

SAMSCENE

Take 4

THE HOUSE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAMUELSON GROUP PLC DECEMBER 1985



EDITOR'S BIT

SamScene is here, full of Xmas cheer! So put down that tinsel and immerse yourself in the latest news and gossip.

Now for my usual plea to let me know what you're all up to — the next edition will be in March, so you've plenty of time to scribble some notes or give me a ring. You know the sort of thing I'm after — stories of passion and drama — bizarre sporting activities — obsessions and intrigues — in fact, news of all the usual run-of-the-mill, day-to-day activities in the Sammies Group. SamScene goes to every member of staff in the 28 companies now in our Group (including those overseas) so it's the ideal way to communicate with your widespread colleagues.

The Xmas hols will soon be upon us (as if you needed reminding!) Don't forget! Drinks in the Main Office plus turkeys and wine on the 20th and the Xmas Fling Party on the 18th.

Have a merry time and see you all in 1986!

Ann Stirling

INVITATION

The Directors of Samuelson Group plc take great pleasure in inviting you to join them for a drink to celebrate the holiday period and the ending of another year. The draw for the Marjorie Samuelson Trust Raffle will also take place at the same time. Over 30 exciting prizes to be won including a black and white TV
 At: Main Office, Samcine House
 On: Friday December 20th,
 5 p.m.

A TOY TALE

You may have seen a commercial screened recently for "Tonka Toys", involving two quarry tipper trucks falling from a cliff edge, one real, and one a Tonka Toy. You may not, however, be aware of the dramas involved in creating that stunt.

The idea was to cover the shot with several 16mm cameras, most of them positioned at the base of the cliff, including one almost at the point of impact, looking straight up. To increase the excitement, a minicamera, the GSAP helmet camera packed in foam inside a Samcine case and was positioned in the real lorry looking out through the wind-screen. To ensure the safety of the operators, the cameras in the quarry basin were linked to a radio controlled system for turning them on and off.

Mistake Number One. A technician commented to the producers, in the minutes approaching the shot, that for

some peculiar reason, the cameras had been turning themselves on and off. What rubbish, he was told. How could they? Little did they know that the local taxi company were sharing the same radio frequency, and had, in contacting their cars, been triggering the cameras, so that by now most of the film was used up!

Mistake Number Two. As the 100 ton truck rolled gracefully over the precipice, it hit a rock and bounced into the air. This shook the GSAP camera inside its Samcine Case, moving the foam and partially obscuring the lens!

Mistake Number Three. The truck landed on the camera at the base of the cliff!

Now you know why Dick Greaves is so insistent over insurance!

(P.S. The mini-camera inside the Samcine case emerged intact and is back in service. Its case is not quite as unblemished!)

by Simon Broad



GET WELL WISHES

Our best wishes go to *Asmat Lodi* who has been in hospital for several months following a serious road accident. We hear he may be home in time for Christmas. Hope to see you back at Sammies soon, Asmat

BILL SHIELD PROMOTED

Samcine Sales Ltd is pleased to announce Bill Shield has been appointed Head of Research and Development. Bill has been with Sammies for eight years joining us from college as a trainee in the Sound Department.

Congratulations, Bill!

THE BARE FACTS OF BELGIUM (RAMBO II½)

As the weekend went by it was easy to see this trip was not for the faint-hearted, tea-totallers or Mary Whitehouse fans.

Our first stop, scheduled to be Dover, turned out to be the nearest subway loo before hitting the motorway. But around 11.30 p.m. on Friday 6th December, we all boarded the boat bound for Zeebrugge. Some of us were unsure whether it was the boat rocking from side to side at first, but as time went on the crossing turned out to be quite smooth.

Getting on for five the following morning, the lights of Zeebrugge were in sight and before you could say, "Duckie Fuzz" we were on dry land and in the coach and heading for the Hypermarket. Even the birds weren't awake to see our resilient band spill off the coach and go shopping. It would definitely be described as liquid shopping, as a few hours later trolley loads of beer emerged to be loaded on to the coach for later consumption.

PALATIAL ROOMS

And so to breakfast; some had the continental breakfast, others opted for the full bacon and eggs and those that found the coffee and tea too weak, went for the stronger stuff. On returning to the coach we found that amongst our intrepid travellers lurked an Amazon or Tarzan with unnatural strength. Well anyway, this was the belief of our coach driver, who was totally convinced that our well-behaved (!) group had tried to force open the door. But undaunted by this set-back, the coach went forth onwards to the hotel, "The Ostend Palace" where many were relieved to find a horizontal position in which to try and catch up on lost sleep.

