


WHILE there are still a great number of stamp collectors who find all the interest they want in the design and colour of the specimens they collect, more and more are paying attention as to the manner in which the stamp is obliterated. If one looks at a catalogue, one often sees that used stamps are worth as much, and sometimes more, than the unused. There are one or two reasons that explain this seemingly rather curious fact. The first

## POSTAL MARKINGS By L. P. V. Veale

thing is, from where does the stamp come? A stamp on a letter from the United States of America would not be worth so much as an unused specimen. But a stamp coming from quite a small country, say Tristan da Cunha, would almost certainly be worth more if it was used than if it was unused, provided of course that it was a nice lightly postmarked copy. The point being, that it is easier to send for a sheet of stamps than to have 240 letters addressed and posted. Furthermore, in some cases the unused stamps may be purchased in this country, they never having been sent abroad. The other reason for used stamps being better is that sometimes a country issues some very large highly coloured stamps for its low values, and of course these low value stamps are easily and cheaply bought unused by the sheet; which means that there has not been any trouble in separating the stamps, sticking them down on envelopes and posting them.

Having just read that statement, no doubt many readers will immediately want to ask the question 'Which is it better to collect used or unused ?' Well, the best answer is 'both'. Try to obtain a specimen in the unused or mint condition, and also one that has gone
youcan.

Now look at the first pair of stamps illustrated. One stamp has a very neat mark consisting of seven small black bars in the bottom left hand corner; the other is cancelled by a circular device which has the name of the place at which it was posted round the edge and the date in the middle, this is usually termed a circular date stamp - generally shortened to c.d.s. Although this mark covers quite a lot of the stamp, yet this one is the better stamp. Those seven black bars were placed on an unused stamp so as to make it appear as though it had been used, and such a stamp is known as a 'Cancelled to order', and the value of such a specimen would be about quarter of that havingac.d.s. Always try to get a stamp bearing the obliteration which shows where the letter was posted and also the date. Similarly avoid, if possible, the pre-cancelled stamp; most of those you see have come from Belgium. On the stamp you can see quite clearly the name of the town and also the date of the year in a very neat rectangle printed on the stamp. These stamps are sold already cancelled; they are used for

Field Post Office No. 329 226

paying the postage on a large consignment of circulars or other similar packets. Only put these in your collection until you can obtain a, normally postmarked stamp.

During the two major wars, the 1914 and the 1939 the troops abroad were allowed to send their letters home without using stamps. In most cases they would be right away from post offices, and for another thing the putting on of a stamp would tell the person who received the letter where the soldier was and, for purposes of security, that was not desirable. Consequently the troops just wrote their letters, left them open so that they might be censored, and posted them without stamps. The Army Postal Authority stamped the letter with the hand stamp bearing 'Field Post Office' and a number. In the example shown, it


Postmarked to order and circular date stamp
is 329 and inside the circle the date of sending. So unless one knew where F.P.O. No. 329 was, they could not make any deductions as to where the sender of the letter was fighting or training.

Now sometimes people who are on a sea trip write a letter on board and place one of their own stamps on the letter and post it in the ship's post box. This is then taken ashore at the next port, which might be in a different country, so consequently the letter is posted in a country different from that of the stamp which the letter bears. One frequently comes across an English stamp with the Marseilles postmark, but one does not often see a stamp with a postmark further than this. But the next illustration shows that this does sometimes happen, as you can see it is an English Id stamp with the postmark 'Napoli' - Naples - on it. The date was 1913, so that at that time one could send a letter quite a long way for 1 d . It would have been better had the recipient of this letter left the stamp on the envelope rather than cut it off in the way in which it has been cut. One cannot see if the letter came through the post as it is, or if the addressee had to pay extra for it because the stamp was not from
the right country; actually they did not, the letter came as sent.

Occasionally one sees a stamp on a letter which has no postmark at all. Well, the letter may not have been put through the cancelling machine, or perhaps the stamp was not in the right place


Cancelled
and the cancellation did not deface the stamp. In such an eventuality, the postal clerk would take up a pen or indelible pencil and deface the stamp. That would ensure that the same stamp would not be used to defray the cost of posting another letter, but it would rather spoil the stamp from the collectors point of
view. One should try to obtain a specimen with the more normal c.d.s. rather than the pen cancelled.

