece, A.P. Brandram-Jones, M.J. Lockwood, P.W. Knibbs, A.J. White, K.R. Warner, C.K. Lee, A.R. Parker, D.R. Aldus, C.J. Brown

Electricians: K. Baines, E. Bennington, A. Roberts, D.J.C. Harnett, D.G. Grant, N.R. Padfield, B.R. Batey, D. Osborne

Catering Officers: C. Harry, J. Bonner, L. Slawinski, R.G. White, D. Hartshorne, L.E. Seabrooke

Radio Officers: R.H. Smith, D.S.H. Thomson, C.G. Macey, R.W. McInnes, M.W. Savory, D.P. Bidmead, B.J. Carter

Officers on sick/study leave as at 20.7.82: J.R. Mathews, A. Williamson, A. Thomson, M. Williamson, A.M.W. Mitchell, A. Hobin, M.G. Smith, R.G. Hayton, J.J. Moore, M. Sealey  
Cadets at home on voyage leave, sick leave or study leave as at 20.7.82: T.D. Bennett, S.F. Broderick, E.J. Naughton, A.M. Russell, E.V. Neale, R.G. Crozier, A.P. Wilson, K.P. Deacon, R.P. Eastham, A.M. Baker, D.P. Stephens, J. Cox, T.A. Broughton, A. Gaskell, D. Welch, M.G. Shaw, G.P. Jones, R. Williamson, T.G. Tate, S.J. Thomas, P.C. Davies, R.W. Eacott, P.G. Connick, R.A. Hall, N. Boyce, D.R. Hilton, D.B. Williams, S.A. Hembury

## SHIPS POSITIONS

As at 22nd July, 1982

m.v. "CARDIFF CITY" This vessel sailed New Orleans 5th July, having aboard 20000MT Soya Bean Meal for discharge Djakarta or Sourabaya. Vessel is expected to arrive discharge port 14th August, and we would anticipate completion somewhere around end August/early September. At this stage, her next business has not yet been finalised.

m.v. "DEVON CITY" Operating under Time Charter account Safmarine, this vessel sailed Port Arthur 17th July, having aboard 24040MT Soda Ash for discharge Durban. She is expected to arrive Durban 12th August and presently we are awaiting likely discharge turn we may expect. On completion discharge of this cargo, vessel continues under Safmarine Charter, but itinerary has not yet been advised.

m.v. "NEW WESTMINSTER CITY" This vessel arrived Kenai (Alaska) 19th July, berthed Unichem Berth (Nikiski) 19th, with probable completion 23rd. It is expected she will lift approximately 20200MT Bulk Urea for discharge Belawan. Based on sailing Kenai 23rd July, we would look for her ETA Belawan around 16th August, probable completion early September. At this stage, her future employment has not yet been decided.

m.v. "PORT ALBERNI CITY" Operating under Steel Service EC.41, this vessel arrived Providence 16th July, the indication being she should sail 22nd for Bridgeport, through 23/24th, thence Camden 25/26th. On completion discharge of Steel, vessel proceeds to Tampa to deliver under Time Charter account Japan Lines, for a trip, redelivery Japan. Based on sailing Camden 26th, we would look for her arrival Tampa 30th, possibly sailing 3rd August, which would mean transitting the Canal around 8/9th August. The present indication is vessel could well discharge at Kawasaki, Osaka and Ube, probable completion around 10th September. Her next business has not yet been finalised.

m.v. "PRINCE RUPERT CITY" This vessel, operating under Time Charter account Tokai, sailed Tampico 1st July with approximately 3250LT Fluorspar and about 21026LT Manganese, for discharge Mizushima. She is scheduled to arrive Mizushima 2nd August and we have received an indication vessel should complete discharge and redeliver 3rd August. Her next business has not yet been arranged.

m.v. "TACOMA CITY" Operating under Time Charter account Sammisa, this vessel arrived Kuwait 18th July. Our Agents advise us she is expected to berth between 25th and 27th with redelivery passing Muscat outbound about the 30th July. Her next business has not yet been arranged.



m.v. "VICTORIA CITY" This vessel, operating under Time Charter account British Steel Corporation, sailed Middlesbrough 20th July having lifted 14334.357MT Steel for discharge Savannah, Houston, New Orleans and Mobile. She is expected to arrive Savannah pm 31st July with probable completion Mobile around 12th August. At this stage, we have not received further itinerary from B.S.C.