The rooms were good value as those in Room 416 could always speak to those in Room 410 without actually having to get out of bed!

The more resilient of the group stepped out into the Ostend fresh air, and strolled along the promenade by the sea or wandered round the many shops in the vicinity looking for bargains — and there certainly were some.

Also, but a mere beer can's throw away was the red light district which explained why all the men went out window shopping!

TABLE DANCING

It was a unanimous decision to miss out on the beer festival, as the little town of Ostend was dotted with clubs, pubs and good eating places. It also meant that those who had opted for a few hours kip and probably wouldn't have been able to be ready by 7.00 p.m., were able to happily sleep on, and restore their batteries for the latter part of the evening's onslaught. Some were amazed to find themselves safely in their room when in fact, their last recollections were in the bar either dancing on the tables, or talking to their last glass of lager. Unfortunately, not everyone made it to their rooms and collapsed in a heap in the

corridor until found by some unsuspecting member of the group.

COWARDLY COURIER

Nevertheless Sunday morning dawned and all 50 managed to find the dining room and tucked into a really good breakfast.

The courier, having deserted us almost at the point of meeting us on the Saturday morning, had decided it was safer to stay on another coach and so the Sammies brigade ventured on to our day in Bruges.

On arrival there, after a short 20 minute coach ride, the courier jumped aboard for the last 3 minutes and over a background rendition of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" gave a brief history of what turned out to be a beautiful and characteristic little town.

The courier started off with a large following of interested listeners but as he wandered through the streets, little groups kept branching off into nearby drinking establishments and the like, until no doubt he ended up talking to himself outside some great monument. His last words to us were "be back in the coach at 2.30 p.m., or else!"

BRIDGES AND BARGAINS

Bruges is Belgian for Bridges and surprise, surprise, there are 50 bridges in this town, making it a very picturesque place together with the cobbled streets and the horse drawn carriages. Anyone having been to Venice would see the similarity although without the gondolas. The shop window displays were inviting as their fashions were fabulous — shame about the prices. However, being renowned for its chocolate and hand made lace, many presents were bought at very reasonable prices before the time came to return to the coach and head for Zeebrugge and home.

The crossing was remarkably smooth; not a drop of drink was spilt! And the lively entertainment supplied by those well inebriated ensured no-one nodded off to sleep.

MAN OVERBOARD

We docked early evening to be greeted by torrential rain, the likes of which we had not seen in Belgium the whole weekend. So on to the coach we all trooped for the last lap of the journey. Sorry, did I say ALL. The head count said 49, where was No. 50? . . . quite happy to stay aboard and return to Brussels sitting contentedly asleep in the most "convenient" place on the boat! Once No.50 had been found, the coach slowly but surely reached customs. All sailed through the green side with trollies laden and in one case an industrial hoover was used as transport through the customs hall.

And so the weekend fast came to an end with the sounds of Jim Reeves and Sing a Long a Max courtesy of the coach driver and snores, hoots of laughter and bodies on the coach floor courtesy of our interpid travellers who were . . .

Pat "I rest my case here" Ferris
Kim "Playgirl's got nothing on me" Line,
Anna "Shall I stay awake" Gregory
Fiona "Collapsible" Ryan
Val "Bargain Hunter" Roughton
Gary "Evenin' all" Sanders
Geraldine "That's cheaper than at the Production Village" Walsh
Sarah "I'm not with them" Quinn
Barry "Break a Glass" Stout
Dave "Gimme a Lager" Barnes,
Kim "Where's the loo?" O'Shea
Nicky "Sober as a judge" Ross
Georgina "Equally sober as a judge" Harris
Mary "& Son" Hickey
Barbara "Anything for a quiet life" Joynson
Veneeta "Mobile Buffet" Davis
Mona "Quiet as a Mouse" Aubrey
Plus friends and family.

Written, compiled and organised by Debbie "What next trip?" Nyman

The characters, situations and places portrayed in this article are non-fictional and any resemblance to characters living or dead, actual situations and places is purely intentional.



After the Hypermarket raid

Glowing reports are coming in on the work of Operation Raleigh, the four year expedition in which some 4000 people aged between 17 to 24 are travelling all over the world, carrying out various social, archaeological and geographical projects.

