

# Culter Chronicle

5

January 1972

There is not a great deal to report since the last issue for inevitably with the Christmas and New Year breaks time to a certain extent appears to have slipped by rather quicker than one realises and ones thoughts tend to revolve round our own domestic activities rather than work!

However, the performance of the Mill during December was most encouraging and, in many respects, the efficiency sustained during the five weeks was the best achieved by the Mill for many years. This does confirm that given a reasonable backlog of orders, as was the case during December, the Mill is now quite capable of motoring along in a very much better way than has been possible for some time now. We are still looking at various means whereby we can optimise our plant to maximum efficiency at lowest cost. We are basically at the mercy of the market and, while it would be foolish to make rash forecasts, all the signs point to a gradual improvement taking place during the middle of the year, and certainly on the plain side we are busier now than we have been for some time, but it remains to be seen whether or not this trend will be maintained.

In the last issue, I made reference to a few of the new products which we are working on. Several trials have now been run, and while it is too early to make any optimistic noises, I think it would be safe to say that the initial results have not been too displeasing. The new security paper coated in the Art Factory looks particularly promising and I hope I may be able to comment on customer reaction in the next issue of the Chronicle.

Finally, it would be very remiss of me not to make a reference to the new Social Club. I was quite astonished when I walked into it for the first time and I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to all those who were involved in this project. The fact that all the alterations were carried out by the members in their own time without the assistance of the Company makes the whole affair all the more creditable. I hope that the Club is a great success and wish it well for the future.

R. A. ADAM  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

## VISITORS TO THE MILL DURING JANUARY

### Robinson Waxed Paper Company Limited

An integral part of any advertising campaign is an attractive cover for the product, whether it be perfume, cigarettes, chocolates or car accessories. If the wrapper is eye-catching, the buyer is impressed, and, therefore, more likely to buy that particular make than the next one on the shelf, which may be just as good, but which has a plain cover.

Take Lux Soap, for instance. The television advert, telling us ladies that beautiful women all over the world use Lux, appeals to our vanity, and we are persuaded that this indeed is the soap for us. We don't buy it because the wrapper was made at Culter Mills on No. 3 Machine, and by choosing this brand, we help to sustain the makers profits and to bring fresh orders to the Company; yet we are doing this at the same time.

The Robinson Waxed Paper Company, or RWP for short, uses Culter Soap Wrap for Lux Soap wrappers. On Thursday, January 6th, two representatives from the Company, Messrs. Irole and Bullock, paid a visit to the mill, accompanied by our Warwick Area Manager, Mr. Harry Bradbury.

### Rothera and Brereton Limited

On January 11th, Mr. Brian Chapman, the Buyer of Watmoughs Ltd., and Mr. Ron Wells, a director of Rothera and Brereton, Printers, visited the mill, accompanied by Mr. George Wightman, Manchester Area Manager.

The purpose of their visit was to discuss possible future business of Art paper for the Empire Stores Catalogue, one of the major Mail Order Catalogues in the South.

## A HISTORY OF CULTER MILLS

### "1751 & ALL THAT"

#### Chapter 1

Papermaking in Scotland was born sometime during the latter years of the 17th Century at Dalry near Edinburgh.

This was followed fairly closely by the advent of Gordons Mills on the Don, and then, in 1750, Bartholomew Smith (an Englishman!) commenced papermaking on the banks of the Culter Burn.

This humble start was recorded in the Aberdeen Journal on the 8th January 1751 as follows:

#### "Bartholomew Smith

Papermaker from England, who has now erected and set on the Burn of Culter, a Paper Mill where he can serve the Country in Paper, fine and coarse, brown paper, Paste boards, Pressing-cards for Drysters, etc., gives notice that he buys rags of all kinds of Flax or Hemp, by the stone weight, and designs for that end to come to Aberdeen every Friday.

"Mr. Smith expects that as his Undertaking is so beneficial to the country, every person will be careful to save these materials for his work which formerly were thrown away as useless."

Trade began to prosper and even though Mr. Smith died at an early age in September 1758, he had laid the foundations for Culter Mills to build on.

In February 1760, the management of the mill fell into the hands of Richard Smith, who, with his brother Lewis, and their mother, controlled a work force of 6 operatives.

A volunteer work force was supplied by Richard's family of sixteen, no less, who aided in the new venture of supplying paper for Notes for the Aberdeen Bank.

To be continued

#### PROBLEM

A ship lies at anchor in a harbour with a rope ladder over the side.

The bottom rung just touches the surface of the water and the rungs are 1" thick and 9" apart.

The tide rises at 1'9" per hour. How many hours before the sixth bottom rung is covered?

