

PLUCKY JILL RETURNS TO MAKE A NEW START

All the joy of finding her first job did not last long for teenager Jill McConnell, for just a month after starting at Glaxo she was in hospital suffering serious injuries after a horrific road crash.

Her spine was broken in three places, her spleen had to be removed, and she also sustained a broken collar bone and ribs. That was nearly a year ago.

Jill, now 17, still spends much of her time in a wheelchair but she is back at the Glaxo factory in Barnard Castle, working hard towards a bright future.

The plucky girl, who lives at Fairfield, Evenwood, was in the packing department before her accident but has now switched to office duties after learning shorthand and typing.

She is studying hard to increase her speed in both, and is taking driving lessons so that she can get herself to work instead of going by taxi.

Jill's courageous efforts have won praise from senior staff at the factory, who are all delighted that she has returned. And she is grateful to the firm for finding a place for her.

Her fightback has been helped by the Manpower Services Commission's disablement advisory service, which paid for her shorthand lessons and had a crawler installed to let her get her wheelchair upstairs.

Glaxo have made some alterations to doors so that she can get in and out of offices easily.

Jill spent more than five months in hospital after the crash and it was feared at one time that she would never be able to return to work. But she refused to be beaten.

She told the Mercury: "I'm thrilled that I've been given the opportunity and am determined to make a success of it. I don't know how long I'll be in a wheelchair, I can now walk a bit with calipers and hope to regain full fitness."

At the moment she is working only two days a week and has to go to hospital three days a week. But the firm is paying her full wages, and she means to get back to full duties as quickly as possible.

She misses disco dances which she used to enjoy as much as any teenager. But she reads a lot and plans to go to evening classes to



Jill McConnell—happy behind a typewriter.

gain extra qualifications.

Smiling happily, she said: "I can now go out and do nearly everything for myself. I don't have to rely on anybody. At the factory I'm treated like everybody else, which I prefer."

Mr Max Gaskin, Glaxo's training officer, said: "Once people work for us we really do care what happens to them. We are a caring company."

"The accident meant Jill was unable to continue as a packer so we redirected her working life.

At the moment she is doing a lot of record keeping for us. She is not a hanger-on in any sense. She is contributing."

Mr Eddie Dineer, Durham County team leader for the disablement advisory service, said: "This is one of our successes. We hope it will inspire other companies to do their bit for the disabled and give them a chance to prove their worth."

The M.S.C. is also paying for the taxi which takes Jill on the 20 mile round trip between home and factory.

Cookery makes all the mouths water

The monthly meeting of Middleton Royal British Legion, women's section was held in the village hall. Members stood in silent tribute to Mrs Morton a fellow member.

Mrs Lillierap presided and welcomed a visitor. Poppy day collectors were arranged for the village.

Mrs Lillierap introduced Mrs E. Beadle who gave a beautiful cookery demonstration which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Mrs Wade thanked Mrs Beadle for her delightful demonstration which had made everyone's mouth water. Mrs Beadle gave the dishes she prepared to be raffled for funds.

The competition, home-made shortbread, judged by Mrs Beadle, was won by Mrs Anderson. The surprise box donated by Mrs Bradwell was won by Mrs Pinkney. Refreshments were served by Mrs Anderson, Mrs Bradwell, Mrs Frost and Mrs Bowron.

Faith that still holds strong

Another session of Barnard Castle Methodist Guild started on Friday. It was a most uplifting and successful beginning to the weekly meetings.

Over 30 people were present to hear the superintendent minister, the Rev. J. W. Williams, offer a thought provoking talk about part of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

The writer of Hebrews reminds readers of a number of the Old Testament people who had faith in their God. The faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah and others can be helpful to anyone today, thousands of years after they lived.

"Faith is the distinctive mark of the saints of the old agreement" and "All the heroes of faith looked forward to their true country" are observations to help today, so that people can have faith which will be of help.

Enjoyable singing at the devotional meeting was accompanied by Miss Margaret Watson. A warm welcome is extended to all who would like to attend on Friday evenings.

Take your partners for festive lights

There will be an extra sparkle about an old time dance at Barnard Castle Parish Hall this Friday, for all the profits will go towards Christmas lights in the town this year.

Mr Les Raw is organising the event on behalf of the Chamber of Trade, which always makes an effort to boost the festive lights. Dancing to the Two Bobs will be from 7-30-11-30 a.m. Admission is £1-25 including supper. Tickets are available from Mr Raw's shop at 7 The Bank.

Sovereign bride

Miss Ann Roe, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Roe of 2 Prospect Square, Cockfield, was married at St. Mary's Church, Cockfield, to Mr Michael James Alexander, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. D. Alexander, of 1 Deepdale Gardens, Startforth.

The bride who was given away by her father wore a Paris design matt taffeta dress trimmed with lace and bows. She wore a full crinoline underskirt and a cathedral length veil and tiara. She carried a bouquet of pink orchids, pink carnations and pink bridal roses with ivy and fern. She walked on a sovereign.

Bridesmaids were Mrs Carolynne Spence, the bride's sister, and Miss Catherine Spence, the bride's niece. They wore pink floral dresses with hooped petticoats and carried bouquets of pink carnations and pink roses with lilac heather.

Best man was Mr John Alexander, the bridegroom's brother. Ushers were Mr Roy Brown, his brother-in-law, and Mr Derek Spence, the bride's brother-in-law. Mr Martin Alexander, the groom's nephew, was pageboy. He wore royal blue velvet knickerbockers



and waistcoat with a white frilly shirt. For travelling on a touring honeymoon in Spain the bride wore a pale green and red suit with red accessories.