It is round about Christmas that the pen or pencil cancelled stamps are found. Generally it is the stamp which is on the peculiarly shaped envelope, because this would not go through the normal cancelling machine and would have to be dealt with separately. In the very early days of stamps, some of the postmasters had to make their own cancelling devices. Some of these were made with cork, and some postmasters did not even make these but just used a pencil. In such a case there would not be any other mark, so one would have to be content with that.

Sometimes you may come across a stamp with the word 'Cancelled' printed on it. This means that the stamp was at one time in use, but when another issue was made, the stamps remaining from the first issue were not destroyed, but sold to dealers for stamp collectors. In order to prevent these stamps being used for postal purposes, the word 'Cancelled' was printed on them. Naturally, such a stamp has no real value in the album; it should only appear there if the genuine


Posted on board
stamp is a very valuable stamp and the cancelled one then just shows what the good one looks like.

Now we have shown the difference between the good and the not so good have a look through your collection and duplicates and see if you have some specimens which would be better changed. If your own duplicates won't help you, then see if those of your friends will - and try to help them too.

## HOLLAND

THIS year the Dutch Summer Stamps made their 25th appearance. They were issued on April 21st. This set of 4 values is devoted to the relation between man and animal. This theme was chosen by the Netherlands Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which celebrates its centenary on August 25th. Designs include the following:
$5+5$ cents: Guide dog for the blind.
$8+5$ cents: Three Deer.
$12+9$ cents: Three Kittens.
$30+9$ cents: European Bison and its young.

## WEST GERMANY



A series of 11 stamps featuring the Capitals of the Lander of the Federal Republic of West Germany was issued in May. The motifs of these stamps are
based on proposals submitted by the towns concerned, which are Bremen, Dusseldorf, Hamburg, Hanover, Kiel, Mainz, Munich, Saarbrucken, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and West Berlin.

## HUNGARY

The second part of the new definitive set from Hungary was released in April. These pictorials depict various telecommunications and postal subjects.


## JAPAN

Two further pictorials were added to the National Park Series of Japan on 15th March, depicting the Ise-Shima Park, in that part of Miye Prefecture which projects into the sea eastward. It abounds in scenic inlets and islets, and is known for the Grand Shrines of Ise, the inner one of which is dedicated to the great imperial ancestress Amaterasu Omikami, and for the pearl culture which is practised in its bays and coves and which has made Japan famous the world over.

## EIRE

ASPECIAL stamp in honour of 'Wolfe Tone', one of the leaders of the Irish Insurrection of 1798 , the bi-centenary of whose birth occurred in 1963, appeared on April 13th.

Wolfe Tone was born in Dublin. He was a founder-member of the Society of United Irishmen, a republican movement set up in Belfast in 1791. In 1795 he

was forced into exile and went to America.

In 1796 he arrived in France to enlist armed support for a proposed insurrection in Ireland, and in November, 1798, set out for Ireland with an expeditionary force. The attempt failed and Tone was captured and sentenced to death. But he died in prison before the sentence could be carried out.

A portrait of Wolfe Tone appears on the stamp.

# Pets Parlour 



APART frcm the fascination of the birds themselves, a well made pigeon cote is an attractive asset to any house or garden, lending an air of distinction and arousing interest from visitors.

The expense need not be very great, the main parts being made from planed deal or tongued and grooved match boarding. The overall size should be about 30 in . wide by 29 in . high without the supporting brackets. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wood throughout for the cote except for the
two finials which are 1 in. thick. The two supporting brackets are of 2 in . by 1 in . material.

The diagram in Fig. 1 shows the main measurements, and gives a good idea of the general lay-out. The partitions and entrance holes are spaced out equidistantly, the latter being cut with a large fretsaw or a keyhole saw before assembly.

Commence by cutting the back and front, pinning them temporarily together by means of a batten on each as indicated in Fig. 2. Now cut the centre floor and
the three partitions from a 10 in . wide board, fitting them between the front and the back Fig. 2. Use nails or screws for fixing, adding a dab of waterproof glue here and there. Continue by adding the main floor as seen in Fig. 3.