Answer next issue

#### RETIREMENT

Bob Deans from No. 6 tying section retired on 30th December 1971 after 50 years with the Company. Bob started off in 1921 boxing envelopes and pads, moving from there to the export section. He then spent thirty years on the cutters before moving to the tying section in 1961. Both Bob Deans' father and grandfather worked at Culter for many years, so that a family tie lasting for a hundred years has now been broken.

Many friends and colleagues attended a presentation by Mr. Ronald Adam when a cheque from the Company and an electric razor and wallet of notes from his friends was passed on to Bob. Mr. Adam said that neither a cheque nor his words could ever express what the Company felt for Mr. Deans' long service. He wished him a long and happy retirement with more time for his hobby of bowling.

## MAXIMS FOR SUPERVISORS

(or How to Become a Manager)

1. Never make a decision; it may be the wrong one
2. There is a difficulty for every solution
3. Don't try out a new idea; spend months thinking up a reason why it won't work
4. If it's new it can't be any use; if it was, we would have had it before
5. Treat all new ideas without enthusiasm unless they were thought of by out-siders, preferably Americans who always think big
6. If an idea will take a long time to get into production, make sure it's really long term by not bothering to take the first step
7. If a machine requires maintenance, it is absolutely no use
8. No machine is reliable unless it was made in Germany
9. Never educate an operative; spend a fortune making the machine foolproof
10. Always remember that our competitors never have difficulties
11. Never know the facts. If you do, you show that you hold a very junior position
12. Always argue hard about the unimportant things; it's much safer and you don't need to know the facts on the subject
13. If you have an assistant, refer to him as your staff
14. If you have a typist, refer to her as your secretary
15. Make a virtue of coming to work dead on time; you can then read your Daily Express with a clear conscience
16. Keep a big heap of paperwork on your desk; you can either pretend that you aren't there or that you are extremely busy
17. "Absolute power corrupts absolutely", said Lord Acton, so don't give anyone the power to say "Yes"..... only "No".
18. Never trouble your Manager or he may suddenly realise that you still work for him
19. Remember that he who sits on the fence has a point somewhere
20. Lastly, work is too serious to get any enjoyment or satisfaction out of it

### PROBLEM

There are 5 white socks and five black in a drawer. What is the minimum number that I need to pull out blindfold to be sure of a pair of white socks?

Answer next issue

### WANTED!

Secondhand Fly-reel  $3\frac{1}{2}$  -4" (Rim or Gear)  
complete with backing and D.T. Floating Line

Offers - D. G. Barbour

## THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY!!

An angler, going into his local after a very unsuccessful day's fishing, took care to avoid other anglers in a huddle with arms extended, illustrating the big ones that were caught. He noticed a chap in a corner by himself, shaking his head, with hands extended about 5 inches apart. Our unsuccessful friend decided to join the loner for moral support, but on reaching the table, heard the chap muttering to himself - "Twas that between the eyes".

## SOCIAL CLUB

The Social Club opened with a bang on Christmas Eve and has continued to flourish ever since.

Now the festive season is over, it is planned to gradually increase the social side of things over the coming months. Bingo sessions, followed by a dance, will be held on Sunday evenings, and we also hope to have a regular dance spot on Saturday evenings.

Once a dart-board is installed, an open singles and doubles knock-out darts competition will be held. An entrance fee of 5p will be charged and inscribed tankards presented to the winners and runners-up. If this proves to be a success, it is hoped that we will be able to enter two teams in local leagues during the coming year.

It is also hoped to start showing feature films on a regular basis; how often depends on the attendance at the first few. No admission can be charged, but a silver collection would have to be taken to help cover the cost of hire - about £10-£20 for the latest films. More details soon.

Please don't forget that it is your Club and any ideas for events are most welcome. The more the Club is used, the more we can afford to put on social evenings, so come along any evening all week and midday on Saturdays and Sundays.

Bar opening times for the present are:

Monday to Thursday	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	11 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday	12.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. 6.30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

An application for a supper licence has been lodged and will be heard before the Licensing Court in March. If successful, we will be able to further increase the amenities for members and it is planned that snacks will be served on social occasions with the bar remaining open until 11 p.m.

The Committee would like to take this occasion to thank all those members who so kindly gave of their time and energy in preparing and decorating the Club rooms. Without their efforts there would just not be a Social Club today. They would also like to thank everyone who has come along since we opened and helped to make such a success of these first few weeks.

## HATCHES

On December 14th, the Stork paid a call on Mr. and Mrs. Denis Geddes, bringing with it a baby girl, whom they have called Pauline. Congratulations to happy parents.

## WANTED!

If anyone has a record player for sale, in reasonable condition, please let us know, as we might have a prospective buyer.

## FOOTBALL NOTES

Culter ended 1971 in style by winning the last 4 matches, and in the process, scored 29 goals and conceded 5 goals in these games.