Michael is a welder at Grove Works and Ann is an accounts clerk. They will live at 62 Startforth Park.

Picture: Galgate Studios.

A white coronet

Miss Brenda Lane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Lane of 15 Shirley Close, Evenwood, was married at St. Paul's Church, Evenwood, to Mr John Seymour, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. Seymour of 37 Institute Terrace, Copley. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. G. Harper.

The bride who was given away by her father, wore a white lace dress with full skirt with deep frills trimmed with satin bows. Her veil was held by a semi-coronet of white flowers. She carried a bouquet of pink and white silk flowers.

Bridesmaids were Miss Tracy Seymour, sister of the bridegroom, and Sharon Thompson, the bride and groom's goddaughter. The bridesmaids wore deep pink nylon dresses with deep frills trimmed with satin ribbon. They carried bouquets of silk flowers.

Best man was Mr Graham Seymour, the groom's brother. Groomsman were Mr F. Lane, the bride's brother, and Mr E. Green, a friend. Brenda and John will live at Grexburn Lane, Lynesack.

Picture: Colin Bainbridge.

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Guild to help research fund

Mrs M. Mills, chairman, opened the October meeting of Barnard Castle Townswomen's Guild. Minutes were read by Mrs M. Blenkinsopp and financial statement by Miss D. Bell.

Members were asked if they would be agreeable to a fund raising for the cancer relief fund. Collecting boxes will be returned next January. Miss Bell had attended a meeting and gave details of how funds would be used in Teesdale. This was agreed and boxes were available from Miss M. Brown.

Mrs J. Robinson said a festival of colour will be held next April. Mrs M. Chapman asked anyone interested in drama to meet during an interval.

Mrs J. Mason gave a brilliant film show of a tour in India. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Gatenby.

The competition, a china figure, was won by Miss Waugh; 2, Miss Brown. The surprise parcel was won by Mrs Chapman.

Nomination forms were completed and returned. Next month is the annual meeting and subscriptions are due.

A good response

The result of a house-to-house collection in aid of the National Children's Home was: Barnard Castle, £341-57; Winston, £35-82; Stainton Grove, £14-17; Stainton Village, £6-62.

Organisers and collectors are grateful for this generous response. Thank you all!

JANET A. ROBINSON.
23 Marshall Street,
Barnard Castle.



Neil collects a national trophy

Neil Bell, 15, of 20 Churchill Road, Barnard Castle, put up a first rate performance when he travelled to London to compete in the England Karate Federation championships at Crystal Palace.

He took third place in the under 21 heavyweight section, which included many older and bigger fighters from all over the country.

And he might have been placed even higher but for a broken tooth which led to a doctor telling him not to take part in a further bout.

Neil, a pupil at Teesdale School, has been doing karate for two years and has won a brown belt.

He is seen on the right with his trophy. On the left is Ken Smith, who with Chris McDonald coaches Neil and other Teesdale people in the sport at the Witham Hall.

"He did exceptionally well in the championships and we are all proud of him," said Ken. "We think he will go on to even greater things."

Bridge Club results at Barnard Castle on Friday: North/South—1, Mr and Mrs Mardon and Mr Walker and Mr Jefferson, East/West—1, Mr and Mrs Davidson; 2, Mrs Spence and Mrs Toman.

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Firstly: We are pleased to suggest the following menus for your consideration during the festive period.

MENU 1	MENU 2	MENU 3
Florida Cocktail	Fresh Chilled Melon	Home-made Chicken Liver Pate
Hot Smoked Mackerel	Home-made Chicken Liver Pate	Fresh Orange and Grapefruit Cocktail
Home-made Vegetable Soup	Prawn Cocktail	Prawn Cocktail
Roast Turkey with Seasoning	Home-made French Onion Soup	Soup of the Day
Bacon Rolls, Chipolata Sausages	Half Roast Duckling with Orange Sauce	Scallops of Fresh Salmon in Cheese Sauce
Cranberry Jelly	Loin of Pork roasted with Cloves served with Apricot Sauce and Seasoning	Roast Turkey with Seasoning
Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding	Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding	Bacon Rolls, Chipolata Sausages
Plum Pudding with Brandy Sauce	Plum Pudding with Brandy Sauce	Cranberry Jelly
Sweet Trolley	Sweet Trolley	Roast Pheasant served with Bread Sauce
Coffee and Dinner Mints	Coffee and Dinner Mints	Game Chips and Bacon Rolls
		Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding
		Grilled Sirloin Steak served with Chasseur Sauce
		Plum Pudding with Brandy Sauce
		Sweet Trolley
		Coffee and Dinner Mints
		Coffee and Dinner Mints

Price £8 inclusive of V.A.T. £9 inclusive of V.A.T. £10 inclusive of V.A.T.

Secondly: We are offering you the opportunity to break with tradition by letting you choose your own menu, be it dinner or a buffet of hot and cold food. For example, Glazed Pork, Chutneyed Hams, Game Pies, Roast Double Loin of Pork, Barons of Beef, Flambees of Seasonal Fruit, Flamed Christmas Pudding, plus many more attractive dishes, and all priced to suit your budget.

During the Christmas period all meals will be served by candlelight and the tables decorated with fresh fruit, nuts, mince pies, party hats and crackers. Specially priced wines for dinner have been chosen and will be on offer until New Year's Eve, and finally we would be pleased to organise music and dancing to round off what we hope will be an enjoyable evening.

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