

# COCKLE CREEK NEWS

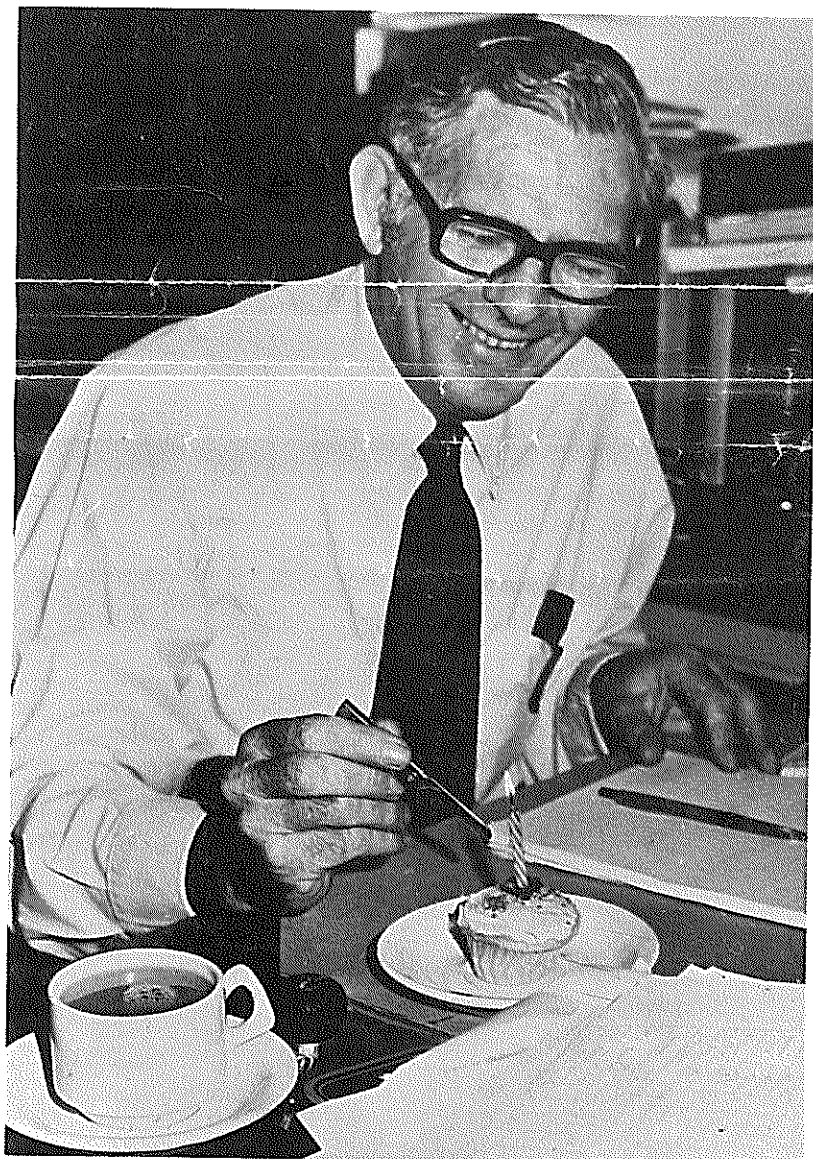


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AM&S

GROUP MEMBER

## Happy Birthday . . .



A chance remark by Environmental Services Supt'd, Brian Smith to Works Office tea-dispenser, Carol Nielsen, that, on the 1st October, he "would like a cake for his birthday," did not pass unnoticed as the picture above testifies.

Sure enough, when Carol came on her rounds on the 1st October, there was the cake for Brian sitting resplendently on a saucer with its decorations of hundreds and thousands and sporting one candle.

The pic shows Brian about to attack the morsel with a penknife. (Dunno whether he shared the cake with Carol, whose birthday was a scant two days earlier!).

Belated Happy Birthday to you both, Carol and Brian.

## 1975 SHUTDOWN

As all employees will be aware, the 1975 smelter shutdown, which commences next Monday, 3rd November, is to be extended into 1976 and, at the present time, it is not expected that operations will resume before the second week in February.

