

# interVIEW

THE JOURNAL OF THE GRATISPOOL GROUP



We apologise to readers for the delay of this issue which was due to photographic reproduction difficulties.

PARTY  
PARADE  
'74 • INSIDE

NO8



Seona Laird, Editor.

interVIEW readers—can we be of service to you? Have you any items you want to sell or buy?—then write to us and we will run an ad. in our interCHANGE column. Or how about a penpal or holiday abroad? —interHOL will put you in touch with our companies everywhere. Have you a tasty recipe to share? interCHEF would be delighted to hear from you. interPOST is always ready to print your letters and we look forward to some lively correspondence.



Jim Boyd, Graphics.



Peter Smith, Photography.



# THE GRATISPOOL STORY

by

Mrs. Edrei Stead  
Co-Founder  
Gratispool International  
Holdings Limited

## PART SEVEN

### PETER ON HIS SECOND BIRTHDAY

During the first season in our new works in Holbeck, a very funny thing happened. Well, shall we say that it is very funny seen from this distance—I did not think it so at the time.

The day was hot, the air still, the whole place stuffy. All the windows were open, but there was not even the tiniest breeze, just more and more soot falling on everything about us. It was one of those days that everyone knows.

Something happened, I do not remember what it was exactly, but it required someone other than myself to solve it. I searched for Mr. Stead but couldn't find him. I looked everywhere for the second-in-command and couldn't find him. In fact there seemed to be no-one in authority except myself. The question was duly dealt with—not without some misgivings as to whether the best or even correct solution had been found—and then I went looking for any one of the four men that should have been there. Oh. I found them . . .

There was, in front of the building, on the other side of the street, a public swimming bath. They were having a lovely time. What exactly I said is beyond me to recall but they were out of there in two ticks, dressed and in the works in record time. We were all very young and more than a trifle irresponsible. I tried always to keep my temper to myself—would you call that feminine guile . . . or just prudence?

Way back in the beginning I had no idea how to engage staff and did it with a very hit and miss method. However, one thing I did learn—that the girls had to be inspected very carefully for clean heads and bitten finger nails. If I made a mistake there, the factory doctor, when he came to do his inspection would sack any girl with head lice and I had no redress, so any training she had went for a burton. It made the standard high, but it was very upsetting to find that a girl you had refused to employ because of lack of cleanliness served you several days later across a food counter. There was then no factory inspection of food shops. Bitten finger nails meant that if an employee was sent into any of the chemical processing parts of the works, be it films or paper, they got metal poisoning. We bought them gloves but it was very difficult to see that they were using them constantly, especially as they were working in darkrooms. All that has been eliminated now and there are no darkrooms as such.

Martin was born in February 1935, two and a half years after Peter. I never had another baby that interfered with the summer season.

The works had filled the two floors with printing machines, trimming and sorting benches and a vast despatch area. It had also taken on the two upper floors. There was a set of stairs both ends of each flat and the hours I spent running up and down looking for people that had vanished from their places was nobody's business. Of course, they were never found because they were invariably going up or down the other stairway. This was when we decided that an intercom system had become imperative.

CONT.

Cooking a husband... Friendly persuasion.



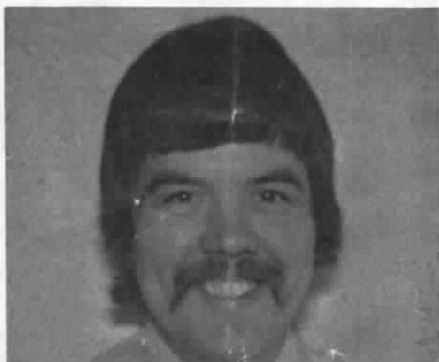
The good ladies of Holland and Paisley have sent in some nice recipes to INTERVIEW. Perhaps they would like to try the following:

**COOKING A HUSBAND**

(successful only if followed to the letter)  
A good many husbands are utterly spoiled by mismanagement. Some women keep them constantly in **HOT WATER**; others let them **FREEZE** by their carelessness and indifference; some keep them in a **STEW** by irritating ways and words. Others **ROAST** them. Some keep them in a **PICKLE** all their lives. It cannot be supposed that any husband will be **TENDER** and **GOOD** if mistreated in this way, but they are really **DELICIOUS** when properly treated. In selecting your husband you should not be guided by the **SILVERY APPEARANCE** as in buying a mackerel; nor the **GOLDEN TINT** as if you wanted a salmon. Be sure you select him yourself as tastes differ. Do not go to the market for him as the best are always brought to your door. It is far better to have none, unless you will patiently learn how to cook him. A preserving kettle of finest porcelain is best, but if you have only an earthenware vessel it will do.

