

Lorry outside cowmead warehouse,
c.1970



HOUNDWOOD DISTRIBUTION SITE

JANUARY

1955

DECEMBER

2005

This commemorative book has been compiled to recognise the achievements of the collective warehouses of Houndwood Distribution Site...



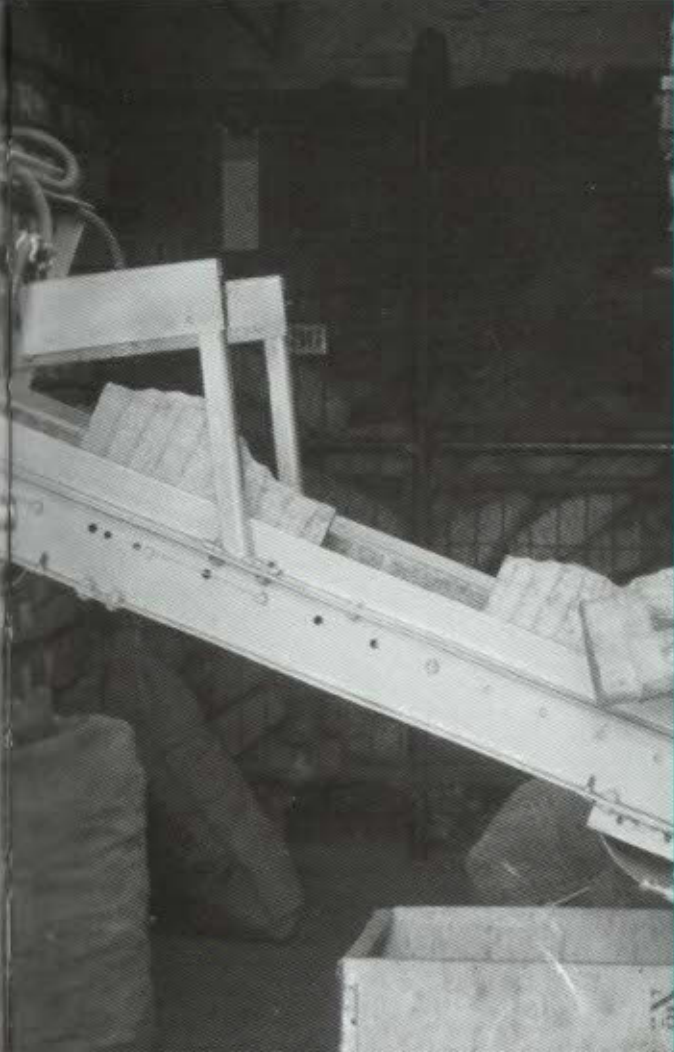
The first sod is dug on the site of the new Bullmead Warehouse
by Mr J Anthony Clark, 1954

BULLMEAD COWMEAD WOODSGATE MAPLE

We hope that it will also evoke fond memories, whether you have worked here over a period of many years, or just recently joined.



Blocks of maple begin the process of being made into lasts in the maple warehouse, c.1960



The year 2005 promises to be an exciting and challenging one as the existing operations move from what has been their home for the last 50 years into a brand new, state-of-the-art distribution centre named Westway.

The existing buildings, of Bullmead, Cowmead, Woodsgate and Maple have served the business extremely well over the last half a century and it is through this book that we attempt to look back at the people, machinery and systems that have made them so successful.

From its conception and opening in 1955, along with numerous extensions in latter years, Bullmead has been the main distribution centre on the site servicing the UK retail and wholesale businesses along with, at certain times, our International customers.

Cowmead which opened in August 1957 was originally a raw materials warehouse – storing leathers and components for the numerous Clarks' factories located in the UK and Ireland.

Woodsgate was originally built in 1969 to act as a storage and distribution facility for the retail business.

However, more recently both Cowmead and Woodsgate have been utilised as distribution centres for the International business.

Maple, opened in 1960 and it was here that lasts, knives and patterns used for shoe manufacturing were originally made. It was named from the Canadian Maple wood used for making the lasts.

The departure from Houndwood and move into Westway promises to be a hugely exciting time for all those involved but it is important to recall the very important role that Houndwood has played over the last 50 years.

HOUNDWOOD...PAST



Left: The first sod is dug on the site of the new warehouse by Mr J Anthony Clark on Friday 5th March 1954. The warehouse was capable of coping with up to 130,000 pairs of shoes per week.