Sammies are supplying all the film equipment free of charge to the venturers, who include students from all the major film schools, for the filming of the various projects. These have so far included carrying out cataract surgery in South America (see photograph) and diving to explore 18th century wrecks in the West Indies. The first group has now returned and the film makers are putting together their documentaries with the help of an Advisory Panel made up of specialists from companies such as Kodak and Channel 4.

Every year an Awards Panel, including such luminaries as Sir David Attenborough, David Puttnam and Michael Samuelson, will present an award to the best film from the Operation and Channel 4 are currently discussing the screening of the films with Operation Raleigh's organisers.



Our t-shirts get everywhere!

SCENE AND HEARD

PAT JEFCOATE is now assistant to the General Manager at SamComm NW2.

WEDDING BELLS rang for Gillian Martin when she married Terry Read on June 1st at All Saints Church, Harrow Weald. Many (belated) congratulations, Mrs. Read.



Gillian Read (nee Martin) with new hubby Terry



Simon 'Bow-Tie' Broad (in Sammies cap) adopts a sheepish pose whilst being photographed for Pirelli's new calendar "Great Go-Karters of the Century". Some of you may not know that one of Simon's secret vices is racing go-karts – another is racing lawnmowers.

SCENE AND HEARD cont.

MARTIN CAYZER married Teresa Migliorini on November 9th at what we understand was a truly tear jerking romantic church ceremony in Weybridge, Surrey. Martin and Teresa spent their honeymoon in the Algarve, Portugal.

THE ACCOUNTS Department at Samcine House will be moving into the offices vacated by Worldmark in the New Year. The new offices will be open plan with plenty of room to file their piles and piles of paperwork.

ALSO IN January Samuelson Lighting will be taking over the half of their building previously occupied by Runcorn Transport. There newly decorated and refurbished offices will provide a lighter (groan) brighter environment for our owlsh colleagues.

SAMMIES XMAS fling will take place at the Production Village on Wednesday December 18th. Everyone welcome! A disco, buffet, plus some wine, beer or soft drinks and a raffle all included in the price. Really good value for £5.50. Tickets from Debbie 'Good Time' Nyman (Michael Samuelson's office)

SCENE AND HEARD cont.

WELCOME TO new SamComm NW2 employees Mandy Anstee; Anne Sheridan Julie Beeston; Helen Faulkner and Deborah Tubb.

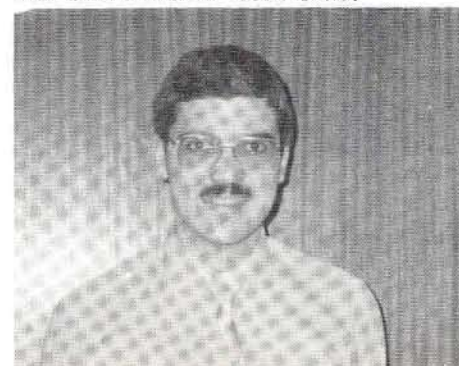
UNWANTED TURKEYS If you are looking for a good home for your Sammies turkey because you are a vegetarian or similar sort of crank please contact Ann 'Pass the Lentils' Stirling (ext. 282 Samcine House) who will arrange for a deaf childrens' home to receive it.

NEW FACE AT SAMCOMM

Alan Mitchell joined Samuelson Communications in August this year as Financial Controller. Alan was born with a calculator in one hand and an invoice in the other in Cheshunt, more years ago than he cares to remember. He has lived in Hong Kong and Germany as well as various places in the UK and before joining SamComm worked as Management Accountant with Renault UK for five years.

A radio-controlled aeroplane enthusiast Alan designs and builds his own models. Nearly every Sunday during the summer he can be found somewhere around the country on a flat stretch of land competing with other model aeroplane enthusiasts

Alan is married to Nancy and they live in Thame, Oxon. with two children of their own and their foster child.



Alan Mitchell

CAMERAS "ON TOUR" FOR BRITISH FILM YEAR

British Film Year sparked off a number of events and exhibitions, at several of which Sammies cameras both from our museum and from the "working" stock were featured.

This involved a lot of travelling and work by publicity shy Bob Allison, who has worked in the Machine shop at Samcine House for just over four years and who is curator of the Samuelson Collection of Vintage Cameras. Bob organised the preparation, transportation and setting up of the cameras at events in Birmingham, Matlock, Weybridge, Jermyn Street London and for a display in six windows of the famous Knightsbridge store, Harrods.