Be careful that the linen in which he is wrapped is nicely washed and mended, with the required number of buttons and strings sewn on. Tie him in the **KETTLE** by a strong silk cord called **COMFORT**, as the one called **DUTY** is apt to be weak and friend husband will be apt to fly out of the kettle and be burned and crusty on the edges since. Like crabs and lobsters **YOU HAVE TO COOK THEM ALIVE**. Make a clear steady fire out of **LOVE**, **NEATNESS** and **CHEARFULNESS**. Set him as near this as seems to agree with him. If he **SPUTTERS** and **FIZZLES**, do not be anxious, some husbands do this until quite done. Add a little **SUGAR** in the form that confectioners call **KISSES**, but on no account use **VINEGAR** or **PEPPER**. A little **SPICE** improves some species, but it must be used with judgement. Do not stick any sharp instruments into him to see if he is **TENDER**—use your rolling-pin discreetly to make sure. One in time saves nine. You cannot fail to know when your undertaking is a success. If thus treated, you will find him very **DIGESTIBLE**, agreeing nicely with you and the children, and he will keep as long as you want him unless you set him in too cold or hot a place.

T. J. Philpott,  
Schools Division.



I suppose those of us who have considered the possibility of the invasion of Earth by a race of beings from another galaxy have always imagined that it would be brought about by force. The story I am about to tell shows how wrong we were.

In retrospect it seems obvious that the U.N.O. building was the only possible choice as a target. The debate in session was one of those interminable East block versus West block varieties where everyone talks at once and no-one listens even once. Suddenly he was there occupying the centre of 'no man's land' a towering figure whose commanding presence seemed to combine all the qualities of the greatest politicians and orators. Dominant, vibrant, he began softly to speak and an unaccustomed silence fell over the assembly. His voice a sibilant whisper he held them spellbound as he pleaded for help for the millions of his race who needed sanctuary. Such was the force of his power that soon he had them eating out of his hand, vying with one another to offer the most aid, land resources, minerals, food—anything for this smooth-tongued herald who seemed to see no limit to the extent of their charity.

'How simple it all is' he must have thought as he surveyed the rows of cheering delegates. 'Go straight to the top, they will do the rest and by the time the new master race had come peacefully in time would have run out for the ordinary people. Victory!' A pistol crack shattered the eloquent stream of oratory. The figure leapt with the force of the shot and crumpled slowly to the floor. In the electric silence that followed as the Senator from Arkansas put away his smoking gun, his words were heard clearly

'Smart talkin' salesmen never did bother me!'

Gerry McKendry,  
Paisley Shop.

Winner of the Limerick competition in volume 7 is Mr. Gerry McKendry, Manager of Shop 4, High St., Paisley.

A smart young lady from sales,  
Was always surrounded by males,  
When asked to account  
For this large amount  
She said "10% off never fails."

Portrait of a village ...

A large and appreciative audience were present at Newton Mearns W.R.I. December meeting in the Fairweather Hall.

The guest speaker of the evening was Mr. Wm. G. McKendry, who after giving a short history of the village of Mearns, handed over to his son, who showed a film of Mearns in wonderful colour, which Mr. McKendry, senior, actually filmed in the three years 1948-51.

There were many nostalgic sighs in the audience as familiar places and faces of 25 years ago appeared on the screen. While everyone appreciates progress has to be made, after seeing this film, one wonders if it was necessary completely to "raze to the ground" the whole of the old village of Mearns.

The Rural would like to thank Mr. McKendry for allowing this film to be shown and also Mr. Gerry McKendry, manager of "Gratispool," Paisley, for providing equipment.