In the picture we can see Brooking Clark, Michael Fielden, Bancroft Clark, Sibella Clark, Sarah Clark, A.Leslie Graves, Vernon Smart, Jack Davis, J.F Wormold and Patrick Keith.



Right: Bullmead Warehouse, Winter 1955.



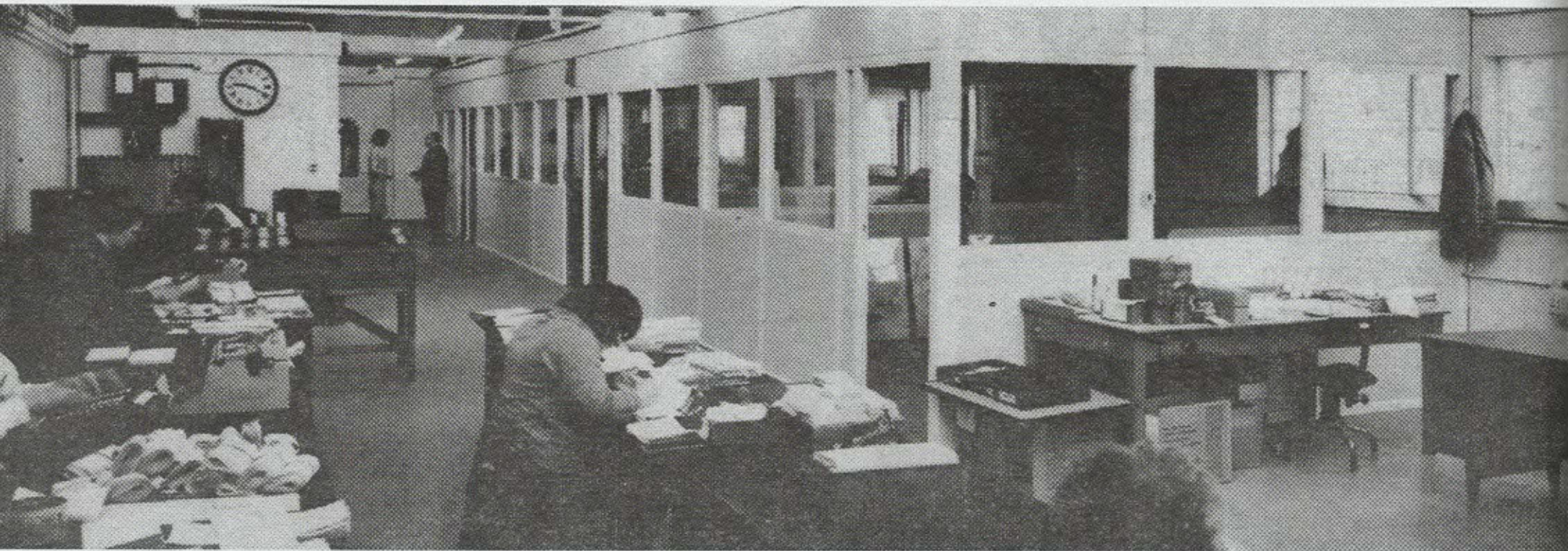
Left: Making of lasts in the Maple Warehouse, c.1950.

Right: Maple Warehouse, c.1960.

