

# Recent Retirements

## SAM MISCHTSCHENKO

After 17 years at Sulphide we were sorry to hear that the Machine Shop's "Mr. Fixit", Sam Mischtschenko, was retiring on 12 May due to ill health. Originally from Kiev, in the Ukraine, Sam started out to become an Engineer, but World War II intervened and he joined the Russian Army, latter to be taken prisoner of war on the German front. After the war Sam was transferred to a displaced persons camp where, by chance, he met his brother whom he had not seen or heard of since the beginning of the War. The reunion was to last for 4 years until in 1949 both migrated to start new lives, Sam to Australia and his brother Jacob to America.

Although this time they were able to keep in touch it was to be a further 29 years before they were to meet again when Sam went to America in 1978. A further reunion is planned when Jacob comes to Australia early next year.

It was during his migration to Australia that Sam's name was changed from Mischenko to Mischtschenko.

It appears that a frustrated immigration official after several attempts to get the name correct finally settled on the latter spelling and Sam, at that time not being able to speak much English, in his usual amiable way, agreed.

On arrival in Sydney, Sam spent 2 years with the Railways as part of his contract with the Government before moving out into private industry and finally coming to Sulphide in 1964. Initially working at the ISF and Refinery, Sam spent the last 10 years in the Machine Shop where he quickly earned the title of "Mr. Fixit". No matter what job he was given, Sam's reply was always the same, "Me fix", and he did. In this and many other respects he will be greatly missed by his friends at the Machine Shop.

A keen fisherman, Sam used to spend quite a bit of time "outside" among the big ones on his 25 ft. motor launch, which he kept at Port Stephens. However, these days he contents himself with lake and river fishing in an endeavour to keep up his love for all types of seafood.

On retirement, Sam was presented with a new set of lawn bowls by his friends at the Workshops. A bowler for some 10 years with the Wallsend Club he hopes that in retirement he will have more time to improve his game.

Sam, on behalf of your many friends at Sulphide, and particularly your workmates in the Machine Shop, we are going to miss you and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a long and happy retirement.



Sam Mischtschenko

## NOEL BARRIE

Engineering Transport Controller, Noel Barrie, who retired on 3 July originally joined Sulphide in 1946 in the Fertilizer Department. Starting as a rail truck sheeter Noel later became Production Foreman at No. 1 Mill. In fact, Noel's production crew was the first to load 1,000 tons (as they were then) in a shift. This was a mighty fine effort considering the loading equipment available in the late fifties and early sixties.

Noel was also the last on site contact between Greenleaf and Sulphide. After the acquisition by Australian Fertilizers Limited in June 1969 Sulphide managed the Plant for AFL. During late 1970 AFL closed its Cockle Creek operation and Noel remained as the only person on the site as Caretaker for several months before taking over the Engineering section of Transport, viz. cranes, trucks, etc.

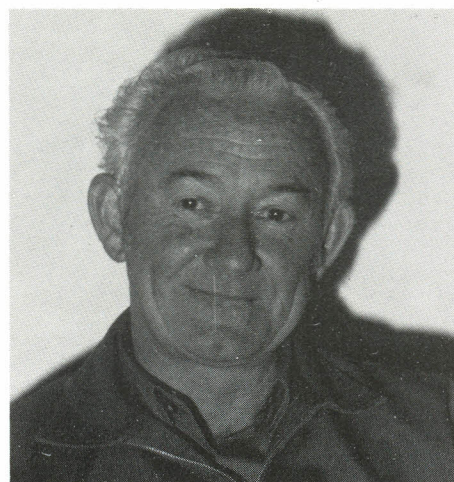
In his early days Noel was a keen soccer player and played for Jesmond in the local competition. However, since about 1942 he has been a keen tennis player. Working his way up to A reserve he dropped back to B grade over the past few years.

Always a keen gardener Noel has, over the past 7 years, specialised in growing chrysanthemums to a stage where the whole yard is full of them; 327 plants to be exact.

A member of the Chrysanthemum Study Group of Australia he hopes to improve his ability to grow these plants in retirement. From his description they take more looking after than a baby.

In about six weeks he and his wife are off to America taking in the West Coast and Honolulu then back to his beloved plants.

Always popular, Noel, your smiling face is going to be missed by those who knew you. On behalf of all at Sulphide we'd like to wish you and your wife the very best for the future.



Noel Barrie

## Eye Witness Report

*Our eye witness who reported the incident at the changehouse, viz. the cartoon in our April issue, has indicated that our version was not strictly correct. The Operator concerned did not have a singlet on!*

*This story prompted a couple more eye witness reports from various people.*

*Like the guy who was looking over a group of nurses being shown around the Works when he walked into a post. Seems his glasses fogged up.*

*Seems one of our fitness fanatics, from the office, had a hard work-out one recent lunch time. With the rest of the group he had a shower and got dressed only to be reminded by his "friends" that he had put his sporting gear back on again. It seems that they waited until he had finally tied his laces on his sandshoes before telling him what he'd done.*

## Hospital Benefits

From September 1, there will be changes in Australia's health care system. The changes are necessary because the cost of providing health care has been getting out of hand.

This is how the changes will affect you:

From September 1, **free** medical and hospital care will be provided by the Commonwealth **only to those in need**. There are an estimated three million people, or just under 25% of our total population who qualify and who will not have to pay for their basic medical and hospital care —

— **Pensioners** with Pensioner Health Benefits Cards.

— **Migrants and refugees** in their first six months in Australia.

— **Unemployed** (and their dependants) who meet the Pensioner Health Benefit income test, and people on special Social Security benefits.

— **People on a specified low income.** For example:

Married couples - no children \$160/week  
Married couples - 2 children \$200/week  
Single parents - 2 children \$180/week  
Single people - \$96/week.

Incentives to those who pay for their own health care.

Now, the majority of Australians can choose and obtain their own health care needs, with these incentives:

— Tax rebates on basic health insurance premiums (this applies from 1 July).

— Commonwealth medical benefits paid to all those insured with a registered health fund.

Therefore, there are sound reasons for joining a registered health insurance scheme.

Those who don't insure with a registered health fund miss out on these benefits and could have to pay **all** of their medical and hospital bills.

Full details of the new arrangements are contained in a Department of Health pamphlet soon to be released.

To assist employees in making their contribution to health care systems, Sulphide accepts contributions directly from wages and salaries for four health schemes, viz:

— Newcastle Industrial Benefit (NIB)  
— Hospitals Contribution Fund (HCF)  
— Medical Benefits Fund (MBF)  
— Medibank.

Many local people contributed to The Store's medical health scheme and paid with their monthly account. This health insurance scheme has now been taken over by NIB and can be paid through the Works.

Those of you who wish to take advantage of any of these schemes can make further enquiries at the Time Office.