By 3rd November we will have produced approximately 42,000 tonnes of zinc this year which, when set against our ISF capacity of 70,000 tonnes, demonstrates the dramatic downturn in the zinc market in 1975. For the record, too, lead bullion is expected to be only 21,500 tonnes compared with the 28,000 tonnes achievable if we were in a position to utilise the furnace to its full capacity.

Although we have recently achieved some additional sales which have caused us to make

minor changes to our shutdown planning, current forecasts still indicate that the furnace will remain out of operation until February.

There have been some small signs of improvement in our South East Asian and US export areas but, unfortunately, the Australian demand for zinc is unlikely to improve until the problem of inflation is brought under control and consequently, the recovery which we are looking for will probably be a slow one with some restriction on our operation continuing through 1976.

Nevertheless, we have consolidated our operations well at the present levels of production and we can look forward to weathering this difficult period and being in a good position to take advantage of the market upturn which we can certainly expect by 1977.

It has been necessary for most of us to have holidays in advance this year and in January and, for a number of people, to take some of their long service leave which they might not otherwise have done. The management is very appreciative of the response to these requests which will minimise particularly the number of people on the Works during the January period while the Sinter and ISF Plants are not operating.

It is hoped that in the next NEWS, which will be published in mid December and which will cover much of the shutdown action, further marginally better news on the outlook for 1976 will be available for publication.

— A. T. THOMSON,  
General Manager.

## It's a Cleanout . . .

As we go to press, No. IA Effluent Dam is in the process of being cleaned out and, on this occasion a relatively new method is being used.

The procedure adopted is to subject the build-up to a high-pressure jet of water to slurry it and enable it to be handled and

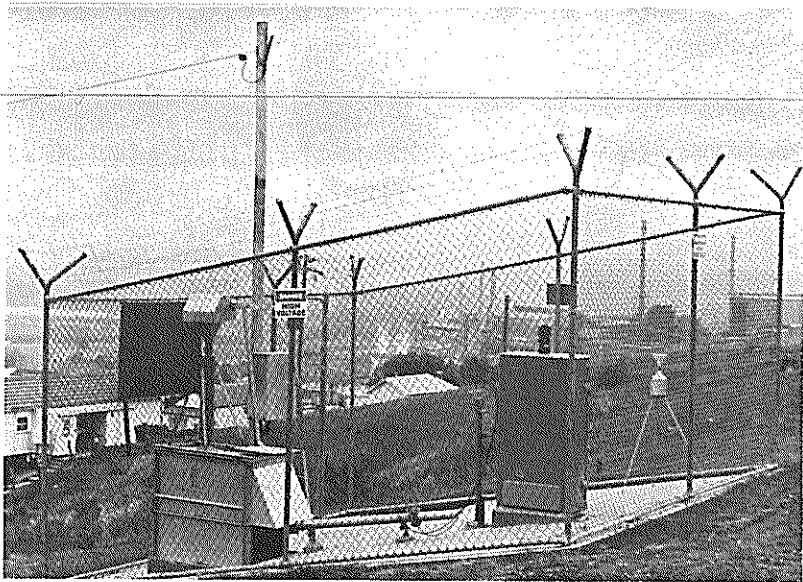
dispersed by the dams floating suction dredge.

The pictures show the build-up in the dam (the suction dredge is in the upper centre) and, lower, dredge attendant, Col Godwin, directing the high-pressure jet of water for best effect.





# Environmental Monitoring . . .



Over the past 12 months we have seen considerable changes in the familiar skyline of the Works. The installation of the 70 metre stack at the ISF as a replacement for a number of low level stacks has been one of several important measures taken to continually improve the surrounding environment. The commissioning of the new Effluent Treatment Plant is another example of this continuing effort.

While the appearance of all this new equipment may be impressive, it is fair enough to ask — “what is the state of the environment and what effect has all this expenditure had on conditions around the Works?”