Aerial shot showing Bullmead Distribution Centre, 1955





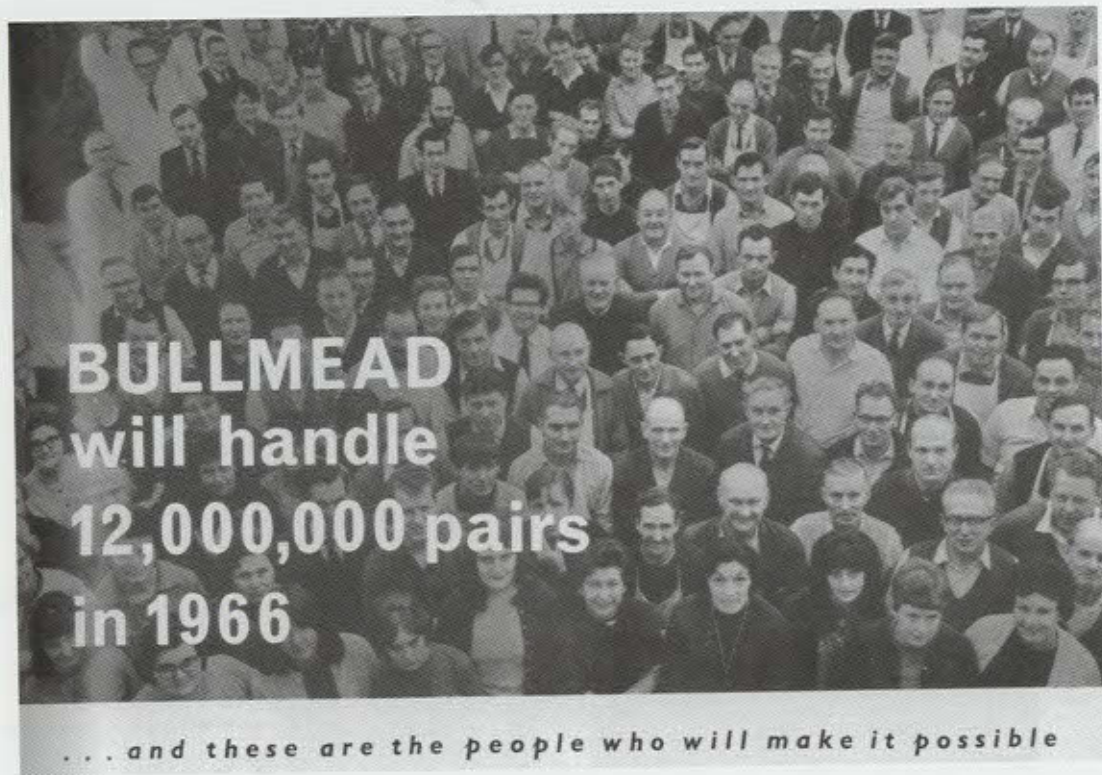


Left: These offices on the first floor of Bullmead include the offices for Mr Douglas Wilmot (Superintendent), Mr Peter Roberts (Head of Administration), Mr Terry Davis (Analyst) and Mr Owen Barrett (Work Study).

The general offices embraced Invoice Control and the Despatch Department.

From the Clarks Courier, Friday May 14th 1965.

Right: A picture from the Clarks Courier, showing employees of the Bullmead Warehouse. This photo was used at an 'Open Day' to display the new extension to the Bullmead Warehouse.



The following pictures are from the Clarks Comments book 1960-69, they will tell you in picture form what would have happened to a shoe from the time it enters Bullmead Warehouse to the time it leaves and is on its way to the shoe store.



Each day up to 60,000 pairs of shoes are received from Clarks factories. They are checked in carefully so that a computer stock record can be accurately updated.



Clarks make 40,000 different styles, colours, sizes and fittings in shoes. The people putting the shoes away must remember where each one goes. There are over 2,000,000 pairs in stock at any one time.



If the space for a particular shoe is full, the surplus is taken to the random storage area on the floor above. It can be drawn from here later.

When an order is received the computer releases it to the warehouse in invoice form ready for assembly and packing. Here invoices are sorted and address labels attached so that goods can be handled geographically in the order in which the delivery vehicles depart.





Left: Each order is assembled...

Right: ...and then double-checked before it is despatched.