m.v. "WELSH CITY" Operating under Time Charter account Shinwa, this vessel sailed Baltimore 2nd July having aboard 55319T Coal for discharge Sakaide/Nagoya. Vessel sailed Long Beach, after bunker replenishment, 19th July and on this basis is expected to arrive Japan 6th August. On completion discharge, about 8th August, the intention is for vessel to drydock Japan/South Korea for around 5/6 days. Thereafter her next business has not yet been finalised.

m.v. "AMPARO" This vessel arrived La Spezia 17th July, with expected sailing 22nd for Leghorn, thence Genoa, Imperia, Marseilles, Barcelona and Valencia. Schedule shows vessel sailing Valencia 3rd August for Vera Cruz, Tampico, Mobile and Morehead City. She is scheduled to sail Morehead City about 8th September for Barcelona, Naples, Leghorn, Genoa, Marseilles, Barcelona and Valencia. Based on ETA Barcelona 20th September, vessel should sail Valencia about 4th October, for Vera Cruz.

m.v. "BIBI" This vessel sailed San Carlos 12th July for Keelung, ETA 27th. On this basis, we would look for her sailing Keelung 29th for Hsinkang through 1/5th August, thence Kobe 9/10th, Yokohama 11/12th. Thereafter, we are awaiting further itinerary.

m.v. "JOSEFA" This vessel sailed Santos 20th July with 2384T Steel and Generals for San Juan, ETA 31st July. On completion San Juan, vessel then proceeds to New Orleans, Houston, Vera Cruz and Tampico. We then await further itinerary from T.M.M.

m.v. "OLMECA" This vessel arrived Guaymas 11th July to load for La Cardenas. Vessel is expected to berth 14th, although at the time of going to press we have not heard actual position. As far as we know, vessel will return to Guaymas after discharging La Cardenas.

m.v. "SILVIA SOFIA" This vessel arrived Guaymas 20th July, ETD 22nd, for Manzanillo through 24/28th, thence Acapulco, San Jose, Acajutla and Salina Cruz. She is scheduled to complete Salina Cruz around 14th August for Keelung, ETA 1st September, thence Busan, Kobe and Yokohama. She is scheduled to complete Yokohama about the 12th September.

POT POURRI

' CITY SUPPORTER '

Oh City Girl you are so bold,  
The things you say should not be told  
Us Navy wives and sweethearts too,  
Should suffer in silence, and often do!

But then, why should we suffer so?  
Our men are gone, we feel so low,  
Our benefits, post and loved ones taken,  
And all we get is more foresaken

We realise the hardships too  
of Reardon Smith, we really do,  
But life was hard enough before,  
With men away and us ashore.

Bring back free post, speed up the trips,  
Allow us, sometimes, on board ships,  
Do some cutbacks, save elsewhere,  
Show your sea staff that you really do care.

Don't forget our loved ones are the basis  
Of all your ventures, in good days and crisis,  
These latest cuts, we cannot bear,  
Come on R.S.L., PLEASE be fair!

'Country Girl'

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

(Our thanks again to Mrs. Silvia Lemon.)

ROMAN PORK FILLET WITH RICE

Fry 1 lb. of pork fillet in 3 tablespoonsful of cooking oil,  
add salt and pepper to taste; fresh sage and rosemary.  
Simmer until cooked.  
Add half a glass of white wine and put aside.

Boil 250 grams. of green lentils until cooked and mix  
with pork. Serve with boiled long grain rice.

This can be eaten cold with salad in summer,  
or hot in winter.

**HAVE YOU HEARD??.....**

that a Sponsored Walk was held on  
31st May from Cardiff to Newport  
in aid of The Missions to Seamen.  
Fourteen people, some of them  
seamen, took part and they were  
accompanied by the pet dog of one  
seamen called "Mildew Wolf".  
(Fancy calling a dog Mildew!)

Everyone completed the Walk but  
Mildew, who was so tired that he  
had to be taken into the  
accompanying minibus after six  
miles. His owner later said that  
it was only a "con" - the dog  
was not so much tired as fed up.

We leave you to judge.

...