This type of evaluation requires routine monitoring of grasses, soils, vegetation and the regular examination of Cockle Creek and Lake Macquarie.

As part of the overall surveillance programme, three environmental monitoring stations have recently been commissioned to continuously monitor the quality of the air we breathe . . . One of these stations is located at First Street, Boolaroo, adjacent to the houses nearest the Works, another is located at Argenton as near as possible to the Public School and the third station is on the high ground at the top of Sixth Street, Boolaroo, in what is regarded as a location which will subject the Works to most rigorous monitoring.

The Sixth Street station is equipped with a standard dust fall-out gauge identical to that used by the State Pollution Control Commission in the many locations monitored in the Shire of Lake Macquarie, Newcastle and Sydney. This measures dust fall-out over a 30 day period. A second high volume sampler has been provided which measures the fall-out over a period of 24 hours. This sampler is based on a design supplied by the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Physics but which has been modified to suit local conditions. Developed originally to measure fall-out

from atomic bomb tests in the Pacific, the sampler collects the very finest dust particles in the air and thus gives a more exact measure of air quality than that obtained by the simple fall-out gauge.

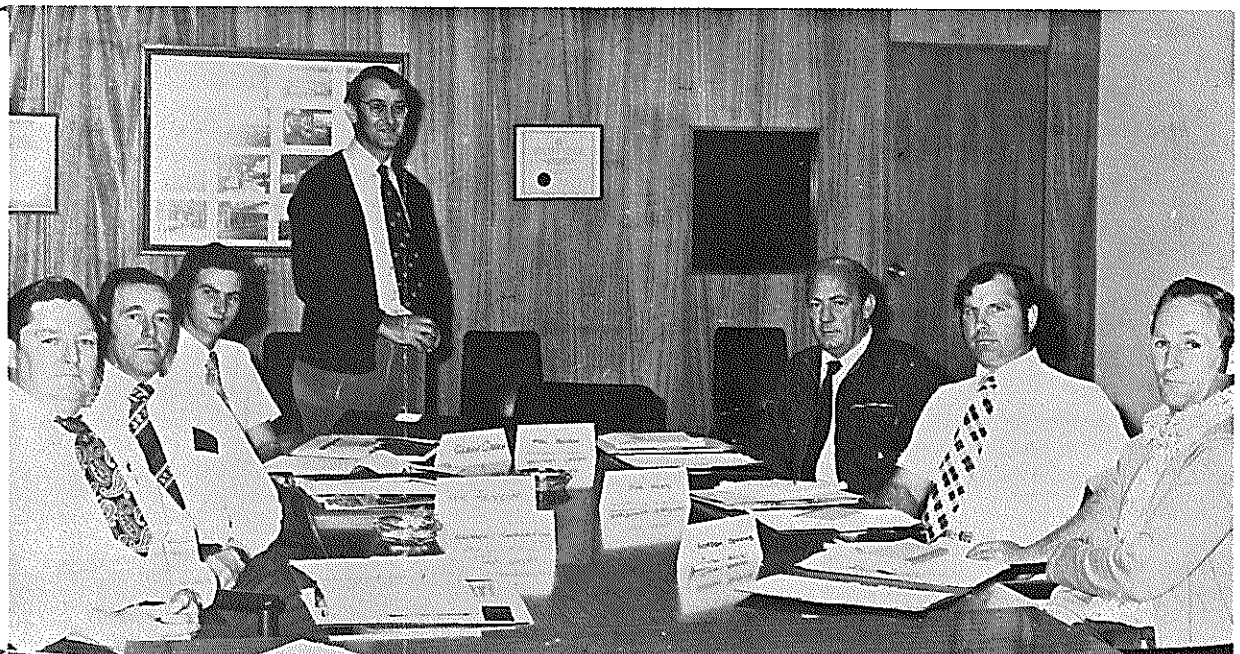
A further instrument in the station is a Philips sulphur dioxide monitor. This continually measures ambient sulphur dioxide levels. A feature of this instrument is the automatic calibration whereby the accuracy is checked twice per day. A chart recorder gives a continuous account of the sulphur dioxide levels and makes it possible to identify the time, duration and strength of any abnormalities which might occur over short periods. Other types of measuring instruments, while measuring total sulphur dioxide over 24 hours, do not have this facility to pinpoint incidents.