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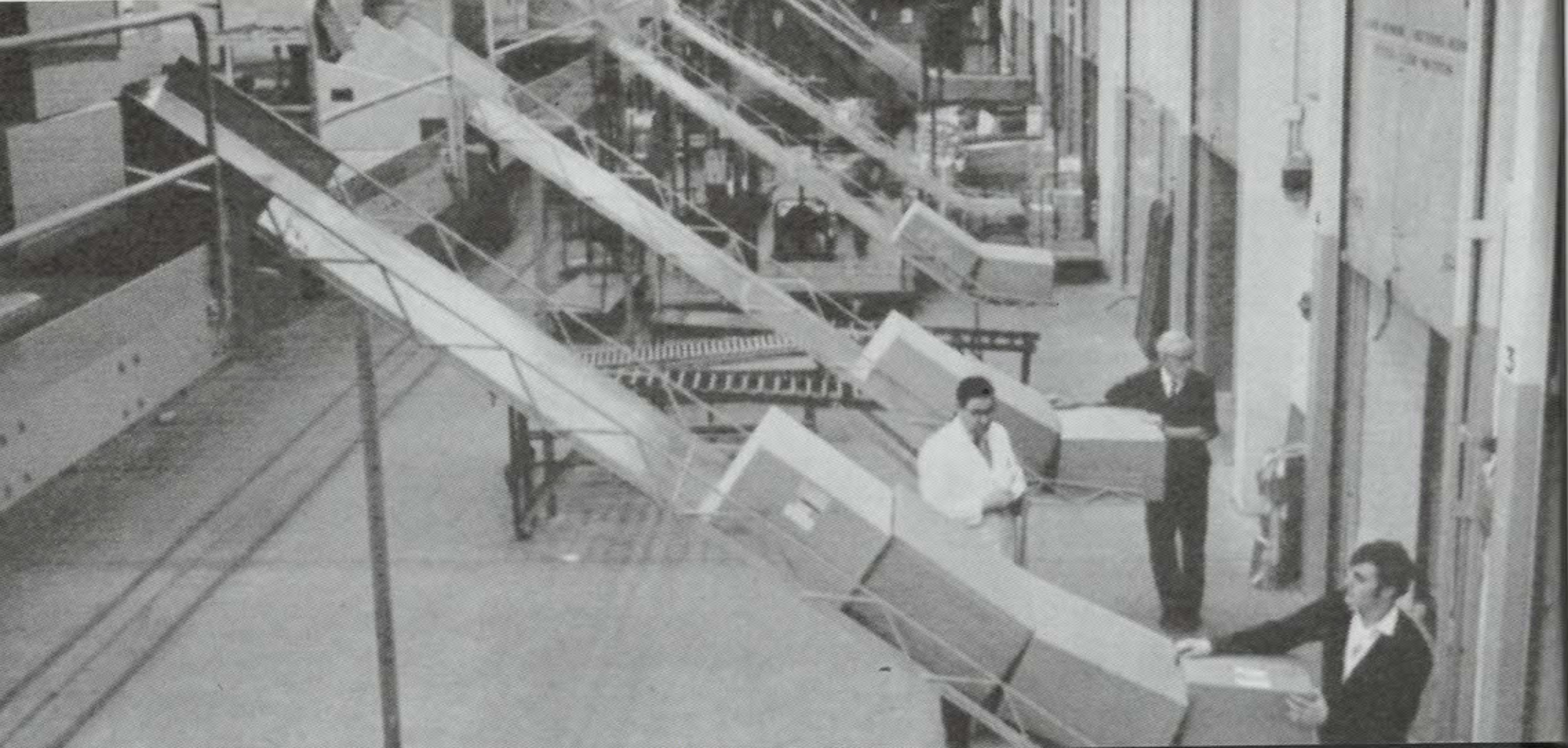




Far left: Orders are packed in cartons except when there are only a few pairs in which case they are wrapped as parcels. A fast packer will achieve 4,500 pairs per day.

Centre left: After cartons have been weighed and sealed those not due for delivery are stored until wanted...

Near left: ...those due for delivery receive a final checking...



Left: ...and then are loaded onto the vehicle that will take them to the regional centre from which they are finally delivered to the shop.