The exhibition at the Triangle Centre, Birmingham, was held in conjunction with the Birmingham Film and Television Festival 1985. As no doubt many of you will be aware from your staff Christmas card, it was at this festival that the G.B. Samuelson Award in conjunction with the City of Birmingham was presented to 'Letter to Brezhnev' in recognition of that film's contribution to forwarding a greater understanding of contemporary city life. Birmingham has close family associations for the Samuelsons as G.B. ('Bertie') Samuelson opened what was probably the first film renting company in Birmingham, called the Royal Film Agency, in 1914.

The Matlock exhibition held at the John Turner House, Darbey Dale and the one at Weybridge Museum entitled "Screen Dreams" both stimulated local interest and furthered the cause of British Film Year.

For three weeks over September and October our cameras ancient and modern made a rather special appearance in the windows of Harrods. They made an impressively elegant display, which drew the attraction of Harrods diverse and international customers.



Sammies take over Jermyn Street



Above: Paul Gambaccini (left) and Frank Clarke who wrote 'Letter to Brezhnev' receiving the G.B. Samuelson Award.



Mrs. Marjorie Samuelson talking to Zia Mohyeddin (centre) and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Frank Carter at the G.B. Samuelson Award Ceremony.

The Jermyn Street Festival also created a large audience. This street parade was to celebrate British Film Year and the tri-centenary of Westminster Council. In the parade, amongst the horse-drawn carriages belonging to companies such as Taylor's Port, were some beautiful vintage cars which had had film roles and two Sammies vehicles carrying cameras. One of these was the Samcine Mook (no, it's not a spelling mistake, the extra 'o' represents the extra set of wheels on this specially modified three axle mini) which bore a Panavision PSR. The Mook was driven by Barry Calvert whilst Mark Warner and Shaun Evans operated the PSR. The other vehicle was a Mercedes van driven by John Faley Snr. Perched on top was a Gaumont camera circa 1908 with Bob Allison suitably attired in a Norfolk suit (which was, incidentally, the same suit as worn by Dr. Watson in the Sherlock Holmes series recently on television). Also on top of the Mercedes was a rather more recent model camera, the latest Golden Panaflex with Simon Butcher, suitably attired in a Sammy's t-shirt looking after it.

As can be seen from the photograph, the Mercedes was also dressed up for the occasion, bearing the words "Samuelson Group plc 1910-1985 A Name in the Industry for 75 years" painted on both sides.

AMS

JUST SAY . . . DEBBIE SENT YOU!

There is a great little bedding and furniture shop called Joysleep Ltd, 220/222 The Broadway, West Hendon, NW9, Telephone 202 2747, where the Manager, Raj, will endeavour to give you an unbeatable price on any furniture you may be buying. Even if you have looked around and seen what you like in another shop, just get the details and see if he'll beat the price you have been quoted.

Don't forget to take this article with you.

CLASSIFIED ADS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

compiled by Reg Sutton

Cruise Couples wanted for 40-day and 40-night cruise. Great opportunity to meet new friends, enjoy the pleasant on-board lifestyle and engage in the preservation of the species. Please bring umbrellas. For reservations call Noah Arkley

Pen Pal. Wish to correspond with anyone, anywhere. Write urgently to R. Crusoe

Lion Seeks position in shows, fairs, carnivals etc. Photogenic, good voice, experience in motion pictures. Has references from MGM where he worked until compulsory retirement.

Telephone Like new. Number 1. Call A. G. Bell.

Marriage Good-looking bachelor with stable financial position seeks companion for rest of her life. Letters to Blue Beard.

Construction Engineer Wanted urgently to replace individual dismissed for heavy drinking. Apply City Hall, Pisa.

Elephants Selling, for circus or zoo. Secondhand but in good working condition. Tamed and with honourable discharge from the army. Contact Hannah Ball for details

Farm A real bargain. Superb location. Plentiful water. Orchards. Excellent game hunting. A true paradise. Previous tenants kicked out for moral reasons. Ideal for middle aged couple. For further information contact God.

GET FIT WITH KIM

Embarking on a skiing holiday next year? Want to kick sand in Christopher Reeves' face? Muscles slack and weary? What you need to do is get fit, fit, fit!

Kim Line of the Estates Department is restarting his keep fit and weight training classes on January 7th. Kim runs classes three nights a week in Earls Court, and at £6 a term (that's about 15 weeks) they're incredibly good value.