Fig. 3

Remove the temporary battens, and then proceed to fit the two front shelves which are supported by three brackets as shown in Fig. 4. Shape the ends of the top shelf to fit under the angle of the roof. The roof pieces are chamfered to fit at the ridge.


Fig. 4

The brackets are made upas suggested in Fig. 5, being braced as indicated. the brace being secured by glue and screws. As shown in the side view, Fig. 1., the brackets are bolted through the wall, the head of the bolt being inside the wall, or cemented into the wall. Use a metal plate or large washer inside to prevent the bolt from being drawn through the wall when tightening.

The whole cote is treated with wood preservative and can be finished by painting. Alternatively a coloured preservative may be used.

The roof could be covered with galvanised sheeting, and the finials then added to the top by pinning through the sheeting.
(M.h.)

# Criss-Cross Wallet 

THIS handy little wallet holds notes, photographs or 10 s . and $£ 1$ notes in place with ribbons crossed on one side, parallel on the other. Simply place whatever you wish to carry on one side of the opened wallet, close it, then open again from the other side, and the photograph or note will appear clipped behind the crossed ribbons.

## By T. S. Richmond

Close the wallet again and open in the opposite direction; the paper is now clipped on the other side behind the two parallel ribbons.

Play an interesting trick with your school pal by putting his photograph (or $£ 1$ note if he happens to be wealthy!) inside the magic wallet and asking which side will come out on top when you

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'Dept H', 31 Back Piccadilly, Manchester I
close the wallet, turn it over, and open it again from the opposite direction.

To make the wallet cut two panels of thin plywood (with a fretsaw) or stout cardboard (using a cutting knife and a steel rule), $6 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. by $4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. if for $£ 1$ note and picture-postcards; larger size for larger articles.

Cut a slightly bigger piece of patterned paper for both panels and paste them on, folding the paper over the edges of each panel and making a neat mitre at the corners. (Dotted lines, Fig. I.)

Stick two ribbons with contact adhesive to each panel as shown in Fig. 1 so that two cross over $\mathbf{A}$ and the other two are parallel B.

The crossed ribbons are slightly longer than ribbons B , and are stuck a little closer together, at the edge of the panel. Wrap the ribbons round the underside (which has the patterned paper stuck on) so that they form a cross on one piece and two parallel lines on the other. (Dotted lines, Fig. 2).

With all four ribbon ends coming through the space between the two side-by-side panels, stick the free ends on to the opposite panels, with the crossed ends C inside the parallel ends.

Now fold the wallet so that the inside surfaces meet, and all that is required is some decorative material to cover the outside. Oddments of doll's house papers of multi-coloured, embossed or mosaic designs can be used. Plasticleather cloth, or even wood veneer (as used in marquetry) will provide an attractive appearance to the wallet.



T1HE Italian coachbuilding concern of Zagato have been making specially suited bodies for sporting cars for a long time and it is surprising that manufacturers of production models and kits have not, so far, offered any examples of Zagato carrosserie.

## ZAGATO-BODIED ALFA ROMEO

For this chopping I have selected an Alfa Romeo of the kind to be seen in rallies and in the Grand Touring races such as the Targa Florio. The resulting model is a hybrid made from two production models: the Corgi Aston Martin DB 4 and the Solido.(France) Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider. The hybrid is Alfa Romeo (Solido) forward and Aston Martin (Corgi) aft of the bonnet line.

Taking the Aston Martin first, saw the body right through, using the bonnet line as a guide for the saw. The cut through the side of the car will go straight through the cooling slots. Remove the tyres from the front wheels and saw through the base-plate where this is stepped. The whole of the bonnet and engine can be taken off the model in one piece, leaving the wheels on the chassis.

The back end Zagato body effect is really only a general cleaning up: rounding off the rearward fins, removing the rear bumper and number plate. When filing down the fins it will be found that holes will appear as the metal is reduced, and these must be filled with plastic metal. Four exhaust pipes should be added to the car and these can be accommodated in niches filled in the lower edge of the rear end, two at each side. Exhaust pipes can be formed from wire of suitable gauge or cut from wood dowel.