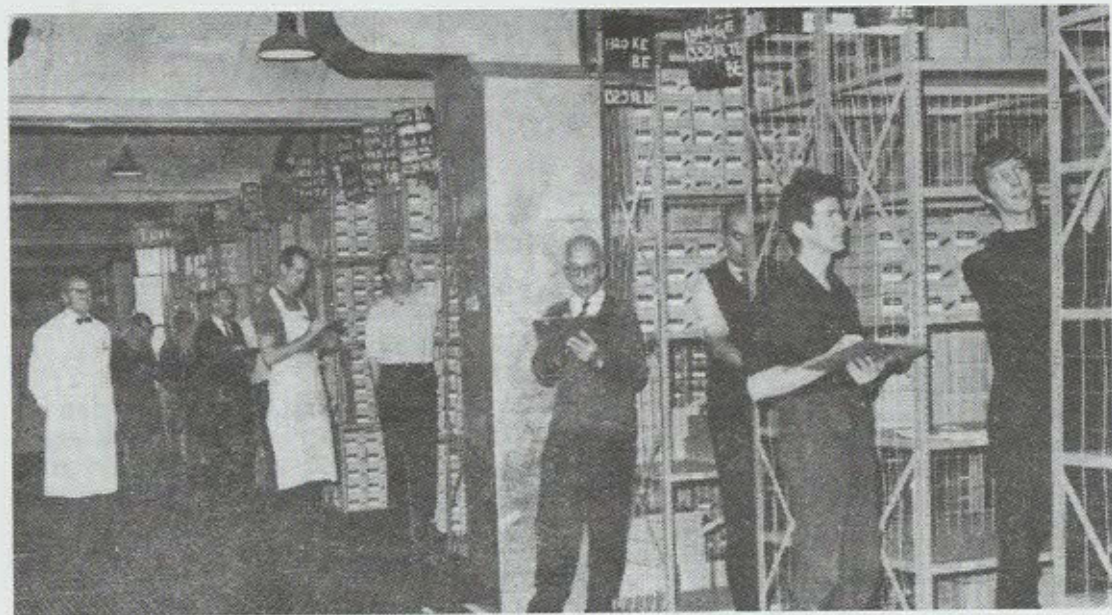
Right: The drivers receive their consignment documents before leaving.





Left: Some of the 400 people from the regular Bullmead personnel and Clarks HQ, who helped in the half-yearly stock check on 28th October 1967. At that time one and a half million pairs of footwear were counted.

Right: Mr Maurice Johnson, foreman (white coat), supervising employees busy counting shoes.





Left: Arnold Richards and Barry Culliford working at the shrink wrapper, Bullmead Warehouse 1976.

Right: Racks of skins stored at the Cowmead Distribution Centre, c.1970.





Left: A presentation cup given in Cowmead, 1982. From left to right: Colin Williams (foreman), Dave Snook, Merv Hartland, Betty Thompson, Bob Noble and Norman Crease.

Near right: Ariel shot of the Houndwood site in 1972. The Bullmead, Woodsgate, Maple and Cowmead Distribution Centres can be seen and on the right hand side is the Three Elms Garage.

Far right: Lorries outside Cowmead Warehouse. c.1970.



Bullmead personnel as published in the
Courier, Wednesday 19th May 1976.