Peppers and Shrimps

**Ingredients:**

Allow one pepper per person  
1 small tin of Mexicorn (sweet corn with red and green pepper)  
Equal quantities each of radishes, cucumber, cottage cheese, spring onions (scallions), carrots, skinned and seeded tomatoes, shrimps, mayonnaise, cream  
Seasoning to taste.

**Method:**

Lay the peppers lengthways and cut off the top third. Scoop out the seeds. Chop the radishes, cucumber, some of the pieces of green pepper, spring onions and carrot finely. Roughly chop the shrimps reserving a few for garnish.

Thin down the mayonnaise with an equal quantity of cream. Season well with a good lot of black pepper. Add the cottage cheese (lumpy type) and the drained corn to the other salad mix. Add the shrimps. Fold the mayonnaise mix into this and then add the tomato. Pile into the peppers and serve on a bed of lettuce. Decorate with a whirl of mayonnaise and the reserved shrimps.

**N.B.**  
This can be varied by using chopped ham and garnishing with watercress or parsley. Dublin Bay prawns can be used instead of shrimps if preferred.

Mrs. Vivien Stead.

## Normandy Pictorial ...



## C.P.E. memories

C.P.E., Teddington was transformed on December 18th with the aid of the dimmest burning candles and the most enormous black velvet curtains I've ever seen. Curtains by courtesy of the nearby television studios where Barbara's daughter is call-boy. Salvin, amidst grunts and groans, manfully wrestled with these great drapes, submerging himself, and Janis from time to time, in oceans of black velvet. He then rushed home to make his "frock" in which to come to the "ball," while Janis, Marianne and I festooned the canteen and dance floor with silver stars, balloons, streamers, arranged the food in the best Fanny Craddock style and put the bubbly on ice.

The disco boys arrived. Things were beginning to happen and we were getting nervous: suppose they only play hard rock? After all Malcolm, who works for us during school hols, is very young! We needn't have worried! They got our number pretty quickly, and as Dennis whisked Marge off for a dashing quickstep (albeit to a number by "The Who") and to the admiration of the rest of us, the party began in earnest.

Having only met most of the husbands at the last, dimly-lit, Christmas party, it was impossible to tie up the men with the girls I know well—I thought I knew well! Seems it wasn't even worth bothering to try, if the resulting photographs and post mortems were to be believed! At midnight there was a stampede to the clock cards where all the girls punched their cards, and then back to the earnest job of clearing the bar and buffet.

Party time calls for party games which almost proved disastrous. Two teams lined up alternate men, women etc. Trouble, of course, when we came to Salvin in his kaftan, as the idea was a race to see which team could be first to get the spoon, attached to a ball of string, up the girls dresses and down the mens trousers. I had reckoned without Marianne's husband! The spoon became inextricably tangled in his fish-net underwear and only by an almost complete strip was my team able to carry on. As Dennis' team had a certain amount of bra trouble we finished about even. Floor show over, the party degenerated in true C.P.E. fashion and it was voted the best yet.

The next morning, Malcolm, Brian and Pete were found in the canteen eating "champagne" ice cubes from the bottle which had been overlooked and left in the freezer! The picture of:—

Alis drinking gin from a beer mug;  
 Betty saying 'No thanks I've had enough' while holding out her glass for a refill;  
 Doris and Phil whirling Doris' husband through "Simon Says";  
 Salvin's black tights and boy scout sandals peeping from beneath his kaftan;  
 Brian saying he had to go early because of his "mocks" at school the next day, then found clasped to Janet's bosom an hour later;  
 will remain in our memories until next year—can it get better we wonder?  
 Angela Barker.





## Maidenhead Pictorial ...



## Dutch 'Doo' ...

The annual Christmas party for the Amsterdam office, was held a bit early this time, on the last Friday of November.

Mrs. Fieke Hendriks and Rob Stegman, two of the staff members, were given a free hand to make all the arrangements for the evening; and indeed it was unanimously declared to be the best party we have ever had.

One of our favourite radio and TV couples, Sandra and Andres were engaged to sing and everyone was delighted. The dance rhythm for most of the evening came from a steel drum band from Suriname, called "The Invaders." They were superb and kept nearly everyone on their feet all night.