## SPORTS PAGE

### CARDIFF MARATHON 1982

This year's Cardiff Marathon takes place on Sunday September 26th, and although to many readers at first glance that is just another Marathon date, we are sure that when we reveal that among the 1982 RSL entrants there are two young ladies from Head Office Accounts - Andrea Lansdown and Debbie Lewis it will be an event to ensure an advantageous view - probably the other side of Wenvoe for enthusiasts.

We are pleased to advise that our ladies will be chaperoned by Carl Olsen and Nick Knight also H.O. Accounts.

Good luck to them all.

---

### THE GOWER CUP

We have been "reliably" informed that the 1982 Gower Cup match will take place - when both sides are ready.

Present plans are for this enjoyable fixture to be played in early September when Head Office have a chance to level the series at 2 - 2. Play.

---

### 1982 SINGLE WICKET COMPETITION

The 1982 Winner of this Competition was Dennis Matthews who beat Colin Mundell in the final. The Competition having been held in mid season this year.



RSCC 1982 RESULTS TO DATE

\* League Match

RSCC v DEBENHAM TEWSON lost by 5 wickets.

RS 100 for 7 (Leavers 34 no Matthews 27) Debenham Tewson 101 for 5  
(Hayes 2-21)

RSCC v MARSHFIELD lost by 3 wickets.

RS 72 for 5 (Colwill 28) Marshfield 76 for 3

RSCC v TOUCHE ROSS\* lost

RS 95 for 8 (Colwill 55 no) Touche Ross (to be advised)

RSCC v GRAIG\* won by 6 wickets

RS 44 for 4 (Matthews 15 no) Graig 43 (Matthews 3-8,  
Beattie 2-7, Colwill 2-8,  
Sewell 2-8)

RSCC v CARDIFF SOLICITORS lost by 28 runs

Solicitors 102 for 6 (Beattie 2-15) RS 74 (Elias 24 Matthews 14)

RSCC v CHARTERED SURVEYORS lost by 55 runs

Surveyors 100 for 3 (Matthews 1-5) RS 45 (Matthews 14)

RSCC v DELOITTES\* match abandoned - rain

RS 55 for 5 to be re-arranged.

RSCC v CRO\* lost by 56 runs

CRO 109 for 5 (Leavers 2-7) RS 53 (Horne 9 Colwill 9)

RSCC v WENVOE lost by 5 wickets

RS 56 (Morgan 22) Wenvoe 60 for 5 (Beattie 2-3  
Matthews 2-15)

RSCC v GRAIG\* won by 65 runs

RS 89 for 6 (Horne 40) Graig 24 for 6 (P.Davies 3-0  
Leavers 2-7)

RSCC v LIGHTHOUSE CLUB won by 8 runs

RS 109 for 6 (Phillips 32 Radcliffe 26) Lighthouse 101 for 7

RSCC v CRO\* won by 5 runs

RS 79 (Horne 39 Colwill 23) CRO 74 for 7

RSCC v CARDIFF ROYAL INFIRMARY won by 2 wickets

CRI 93 for 8 (Matthews 2-10)

RS 94 for 8 (Davies 35 Colwill 18)

RSCC v DELOITTES\* won by 7 runsRS 103 for 3 (Horne 47 no J. Jones 19  
Radcliffe 19)Deloittes 96 for 5 (Matthews 2-13  
Mundell 2-17)

After an indifferent start to the season RSCC have suddenly begun to find their form with five successive wins. These wins include 3 victories in the RS Invitation League, and an overall record to date of P13 W6 L7.

The recent successes have been based on the solid batting of David Horne which has usually enabled other batsmen to help give the bowlers (and fielders) a reasonable total. In addition Dennis Matthews has continued to show good form with bat and ball, with Paul Colwill making useful contributions in a number of games.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

When we heard that H.M.S. "CARDIFF" had gone with the Task Force to the South Atlantic, our Chairman sent a message of goodwill from the Company and included in this message the best wishes of those aboard our m.v. "CARDIFF CITY". Although our message was sent on 27th May, because of the circumstances, it took quite a long time to reach the ship, but we have this week received a reply from the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "CARDIFF", which is reproduced below. The address should be noted!!