In the October issue of the Chronicle, I mentioned the Mill members of the 1938/39 Culter side which won the Aberdeenshire Juvenile Association County Cup, but must apologise now for omitting Ian Hay from that line up. Ian's chequered football career started when he played for Culter at the age of 15. He has a fascinating story to tell of his Junior, Senior and Highland League experiences.

### JUNIOR DAYS

Ian had a spell with Aberdeen Juniors and set off to a good start. He had played only one game as a Junior and stepped right into the Junior Select to play against the Senior Select when he rattled in six goals.

### SENIOR DAYS

His awe inspiring debut in Senior football was when he played for Aberdeen against Rangers at Pittodrie in a 1-1 draw. Ian had subsequent trials with East Fife and Raith Rovers, but finally signed for Dundee United.

### HIGHLAND LEAGUE DAYS

Ian's career ended in the Highland League, where he was a prolific goalscorer. He won league championship medals with both Peterhead and Elgin City, along with several cup winning medals. He enjoyed cup and friendly encounters against Senior opposition and some matches were particularly memorable. In the Dewar Shield game, Aberdeen v. Peterhead, at Pittodrie, the latter had a shock three goal lead at half-time, but Aberdeen managed to pull back level and in the replay, Don Emery scored the only goal of the match.

In a testimonial game at Elgin, the home team gave Rangers a scare by going ahead 1-0 but Rangers were relieved when they equalised to draw the match. Ian postponed his wedding date by a week to play for Elgin in the Scottish Cup against Third Lanark, but unfortunately they went down 3-2 after leading 2-0 at one stage. The week's delay resulted in the wedding taking place on one of the North East's stormiest days in living memory.

Ian ended his career on a high note when Elgin City beat Fraserburgh 3-1 and he netted all three goals for Elgin.

ALBERT MOIR  
Secretary

## GOLF NOTES

Having paid our respects to the Festive Season, our thoughts should now be turning to the long awaited Summer months of 1972 .... What better way to spend the spare evening or Saturday afternoon than on a quiet, peaceful golf course?

So, if you are not already a member, why not give it a try and come along with us this year? We don't guarantee to turn you into a Tony Jacklin or a Jesse Valentine, but we will be surprised if you don't enjoy yourself.

Our circuit this year will be taking us to Aboyne and Ballater twice, Huntly and Stonehaven. We will also be playing at Montrose in our annual match against Guard Bridge.

This and lots more can be yours for the taking, so to coin a phrase, why not "Come and join our company?"

GEORGE SMART  
Secretary

ANGLERS CORNER

An angler (or in layman's language - "a string dangler") has been described by some as a person possessing remarkable degrees of optimism, patience and skill. With the 1972 season on top of us, the former of these virtues is becoming increasingly evident, and, as the season progresses, the other two will be proved time and time again to the disbelieving.

The Mill Angling Club was formed on 4th April 1968, and the first line was cast on 1st February 1969. The club as it stood at the close of 1971 season had 31 members and the committee comprised of -

Vice President	Norman Davidson
Secretary	John Amos
Committee Member	Willie Brown
	Jack Shaw
	Norman Daimio

Regretfully, the services of John Amos as Club Secretary departed with this ardent enthusiast to Grangemouth.

Bill Logie has been our ghillie since the forming of the club, and any new members who are not familiar with the mysteries of the Dee or indeed with the Art itself, are recommended to have a chat with Bill who has valuable knowledge of "the tackle to use" and of the Dee itself.

Norman has commented that there were no less than 109 salmon caught during 1970, totalling 864 lbs. How's that for skill!

Many of our club members are highly skilled in the noble art and there are others, like myself, who are virtually green (heart). However, no matter what degree of skill one has or one has not, once you have caught the fishing "bug", it will stay with you until plenty water has passed under the bridge.

(One does hope that, instead of bugs, you will be "fly" enough to grass a fish or two of course!)

But really, do come forward, new members. As Norman tells me - the Committee will be delighted to meet you.

Anglers, please note that this is the first angling publication in the Culter Chronicle and as from March we will have facilities to reproduce photographs. If you do take a snap of your catch, do lend it to us and we will publish it to convince the disbelievers that not all the big ones got away!

DONALD BARBOUR  
Secretary

LET US KNOW IF....

- you have any tackle for sale
- you would like to pass on any useful hints
- you know of any loch or stream that is abundant with fish
- you would like to organise a party for an outing (big or small)
- you would like to teach fly-tying

PLEASE REMEMBER FOLKS that the next edition of the Chronicle will be printed. We shall need lots of articles from you. All contributions should be given to Committee Members by the end of February -

Brian Cook	Dennis Parr
Ian "Kipper" McKenzie	Ken Angus
Myra Hay	