By the accumulation of such measurements over a long term, it is possible to evaluate the quality of the environment and to compare it with world standards. While insufficient data has yet been collected from the new stations to give an adequate basis for comparison, the preliminary results indicate that we do indeed enjoy a healthy environment. We aim to keep it that way.

The picture (upper left) shows, Assistant Metallurgist, Ken Ferguson (standing on unit) and Environmental Services Supt'd., Brian Smith, inspecting the new high volume sampler at the First Street, Boolaroo, station. (left) A general view of the Sixth Street station. At left is the high volume sampler. The rectangular cabinet encloses the Philips sulphur dioxide recorder and on tripod legs at rear is the dust deposit gauge.

## Foreman Training . . .

Participants in a Sulphide Foreman Training Course conducted in September are shown in the picture . . . Seated at table they are, from left, George Singleton (Refinery), Keith Renouf (Personnel), Glenn Green (Technical), Mal Bowen (Refinery), Jim Rees (Electrical) and Gordon Jenkins (Sinter). Standing is Bob Still, who was addressing the group on ISF procedures.



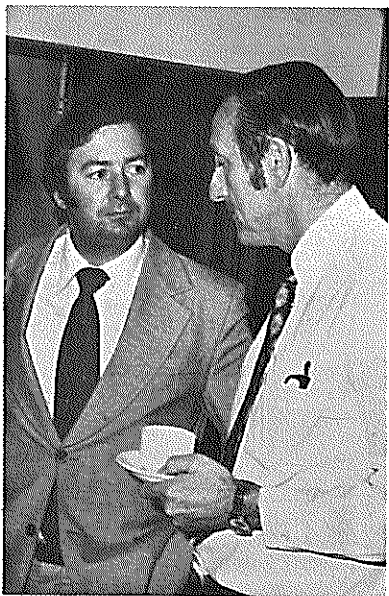


## Directors at Sulphide Corporation



Members of the Board of Directors of AM&S visited Sulphide Corporation in October. The party comprised, the Chairman, Mr. F. F. Espie OBE, Deputy Chairman, Mr. J. T. Ralph, Sir Henry Bland CBE, Mr. J. H. Standish, Mr. H. D. G. Black (Director Sulphide Corporation) and the Secretary, Mr. D. M. McMurtrie.

ABOVE: Mr. H. D. G. Black (right) and Mr. J. H. Thomas, discuss matters over a cup of tea. At rear, Mr. J. W. Jolly, Sir Henry Bland and Mr. F. F. Espie . . .



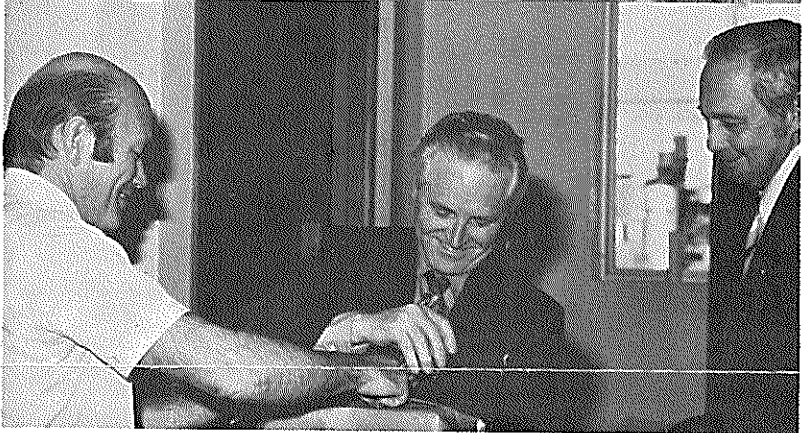
RIGHT: Mr. D. M. McMurtrie (left), talks with Mr. F. B. Storey.

