

# CHILEAN NEWS

*Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society*

*Editor - John Naylor*

**51st Year No. 349**

**London, October 1995**

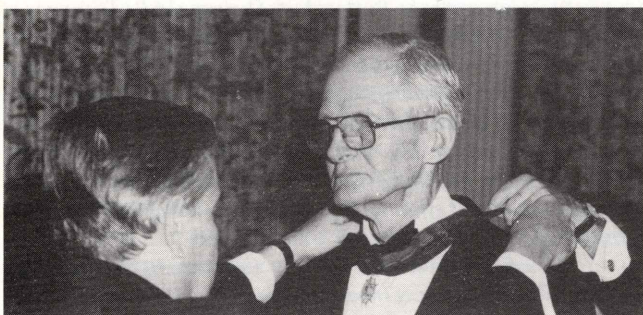
**12 Devonshire Street London W1**

## THE DIECIOCHO DINNER AND INVESTITURE

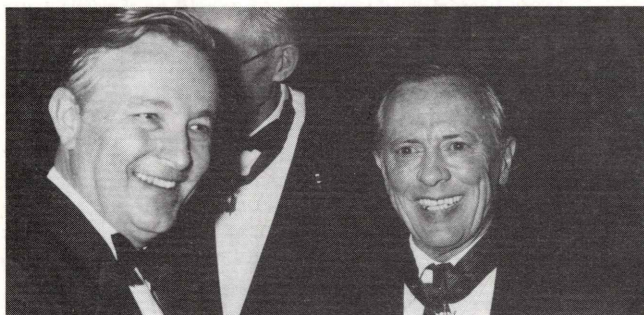
This took place at the Caledonian Club on September 20th. Peter Shaw and John Naylor were honoured by the President of Chile Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle with the award of the Bernardo O'Higgins Decoration Degree "Comendador" for services rendered to the Anglo Chilean Society. The ceremony was carried out by the Ambassador, assisted by Gonzalo Fernandez of the Chilean Embassy, during the reception before the dinner. The Ambassador addressed the assembly and explained why these awards were made, and both Peter Shaw and John Naylor made responses.



*Peter Shaw receiving the Bernardo O'Higgins Decoration, Degree "Comendador" from H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz*



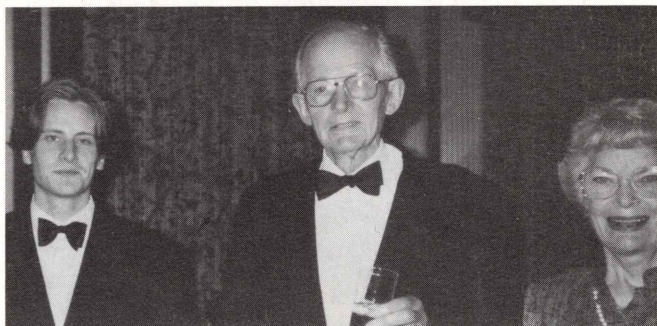
*John Naylor receiving the Bernardo O'Higgins Decoration, Degree "Comendador" from H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz*



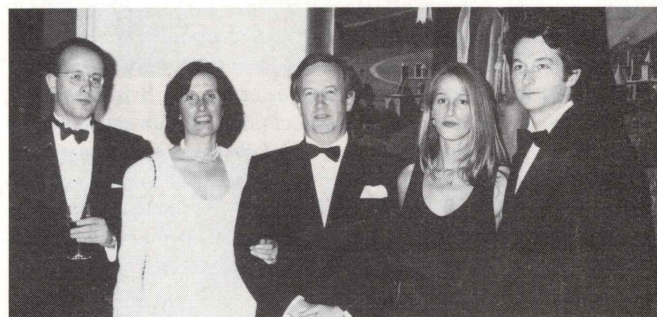
*H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz and Peter Shaw*



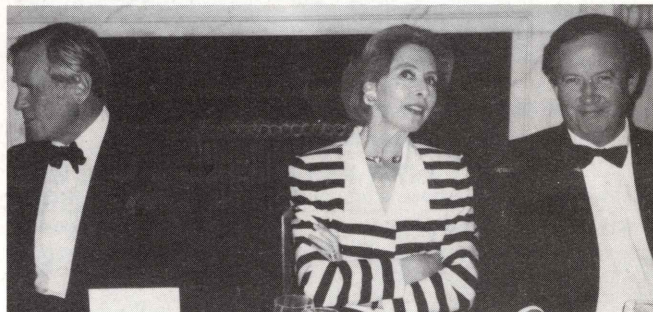
*Jacqueline Tichaur, Hernán Saez and Jacqueline Bowes*



*Mr Joseph Naylor, Mr John Naylor and Miss Margaret Naylor*



*Professor and Mrs Marcial Echenique with their son, daughter and son-in-law*



*Roger Venables, Mrs Carmen Errázuriz and Professor Marcial Echenique*

Toasts were proposed at the dinner to the Queen by H.E. Sr. Hernán Errázuriz and to the President of Chile by Roger Venables, Chairman of the Anglo Chilean Society.

The Chairman then gave an introductory address, greeting the assembly and drawing attention to the fact that this was our 51st year and it was good to be together in a family atmosphere celebrating Chile's National Day, the Dieciocho.

He then went on to express delight that Chile had chosen to honour Peter Shaw and John Naylor with the Bernardo O'Higgins decoration in the degree of "Comendador".

Plans were mentioned for 1996 with a possible visit to Bath in October by the Society and a visit to St. Paul's. Henriette Subercaseaux and her team were thanked for the flower arrangements.

