

"News" Founder Returns . . .

We were delighted to welcome back to Cockle Creek on 25th March Mr. Owen Lewis, now Manager of Commercial Research for Comalco Limited. As Personal Assistant to the Manager in 1951 Mr. Lewis was responsible for getting the "News" going and was its first Editor, until April, 1957. Some small idea of his editorial style can be gathered by the "flash-backs" in this issue. Under his direction the new publication was firmly established as an effective means of communication within Sulphide Corporation.

In 1957 Mr. Lewis relinquished editorial duties to devote more time to the company's development programme. He conducted important investigations into coke and fertilizers particularly and was acknowledged as a master of the technical report. Mr. Lewis left Cockle Creek to join Comalco at the end of February, 1961 and the visit was his first return to Sulphide Corporation since this time.

We were very pleased to have Owen with us and to have the opportunity to reminisce about old times. A number of us, too, had the opportunity of attending a talk he gave on the Commercial Research activities of Comalco and of exchanging views on several market research matters. This talk and discussion were much appreciated.

Very glad to have you with us again, Owen, and only sorry the time appeared to go so quickly.

Mr. Lewis has left us the following message, commemorating his "Founder's Day visit":—

"It is with some nostalgia that I recall a day early in 1951 when the manager, Mr. Albert Edge, called me to his office to say he wanted a works paper started.

As his personal assistant I had never envisaged taking on the job of running a paper, let alone starting one. English my weakest school subject and my training as an engineer hardly fitted me to the task. However, after a nervous few weeks of preparation, I soon found there was plenty of talent available to make up for what I lacked.

"Angus Orchard, then on the drawing office staff, offered to help with cartoons and drawings — remember his controversial comic strip 'Ric Gray' and his excellent cartoons. Then there was that stalwart bunch of mostly anonymous departmental reporters — 'Shockem' and 'Cy' from Electrical, 'Bimbo' of the Engineers, 'Dee See' from Fertilizers, Perc Jepson and others who contributed to Links with the Past, 'Old Colonial' of Traffic Department, 'Solly Fringeon' of Delirium Tremens fame, 'Cicero' of the Main Office and others. In a few ways to-day's 'News', 20 years later, still resembles that No. 1 Edition of April, 1951 — the same 'Potted Biographies' (No. 1 Edition depicted Jack Eyre and Bill Jackson), the same printers — Davies & Cannington (Mr. Davies himself offered valuable advice with those early issues).

"I am grateful to the Management for still retaining my name on the mailing list. 'Cockle Creek News' has moved ahead with the times and to-day has a higher standard of presentation. May I congratulate the editors on achieving this 20th year of publication issue and extend my best wishes to all of my old friends at Sulphide. It was a very happy occasion for me to visit the Works on 25th March and to see the Smelter in operation for the first time. I hope it will not be ten years before I call in at Cockle Creek Works again".

Other features of the early days were the cartoons of Angus Orchard (who remembers "Ric Gray", "The Sewing Circle" and all the little men (see our back cover) who used to make acid and fertilizers in weird, Heath Robinson type plants and processes?), the steady flow of Welfare Club news (in the

days when the Club was closely associated with the company and located on the Works site), the letters to the editor, the early Potted Biographies and Links with the Past by the late Percy Jepson.

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