## CRA Research Dept. farewells Dr. H. K. Worner . . .

Before his retirement in August, Dr. Howard Worner, CRA's Director of New Process Development, was given a "send-off" by the CRA Research team at Cockle Creek. During the proceedings several speakers paid tribute to Dr. Worner's sterling qualities of leadership and presentations of a model of the Worcra furnace and an electronic

calculator were made to him.

The pictures below show, (upper) Brian Smith, Ian McKenzie, Monty Taverner and Peter Mead looking at the calculator held by Dr. Worner. (Lower) John Scarce, left, and Merv Allman assist Dr. Worner in unwrapping the model of the Worcra furnace.



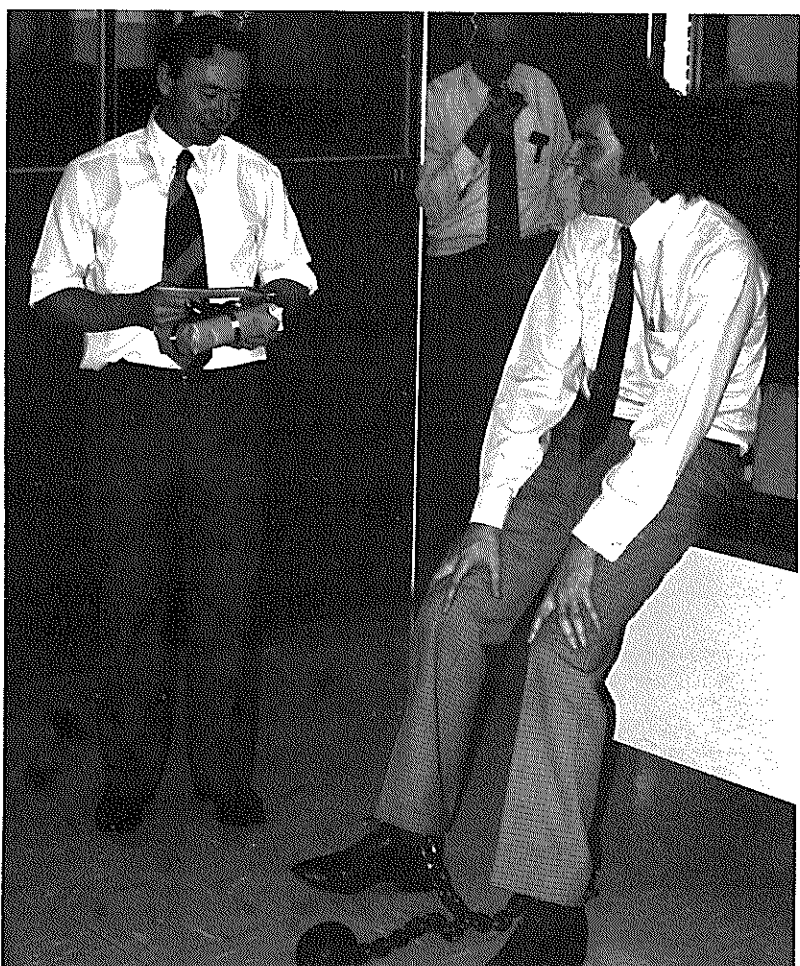
## Presentations

Below: Barbara Linsley (Commercial Dept.), responds after George Hamilton (right) had made a presentation to her before she left the company recently. Barbara who was leaving us to assume the time-consuming

chores of motherhood, had been with us for nearly eight years. In making the presentation, George spoke highly of Barbara's work while she was here. We sincerely trust that everything goes well for her.

**Wedding presentations:** Before their recent marriages, Chris Hopkins and Glenn Green were each given presentation "send-offs" by their associates in the Technical Dep't. (Below), Chris, shackled by the traditional "ball-

and-chain", still manages to raise a smile as he awaits his presentation from Ted Burns (left) . . . (Lower left), Glenn, right, received the immensely practical gift of a wheelbarrow (galvanized, we note). Ken Lane, who made the presentation is on the left.