A second band with quick-quick-slow music was soothing to the ears when the Invaders took time out for a breathing spell.

Around midnight a very well-served, cold buffet was laid out and after 4 hours of continuous dancing it was more than just a refreshment. The party lasted until about 2.30 a.m.—it must have meant late Saturday shopping for most people the next day!

All in all it was a well-organised, famiy party and an 'honourable mention' is proposed to the two staff members who made it into such an enjoyable occasion.

Marianne Berndsen, Amsterdam

Miss Kerr's  
Presentation ...



At an informal reception held in December, Miss Kerr was presented with a gold watch by Mr. Geoffrey Stead, to mark 25 years of service to the company. Miss Kerr is warmly regarded by all her friends in Gratispool. She started work in September 1949 as Mr. Stead's secretary and is now the Cashier for Free Film Service, Paisley. We would all like to take this opportunity to wish her many more happy years with us.

Retiring this month ...



Mrs. Irving of Free Film Service, Paisley, retired on the 7th February after 21 years service with the company. She is emigrating to Canada where she will live with her daughter Joan and her family in Oakville, Ontario.

Down Memory Lane ...

(reprint from PHOTO NEWS '64)

For Outstanding Work

LUCKY GRATISPOOL EMPLOYEES  
GET HOLIDAY IN RUSSIA



Mr. HUGH BIRT  
Gratispool's  
Popular Buyer

"I was keen to sell these cameras because their basic virtue is excellent manufacture, and so excellent results are assured."



Mrs. NANCY LEE

Head of Public  
Relations Dept.

"These Russian cameras have sold in large numbers but complaints are nearly unknown. That is the type of equipment we like to recommend."



Mr. Birt, our keen buyer, will look for still more high class goods to offer, during visits to the camera works of Leningrad and Moscow.

Mrs. Lee has looked after the interests of Gratispool customers for twenty years and we are all delighted that this exciting trip has come to her.



# interLINK news from the group

## New appointments and promotions ...

## Departures ...



Mr. Jack Britton, who joined Gratispool as Production Director for the group on 24th February, brings with him a long and wide experience of the photo-finishing industry.

After four years with Proctor & Gamble, who are noted for their good management training, and where he was given a thorough grounding in industrial engineering & work study, he joined Ilford Limited to head their work study department.

From there he rose over a period of 14 years through Manager of Colour Processing, to Chief Production Executive responsible for 7,000 employees.

He then joined the Film Corporation of America, who market Trifca film (Trifoto on the continent).

As International Director he was responsible for setting up a European organisation using the processing facilities of their laboratory in Philadelphia, which is acknowledged as one of the largest in the world.

As Production Director for Gratispool International Holdings Ltd., he also assumes the posts of:—

- Managing Director—  
International Colour Laboratories Ltd.
- Managing Director—  
Finglas Laboratories Ltd.
- Chairman— Fencolor Laboratory Ltd.



John Stacey has been appointed Laboratory Training and Personnel Manager for the Group.

Congratulations to John from everyone on his promotion.



Margaret Bradshaw comes to I.C.L. as Personnel Officer and Tom Forrest as Training Officer. The company extends a warm welcome to them and wishes them well in their new posts.



Vincent Lee moves from I.C.L. to become Works Manager at F.F.S., Paisley where we wish him all the best.



Mr. Van Haeften joined us seven years ago and formed Gratispool in Holland. He was a kindly and well loved boss who liked to think of his staff as part of his family.

We met many of his friends in his home where there was a constant welcome for everyone.

Gratispool Holland will not be the same without him.

Richard Stead.



Roger Greene left I.C.L. in December to take up a post in London.



Malcolm Pyrah making a farewell speech at an informal party held in December.



# Why Diversify ?

by  
**Mr. Nigel Stead**  
**Managing Director**  
**Loch Lomond**  
**Sailings Limited**

Undoubtedly the secret of success is the tenacious, single-minded pursuit of your objective. On the other hand, we have seen examples of those who, blinded by their single ambition have failed to secure their base on the way up. The result, like a Walt Disney cartoon, is that the ladder disintegrates from the first rung upwards until the character on the top, suddenly noticing only thin air beneath, returns to the ground with a sickening thud.