Contact Kim Line at the Estates Department (internal ext. 227) for further details.

WRECKS AHOY!

In September, Film Service London Ltd was approached by David Berry of Take One Productions, who are involved in the salvage of the Streedagh Armada wrecks off the coast of County Donegal in Ireland. These wrecks have lain in 20 feet of water, covered in mud and silt for nearly 500 years, and only now are they being salvaged.

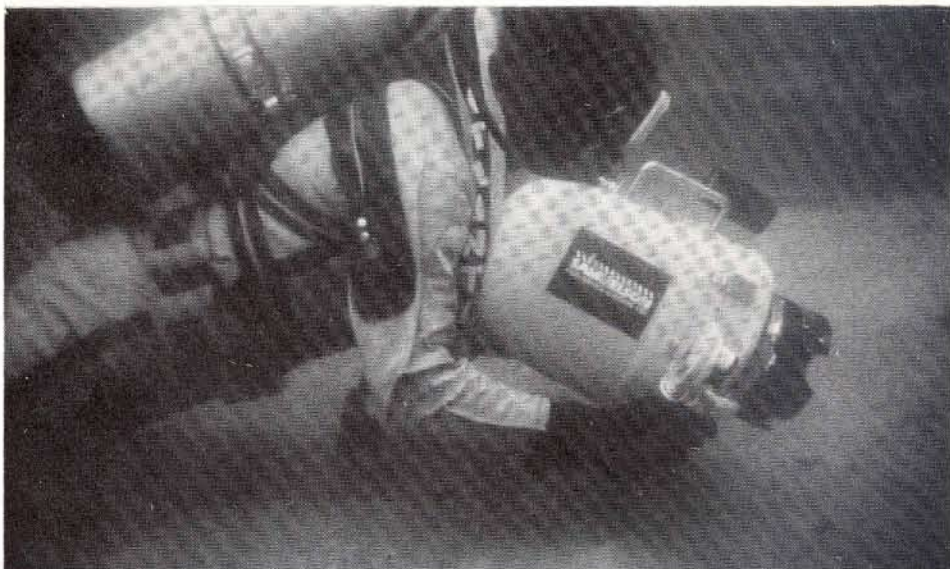
David Berry had already approached the BBC concerning a documentary covering the whole salvage operation, which may take over a year. The BBC agreed to the idea, on the condition David made a short promotional film showing the feasibility of such a venture. Although the BBC were prepared to fund

the eventual documentary — if confirmed — there were no funds to sponsor the shoot promotional film.

This is when David approached us. We agreed to supply him with a 16mm Eclair ACL camera and underwater housing at no charge for two weeks, and he in turn agreed to hire our 16mm Arriflex SR and underwater housing (a more sophisticated and expensive system) if the BBC came through with the funding for the documentary.

The results from the two week shoot are very promising, and the BBC are at present in discussion with David about the longer project.

We're keeping our toes crossed!
Martin Cayzer.



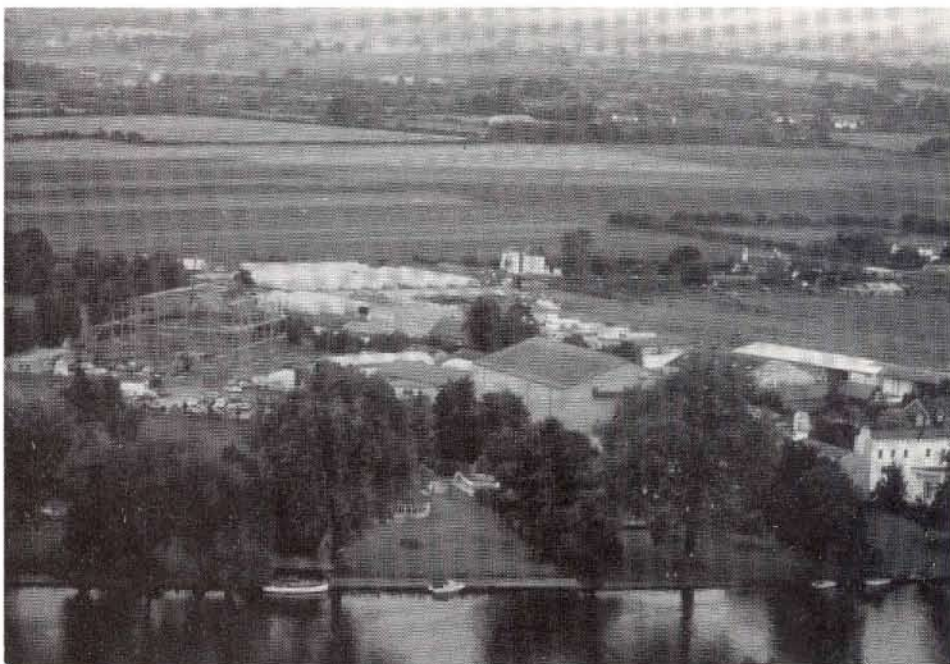
Sammies help out in salvaging Armada wrecks