Before introducing the speaker he thanked H.E. The Ambassador and the Embassy staff for their continuing support for the Society, both in terms of the Embassy building and of their attendance at our functions.

He then went on to introduce the Guest of Honour Professor Marcial Echenique describing him as the chairman of an international consulting firm with offices in the UK, Italy and Spain. He had



studied in Barcelona, and then went on to do his doctorate at Cambridge where he is Professor of Land Use and Transport Studies. He has been a Fellow of Churchill College for 30 years.

Professor Echenique then rose and thanked the Chairman for his kind words, and declared that he was a person of Europe. He had built up 3 or 4 offices across Europe and intended to do more and apologised to those present who might be anti-Europeans. But he did believe that England, because of its geography and history, is really at the heart of Europe. Britain has contributed more than any other country to European culture. The Chileans had similar relations with its Argentine neighbours and have belonged to the Andean Pact with Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, but pulled out after a year, so they cannot be called very friendly neighbours. They are now involved with Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, and are not very enthusiastic about it. This may be because of Chile's insularity. Big mountains separate them from the rest of the continent, which are more formidable than the Channel.

Chile can share a lot of similarities with Great Britain, and also has big differences. Chile knows a lot about the British, and the British know very little about the Chileans. This could be the fault of the way the British taught their children geography in the past. His father-in-law was born in Valparaiso at the turn of the century and went to a British school. He had kept his geography book which was entitled "Britain and its Surroundings", sub-title "World Geography". This can be understood because at the turn of the century most of the world was coloured pink as part of the British Empire. On the first page can be found a map of Great Britain and along the left corner is a small strip of land called Wales. On the next page can be found Europe and on the left of the page a small strip of land called Portugal. At the end of the book can be found a map of the whole of Latin America and on the left side a small country called Chile. So the British equated Chile with such small countries as Wales and Portugal.

Some years ago he gave a lecture and explained that he came from Chile. He drew a scale map of Chile and superimposed it on a map of Europe, and the audience were quite surprised when they realized what a huge country Chile was.

People don't realize that Chile has enormous territory. The climate ranges from the Tropics in the north to the South Pole, with all kinds of mineral resources. Anything can grow in Chile and it's very sad that British interests are no longer represented.

During the last three years he has been involved in the development of the infrastructure plan for Chile, the construction of roads, railways, water supply, ports and airports and has concentrated in the development of these plans for the central region through the concession system.

The first of these concessions was opened in the town of El Melon and was developed by the Spanish firm Agroman Chile Consortium. There are another four concessions under construction now in Chile. It is sad that not a single British company, apart from his own, is represented in this. His firm is a British firm and is the only one which is involved. It is hoped that ways can be found so that British interests can be developed in Chile.

Chile over the last 20 years has had a stable economic framework with a sustained growth and can be called an economic miracle. It is to be hoped that it has taken off and will be not be just another South American miracle. Comparisons were made with the German and Japanese economic successes, and to a lesser extent the Brazilian.

He then proposed a toast to the Anglo Chilean Society.

The Ambassador then rose and made the following address:  
*May I propose a toast to the Anglo Chilean Society.*

*Mr. Chairman, Lady Margaret Cochrane, Countess of Dundonald, Professor and Mrs. Echenique, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cannon, Mrs. Carmen Lynam, Consul General of Chile, Mr. José Luis Morales, Minister Councillor of the Chilean Embassy, John Naylor and Peter Shaw, Comendadores de la Orden Bernardo O'Higgins, dear friends.*

*Only two days ago I returned from my last visit to Santiago and, although we all know that Chile is enjoying an international*

*reputation for good government and noticeable economic growth, I could not help but feel extremely pleased to experience first hand the speed with which my country is changing, and changing for the better.*

*It is not only the economy that is changing. The people as well, as part of that economy, are enjoying a new feeling of expansion and prosperity.*

*Inflation is down to a single digit and declining.*

*Foreign reserves are high and rising.*

*Exports are expanding at more than 25% a year.*

*Unemployment rate is less than 6%.*

*We are fully prepared to begin negotiations with the North American Free Trade Agreement and despite the mood and sour taste the Mexican crisis left within the U.S. Congress, we do not expect our application to bring about any major problem.*

*May I say that since we have so well survived that particular crisis, all major institutions of the City of London and New York have upgraded our qualification and performance in light of it and there remains no doubt at all that we are closer to becoming a developed country than any other in the Southern Continent of the Americas.*

*Only two and a half years ago, when I arrived in London as Chilean Ambassador, there were no direct flights between Santiago and Heathrow, so I flew Santiago Frankfurt on Lufthansa and landed in London on a German airline.*

*Today there are two direct flights a week joining Santiago and London and we are planning to initiate a third in January of the coming year as the existing flights are always over-booked.*

*This is a clear indication of the radical improvement in the relations that exist today between our two countries.*

*At the same time, British and Chilean ministers, as well as leading financial, economic and military delegations, are increasing the number of visits back and forth.*

*Only last week the Rt. Hon. John Gummer M.P., Secretary of State for the Environment, was with me in Santiago. Next week our Minister of Economy, Alvaro Garcia, will lead a Mission to the City. Later in November the Chilean Minister for Foreign Affairs will come to London on an official visit with the Foreign Office, the first in many years, and in December the Chilean Minister for Public Works will arrive leading a very important delegation of Chilean companies in a joint effort to finance our enormous infrastructural programme.*

*President Frei and the Chilean Government are especially keen to promote U.K. investment concentrating on our ports, airports, roads and bridges, as a clear sign of our traditional good relations.*