Next, attention should be given to the Alfa Romeo, and here considerably more work is involved. Saw off the front end of the car, using the windscreen line as a guide. Remove from the base plate by
drilling out the front button ended stud. The whole of the front should now be rounded and smoothed, eliminating bumper bars and other projections. The headlamps must be filed right back to give a streamlined effect.

While this filing is being done care should be taken to avoid marring the heart-shaped aperture in the middle of the front. The two apertures on either side of this should be filed open with a round file and I found it easier to work from the under surface and into the slot, although this involves cutting away some wanted metal. This can be rectified by substituting plastic metal for the cutaway part.

The Alfa Romeo front can now be cemented to the body, using plastic metal to join the front end to the chassis. The gap between the two parts should be filled, and when all is hard the bonnet line and hinges can be filed off. The whole of the top of the bonnet should now be rounded off so as to avoid the separation line caused by the headlamp bumps, and this is best done with plastic metal. The projections around the wheel arches can be filed off and this completes the model apart from the painting and detailing.

Suggested colours: light red (russo chino) with white racing numbers or white with blue racing numbers.


BACK END OF
ASTON MARTIN
ROUNDED OFF

280

## Out with a Camera

# WATCH THAT 

 BACKGROUNDIT would, I know, be ridiculous to say 'The most important part of a picture is the background', but it cannot be stressed often enough that they contribute considerably to the success of the complete composition. If the background is distracting through its assertive tone, design, or prominence in any way, it immediately compels the viewers attention to wander from the main subject matter of the picture; and once his interest has been lost in this way, it is very hard to regain it.

I would most certainly suggest whenever possible, for your portraits, child studies, animal shots, etc, that particular care is given to the choice of a background, keeping it as simple as possible whenever practical. This often only means a slight change of viewpoint perhaps a pace to the left or right, or shooting from a higher or lower angle a very simple matter in practice, but one which must be given careful consideration BEFORE the exposure is made.

The most simple to find and use is, of course, the sky itself; this can usually be
made use of by taking a slightly lower angle of view, outlining one's subject against it. The tone can then be varied at will by the use of suitable filters 0 rer the camera lens - no filter at all producing a 'bald' or white sky. The 2 x yellow filter will give a delicate grey tone to any blue sky making the white clouds present, prominent, while the orange and red filters will produce an almost black sky. Correct choice of which filter to use is very important, and one must learn to select one which will give a tonal rendering in keeping with the subject.

Other important points to take special care with when using the sky for a background are; objectionable grain of the film, this is always more pronounced in large areas of even tone which are prone to over exposure. It can best be avoided, or at least minimised, by careful estimation of exposure, development, and


At events such as a Veteran Car Rally, where this picture was taken, crowds milling around your subject often spoil the picture. By taking a lower viewpoint the main subject can often be set against the sky, isolating it from the crowd and giving a much more pleasing result. A $2 x$ yellow filter will ensure that any blue sky in your picture will be rendered a pleasing shade of neutral grey


A slightly raised viewpoint obtained in a children's playground by standing on a seat gave a neutral background - using the ground. Otherwise the picture would have been spoiled by children, trees, seats and other distracting objects in the background
of course, use of a fine grain film. Scratches, dust spots, uneven development or drying marks too, are more noticeable on large even toned areas; these can only be avoided by being scrupulously clean in all the stages of the processing of both negatives and prints.

If you cannot make use of a low viewpoint to produce a sky background it often pays to look around for some means of using a more elevated one where one can shoot down on to the subject. The ground then, be it earth, sand, roadway, etc, will provide a simple background.

Moving slightly to the left or right of course, speaks for itself, and is the obvious thing to do to avoid such classic examples as "a telegraph pole growing out from Auntie's head'. This may sound silly and something you would never do, in cold print - but just how often is it done in practice? Many times I'm afraid and it is never realised until the finished print is viewed, when of course, it is too late to remedy. (C.R.)


Lastly shape $C$ in Fig. 3 (a simple rectangle) is cut and applied to the inside of the cover where it forms a

By S. Martin

IN a recent article in Hobbies Weekly, readers were shown how to add extra interest to their holiday photography by keeping a photo-diary. Here we describe the making of an album which would be ideal for displaying these photographs.