HOUNDWOOD 2005



Despatch loading



Shift manager



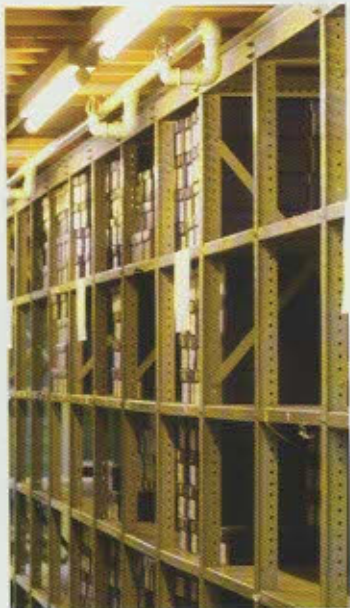
Replenishment



Towline/float and connecting tunnel



3 shift system
6-2 Days
2-10 Twilight
10-6 Nights



Storage bins



Location boards



Surplus area



Batch sorter and trayng up



Sorter chutes



Wave sorter





Goods-in floor

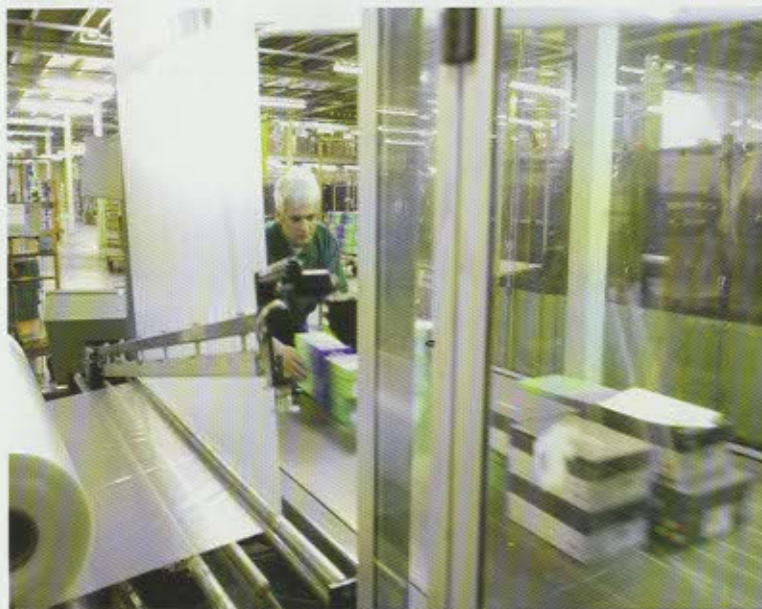




High-bay pallet storage area



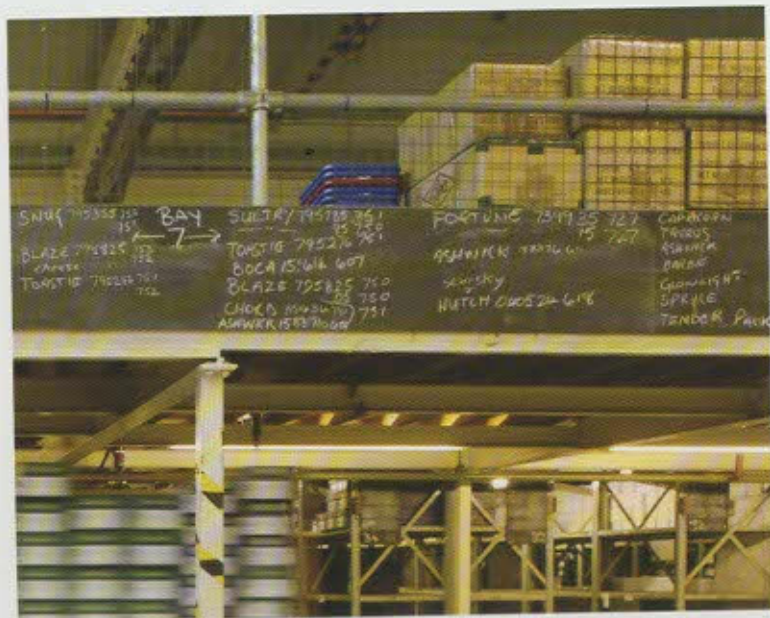
Batch sort-infeeding



Shrink wrapping



Tow-line and float



Surplus area



Overhead despatch chutes







WESTWAY FUTURE...



Comparisons

	Bullmead 1953	Westway 2005
People planned to work in warehouse	80	300
Floor space, sq ft	49,000	330,000
Despatches, pairs per week	130,000	1,000,000
Storage capacity, pairs	50,000	6,000,000

Far Left: Westway main entrance.

Left: Westway loading bays.

Right: Ariel view of Westway site, 7th May 2004.



THE PEOPLE 2005



**The Day Shift, 6am – 2pm
Clarks Houndswood Distribution Site
31st March 2005**

1st Row:

Sue Griffin, Margaret Pilmore, Diane Howard, Mike Foster, Graham Green, Phil Sheen, John Ridewood, Lee Carpenter, John Plowman, Dave Culliford, Alan Porter.

2nd Row:

Kevin Ball, Shaun Mead-Kidd, Willie Martin, Ian Carey, Keith Watkins, Brendan Barlow, Pat Pilmore, John Kingscote, Trevor Harris, Francis Foley, Liz Murphy, Paz Constanza, Barry Culliford, Kevin Hannan, Dan Stringer, Duncan Wells.

3rd Row:

Nick Vowles, Keith Drewery, Jeff Hamlett, Kevin Lockyer, Graham Franks, Steve Clark, Mike Taylor, Colin Robins, Geoff Stubbs, Don Castagna, Stuart Haselgrove, Scott Lambert, Dave Whitcombe, Andrew Codman, Dave Hopkins, Paul Chinnock, Adam Spence, Alan Townsend, Chris Dowden, Jim Hedges, Tim Smith, Rob Cox, Andrew Moore, John Bartlett, Alan Hoskins.