From : Captain M.G.T. Harris, Royal Navy



**HMS CARDIFF**  
**BFPO Ships**  
**London**

at San Carlos,  
FALKLANDS

530/1

C R C Chatterton Esq  
The Chairman  
Reardon Smith Line Ltd  
P.O. Box 90  
Devonshire House  
Greyfriars Road  
CARDIFF

23 June 1982

*Dear Mr Chatterton,*

Many thanks for your good wishes which you sent on 27 May and which arrived yesterday, none the less welcome for having taken a while to cover the 8000 miles. It is particularly heartening to hear from our CARDIFF friends.

I am happy to say that the ship has got through the war without loss or injury and has acquitted herself well. As you can imagine everyone is looking forward to going home now.

With best wishes to you all and especially to those aboard the CARDIFF CITY.

*yours sincerely,*  
*M.G.T. Harris*

Whilst H.M.S. "CARDIFF" was down in the Falkland Islands, we had news of her through our local newspaper "South Wales Echo". They mentioned that "CARDIFF" had accepted the surrender of a garrison of 714 Argentine soldiers on the West Falkland settlement of Port Howard. She entered the tiny port proudly flying battle ensigns and the Blue Ensign, as did an earlier H.M.S. "CARDIFF" which led the German fleet to surrender at the end of the First World War. The report told how the Falklanders waved and cheered when British troops landed at the settlement from helicopters on the ship and how the enemy walked from their garrison to give themselves up. The "Echo" quoted parts of a telegram received by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, which said: "Garrison was waiting to surrender. Locals waved enthusiastically to British troops. "Cardiff" entered Port Howard 1340 flying battle ensigns and Blue Ensign as did "Cardiff" in 1918 when leading German High Seas Fleet into the Firth of Forth. Anchored in the enclosed bay after passing through very narrow entrance successfully navigated by Lieu. N.G. Hudson in strong gusting winds. Argentine troops seen walking down the hill. At 1514 the Union Jack again flew at Port Howard".

...

Finally, but by no means least, we received a letter from Captain J.J. Kalnins of our own m.v. "CARDIFF CITY" from Paulina (Mississippi River) saying that the sum of £47 had been forwarded to the South Atlantic Fund "via our 'Buddy ship' H.M.S. "CARDIFF"". On hearing from them, Captain Kalnins may be in a position to give us some further news and information. He says that "CARDIFF CITY" still keeps in, if not frequent, mutually pleasant correspondence.

... ..

## FUNNY THING HAPPEN ON A TRIP TO A FESTIVAL....

A short while ago, I travelled to Austria with a group of Scottish Highland Dancers to perform at a festival in Graz. Graz is situated in the South, near the Yugoslav border, in an area called Styria. This was our third visit to this festival, which is non-competitive, held every two **years to promote peace** between nations and is always a very happy festival. Whilst there, each Group is accommodated in various villages around Graz, usually with families. This year we were in a different village from the two previous occasions. The Austrians are very good hosts and, as usual, we were well looked after.

I and two other girls were accommodated at an Agricultural School - for BOYS! This school was, as you would imagine, set in the heart of the country and had the largest farm in Austria, being an area of 170 hectares (I will leave you to work that out in acres!). Most Austrian farms are very small and, for this reason, farmers must learn another trade to enable them to make a living. They also cannot support more than one son, so sons other than the first, must look to another trade. Therefore, the school taught other subject besides agriculture. In the immediate surroundings there was a small lake and a river, where you could hear frogs croaking at night and see wild deer, rabbits and pheasants, to name a few. There were also sheep and beautiful milk chocolate coloured cows, with bells on, in the lush fields.

We arrived in a minibus in the early evening and deposited, with our luggage, at the door, to be met by one of the Masters. Then the fun began. We were told that there was a room with two beds on the first floor and a room with one bed on the ground floor and a decision had to be made as to who would share with whom. It was quickly agreed that Gillian and I would share and Rosemary (known to us all as Rosie) would take the single room. Rosie did very well, having a small guest room with private shower, etc., attached. Gillian and I also had a nice guest room on the first floor, but our facilities, which were next door, were entirely geared for the male occupants of the school! The shower room was just along the corridor, quite conveniently placed, but the prospects of trying to get along there when unlikely to be interrupted by 130 boys of between 14 and 17 appeared slim, especially as the shower cubicles had no doors. Not the place to be caught unawares! However, we managed without too much difficulty.