One advantage of making your own photograph album is that it is literally 'made-to-measure', the size and the number of pages being regulated to accommodate the pictures to be displayed. This is particularly useful when a limited number of snaps are involved, as would be the case with a photo-diary. Consequently, the sizes quoted here may serve as a guide, but may be varied to suit the reader's requirements.

For the two covers you will need some stout, smooth cardboard. This should be cut to size as shown, so that you have a total of four pieces; two for each cover. This cardboard is covered with one of the self-stick plastic surfaces such as Con-Tact or Fablon, but before this can be done, the two separate pieces of each cover need to be hinged. Cut a piece of self-coloured plastic material to the shape $\mathbf{A}$ shown in Fig. 1 and then, placing it on the two pieces of cardboard which go to make the cover, fold over as shown. Self-coloured material is advised here as patterned plastic used in this
position would tend to off-set the design on the main cover.

For the main cover itself, any one of a number of gay designs could be used depending on the reader's taste. Selfstick plastic in one of the realistic finishing off panel to hide the folded edges of shape $B$.
When using self-stick plastic surfaced material, do your marking out on the backing paper, using its squared surface as a guide. Then, when you peel away the backing, carefully apply the plastic to your cardboard, smoothing out from the centre with a cloth or with your hand to prevent the formation of air bubbles.
You now have two identical front and

looking wood grain surfaces would be another pleasing alternative, or the reader may decide to use self-coloured material throughout. Whatever the design chosen, the material should be cut to shape B, and then fitted in place on the main cover, carefully folding the edges to the inside of the cardboard as shown in Fig. 2.

back covers for your album. For the inside you will require some sheets of stout black or grey paper suitable for mounting photographs. These should be cut to the sizes shown. The number of sheets which you require will depend on the photographs which you intend to display. A dozen makes a useful little album, and the number of pages is probably ample for a photo-diary project. However, the number can be easily varied to suit your needs. Care should be taken to see that the pages are all trimmed to the same size. When you are satisfied that the edges are all even when the sheets are placed on top of one another, two holes should be made in their left hand side. The distance between these two holes is 8 cms . and this is the spacing made by a standard office file punch. If you do not own one yourself you may have a friend or relative who works in an office and who can punch the holes for you. Failing that, all the pages may be placed together and the holes made with an ordinary $\frac{1}{i n}$. diameter drill. If you do use this method however, press the sheets very tightly together as you drill and place a piece of scrap cardboard on the top so that any

raggedness in starting the holes is in this and not in the pages themselves.

Similar holes will be required in the left hand edge of each of the covers, and these will need finishing with brass eyelets Fig. 4. These are inserted in the holes, and then lightly hammered so that they are retained in place.

Now your album is nearly finished.

Gather the inside sheets together and place them between the two covers so that all the holes on the left hand edges line up. A length of gaily coloured' silk cord is now threaded through and tied in a bow. To make this feature of your album really attractive, each free end of the bow could be knotted about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in. from its extremity, and this portion of
the silk combed and brushed into a tassel.
Finally, to give your album a real photo-diary look, take one of those embroidered souvenir tourist badges which so many people collect on holiday, and glue it to the lower right hand corner of the front cover. It will form a novel crest and will establish the theme of your diary in pictures.

## Tiddlywinks Target

AGAME of 'Tiddlywinks' keeps the kiddies highly amused, and this target for games of skill is easily made up for contests on the lawn, or (if it's raining) on the table.

Six coloured tiddlywinks are flicked in turn towards an improvised egg-box target, using a larger disc; and the score of each player is added up from the numbered compartments.

## By T. S. Richmond

Mark out on to strong cardboard the two patterns A and B and cut them out. Fold up the two sloping sides (along dotted lines) of A, and the supports and bottom tabs of $\mathbf{B}$.

Assemble the two units as the illustration shows, sticking them together with glue (which can be held until dry with adhesive or gummed paper), or use an impact adhesive.

If card from an old box has been used this can be covered with some fancy craft-paper. Draw round a tiddlywink to mark the six starting positions $\mathbf{X}$.

Remove the lid section from a sixcompartment egg box, and fit the tray inside the target. Rest the front edge on a piece of wood, 1 in . wide, and raise the

back of the tray with a piece of wood or a matchbox so it slopes at the same angle as the side wings.

