

'Any old rags?' at Hastings

NO one at Consumer Products Division, Hastings, can say that their wardrobe is entirely complete unless it includes a bundle of old clothes for use at the Annual Tramps Supper, which took place this year on October 21 in the canteen.

Now an established event, it has become a kind of anti-fashion show with the Joneses trying to go one worse than their neighbours. Uglification is the keynote and total disguise the target and, at the risk of offending anyone—they do it well at the Hastings Supper. The meths drinkers of Waterloo Bridge would be proud of 'em.

Shuffling

Lit entirely by candles stuck in bottles, dancing, or rather shuffling, in this 'Hernando's Hideaway' was to Ted Crouch and his band dressed as genuine buskers. Frequent intervals had to be staged to sweep up pieces of material as various costumes began to disintegrate—some people will do anything for authenticity!

With the motley crew assembled, the more serious ceremonies of the evening took place. The judging and awarding of the title of Best/Worst Dressed Lady and Gentleman Tramp of the Year was conducted by Canteen Manager



A sight to gladden the hearts of Steptoe and Son

Photos by John E. Sweet

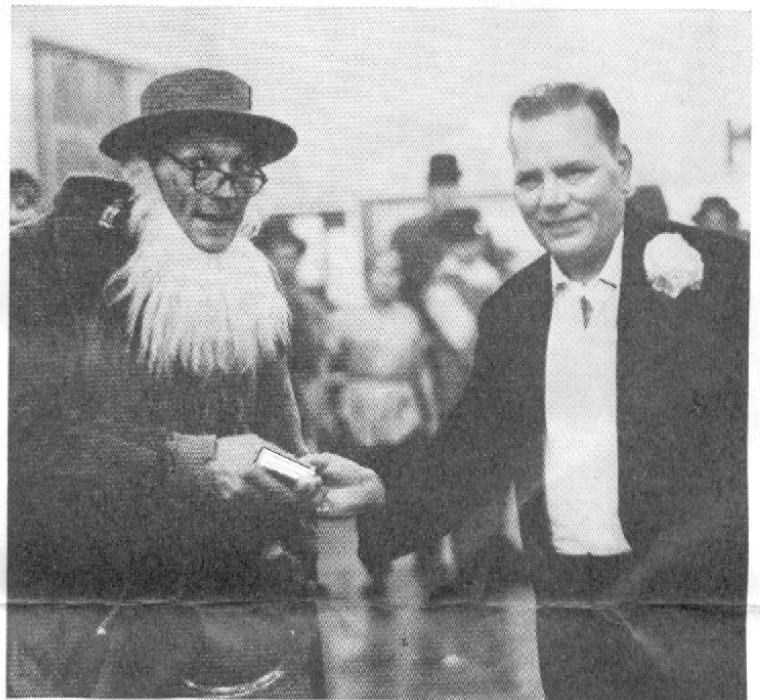
Fred Hardy. Resplendent in frock coat with white buttonhole, and with the aid of his wife he chose Mrs Violet Bailey, TV Assembly Supervisor, and Ivor White of TV Diagnosis.

With the champions enthroned, the initiation of apprentice tramps took place, followed by the ritual call of the road, rendered three times in roof-raising style. At 10 p.m. the entire company sat on the floor whilst steaming hot cod and chips was served with mugs of coffee—the Tramps Supper at last.

Success

Finishing at midnight, the entire evening, and with it a chance to assume a different identity for a while, was a thundering success—with one reservation—the surprise prize wasn't claimed. A 10-ft. Broadwood grand piano, inherited with the site, it has haunted the canteen stage ever since—and no one wants it, not even the piano museum.

In the words of L. G. Knight 'You can't ignore something of that size. It's far too magnificent to be destroyed, so I suppose we've just got to learn to live with it.'



Ivor White gets his prize as Hastings' worst dressed man from Canteen Manager Fred Hardy

CROSSWORD CORRECTION

Sorry all you crossword fans. As many of you have already pointed out there was an error in our No. 34 puzzle.

The clue for 21 across should have been 'Often accompanies thunderstorms' to give HAIL.

We have ignored the answers to the clue in checking, and prizes have been awarded for remaining correct solutions.

Our thanks to those addicts who took the trouble to put us right.