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FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1964

Woman's father wins the MBE



Mr. Joseph Godber, Minister of Labour.



F. D. HILL

A man who has visited Prince Rupert and has a daughter here, was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Year's honors list.

He is Frederick D. Hill of Canterbury, England, father of Mrs. Peter G. Vaal-Henke, 102 West Ninth Avenue. He last visited Prince Rupert in the summer of 1961, and is expected to come again this summer.

A director of four London companies, Mr. Hill was awarded the MBE for his work as official British representative on the organizing committee for the international apprentice competition.



To meet the British Team returning from the
International Apprentice Competition, 1963

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN HARE, O.B.E., M.P.,
Minister of Labour

requests the pleasure of the company of

Mr. F. D. Hill

at No. 8, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.,
on Friday, 19th July, 1963, at 1.30 p.m.

Buffet

R.S.V.P. The Chief Information Officer,
8 St. James's Square, S.W.1.
Tel. WHI 6200, Ext 268

M.B.E. For Canterbury Man

A Canterbury man, whose initiative and hard work has given the youth of this country an opportunity to enter an annual international trade competition, has been awarded the M.B.E. in the New Years Honours List.

He is 58-year-old Mr. Frederick D. Hill, of Bramley Avenue, Canterbury, founder of the Canterbury Cathedral Craft Centre.

Mr. Hill is the official representative and organiser for Britain for the International Apprentice Competition entered by young people from thirteen countries.

The competition was founded in Spain and was first held in 1951 with only two participating countries, but it was two years later when Mr. Hill, and subsequently Britain, came into the picture.

In 1953 a third international competition was organised and invitations were sent to Portugal, Germany, Morocco, Switzerland, Italy, France and Britain.

Although letters were sent to British organisations, no support was forthcoming.

Mr. Hill's son, Douglas, who was then 17 years old, heard of the competition and was allowed to enter. A guardian was needed and Mr. Hill went driving to Madrid. When he arrived, he discovered there was no British team and his son was the only entrant from this country. His son won his section — woodwork — and received a silver medal from General Franco.

FRIENDLY SPIRIT

"What impressed me most," Mr. Hill told a "Kentish Observer" reporter, "was the comradeship spirit between the hundred odd apprentices from all over Europe. It was good to see the understanding between the youth despite the language problem.

"I felt our own country should take part in the competition officially."

A personal visit to the British Embassy in Madrid brought only rebuff, and the advice given to Mr. Hill was

to "play it down" as Spain was then not so popular in Government, or even tourist, circles.

During the next three years Mr. Hill spent much time, effort and expense to lay the foundations of a regular British team in the competition.

In 1956 he was able to collect a team of six British apprentices, making his own selections from the entrance forms he was by then receiving from various parts of the country.

HONOURED BY SPAIN

The next year twelve youths went to the competition. At the competition held in Brussels, the first time it had been held outside Spain, Mr. Hill was awarded the Medal of Youth, by the Spanish Government, for his special efforts and services for the benefit of European youth. In Spain this medal is considered to be the highest award for services for youth.

It was the first time the award had gone to a "foreigner."

During the time he worked for the competition—he is a member of the international organising committee—Mr. Hill did much to start scouting in Spain. Interest has arisen in the badge of the 2nd Canterbury Scout Group, of which Mr. Hill was president, which was displayed on his car. Mr. Hill obtained instructive documents on the scouting movement for the Spanish authorities and as a result a group of the heads of Spanish youth services visited England for ten days during which they studied the movement. A regular exchange

of British and Spanish youth now takes place each year.

Last year's competition—England now sends about 30 entrants—was held in Dublin, Eire, in July.

In October last year Mr. Hill was presented with the Order of Cisneros, by the Spanish authorities, for his work for youth. The medal was presented by Spain's Chief of State.

AMBITION REALISED

Mr. Hill's ambition of Britain becoming a host country to competitors, will be realised in 1965.

The competition covers bricklaying, silversmithing, jewellery, plumbing and many other trade skills. The judging is done by men who are technical experts in their respective trades.

Mr. Hill's son—he has four daughters—is now a director of Hill Bros. Ltd., who make indicator boards, one of which keeps passengers up-to-date on arrivals and departures at London Airport. He is also a director of the firm.

Born in London, Mr. Hill lived most of his life in Dorset until coming to Canterbury with his wife in 1947. He formerly lived at Harbledown House, Harbledown, and was helped in the Crafts Centre by his children, who are all skilled in certain crafts.

Mr. Hill hopes the competition for which he has worked so hard and long, will become really international. Japan has sent entries and America and Mexico are sending observers with a view to joining.

To the man whose fine work was first recognised by a foreign Government now goes the M.B.E.



Mr. F. D. Hill