The funny side of this stay in Austria was beginning to dawn upon us, but there were further surprises in store. At 5.20 the first morning, Gillian and I were awakened by the sound of a stampede. About 70 boys (it sounded more like 300) clattered past our door on their way to the dining room for breakfast. The floor was stone and they had clogs on. (No wonder the Dutch call clogs Clompen). Trying not to think that this could happen every morning, we had just dropped off again, only to be awakened at 6.30 a.m. by the other half of the school going to breakfast! They start lessons at 7 a.m. and finish around 5 - 7 p.m. Rosie slept uninterrupted until 7.30!! During our breakfast, the Headmaster told us the first group were off to Munich on an agricultural course and would be back on Sunday evening. This was Wednesday and we breathed a sigh of relief. It would make showering easier anyway. Then he dropped the second bombshell. He thought it would be nice, as three English ladies were staying there, for them to take the English lesson that morning. Stunned, we pointed out that none of us was a teacher, but he could not see that as a problem. We then pointed out that we had to leave at 10 a.m., but he countered that by saying: "That is alright - the English class starts at 9".

On these dancing trips, you often have to travel by coach for a couple of hours to get to where you perform and we danced on all kinds of surfaces - from good stages in beautiful buildings to makeshift stages in villages; in the streets, sometimes on good (but hard) roads and sometimes on cobbles, occasionally with gravel! The most painful experience we had was dancing outside a basilica in a mountain village. The church was high on the hill and we were dancing on a slope to begin with, but the worst part was there were tiny stone chippings scattered over the cobbles and these little stones were like the point of a needle through our soft dancing pumps. Definitely a case for Doctor Scholl that day! Our smiles were really grimaces of pain that morning.

The day we left for home, the Headmaster gave us each the school's gold badge as a memento. We were very honoured, as the Headmaster himself only had a silver one. Apparently, you have to be in the school for 25 years before you receive a gold one (perhaps it was our good teaching in the English lesson). We had a lot of fun during our five day stay and enjoyed every minute, even though, with late nights and early mornings, sleep seemed to be at a premium. We were very comfortable and extremely well fed.

However, the funny little incidents reminded us of Alan Sherman's song "Hello Mother, Hello Father, here I am at Camp Granada". Most readers will know the song refers to a young lad at a Boys' Summer Camp in America and it is sung to the music "Dance of the Hours". One morning over breakfast, we three decided to write a little song of our experiences on the same lines to the same tune. Four verses were written at breakfast, one in the car on the way to the Inn, where we met the other members of the group each day and one was written between dances at one of the performances. We sang it at a birthday celebration for one of the Group and it was so successful that the Headmaster and English Teacher both asked for a copy. They said the boys would love it. Slightly embarrassed, we pointed out that some of the English was not "proper", but they did not seem to mind. As a precaution though, we gave them a copy on the day we left and it remains to be seen whether we will ever be asked back again! I was not actually going to include the song, but my colleagues insisted, saying it was the best part of the story. I am not sure how to take that, but it goes as follows:-

1. Hello Mama, hello Papa,  
Here we are, in deepest Styria,  
Where the short nights will just kill yer,  
And we don't know how to keep ourselves  
quite sober.

When you have to share your bathroom  
With two hundred future farmers,  
You could really wish you're Rosie  
In her room complete with personal,  
private shower.

5. Frogs are croaking by the river,  
Pheasants, rabbits and some wild deer.  
We can see them every morning,  
When the bus comes it's a pity we are  
yawning.

2. We are at a farming college,  
Trying to improve boys' knowledge.  
When they stampede past our doorway.  
At 5.30 we could really wish them  
your way.

4. Trouble is, that in a boys' school,  
Our home comforts aren't as usual.  
Loos are halfway up the wall.  
Quite a problem when you are not very  
tall!

6. Wait a minute, it's stopped raining.  
Now we must get back in training.  
In our dance shoes on the gravel  
Our display is really smothering of a  
marvel.

(We signed it Gillian Shakespeare Davis, Rosemary Burns Moore and Pamela Wordsworth Ward). With acknowledgments to Gill and Rosie for their part in the song.

Pam Ward.