# S.E.U. executive officers . . .

Our Potted Biographies in this issue feature the S.E.U. executive, three of whom took new positions for the first time at the Annual General Meeting in July. They are John Bell, President, Wal Peck, Vice President and Hugo Magrics, Treasurer. Predictably, the Secretary, Bert Dick, was re-elected, commencing his second quarter century in this position.



**BERT DICK**  
Secretary

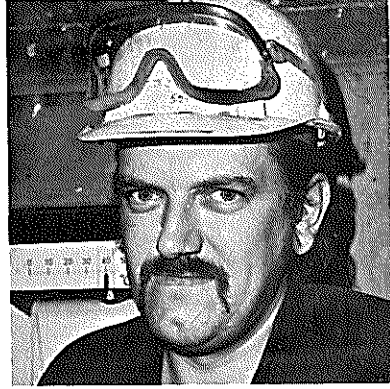
BERT DICK is very much the "elder statesman" in terms of S.E.U. administration, having been associated with the Union for 31 years and Secretary for 25 of those years.

Bert started work here at the Acid Plant in September 1936 and, in 1944, first became associated with the Union when he became a sectional representative for the Acid Plant. In 1948 he was elected Treasurer and then, in 1950, Secretary. He has retained this position in successive ballots since that time. Bert is still with the Acid Department as operator on D Acid Plant.

In his pre-occupation with Union matters Bert is following along the lines of his father, who was president of the F.E.D.F.A. for 35 years.

Bert and his wife, Marie, live at First Street, Boolaroo. They have three grown-up sons, Gordon, the eldest is an architect, then comes Norman, an electrical engineer with the Electricity Commission, at Muswellbrook and Alan, who is a radiographer at the Mater Hospital.

As a lot of us are also aware, Bert has a record of being no slouch as a sportsman either. A senior grade soccer player with Lake Macquarie, he also played First Grade cricket and is renowned late in his career as a stalwart of the old Sulphide Welfare



**JOHN BELL**  
President

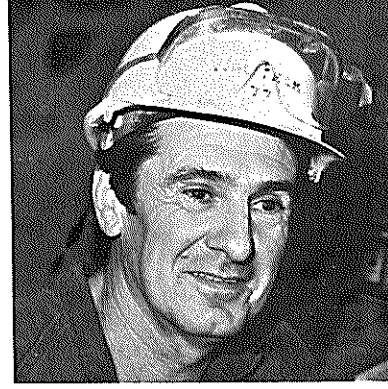
Cricket team and in the 1950/60's, as a solid participant for the "Employees Eleven" against the "Staff Eleven" and Sulphide versus Greenleaf in some memorable cricket matches.

The new President of the Sulphide Employees' Union, JOHN BELL, was born at Gillingham, in Kent, in March 1940 and came to Australia in 1955. Before joining Sulphide Corporation in December, 1973, he was employed at Steelmaking and associated industries in Newcastle.

John began at the ISF as assistant condenserman and is still there. An interest in industrial matters led to him becoming a Sulphide Employees' Union delegate for the ISF and this year resulted in his being elected President of the S.E.U.

John is married to the former Robyn Patrick, of Lambton. They have two children, Megan (10) and Dean (5) and live at Sandra Street, Fennell Bay.

Following their marriage in Newcastle, John and his wife went to Sydney to seek further opportunities but the ties with Newcastle were too strong and they moved back here after a while.

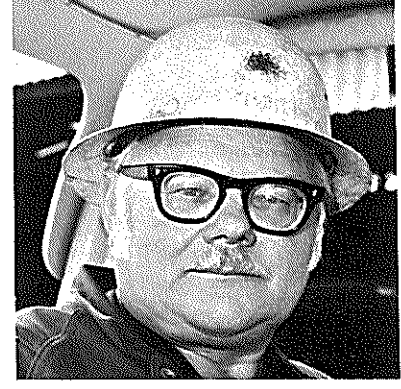


**WAL PECK**  
Vice President

WAL PECK was born at Dubbo, 46 years ago and educated at Rawsonville Primary School and Dubbo High. After leaving school worked on his fathers' sheep and wheat growing property, "Lawleigh," 20 miles north-west of Dubbo. Also leased and share-farmed other properties in the Dubbo district until his father retired. He and his father were prominent in wheat growing and won numerous Royal Agricultural Show Society state and local prizes in wheat field competitions.