It's like children's building blocks. The quickest way to achieve the highest tower is to contain yourself to putting one on top of the other. As you know, however, this results in a rather tottery structure. On the other hand, a little time spent broadening the base as you increase the height ensures a stable structure. This is why we diversify. Our building skills are photographic processing and marketing. With these skills we have built more and more amateur snapshotters onto our pile of customers.

Every business however is under siege from a thousand different factors and the wider our base the less assailable we are.

Sometimes we buy 'ready-made' towers and butt them alongside. Sometimes we build from scratch.

Our Free Film business is the core of our enterprise with an extremely healthy and sometimes alarming growth rate. It is in itself very strong with its many trade names and big European market. It in turn carries additional sales like branches from a tree as diverse as handbags to book-racks.

To buttress the base we have bought the tower of Film Strip Services where our production and marketing skills can help it grow with us. We have built the Schools business alongside which has already proved its worth in hard times. Our shops are always there when the post office isn't. Our newest buttress at Loch Lomond is firmly based on solid real estate and thriving on our marketing skills in a field where there are faster growing towers than, any other.

Gratispool International is now a strong, vigorous and resilient group enjoying steady stable growth all round with the capital resources and wide base to withstand all assaults from without.

Successful diversification has seen to that; this winter will prove it.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_  
 POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

LAST MONTHS WINNER PAGE **3**

● Entries on this entry form should be addressed to Mrs Seona Laird, Gratispool International Holdings Ltd., Blackhall Lane, Paisley and should be received not later than

**21st. April '75**

for inclusion in the following issue.

- 18 Very Keen
- 19 Plumbers never leave them at home
- 20 - - - - Farewell
- 22 . . . and Ben ?
- 23 Drum up some tea ?
- 24 Come into the garden . . . . .
- 27 Cafe food
- 28 What he does when he can't stand it any more
- 32 Short holy street

# The interVIEW

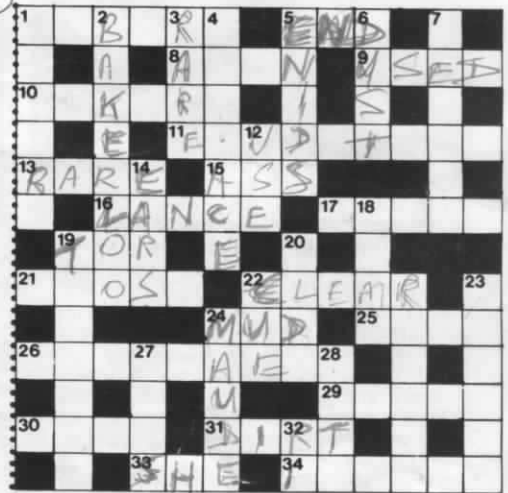
# WIN A

# FIVER

# COMPETITION

A prize of £5 will be awarded to the first Correct entry taken from the bag . . .

70 x 25 = 1750  
 70  
 x 25  
 ---  
 350  
 1750



## ACROSS

- 1 Uses Gratispool method (2)(4)
- 5 Finish
- 8 A long time
- 9 Not new
- 10 Shops supreme (2)(4)
- 11 Ability to orate
- 13 Uncommon steak ?
- 15 Apparently dull quadruped
- 16 Mr Percival's weapon
- 17 Two Fruits ?
- 19 Peaked hill
- 21 Solan . . . . (another name for a Gannet)
- 22 Fundamental
- 24 Dirty pop group ?
- 25 Medical amount
- 26 Upsets
- 29 Inside the whole
- 30 Small Ship
- 31 Dry mud
- 33 Charles Acnavou's woman
- 34 Unpleasant flying insect

## DOWN

- 1 Don't forget with this
- 2 London Underground (convenient for Fanny Craddock)
- 3 As 13 across
- 4 Elevated Patio
- 5 Blytons Books
- 6 Moon Mud ?
- 7 Way round
- 12 Employ
- 14 Hearing Aids ?