

December 2012 News

'Information not shared is forgotten'

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FACTORY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

One of the organisations I came across while in Mullard House in the 1960s was Factory Relations Department who had a small office at Waddon.

Their task was to receive the export invoices from the factories to Eindhoven and elsewhere and create an FRD invoice with an uplift. This process provided a fund which virtually went direct to EHV.

I think later the uplift was added to each export invoice to provide the same funding and FRD was disbanded.

However, I am sure that there are several Pepnet members who will have the full story.

Please write!

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M-O VALVE

Reading John Otten's 'Death of a light bulb' reminded me that in October 1919. Marconi and GEC set up a joint company to manufacture valves. This was the Marconi-Osram Valve Co. Ltd. at Hammersmith. Of course valves and lamps used similar technologies in manufacture, both using hot elements and vacuum in a glass bulb.

I have a clear memory of meeting a Mr Meeks in a timber roofed building just inside the main gates in the 1950s to check about a non standard projector lamp for one of GECs customers.

Mr Meeks had all the drawings and specifications for valves and lamps. He must have found those for the lamp in question for it was made as a small production run in the projector lamp section at GEC East Lane Wembley. John's book also reminded me of many tasks I had in Osram Technical one of which was to help compile the statistics for the Electric Lamp Manufacturers Association. Another was to write an article with Gerry Brown on the life of General Service Lamps when operated at a lower voltage than designated.

Of course we proved it was more costly overall when comparing the lumen output even though the lamps life might have been prolonged.
Thank you John for recording another piece of history.

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YOUR VIEW OF HISTORY

I was very pleased to read the PHPA November 2012 Newsletter which includes a 1970 'Electronics and Power' article by S R Mullard. I Googled S R Mullard and was led on to Mullard Ltd and of course Philips. But nowhere was there any mention of Associated Semiconductor Manufacturers or Mullard as semiconductor manufacturers. GEC Semiconductors also drew a blank although Googling GEC Hazel Grove did show some of the adverts in the New Scientist for people in the 1950s.

This lack of history certainly has justified the history pages on epepnet. I have set out my career in all of the above organisations. I do feel that it is a shame that so few of my colleagues have made similar efforts. We are always pleased to receive your contributions.

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PEPNET MEMBER IN USA

Many months ago I had an email exchange with Jonathan Griffiths ex Pye who now lives in USA. Jonathan gave an interesting insight to his career in one of his emails, which with his permission is now on a personal page under Members Only.

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ETHANOL

I wrote sometime ago - May 2011 - warning about the addition of ETHANOL in petrol and diesel fuels.

More recently The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs has carried out test on additives that stop the corrosion which include VSPe Power Plus and EPS from Millers Oils; Ethomix from Frost Auto Restoration Techniques Ltd; and Ethanolmate from Flexolite.

Unlike petrol using 5% ethanol, which is currently on sale and not labelled, the new product will be marked as E10. Take a careful look at the petrol or diesel pump for the E10 label when you fill up in 2013 and choose another pump if your vehicle is older than 5 years. A check with your vehicle manufacturer will tell you if E10 is OK.

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