

EXCHANGE OF CONTRACTS SPECIAL

MYSTIC MAC'S ALMANACK

After much crystal gazing in his wee highland cottage at Hogmanay (he always uses the best tumblers for his whisky) your resident seer brings you:

Predictions and Horoscopes for 1997

more bull than a Texas Longhorn

(Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mystic Mac was unable to produce his predictions in time for January's edition!)

January

Packages sent via Securicor go start to go missing

Strangers arrive from the Occident

Oreo Cookies become *de rigueur* at management meetings

Section Vehicles are formed into a circle.

Scorpio: Now is a good time to check your wheel bearings.

February

Chocolate machine renamed to avoid offence to WS Co staff

WTP staff decimated in St Valentine's day massacre

Aries: Take care! Not everyone with a violin case is a Nigel Kennedy

March

Ranch style stock-proof fencing installed at WTP

Construction of bunkhouse begins at rear of WTP

All company cars fitted with bullbars.

Sagittarius: Try walking like you just got off a horse.

April

Spring conference venue moved to dude ranch in Texas

Longhorn cattle begin to graze at WTP.

Gemini: Beware the colour brown.

May

May Day holiday cancelled as it is un American and only for "Pinkos"

Restyled canteen (Chez Brian) introduces steak baguettes for breakfast

Taurus: Well comrade, so you think you have a long career ahead at WTP?

June

Compulsory French lessons begin for all staff.

Fresh milk in the canteen is phased out in favour of imported UHT milk

Leo: Learn to shrug your shoulders in a Gallic fashion; you never know when it might come in handy.

July

All ESIs become bilingual

To celebrate Bastille Day a new Pissoir is unveiled at WTP.

Corporation Day changed to July 4th

Flowers die at Skelton due to lack of water

Pisces: Always keep a pair of wellingtons handy

August

Gents toilets at WTP converted into additional office space.

Final details of WS sale agreed.

Due to a misunderstanding about Grouse Shooting, several grumpy members of staff are dispatched by the new CEO

Cancer: beware the man with a gun in his pocket

September

Club starts new Bull Riding section.

Merlin Communications bought by GWR.

Virgo: your love life suffers when an unexpected windfall comes your way.

October

New CEO mistakes JA Ward for JJ Ward. Finding she is a U S citizen, however, she is confirmed in the post as Head of Engineering.

"The All New World Service" begins

World Service introduces snappy new catchphrase "You're never more than 58 minutes away from the News with the All New World Service"

Gitanes vending machine installed outside back door

Libra: I always think EuroDisney is so pretty in the fall

November

English to Africa re-designated as "The Hot HF"

Low maintenance plastic flowers planted at Skelton

New Thanksgiving holiday introduced because its "as American as Mom, Apple Pie and British Transmitters"

Transmission Line dancing lessons offered to staff.

Capricorn: What DO you look like in those snakeskin rigging boots?

December

Club Bull Riding section is closed as the required staff reductions have been achieved without the need for redundancies.

Following a disagreement with NTL, roads to NTL sites are blockaded and NTL test equipment burnt

Aquarius: always carry a gas mask in case riot police use tear gas.



A cottage similar to that in which Mystic Mac may have celebrated Hogmanay, photographed in the summer

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE QUIZ

Here are some French phrases commonly used in the Good Ol' US of A. But what do they mean? Now's your chance to impress the new owners - rush your translations to your nearest committee member for a chance to win this month's star prizes; yes, two bottles of wine, one French, the other American. As a tie breaker, please also tell us, where appropriate who said them. Bon chance, mes amis!

1. Démonte ton cheval et bois ton lait
2. Avez un bon jour, tout le monde!
3. Cette ville n'est pas assez grande pour nous deux
4. Mange ma culotte courte
5. N'aie pas une vache, mon bon mec
6. Lis mes lèvres, pas de redondances!
7. Ou se trouve le bœuf?
8. Tous les filles sont fou autour d'un homme dans le vent