*At the beginning of next year Chile will be the first Latin American economy to reach an agreement with the European Union. This will not only establish a new framework for investment and trade, but will create the basis for a joint programme related to University and cultural affairs.*

*On behalf of the Chilean Government I agreed with the Corporation of London a new partnership which will promote capital financial markets in the Southern Continent and further improve the influx into Chile of international capital. Michael Cassidy, President of the Corporation of London and his staff consider Santiago to be one of the major financial centres of the emerging markets, and, with this in mind, we plan to continue programming from Santiago new investments in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. Only last year Chile invested more than US\$ 2 billion in Argentina, more than half a billion dollars in Peru and more than \$300,000 in Bolivia.*

*I am especially pleased today to announce that a joint effort by U.S. and U.K. companies will bring and distribute Argentinian Gas to all central Chile, from Concepcion to Valparaiso. This project will prove to be the largest and most capital intensive Chilean project in our whole history - US\$ 1.1 billion. It is an investment plan and high profile project that will begin next January with the construction of a vast pipeline that will bring Argentinian gas to Chile with the involvement of a British company, hence*



another clear indicator of U.K. commitment and confidence in our legal framework and political stability.

*Yes, confidence in our political stability.*

*That is, from my point of view, the key issue of our success story.*

*Chilean strength derives, by and large, from the strength of our democratic institution, from the complete lack of any form of corruption, from the professional and cultural background of our entrepreneurs, workers and politicians. Our parliament, our Armed Forces, our Diplomatic Services, our Corporations, our Universities, our people in general want peace and growth and the Government is providing what they want.*

*That is our strength. That is, at the same time, our will.*

*Since I studied Law at the Faculty of Law at that University, I have always been involved in teaching and lecturing in Law to the youth of my country, many of them today in high positions in the parliament, in the government and in Court.*

*At the same time life has enabled me to participate actively not only in my profession but also in the politics of Chile serving as legal advisor to President Frei's father and before him to President Alessandri, and later on in the Association of Industries for Latin America.*

*I have always been an admirer of the strengths of our democratic institutions, which give us today prestige and economic and social stability.*

*I have been privileged now to represent my country in this land which has become the breeding ground for many of our political and historical ideas and principles. This is indeed a privilege that I shall never forget. But I could not have been able to do my work without your permanent support and cooperation Mr. Chairman. I am grateful to all of you but very especially to the Anglo Chilean Society and I am confident that this help and cooperation will be maintained in years to come.*

*The need to work increasingly together extends from governments and ministers to individuals, professors, political leaders and all members of any society. That is why the government of President Frei is so keen to open to all our economy and our policies.*

*The door of the Chilean Embassy remains, as always, open to all initiative and opportunity.*

*And I am sure that you will feel free to use it.*

*Thank you.*

The Ambassador ended his address with a short poem by Pablo Neruda, describing Chile in an inspired way.

THE AGM took place at Canning House on May 2nd, followed by the Spring cocktail party.



*H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz and Mr & Mrs David Nock*



*Sir Philip Mason and Mrs Alan White*

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## CHILEAN NAVY DAY

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This took place on May 22nd in Westminster Abbey with the customary wreath laying ceremony, performed by the Ambassador and Admiral Bruna, at the tomb of Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane. This was followed by the usual brilliant reception, hosted by Admiral Bruna, head of the Chilean Naval Mission and Mrs. Bruna, in the Church House, Harvey Goodwin Suite, Dean's Yard.

As usual it was a brilliant occasion and well attended. The ladies always wear their hats on these Naval gatherings, and very charming they look. The men usually discover that it takes some fine judgement to duck under the hats to plant the customary peck on the cheek without disturbing them!



*Mrs Isabel Mulsow, Mrs Angélica Santiagos, Mrs Marcia Salgado, Mrs Georgina Roberts and Mrs Carmen Gloria Heap*



*Mrs Carmen Lynam and Colonel Miguel Santiagos*

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## SIR LESLIE BOWES MEMORIAL LECTURE

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This took place at Canning House on June 13th and was delivered by Andrew Thompson, Head of Latin American Broadcasting BBC World Service, on Politics of the Media in the Southern Cone.

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## THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES GOLF COMPETITION

By Anne Nock

The annual golf competition of the Latin American Societies was held at West Surrey Golf Club on Thursday, June 22nd 1995. Thirty eight members and guests took part in the competition and six more came to the lunch. It was a glorious day again this year and West Surrey was in lovely condition. We all enjoy playing there and again the food was excellent. We have arranged to return there next year, on Thursday, June 20th 1996.

The principal prize winners were as follows: The Ambassador's Cup and the Punta Arenas Cup were won by Sandy Hay, the Argentine Rose Bowl by W.R. Tregoning, the Brazilian Jangada Trophy by B. Fenn and the LAN Chile Trophy by W. Bouch (Argentina). Mrs. Jean Scrivener (Chile) won the Ladies' prize.

Mr. Pedro Villagra, Minister at the Argentine Embassy, came and presented the prizes and the members are very grateful to him for coming and to the Argentine Ambassador for donating the most enjoyable wine.





*Sandy Hay, David Nock & Pedro Villagra from the Argentine Embassy*



*Pedro Villagra, David Nock and Jean Scrivener*

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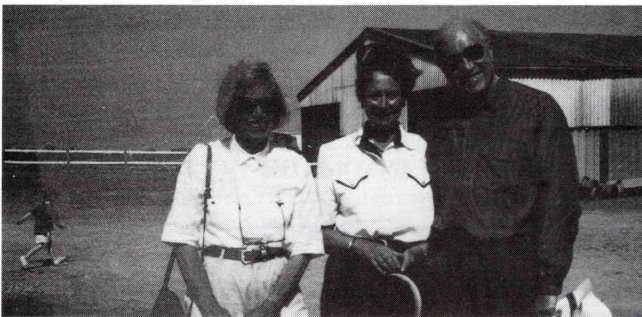
## ASADO AL PALO

By Ester de Toro

It was the morning of the twenty fifth of June and June had painted with her softest showers a garden full of leafiness and flowers.