NEW STAGE AT BRAY

Earth diggers and construction workers have been fully employed at our film studios at Bray near Windsor building a new 10,000 sq ft. stage with tank for underwater photography, staircase sets etc.

Delta Doric (builders of the 007 James Bond stage at Pinewood) are construct-

ing the stage with our very own Bertie Samuelson overseeing this exciting operation. The photograph with this article showing an aerial view of the new stage in embryonic form was taken from a helicopter for adverts which appeared in the trade press.



SAMMIES PROVE A POINT

SamScene is proud to bring you this EXCLUSIVE story on the SFS London vs JDC Football Match which took place at Barnes Playing Fields on December 1st; a tragic tale of human emotion, stubbed toes and early baths.

The loyal supporters and players who actually made it to the game will no doubt never forget this traumatic experience. Not since the Charge of the Light Brigade has there been a bigger disaster. All was going well for the first ten minutes until Steve Evans, attacking for Sammies, ran into the box, met a cross and powerfully glanced the ball into the corner of the net leaving Bill Ross motionless. Great play! What legwork! Unfortunately it was an own goal.

From this high point the game rapidly plummeted down hill. It was a typically English game of hard tackling and hard work, to say the least. A JDC player's walk throw led to them slotting in their second goal and the game continued like this until half time, when Sammies were 5-1 down, our one goal being scored by John 'Give Me the Ball' Faley.

There was heated team talk at half time full of technical strategy such as 'we are playing in white so make sure you only pass to another player in white.' Football is a hard complex game at times. Despite being convinced that only four of JDC's team were actually employees of JDC and the other seven were members of Liverpool having a practice, our boys valiantly threw themselves into the second half. All except for Barry 'Mario Kempes' Measure, who complete with head band, limped off and was spared the humiliation of another 45 minutes.

Although Bill 'Fat Cat' Ross was immaculate in goal, Alan 'Where Are They' Machin hacked anything within reach including a few of our own players and the rest of the team struggled courageously to even the score. Things just never really went our way. Star of the match must be John Faley who scored another two goals, but the final result just goes to show that you can be best at football or best at renting cameras - but not both.

JDC 11, Sammies 3

Thanks to Steve Evans without whom this story would not have been possible.

COMPULSIVE VIEWING

New Years Eve is the date set for the screening of the Band-Aid documentary, which will be shown at 8 p.m. on BBC2.

This is sure to be a fascinating programme, detailing this massive fund-raising venture on behalf of the famine stricken people of Ethiopia, whose plight motivated millions of people across the world.

Sammies, of course, have been closely involved with the documentary, made by the McMillan and Hughes production company, primarily through the supply of 16mm cameras for filming in Ethiopia, for interviews and to cover the Live Aid concert at Wembley.

Photo: Luke Redgrave



Meek, mild Company Secretary Alan Machin (in the air) takes a firm grip on the opposition.

Photo: Luke Redgrave



Barry Measure, Managing Director, Film Service London Ltd, with leg bandage and Alec West, Assistant to the General Manager supporting a JDC player.

THE HOTTEST CAMERA IN TOWN

The hottest camera and operator ever known could be found on the set of "Absolute Beginners", for which Samuelson Film Service London Ltd were supplying equipment, back in August.

Trying to achieve a special effect, the camera operator was shooting, through a hole in a piece of board, a flame thrower being directed towards the camera. The power of the flame thrower, however, was underestimated and resulted in the camera operator having to be 'put out' and one melted Arriflex.



How's this for "A Hot One"?

JOIN THE TRUST

Named after its Life President, Mrs. Marjorie Samuelson, the Trust is open to all employees of the Samuelson Group and endeavours to help its members in times of need.