Paint 'score' numbers on the back board to correspond with the six holes in which the tiddlewinks are aimed. The player who makes the highest score with his or her six tiddlywinks wins the game. Various ways of playing the game can be devised. Store the tiddlywinks under the tray when not in use.

## To keep you amused

## HOLIDAY GAMES

IF you are going on a long car or bus journey for your holiday it is a good plan to arrange a few games and so avoid boredom or monotony. We describe here a few games for the journey to pass the time and a few more you could play on the beach, in the park or in the country.

## Car registration numbers

As you travel along the road you will see many types of vehicles from all over the country, each bearing a different registration number. One game you may play is to quote the town where the vehicle is registered, but you will need a handbook to verify these. Without a book of this kind you may spot cars whose registration letters will spell words. Among these we would quote letters which would make such words as GUM, FAR, COW or ATE. And if you look again at the last example you will observe that it will also spell TEA and EAT.

We do not need to formulate many rules for this game and it may be sufficient if we agree that only approaching cars should be included in the game.

The first player spotting a word and calling it out should gain a point. If he makes more than one word he gains a point for each word and the winner is the one with most points after the elapse of an agreed period.

An extension of this game is to spot the figures on the registration plate, adding these up and calling out. For example, we may see a vehicle ABC456, so we add the figures giving 15 then say 1 and 5 equals 6 . The idea is to reduce the numbers to one digit. A point is given to the first correct caller.

## Spotting animals

We can extend our spotting activities to animals seen on the journey although this game may be best for two players, each one taking one side of the road only. Here we must tabulate a scoring chart but this may be extended or reduced at your discretion.
Score points as follows:
Cats 1 point White cats 2 points Dogs 1 point Black dogs 2 points Horses 2 points

White horses

| Cows 1 point | Sheep <br> Pigs | 3 points <br> 1 point <br> Black sheep |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 point |  |  |

Rabbits 2 points Unusual 10 points The 'unusual' may be anything regarded as a rare animal on the road or in the country, as for example a fox or even an
elephant. We leave this for you to decide, but remember all animals must be alive.

## Guessing games

There are many kinds of guessing games we may play while travelling in a car although some will depend on the type of road. On a country road where the traffic is not unduly busy we may guess the colour of the next vehicle to be seen. A correct forecast. wins a point. Or we may elaborate on this simple idea by guessing the type of vehicle we may next encounter. The following table is a suggestion for scoring for the latter kind of game.
Vans 1 point Tractors 3 points Buses 2 points

## Fire engine

10 points
Pedal cycles
Road roller
2 points
The first to score 50 points is the winner.
On the straighter, busier roads even on a motorway - it is possible to decide on some object a distance away. It may be a church spire, a bridge or a farm building, perhaps half a mile away. The driver of the car may select the particular building giving the word 'Start' when the players close their eyes. When a player thinks the object has been reached he mæy open his eyes and call out 'Now' and the player with the nearest forecast is the winner.

## Journey details

Older children can always help with the navigation of a car, watching the route map and mileage between points. There is also the opportunity of keeping a mileage chart along with the average speed for the whole journey, so you should arm yourself with notebook and pencil. Notes of lay-bys, good parking sites and places for refreshments may be useful for the return journey.

Historical, architectural and other interesting features you meet may be noted as well as unusual inn-signs. Keen photographers may be especially interested in these items.

So much for occupying your time on the journey. We may now turn our attention to a few novel games you may play after your arrival at your destination. The weather may be cool, and if so we shall have to consider a few 'warmingup' games with some less strenuous ones for warmer days. You may need a ball for some games but no doubt you will have one with you.
Knee boxing - Here you may move
about quite freely, the object being to tap your opponent's knee with your open hand. Only give gentle-taps or joy may turn to tears.
Foot fencing - Move about lightly trying to tap your opponent's toes with your own. This is not a game for heavily booted feet of course and it is advisable to wear plimsolls. Stamping and kicking is forbidden.
Sawing trees - Two partners stand facing each other while clasping hands. Lift the arms to shoulder level commencing a strong sawing action backwards and forwards with each arm alternately. This can be great fun for a short while if fast, vigorous movement is worked up from a moderate start.
Chinese tug of war - Opponents stand back to back, each on their own side of a centre line. The head is bent down and each other's hands grasped through the legs. The object is a tug of war and to pull the opponent over the centre line but a little trickier when performed in this fashion.
Chinese boxing - In this game the two opponents stand facing each other with both arms raised forward. The right hand of each grasps the left wrist of the other, the left hand thus being free to move. The object is then for the opponents to endeavour to tap the top of the other's head with the free hand but dodge away to avoid his own head being tapped. Opponents may move freely.