*Adapted from Geoffrey Chaucer, Canterbury Tales.*

Like in years before, the nervousness about the weather, about attendance - would the empanadas be enough? the helpers in time? were the unsettling questions before the Asado. Then finally Sunday arrived and it was an absolutely glorious day, not a cloud in the sky, the temperature perfect. It was such a harmonious event, so much enjoyed by everybody, so relaxed, that when I asked around after some weeks about special happenings nobody could give me a reply, because there was just one feeling of utter contentment.



*Mrs Ester de Toro, Mrs Liliana Tozo de Strange & Michael Cannon*

Our special thanks go to Cherida and Michael Cannon, who with their generosity gave us the opportunity of this day and to all who helped to make it an outing to be remembered. Christopher Hopewell and his friend Ted Davey were tireless at the bar, Michael Ogilvie-Davis with Sandy Hay, Peter Heap, Alistair Grant and John Long prepared the delicious steaks on the big barbecues and warmed up the empanadas from Kiko. Henny Subercaseaux, Sarah Sesti, Peggy Hart, Jane Carp, Eileen Hay and Maria Isabel Noguera prepared the excellent salads and the team made up by Mariana Stanton and her mother Emily, Janet Fernández, Susan Lyall and Viviana Hay entertained the small crowd with organized races. Thanks to the very generous donation of soft animals by Peter de



*Mrs Michael Cannon & Ken Burns*

Bruyne, the children got a prize for winning and a consolation prize for losing. Early on Kenneth Burns was receiving the guests at the gate and was later replaced by Eliana Herrera, Sue Littler and Ken Newnham.

After lunch the "Azucar" band played in the barn to the enthusiastic group of dancers.

I am sure everybody hopes for a repeat for 1996!

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## THE ANDEAN PROJECT

A reception was held at Canning House on September 26th at which the Chairman for Chile for the last 18 months, Patricia Vincent, gave a slide show. The meeting was addressed by HE, Ambassador Hernán Errázuriz. Wine was served.

A full account of this very worthwhile project, which seeks to promote self help and conservation of a ancient culture of the Atacama region, and stem the flow of the population to the cities. cannot be included in this issue through lack of space, and will appear in our next publication.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE

Roger Venables has taken over as Chairman of the Society from Mr. John Hickman.

### ROGER VENABLES

Taking over from John Hickman as Chairman at the 1995 AGM, Roger Venables, a former naval officer, first came to know Chile when he went there with the Royal Navy.

To visit Chile had been an ambition of his since boyhood. So enchanted was he with all he found there, that, on leaving the Royal Navy in 1990, he presented himself at the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce and asked Michael Cannon if he could help him find a company with Chilean connections which might employ him.

This request happened to coincide with Michael's putting together the Chamber's first ever trade mission to Chile; this one was to be directed at the Chilean ocean-going fishing fleet. Roger Venables duly found three companies (manufacturers of Satellite navigation systems, marine diesel engines and a fuel additive) and went along with the mission. A small trade fair was held in Iquique, after which the mission visited many of the fishing ports from Iquique in the north down to Coronel.

This experience was too good not to be shared so, on return to England, he had little difficulty in persuading Jane, his wife, to go with him on a holiday in Chile. They flew to Puerto Montt and travelled to the lakes and to the island of Chiloe.

Since then he has been to Chile every year with a British Chilean Chamber of Commerce trade mission.

He has been a member of the Society's Executive Committee since 1992.



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## RECOLLECTIONS OF A CHILEAN CHILDHOOD

By John Naylor

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I first saw the light of day in Viña-del-Mar, as did my brothers and sisters. We were three boys and three girls in that order - Peter, myself, Alec, Ann, Margaret and Janet. Being fortunate enough to be born in that beautiful country did make our childhood and early education rather different to that of the home grown Briton. Father ran a successful shipbroking business.

The British influence in Chile goes back to the days of independence from Spanish rule in the early 19th century, and the roles played by Bernardo O'Higgins and Admiral Lord Cochrane helped to achieve this. Chile's trade links with Great Britain go back to this time and have greatly increased over the years with the establishment of several important merchant firms and other business concerns. Consequently the British colony was a large one, and many of us were born out there. Indeed there was a very British atmosphere to our whole way of life. There were English schools, English clubs, English games and in earlier days a few English tradesmen of the butcher, baker and candlestick maker type.

Empire Day, in the days when large tracts of the world atlas were coloured pink, was celebrated as a sports day at the Sporting Club in Viña, known as the Cancha, with a large gathering of the British colony. That the Empire would run its course in the near future and cease to exist did not dampen the enthusiasm of these gatherings because nobody remotely contemplated such a possibility. It was to last for ever.

Most Anglo Chileans were to spend their lives in Chile, absorbed in the Chilean way of life. At the same time links with the old country were preserved. Chile and the other South American countries made a significant contribution to the war effort in two world wars by sending volunteers to the UK to enlist in His Majesty's Forces. But that is another story.