4th Row:

Nathan Pritchard, Justin Harmsworth, Ian Thompson, Peter Snuggs, Pete Lintell, Mike Gooding, Fred Meaden, Martin Hicks, Matt Worth, Darren Popham, Nigel Baker, Martin Cook, Sean Cave, Trevor Gannicot, Heather Cave, Julie Harris, Del Cooper, Sandy Bell, Ricky Tidball, Chris D'Andrea, Wendy Baker, Linda Bittner, Jean Poole, Adrian Mullins, Steve Rolli, Mike Rees, Daryl Harding, Adam Higgins, Steve Wells, Lester Perkins, Mike Jodowski, Clive Ford, Terry Cook, Mike Birchall.

5th Row:

Mike Baker, Melvyn Bishop, Shirley Sparks, Mike Seewood, Kevin Skinner, Denys Radford, Ian Baker, Roger Goodwin, Dave McCartney, Cyril Rawlings, Roger Goodwin, Paul Carpenter, Brian Sandford, David Blacker, Den Codman, Pete Heal, Brian Richards, Raymond Bown, Richard Whitcombe, Pete Bailey, Robert White, Colin Dyer, Alan Judd.



**The Twilight Shift, 2pm – 10pm
Clarks Houndswood Distribution Site
31st March 2005**

From front row, left to right:

Sarah Moore, Sarah Hume, Rachel Emery, Sarah Tozer, Elaine Young, Ruth Hamlett, Marisa Russell, Theresa Palmer, Cath Sims, Hazel Hartry, Katherine Lusby, Val Wills

Brian Combes, James Tozer, Phil Wright, Mark Hyett, Ben Foyle, Clym Stevenson, Jaon Miles, Dave Pearce, Chris Vickers-Craddock, Chris Murphy, Matt Gunning,
Kevin Trask, Jon Kerr, Peter Bennett, Gerald Fellows, Andy Vickers-Craddock, Mike Fellows, Andy Mitchell, Andy Irvine, Kane Derbridge, Fraser DeLayen-Vian, John Sweet,
Dave Payne.

Barry Webster, Kieron Escott, Roger Turner, Keith Lamb, Andy Twiner, Alan Sims, Jim McNamara, Paul Webb, James Mallard, Peter Darbo, Sebastian Hodder, Steve Bradley,
Ross Puddy, Rob Eadie, Graham Hart, Jim Whitton, Brian Taylor, Steve Chubb, Alistair Parker, Steve Pusey, Chris Bisgrove, David Stokes.



**The Night Shift, 10pm – 6am
Clarks Houndswood Distribution Site
31st March 2005**

From front row, left to right:

Martin Perry, Melina Sutton, Ray Davis, John Ogden, Marisa Russell, Dan Dannan, Nick Squire, Gary Reed, Dave Turner, Bob Sage.

Gail Roberts, Ian Gray, Alfonso Strumillo, Julian Smith, Dave Pope, Rob Turner, Ian Dickson, Andrew Perry, Dave Melliush.

Chris Hawkins, Gary Burge, Clive Edwards, Steve Robins, Dave Mc Ewan, Steve Shepherd, Pete Castle, Trevor Stephens, Craig Purchase, Nick James,
John King, Andy Wareham, Chris South.



**Management / Clerical Staff / Trainers / IT and Imports Department
Clarks Houndwood Distribution Site
31st March 2005**

From front row, left to right:
Jodie Tidball, Craig Harris, Mike Price

Sylvia Reynolds-Wall, Michelle Richardson, Anita Tidball, Kelly Smirk, Maggie Robins, Laura Sutton, Sue Hopson, Janice Dyer, Anne Lamb,
Margaret Watts, Amy Marsh, Sue Jones, Marisa Russell.

Karen Yard, Marion Cozens, Karen Oaten, Ian Dodd, Simon Spencer, Craig Muxlow, Nigel Bebbington, Charlie Cox, Aaron Whitcombe,
Ashley Whitehead, Calumn Taylor, Stuart Burrows, Ollie Taylor, Martin Reynolds, Mark Trask, Gary Cook, Ann Drewery, Dan Dannan, Paul Banwell,
Richard Chapman, Shaun Garland.

Andy Wood, Steve Hamlett, Pauline Baker, Penny Hooper, Steve Cooper, Sarah Day, Phil Lavis, Sarah Barbar, Richard Cook, Jason Pope, Bill Stitfall, John Bagg,
Graham Hamlett, David Kilvington-Loadsby, Mike Bittner, Owen Eades, Paul Coffey, Alan Culliford, Andy Dean, Paul Clark.