The Trust assists its members by way of a cash payment in the event of a member's death, paid to his or her next of kin; thus helping to alleviate some of the worry of meeting immediate expenses. Additionally the Trust sends gifts to members who are in hospital or ill at home for a period of time and, if someone is unfortunate enough to be sick for a long while, benefit can be paid, at the discretion of the committee. In 1984 the Trust gave out £750 in gifts, benefits and payments. The funds for the Trust's work come from its members who pay an annual subscription of £2.60 and the officers and Committee organise fund raising events such as raffles during the year. Companies within the Group also lend their support by generously donating prizes and facilities. Last but not least the officers and Committee give their time and considerable talents totally free of charge.

All this for just £2.60 a year! If you would like to be a member of the Trust which is, after all, there to support you, please fill out the form below and return it to Alec West at Samcene House.

To: The Secretary, Marjorie Samuelson Trust

I, the undersigned, wish to become a voluntary member or the above Trust and I agree to abide by the rules and regulations governing the Trust.

Full Name
(Block letters)
Signature

Department and/or Company

Next of Kin or Beneficiary

Address

*Kindly enclose your cheque for £2.60 with the application.

The following two letters are examples of how the work of the Trust is appreciated.

Dear Alec,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the beautiful basket of fruit, sent on behalf of the Marjorie Samuelson Trust, and to thank you and your associates for your card and good wishes for my wellbeing.

It's nice to know one is remembered by friends at times like this, and hope it won't be long before I am back with you all.

Yours sincerely
Vic Drummond
(Security Officer — Samcene House)



Alec Guinness and Leo McKern on the set of *Monsignor Quixote* in Spain. A production by Euston Films for which we supplied a Golden Panaflex, a Panaflex X, a Fisher dolly and spherical lenses.

SAMUELSON FILM CLUB

For those who believe in getting something for nothing read on . . .

Everyone likes to occasionally go to the movies but staff here get an extra bonus . . . it's free!

Just watch the main notice board (outside Samfreight) where every other week (weather permitting!) the "Film of the Fortnight" will be detailed.

The film starts at 6.00 p.m. (not very promptly) and in between change of reels you can meet all your old mates and generally have a good nosh up. This is the social event of the fortnight — DON'T MISS IT!

Entrance is free — seats bookable — just watch the notice board and listen to the announcements over the Tannoy.

TWICKERS — MEANS MORE THAN RUGBY

Orleans House Gallery at Riverside, Twickenham was the elegant setting for 'The British Film Collection 1896-1984' exhibition which ran for just over a month this summer. The exhibition, based on the book of the same title by Patricia Warren, was a graphic film history of British cinema told through over 300 photographs, together with posters and memorabilia (Patricia Warren is the film researcher for BBC's Film Buff of the Year and extremely knowledgeable on the history of the British film industry).

British cinema goes back over eighty years, and much of the pioneering work was done in and around the Twickenham area. The studios, which still prosper at Twickenham, were founded in 1913, but Cecil Hepworth was making films at Walton-on-Thames by 1900, while studios at Isleworth, Shepperton and Teddington have over the years contributed to the area's considerable cinematic production, making the Orleans House Gallery a natural choice of venue for this exhibition.

Amongst the stills was a picture of G.B. Samuelson (father of our own beloved and venerated brothers) at the opening of his Worton Hall Studios at Isleworth on July 1st 1914. The Samuelson Film Manufacturing Company was founded in 1914 and GBS' first feature 'A Study in Scarlet' based on a Sherlock Holmes story was produced in the same year. There were some amusing items on show from the early days of British cinema including two signs, which read "Please read the titles to yourself — LOUD READING ANNOYS YOUR NEIGHBOURS" and "No Smoking Please! It Annoys the Ladies". The exhibition also paid tribute to recent films such as "Star Wars" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark" which did much of their principal photography at Elstree, and to "The Spy Who Loved Me" for which one of the biggest stages ever constructed was built at Pinewood.

The exhibition was a timely reminder in this, British Film Year, of the expertise and talent that has always abounded in the British film industry and of which there is ample proof today.

Dear All,

My sincere thanks for the grand selection of tropical fruits you sent in to hospital for me a few days ago. There were too many for me to eat so the nurses enjoyed them too.

Again, many thanks,
Reg Sutton

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF LIGHTING

— by Daryl Vaughan

Having recently completed the complex and time-consuming task of reviewing and updating the Samuelson Lighting price list I was forcibly struck (not for the first time, I should add) by the vast number of weird and wonderful names given to lighting equipment and accessories contained therein.