We had a big house and the servants to go with it, one of whom doubled as seamstress and nanny. Carlotta was a typical country person, a cheerful character with a mouth full of gold teeth, and with fund of horror stories about avenging angels and hell. She took us out for walks at a very early age and, being a devout Catholic, we invariably ended up in the local church. To this day, whenever I smell incense, it takes me back to those days. Communication of course was in Spanish and indeed, in common with most Anglo Chileans, this was our first spoken language.

Another servant I remember was old Nuñez. He came around to do the cleaning. What was interesting about him was that he was one of the few remaining veterans of the Pacific War of 1879 against Peru. He used to appear on the anniversary of that war wearing his campaign medals and more than a little drunk. He was a favourite of Grannie's and she always gave him some money on these occasions.

I have vivid recollections of a wonderful grandmother, and in appearance she was everybody's image of one. She habitually wore an ankle length black dress fastened at the neck with a piece of jewellery in the form of a star, with a lace cap on her head. She lived with us and with a seemingly inexhaustible fund of patience combined with the sweetest of natures took a great interest in her grandchildren. She died in 1927 at the age of eighty nine.

I am just old enough to remember hanging on to my mother's long skirts at fund raising events during the first world war and asking her for money to go on the swings. Up to that time relations with the large German colony had been cordial, but were definitely suspended for the duration of the war, and I should imagine for some time thereafter.

In 1914 the war was actually brought quite close by a naval action off the Chilean port of Coronel between a British squadron under Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock and a German squadron under Vice Admiral Graf von Spee, at which the British suffered a resounding defeat. The flagship "Good Hope" and the cruiser "Monmouth" were sunk. Cradock went down with his ship and not a soul was saved. The effect of this was for a time detrimental to

British trade interests in South American waters.

But von Spee, in the midst of the rejoicing by the German community at Valparaiso, must have had no illusions about his ultimate fate, and in fact retribution was already being organized. The battle of the Falkland Islands, which took place a few months later, was the result. A British squadron under Rear Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee inflicted a decisive defeat of a German squadron under von Spee, thereby avenging Cradock. Boats put out by the British squadron searched the sea after the action and rescued 212 German sailors.

One of my earliest memories was when father bought a Hudson Super Six motor car in 1918. It was a splendid solidly built old chariot and differed little in basic design from a modern car, about the only difference being that the engine had to be cranked into life in the absence of a self starter. We had it for some years, and it then went into service as a taxi. It was a touring type with a canvas hood and enormous wheels and spindly tyres. There were few paved roads in those days and no petrol pumps. Petrol came in ten gallon tins and was poured in through a funnel with a chamois leather as a filter. Father never attempted to drive and mother had a few near misses before she gave it up. They were just not the right generation for this sort of thing and we had a succession of chauffeurs who wore white coats and peaked caps. I remember the time when the engine backfired as it was being cranked by Ricardo and it broke his wrist, resulting in compensation being paid to the family.

Most of our weekend outings were along the spectacular coast road to the beach with picnic hampers, and at Montemar the rocks formed a natural swimming pool.

"One of the most important things in life is to be able to swim," father used to say, and saw to it that we all learned to do this at an early age. It was not a sink or swim situation as one might expect from an old sailor, but patient tutelage with water wings made out of pig's bladders. The ultimate goal was to be able to swim across this rock pool on one's own for which there was a monetary reward.

There were excursions to a river for carp fishing and we had our own fishing rods and did it on the hook, worm and float principle. Father was a good tutor and we soon became reasonably proficient.

Around Christmas time we used to go to Concon and stayed at a delightful old timber-framed family type hotel which commanded splendid views of the ocean. There sea bathing was at a wide open beach with the Pacific rollers coming in and one had to be careful as every now and again a really big one would develop, accompanied by a powerful backwash. The water at this latitude is unusually cold, somewhere in the low fifties.

Valparaiso is pre-eminently commercial. It is Chile's most important seaport and during the period of which I speak was the largest and most important on the Pacific coast of South America. It was a terminal port of call for several regular lines of steamers, affording frequent communication with both Europe and the United States. It is a natural deep water harbour where ships of the deepest draught can be brought alongside. Its position affords good shelter from southerly and westerly storms, but the bay is open to those from the north. These northerly gales, known as Northerers, are a regular feature and could cause severe damage. I remember being taken on the morning following one of these storms to see several ships which had been washed ashore. Some of these were German freighters which had been interned during the 1914 to 1918 war and had their engines immobilized. A sound which I always associate with Valparaiso is the fog horn.

Education presented no problem. There was no shortage of kindergartens run by English residents and a sort of pre-prep school headed by the Church of England padre, the Rev. Cater. In addition to this we had dancing and piano lessons. My brothers and I went on to St. Peter's school as boarders and my sisters attended Giffens School as day girls. The oldest established boy's school was McKays and miss Stubbs ran another school for girls.

The Rev. Macdonald Hopley founded St. Peter's school



about 1917. Anybody more unlike a Church of England padre would be difficult to imagine. Rugged of appearance, a stocky muscular type, he specialised in blood and thunder sermons and an enthusiasm for the scout movement. He had in the past been attached to the church in the Falkland Islands, and how he came to found a boy's school in Chile is not clear. But it must be said that he ran a good school. There was a little son with a head of blond curls and known as Bubbles, who in later years was to achieve a measure of fame as a broadcaster in England.

Guy Crofts had been recruited in England as Assistant Headmaster. He was a really splendid man and easily the best schoolmaster I ever came across. He was absolutely right for the part, a bachelor who brought out the best in his pupils, an enthusiastic sportsman who imparted gamesmanship to us.

