

striped trousers. The long black neatly rolled umbrella was there too, the latter proving a useful prop for the unsteady. One serious be-spectacled young man was clutching a brief-case under his arm. I wondered if he were afraid to part with some very confidential papers but I suspect he was probably disguising his sandwich lunch.

We whirled our way up the ice avoiding the prostrate figures and at the other end, sure enough, there were the swans. A special part of the pond was roped off and the ice had been broken to prevent the poor sad birds from being completely stalled. I don't know which looked more out of place, the freezing swans or the F.S.O.'s.

It was great fun and even with the unfamiliar and somehow inappropriate surroundings I think it made us all feel rather homesick. After three quarters of an hour (our prescribed lunch period) we reluctantly returned to the office but agreed that we would go out again the following day.

The B.B.C. weather report next morning - "There has been a sudden change in the weather. Many frozen pipes are now beginning to thaw. If your pipes look as if they are going to burst, put a thick coat of paint over the suspicious crack and tie a cloth tightly over it, paint again and then wait for the plumber. Please don't be impatient if the plumber doesn't get to your house for a day or two - they are rather busy these days."

That was the end of our skating for this year. The ice on the pond started to melt and now the swans have it all to themselves and the F.S.O.'s are back to their red boxes.

Pat Macoun

"PRESSURIZED PRODUCTION"

I sometimes lay awake at night,
And see a long procession,
Slip on and on and out of sight
With ne're a retrogression.
Varitype and linotype,
Monotype and plain,
Each in turn without a stop,
Great huge piles and not a blot.

I see before me now a speech,
Given months ago at least;
You'll guess the orders of the day, -
Get it out without delay.
"Wait now! Stop and hold it up!
I have a correction,
Start all over, do it now
Under my direction!"

We're dropping lines and adding words,
We're putting quotes in here,
There goes the bla.....telephone
More trouble now I fear.
In caps *IMMEDIATE. URGENT*,
in caps *AS SOON AS* too,
"Immediate", I murmur -
"I'm sure next week will do".

Speeches reprints come in droves,
Some for Morin, some for Groves,
Up Pop's lift without a stall,
All is well at helm with Hall.

Pat Howard