I must confess that it was a mystery to me as to just how some of these names and phrases had evolved. However, after exhaustive investigation and painstaking research, I believe that I have come up with the first authoritative dictionary of film lighting terminology. (The first, that is, since David Samuelson's standard work of reference* which proved to be an invaluable source of information and verification).

So, for those of us who are still in the dark when it comes to lamps and lighting and for those who have yet to be initiated into the evocative vocabulary of the electrical crew, here is something that I hope will throw a little light on the subject!

PART 1 A — N

BALLAST — (i) Unnecessary electricians, or (ii) surplus fat carried by unfit, overweight electricians.

BASHER — Chargehand electrician

BIG BEN — Tall electrician or see

BALLAST (ii)

BUTTERFLY FRAME/NET — Implements used to catch said insects by electricians idly whiling away the time between takes on lazy summer afternoons in the country

BROAD — (i) Female electrician alternatively (ii) a shining light in the Samuelson firmament — the assistant of chairman and chief executive

CENTURY STAND — Rarely used, might be requested perhaps once in a hundred years, hence the name

CHARLIE BAR — derives from "Charlie's Bar" a well known pub favoured and frequented by those in the lighting game

CYCLITE — Luminaire designed specifically for mounting on a bicycle

DOMINO — Simple version of the well known game, consisting of only one piece. Useful for beginners who have yet to master the intricacies of the full game and often played by electricians in the pub during very short meal breaks

EGG BOX/CRATE — Originally a container to store eggs (as the name obviously suggests), it is now a general term to describe any box or vessel designed to hold sandwiches, snacks, cups of tea etc.

FLAGS (i) **FRENCH** — self explanatory, red, white and blue tricolour pendant identifying a Sam-Alga film crew at work or signifying that LTM luminaires are in the vicinity or "environs" (ii) **BLACK** — As above, but plain black in colour, occasionally seen with skull and crossbones as a warning that the electrical crew are engaged in a dispute about overtime payments.

(iii) **UNION** — E.E.T.P.U. and A.C.T.T. banners

GOAL POSTS — Erected by electrical crew after a day's shooting when a football game has been arranged between themselves and the rest of the production (esp. "Paradise Postponed" "Prospects")

GAFFER GRIP — Originally a wrestling term used to describe a hold similar to an arm lock, now more likely to be heard in the context of the general degree of control a gaffer has over his crew. (Not to be confused with "Gaffer's Gripe" a painful and debilitating stomach complaint suffered by chief electricians)

ITALIAN CLAMP — (i) A wrestling arm lock similar to Gaffer Grip above, believed to have originated during the making of spaghetti westerns (ii) A disease easily caught in the Naples area and too awful to describe further

INVERTER — A simple adaptor mount to enable a light to be used upside down.

NORTHLITE — A lamp that first found favour — indeed was designed for — the Blackpool illuminations. Now an all-embracing name for any light used north of Watford.

Part 2 O — Z to follow in the next issue of Samscene.

*"Motion Picture Camera and Lighting Equipment" by David Samuelson, Focal Press.



Michael Samuelson, Deputy Chairman, Samuelson Group

FLAT TO LET

Sonny the newsagent has a flat to let over his shop just by Samcine House at (I quote!) "special Sammies rates". Accommodation comprises: 2 luxury double bedrooms; 2 standard double bedrooms; 1 single bedroom; kitchen/dining room; bathroom with separate WC. Fully furnished; carpets; telephone and colour TV.

Further details from Sonny Patel, 293 Cricklewood Broadway, 'Phone 452 2351

GROUP BOARD APPOINTMENTS

On September 9th Michael Samuelson was appointed Deputy Chairman of Samuelson Group plc and Jonathan Samuelson ACA, previously Finance Director, was appointed Group Managing Director. At the same time Stephen Goodman FCA was appointed Group Finance Director. He was previously a partner with Booth, Anderson & Co., our auditors.



Jonathan Samuelson (left) Group Managing Director welcomes Stephen Goodman as Group Finance Director

ELEPHANT STARS

The circus came to Bray Studios in September when five elephants were brought in to star in a commercial for British Telecom being made by production company Directors Studios.

The elephants, all female, came from Roberts Brothers Circus and are old hands at the film game, having been in several previous TV commercials.