The school was situated in the small town of Villa Alemana, about one hour by road from Viña. It was run largely on English lines with the usual emphasis on sports. The curriculum was based on the English education system. Thus the boys who, like myself, were sent to continue their education in England had a useful background. There was also an English matron, an elderly, motherly type.

The school building was set amongst eucalyptus trees and I am not sure whether it had been purpose built or converted from a former residence. But it was adequate enough and suited the purpose with its classrooms and dining hall downstairs and the dormitories upstairs. There were changing rooms for sports and ablutions. There was a concrete swimming pool and the water was changed probably once a month and not treated in any way. Yet nobody caught anything. So much for modern swimming pools with all their filters and chemicals. The grounds were fairly extensive and in the absence of grass we played our cricket on coconut matting. In fact we lived in a dusty, sepia world. Our water came from a well operated by a windpump.

Every week we boarded the steam train to Viña and the Cancha which accommodated the horse race track, the golf club, a cricket pavilion and playing fields. We could thus practice our sports on more suitable surfaces.

The scout movement was taken seriously, and indeed it was a feature of the school. I had been given a kettle drum by my parents and played it in the band.

I wonder if any old boys who were at St. Peter's at the same time have similar memories, though there cannot be many of us left now.

Altogether I think we led a far more free-ranging outdoor life than the average boy in England, aided by a very good climate, although we were perhaps a little behind academically in certain areas and had some catching up to do. I think what St. Peter's did was to lead us in a gentle sort of way into the rigours of boarding school in England.

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## PASSAGE TO PATAGONIA

By Georgina Roberts

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My eagerly anticipated tour of the far south commenced on a summer evening in the Central Station of Santiago, the starting point of a twenty hour, 1044 km journey to Puerto Montt.

I had breakfast in Temuco and by midday we started approaching Puerto Varas with its deep blue waters and exuberant vegetation. Rising above all this is the 2600m snow-capped Osorno Volcano, predicted to erupt in the year 2000. The unique architecture shows a German influence, giving a Middle European air to the landscape.

Puerto Montt looked very impressive from the top floor of my waterfront hotel and the setting sun painting the sky yellow, red and orange. The night that followed was lit with a pale glow of a full moon.

Next day I was up before dawn having been told that there would be a power cut at seven and I had to take a bus to Puerto Petrohué, where I would board a catamaran to cruise Lago Todos los Santos, the source of the Petrohué River and its stunning falls. The bus ran beside the great Llanquihue Lake, and then through the

Valdivian Forests but without a puma or a mountain monkey, the only marsupial outside Australia, in sight. After a stopover at the oldest national park in Chile, Parque Pérez Rosales, the bus travelled along a road parallel to Lago Todos los Santos, named by Jesuit Missionaries after All Saints' Day, 1 November.

At Puerto Petrohué the catamaran was waiting to sail the 36 kms to Peulla. From the top deck the scenery was breathtaking. The emerald coloured waters of the lake were flanked by mountains covered in luscious vegetation as well as dark and bare slopes with occasional snow covered peaks. We passed Isla Margarita owned by the Roth family, one of the first Swiss emigrants to this area. The family home is on the island, the foundations of which came from the Osorno Volcano. It is the custom of the catamaran to sound the horn twice in honour of the Roth family, who own the vessels and buses that transport the tourists to Peulla.

We arrived in Peulla just in time for a superb lunch. Having some time to spare I wandered around the picturesque village of 150 inhabitants where a cascade, known as the Bride's Veil, is the main attraction. According to legend the young person who wants to get married should take three sips of water from this cascade. The couples who are happily married and wish to continue so should take six sips, while those with marital problems should take nine sips each.

With all the ferries fully booked till the end of summer, and not having any desire to take a thirty-two hour bus trip over treacherous roads, I flew LADECO to Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in the world. It was a beautiful summer night and the streets looked deserted. I had a strange feeling of isolation. This was not surprising since I was 2600 kms south of Santiago and at the tip of the South American continent. The following day I discovered an ebullient town with a flourishing business centre. In the main square or Plaza de Armas, I saw a mast which had been presented to the city by the Magellan British Community as a token of friendship and gratitude for the hospitality received. A stone thrown from the square there is a one-hundred year old mansion, now a National Monument, that has been converted into a luxurious hotel. It used to be the residence of one of the pioneer families of Patagonia.

My contact in Punta Arenas was William Matheson, retired British Honorary Consul and a friend of a friend. His valuable information helped me to plan the last stage of my trip. A three and a half hour journey by bus took me from Punta Arenas to Puerto Natales, in the heart of Patagonia. An early night was required since my driver and guide would pick me up at 8 a.m. for the twelve hour tour by car to the amazing Torres del Paine and National Park, among the most spectacular in Latin America. First stop was the Milodon Cave. The immense cave, 80m wide, 30m high and 200m deep, was discovered in 1895. Inside were found the remains of a large prehistoric animal named the Milodon (Mylodon Darwini), which became extinct some 10,000 years ago. Turning round to leave the cave I could see, through a jagged arch of stalactites, a snow-capped mountain in the distance.

