Our Christmas card shows our Hon. Secretary in his P type Allard, winning the Saloon Car Class at the Harleyford Speed Hill Climb. (The year - 1955).

Our Hon. Secretary writes:

"Whilst on holiday in France in September, my wife and I spent three days in Albi, near Toulouse in order to watch the Albi Grand Prix (Formula 2).

The programme was made up of three separate events: (1) Formula Blue, for single seater racing cars of 1,015 c.c. and fitted with Citroen engines and gearboxes; (2) Formula Renault for single seater racing cars of 1,600 c.c. and fitted with Renault Gordini engines and gearboxes. and (3) the International Formula 2 event.

On Saturday afternoon we joined with our friend Peter Westbury and his Pelday Engineering team (Braham/Pelday BT 38). During this practise period it was clear to us that Mike Hailwood driving his Surtees TS 10 would take pole position on race day. As he is the ex-racing motorcyclist champion he is nicknamed 'Mike the Bike'.

The main event on Sunday was run off in two heats and Hailwood won his heat comparatively easily. In the final, however, after establishing a useful lead on the early laps, he spun rounding the corner before the pit straight on lap 17 and just touched the safety barrier. After a quick pit stop to check the steering, he resumed well down the field. Although he made up a few places in the final laps, he was unable to finish higher than 14th place. Peter Westbury finished 9th in spite of some mis-firing in the latter part of the race. Frenchman Jean-Pierre Jassaud had a well-deserved win in his Braham BT 38. French drivers finished in 2nd and 3rd places in March and Braham cars respectively.

The weather was excellent, and our stay in Albi was most enjoyable, but we were rather surprised that a saloon car race had not been included in the programme."

High-light of the Brighton Speed Trials:

Clive Skilton in his dragster, Revolution 3. A recorded time of 8.2 seconds on the undulating surface of the Madeira Drive says a great deal for the courage of the man and the excellence of his machine.

All those lamp posts look mighty hard in spite of the straw bales protecting each one.

The recently held International Earls Court Motor Exhibition featured Sunday opening for the first time in its history. It was also noticeable that the flag of the country of origin was displayed alongside the name above each stand. Signs of the forthcoming entry of the U.K. to the European Common Market.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

For sale: 1926 Rolls-Royce Hears - suit any body.

Statistics show that 10 per cent of road accidents are caused by drunken drivers. It naturally follows that then that 90 per cent of accidents are caused by sober drivers.

To that it seems logical to say, "Somebody get these sober drivers off the road and let us drunken bums get on with it!"

Have you heard the story about the motorist who picked up a girl hitchhiker? They chatted away until the girl asked the motorist what his job was. "Oh, I'm a salesman. What is your job?" he asked. "I'm a witch," she replied. "I don't believe you," he said. Whereupon she put her hand on his knee and he turned into a lay-by.

Bronx church sign: Heading for outer space? Get your directions inside.

Income is what you cannot live within or without.

Sign in a Manhattan Bar: Drink now and miss the Christmas rush.
Actual excerpts from letters to the Ministry of Pensions, Edinburgh.

1. I am glad to state that my husband died yesterday. I will be glad if you will get a pension. If you don’t hurry up with it I will have to get the public resistance.

2. I cannot get any benefit in spite of the fact that I saw the instance officer. I have eight children. What can I do about it?

3. I have nothing coming into the house but two sons on the dole. I am visited regularly by the clergy. Will you write the pensions minister for me as I don’t know what church he is in charge of. I can do with a pension as I have no clothes on for a year.

4. I am enclosing my marriage certificate with six children. One of them is a twin and died. You ask if he was Christened, yes. He was baptised on a half sheet of paper by a captain in the Salvation Army.

5. I enclose the certificate with three children. One of them is a mistake as you will see when you look into it. I am writing to say my youngest child is born two years old. Why am I not getting allowance for it?

6. The man I live with won’t work. As he wants to know if my husband is dead, will you search the records office for him and let me know.

7. I should have more pension since my son is in charge of a spitoon. I get a separate money when he is listed. You want to know what part he is wounded in. If it’s all the same to you he is wounded in the Dardy Nells.

8. I am writing to you truly, yes. I was confirmed with a boy weighing ten pounds. Let me know if this is what you want because I have fallen in error with my landlord and need it to pay the rent.

9. In accordance with your instructions I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

10. I want my money badly as quick as possible. I have been in bed with the doctor for a week and he doesn’t seem to have any effect. If things don’t improve I will have to get another doctor.

11. Milk is needed for the baby. Father is unable to supply it.

12. Be your dental inquiry. The teeth in the top are all right, but the ones in my bottom are hurting terribly.

13. Please send me a form for cheap milk for having babies at reduced rates.

14. Please send me a form for milk. I have a baby two months old - did not know it until a neighbour told me.

15. Please send me a proper form for milk as I am stagnant.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:-

R. C. Denial " Harrogate, Yorkshire, U.K. 71K.
H. Levy " New Jersey, U.S.A. -

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FOR SALE

Dunlop tyre 6.50 X 16. Part worn but would make a good spare. £2. Apply c/o Hon. Sec.

WANTED

ALLARD J2 or J2X. Engine condition immaterial. Must have original bodywork.
Contact: H. LEVY, 102, Forest Road, Glen Rock, New Jersey, 07452, U.S.A.

MACPOPE requires any Allard car or Allard literature. Ring John Thurston at Maidstone (0622) 812121 any time.

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Excerpts from car insurance claims:-

1. The accident was due to the other man narrowly missing me.
2. There were plenty of lookers on, but no witnesses.
3. I was sweeping my nearside on the bank, when the accident happened.
4. The accident was due to the road bending.
5. The witness gave his occupation as a gentleman, but it would be more correct to say he was a garage proprietor.
6. My car was stolen, and I set up a human cry, but it has not been recovered.