Wal shifted to the coast in 1969 where he was employed by the Forestry Commission at Taree, later joining an Assurance Company for a short period before coming to Newcastle in 1972. He joined Sulphide Corporation in April, 1972. He has been employed at the Sinter Plant since that date and is currently mixing section operator on "D" Panel. Since joining Sulphide, Wal has taken an active part in Sulphide Employees' Union affairs and was elected Vice President this year.

Wal married the former Audrey McKinnon at Dubbo and has a daughter and three sons. Narelle gained the Higher School Certificate at Warners Bay High last year and is now employed in Sydney at the Department of Repatriation, Sons,



Graham and Jeffrey attend Warners Bay High and Warwick, Warners Bay Primary. Wal and his family live at Mills Street, Warners Bay.

**HUGO MAGRICS**  
Treasurer

HUGO MAGRICS was born at Latvia in 1921 and came to Australia in 1949. Before commencing at Sulphide in 1961 he worked for BHP and S & L for seven years, conducted his own mixed business for two years and then had a stint as a salesman.

At Sulphide, Hugo started in the lead section of the ISF and then was transferred to the Refinery as forklift driver at the start-up of the plant. He was elected Treasurer of the S.E.U. this year.

In Latvia, Hugo studied commercial subjects and after graduating from a commercial college in 1942 worked as accountant for a district co-operative.

Hugo and his wife Alma (who is also from Latvia), were married in Germany. They live at Jubilee Road, Glendale and have a daughter, Ilga, and son, Imants, both married and both school teachers.

Hugo's interests are varied, he is a keen amateur winemaker, a plumbing enthusiast and in more relaxing periods likes to indulge in classical music or a good book.

**SC SAFETY NEWS**

right...

**YOUR  
LITTLE  
LIFE  
GUARD**



**SULPHIDE CORPORATION**  
PTY. LTD.

This Tag **MUST NOT** be removed except by the undersigned or (in his absence from the works) by his foreman or the appropriate Engineer.

Name	.....
Occupation	.....
Dept.	.....
Date	.....
Time	.....

SEE REVERSE.



THIS TAG HAS BEEN PLACED FOR SAFETY REASONS AND FORBIDS THE ENERGISING OF THE ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT, THE OPERATION OF THE EQUIPMENT OR THE MOVEMENT OF THE VALVE TO WHICH IT IS ATTACHED.

<b>SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:</b>

SEE REVERSE.

## Reminder...

As there is a strong possibility of your being engaged in an unfamiliar work role during the campaign shutdown, ensure your own safety by using the correct danger tagging procedures.

These procedures are set out fully in our "Danger Tag Regulations" booklet, of which you are aware.

The section of the regulations relating to "placement of Danger Tags" is repeated here as a reminder.

### Placement of Danger Tags:

An employee before starting a particular job, must check with his Supervisor:

1. To obtain proper information on the work to be performed.
2. To obtain full information on any hazards associated with the work.
3. To ensure that he receives instruction on the exact point or points of isolation so that the danger tag may be correctly placed.

When the employee is satisfied that the equipment is correctly isolated and safe, he tags this equipment by filling in completely all details on the danger tag, then tying it by the string attached, to the isolator.

## LOST TIME ACCIDENTS

Department	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
PRODUCTION	1	Nil	2	Nil	2	Nil	1	Nil	Nil				6
ENGINEERING	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil				3
SERVICES	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil				Nil
TOTAL	1	Nil	2	1	2	Nil	2	1	Nil				9
TOTALS 1974	4	3	3	8	3	1	7	3	5	2	Nil	3	42