My second stop was to be Cerro Castillo. The tranquillity of the surroundings attracted Mistral and Neruda to the area. Here the poetess found the inspiration for Paisajes de la Patagonia. I planned my visit to Cerro Castillo with my friend, Jennie Saunders, in mind. Her home was one of the huge Estancias that her husband managed during the Golden Age of Patagonia. The prosperity of the zone has disappeared since the Saunders' days and with it the grand lifestyle of the "Estancieros". Today the elegant residence has become The Pioneer Inn but has retained most of its original features. The beautiful Aga stove is still in perfect working condition and so are the open fires in each room. The same pictures depicting scenes of Patagonia hang on the walls as does the old hand-cranked telephone. Unfortunately the once lovely gardens are now overgrown. Even today the name Saunders carries some weight in the region and it is pronounced with respect and reverence. On mentioning the name I was received as an honoured guest by the Mayor. In honour of Jennie, who now lives in Ireland with her fond memories of Chile, I donated writing materials to the school of Cerro Castillo. The flight of a condor across a clear blue sky led us to Lago



Sarimiento. Beyond the motionless surface of the Lake rose a sheer wall of rock and snow. The American diners I had met the night before at the Eberhard Hotel in Puerto Natales were having a picnic by the lake and, as they told me, feeling overwhelmed by the beauty of it all.

We entered the Torres de Paine National Park driving around Lago Sarmiento. The road started ascending through mountains and the previous tranquillity was broken by the presence of rheas with their young "charitas", sheep, wild geese and guanacos roaming wild, some with their offspring "chulengos". We passed lago de Los Cisnes. It has dried up with the passing of time, but over thirty years ago the lake was full of swans. The colour of each lake depends on its depth and mineral salt content. We passed Lakes Nordensjold, Las Mellizas and Pehoé, all of a clear green hue. Rapids of rushing water tumble over a sheer cliff forming Salto Grande, a magnificent waterfall producing a bright rainbow at this time. In spite of this natural beauty nothing had prepared me for the view from Hostería Pehoé, situated on an island in Lake Pehoé and encircled by snow-capped mountains. I thought it the most stunning scenery I had ever seen!

After crossing the River Grey and descending through a forest I arrived at a pebble beach on the sea shore. There, floating in the water, were three large icebergs looking like abstract sculptures in white and turquoise.

I returned to Puerto Natales completely exhausted from the long day but with enough energy to go out for dinner in the hope of finding something apart from scallops and salmon, the only seafood available because of "marea roja", a toxin that is sometimes found in the sea. Taking my driver's advice I headed for Don Alvarito. It turned out to be a very modest restaurant with unimpressive food but with one outstanding service...a chauffeur-driven minibus to take me back to the hotel driven by Don Alvarito himself!

I only had the night to restore my energy for the Cruise to the Glaciers. I was woken up at six by strong winds and the idea of visiting glaciers did not seem so good. One hour later the winds had died down and the sun came out, as if to demonstrate the unpredictability of the Patagonian weather. The motor-yacht Alberto de Angostini sailed past Puerto Bories, an industrial refrigeration complex, once the principal port for the shipment of farm produce from a large part of Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia. When sailing past the Fiordo Ultima Esperanza we passed a cormorant colony. Hundreds of these birds, which from the distance look like penguins, breed here.

After four hours of sailing we arrived at Puerto Toro. A twenty-five minute walk takes you along a path through dense forest that leads to a vantage point. From here one can see the Serrano Glacier flowing through the dark brown mountains and tumbling into the green waters of a lake where icebergs of different shapes and sizes float on the surface. On the way back we passed the Balmaceda Glacier with its waterfalls and by then I felt had had enough of lakes, snow and ice for one day.

Back in Punta Arenas the next morning, I only had time for a short visit to Michael Nielsen before taking the plane back to Puerto Montt. His childhood was spent on another of the big Estancias in Torres del Paine. We talked about the good old days of Patagonia. He remembered "Auntie Jennie" with nostalgia and warmth.

By now the trip was taking its toll and it was a relief to return to Puerto Montt. Here I had a day and a half of rest before starting the 1044 kms back to Santiago. It was a shock to learn that a derailment has just occurred and that my journey would have to be by bus as far as Temuco. After an eight hour trip the driver got lost in the dark in the centre of Temuco, trying to find the railway station. By the time we got there the platform was a seething mass of passengers. Only half of the carriages were in the station and nobody was allowed on board. Eventually the remaining carriages came and we all got on. We still had to wait until 1.30 a.m. for the engine to come so we could finally set off for Santiago.

Despite the difficulties I would do it all over again. In Southern Chile one is overawed by nature.

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## HIGH-TECH GIFT AGAINST CANCER

By Georgina Roberts

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In 1929, an idealistic doctor named Luis Calvo MacKenna conceived the idea of a hospital in Santiago that would give the best possible medical treatment to children.

Today the Luis Calvo MacKenna Hospital is a prestigious paediatric centre that not only treats Chilean children whose families have very limited financial resources, but also children from other countries in South America.

The Luis Calvo MacKenna Hospital, the most important cancer centre in Chile and one with strong links with the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, was the recipient of a Personal Computer, to be used to maintain a database for the administration of drugs to children suffering with cancer. The computer was donated by the Group of Chilean Ladies in London and was handed over in an official presentation that took place in Santiago on 9th March 1995 in the presence of Assistant Medical Director, Dr. Osvaldo Artaza Barrios and the Administrative Officer, Mrs. Vivienne de Ureta. A commemorative plaque would be placed with the hope that others will follow this example and contribute to the public hospitals such as Luis Calvo MacKenna, whose mission is to provide medical assistance of the highest quality to the poorest members of Society



*Mrs Henriette Subercaseaux, Dr Osvaldo Artaza Barrios and Mrs Georgina Roberts during the presentation at the Luis Cabro Mackenna Hospital*

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## OBITUARY

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The Society regrets to report the death of our Permanent Vice President Mr. Henry F. Tiarks. A full obituary will appear in our next issue

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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November 22nd - Jose Luis Borges Lecture in association with the Anglo Argentine Society, speaker Jorge Edwards on "The other Pablo Neruda". Location the Royal Aeronautical Society.

A visit to Bath has been suggested by Alan White. To avoid overcrowding the programme of events it has been decided that this visit should be postponed to the latter part of 1996.

The Christmas party at Canning House has been provisionally planned for the second week of December.

The visit to St. Paul's - Peter Shaw has been in touch with the Visits Officer at St. Paul's regarding a private tour, lasting about 90 minutes and ending in the Crypt, where a buffet reception would take place. Tentative date towards the end of March 1996.

Proposed wine tasting for February 1996.

The ALAF fiesta has been arranged to take place on 9th November 1996 at the Royal Agricultural Hall.



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## NEW MEMBERS

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Mr. Christian Rehren Bargetto  
Mr. Nicholas de Beristain Humphrey  
Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalo A. Salazar  
Mr. Michael Doran  
Ms. Katherine H. Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Christoph Gerlach  
Mr. Mark Phillips  
Mrs. Claudia A. Brandt  
Mr. Richard Brass  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gibbons  
Mr. Andrew Moore  
Miss Fleur Fraser MBE  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Fulton

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## NEWS FROM SANTIAGO

By Jonathan Callund

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Membership has been relatively stable during the year. There have no deaths, resignations or new members.

I am pleased to inform you that in our last lunch meeting Bob Smithson, long-time secretary of the Society in London and Santiago, has been made an honorary member for his distinguished service to the community. We are planning a lunch in his honour in November.

We have held six lunches this year, all of which were held in the Club de la Union in the centre of Santiago. As in previous years we have been most fortunate with speakers who have addressed us on these occasions:

don Jose Miguel Inzulza Salinas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, spoke to us on Chile's relations with the European Union and, in particular, with Great Britain, in which the Minister highlighted Chile's extraordinary ties with the UK.

don Pedro Daza, ex ambassador and President of the Instituto de Libertad, spoke to us about relations with Bolivia and Peru, in view of the current debate over the Tratado de Lima, which has yet to be ratified by the Peruvian parliament.

don Juan de Dios Carmona, ex Senator and ambassador to Spain, gave us an insight into the evolution of the Senate since the times of don Bernardo O'Higgins and its multiple roles as apolitical adviser to the President, high court and legislative body.

don Jaime Lea-Plaza, General Manager of the private port administration company Puerto Lirquen, explained the complexities of establishing and managing port facilities in Chile, given its geography and the, until now, dominant position of the State port authorities (EMPORC111).

don Luis Bianchi Bianchi, Deacon of the Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago, gave us an anecdotal talk on the development over the last 50 years and rapid modernization of the last decade of the stock exchange in Santiago.

### Educational Activities:

Last year we decided to cease organising an essay competition for 14 to 16 year olds, as this was found to clash with a similar activity organised through the British Embassy. We also found that, surprisingly enough, there has been little enthusiasm for the event among the schools.

We have since on launch a new project in the same sphere, namely to provide Chilean humanities or social sciences under graduate or post graduate students with economic support to spend a short period of time (10 days to a month) in the UK to further their studies, eg. carry out research or confirm opportunities for further education in Britain. The details of the "beca" have yet to be finalised, but in our lunch this month the members gave the go-ahead to the idea and a budget of around £800 for each candidate. Initially we intend promoting one student per year.

The project is expected to count on the support of British Airways, which has provided the Society with the prizes return

tickets to London for essay competitions in the past. The support of the Society in London would be most welcome, for example in finding suitable lodgings. On the other hand we have already enlisted support from the British Council here who have agreed to assist in designing the programme.

### Article of Association:

The Society is at last on its way to making itself legitimate. To date, ie. since 1955, we have acted as an informal group, without any written statutes or procedures. Other than the internal affairs, which have so far been managed without much ado, there always has been an issue regarding the handling of funds. Fortunately the close links in the early days with the Bank of London and South America (Now Banco O'Higgins) and before the existence of individual tax numbers (RUT) etc., have allowed us to hold a current account, deposits and manage our affairs. We hope to correct this situation soon.

At the last members' meeting the draft article of association was approved and signed by the "interim" directors (the current executive board). These are now being presented for approval before the Corte Suprema and President, before we can become the bona fide non-profit Corporación Anglo Chilean Society. We expect these tramites to take a month or so.

### Swords:

I am pleased to hear that Wilkinson Sword is preparing these. Please let me know when and how they are being sent this year.

Last year Ambassador Wheeler again allowed us to use the Residence for the presentation on 29 December. As in previous years this was well attended by members, representatives of the Armed Forces, members of the Open Arms Society and guests, a total of around 100, who were treated to speeches by Alnte. Carlos Chubretovich and the naval officer Guardiamarina Alberto Guerrero García. The press and TV were there to cover the event.

The leading cadets of each of the branches of the Armed Forces and recipients of the "espada de honor" in 1994 were:

Army: Alférez Carlos Parra Meyer  
Navy: Guardiamarina Alberto Guerrero García  
Airforce: Subteniente (A) Guillermo Pino Maggi  
Carabineros: Subteniente de Carabineros Jorge Albistur Gómez  
Open Arms Society:

For the last three years the Societies have grown closer. Our members have been invited to attend the regular discussion evenings organised in the British Council centre in Providencia

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## Congratulations

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Robert James Shaw, son of Peter & Maria Angélica Shaw married Miss Debra Bassnett on 2 September at the Tunbridge Wells Register Office.

Robert was born in Santiago in 1966; he is a biologist and works for Glaxo Welcome, and Debra is a teacher and librarian at the library in Wandsworth.



*The happy couple.*