Three passes - You may use a ball for this game or improvise one from a towel rolled and knotted. Players operate with a partner and the object is to pass the ball from partner to partner three times. Other players are also paired and their object is to intercept the passing while trying to complete the three passes themselves. The pair making the greatest number of three passes are the winners. Incidentally, we might mention that when a pair has achieved a win three passes - the ball is tossed into the air as the 'kick-off' for the continuation of the game.
Bucket ball - For this game, suitable for two or more players, you will require a small pail and a ball for each player. Mark a rectangle and playing points along the sides.' Note that these points should be approximately in the centre of the sides and marked with a stone or peg. The pail is placed within the rectangle but well off-centre. The players endeavour to throw their ball into the pail. If one succeeds the players then move around to the next playing point in a clockwise direction and the game proceeds similarly. This continues until the players have all resumed their original positions and the winner is the one who scores most goals.
(S.H.L.)


NOT many pop singers can have had as much excitement, misfortune and disappointment crammed into their first two years in show business as 20 -year-old Bobby Shafto.

Discovered by Lionel Bart, Bobby recorded a number called Over and Over. It sold well - but failed to make the Hit Parade. This was followed by a second record, and just when Bobby looked like being set for stardom, he had the misfortune to te involved in a serious car accident.

In June, 1963, when he was on a onenight stand tour in Germany, the car in

## BOBBY SHAFTO

which he was travelling crashed into a lorry. His driver was killed, and Bobby was rushed to hospital, where he was on the critical list for some time. His recovery was slow and an eight-month period of enforced convalescence followed.

During this time two events occurred which affected his future careet. Firstly, he met his present manager, Robin Britten, who discovered Craig Douglas. Secondly, he had a course of singing lessons from Mabel Corran, a well known opera-singer-turned-sing!ngteacher, who has taught such leading artistes as Mark Wynter, Dickie Valentine, and Craig Douglas. The result of her work could be clearly heard on Bobby's new record, released in April,

## THE LE ROYS



The Le Roys - they have backed singers John Leyton, Billie Davies and Mike Sarne made their bow as recording artistes in their own right with 'Gotta lotta love' and 'Don't cry baby' on HMV POP1274

'She's My Girl', a driving up-tempo number. It is on Parlophone R5130.

Bobby is 5 ft .10 in . and has fair hair and blue eyes. He has one brother and two sisters; he has a keen clothes sense and likes to think up original ideas for his suits and other clothing.

His ambitions are two-fold: international stardom and to own a Spanishstyled house.

## FATS DOMINO



This is Mr Rhythm and Blues himself Fats Domino, whose latest release, 'Lazy lady' l'I don't want to set the world on fire" can be located on HMV POP1281. Fats, by the way, has a special piano installed in his New Orleans home with a key-board of pink ivory ! Since his first record came out in 1949 ('The fat man'), it is estimated that Fats has sold close on $60,000,000$ records.

## Novel Settings for Pot Plants

POT plants, with their touch of fresh greenery all the year round, are deservedly popular nowadays. They are not always shown to the best advantage, however, but this is a matter which is comparatively simple to arrange.

Instead of having the plants scattered around the room, concentrate them in one place and add some unusual feature which draws the eye to them. For example, one obvious spot for pot plants is along the top of bookshelves. Here, an attractive idea is to add a tiled canopy, as shown in Fig. 1.

## By A. Liston

All that is needed is a piece of thin plywood or hardboard, the same length as the bookshelves, or, if they are in a recess, the same length as the recess itself. The width of the panel should be a few inches greater than the shelves below it. Strengthening spars of 1 in . square stripwood are screwed to the underside of the sheet, and it is then attached to the wall at an angle of 45 degrees. Triangular end-pieces of hardboard or plywood are fitted if the canopy is not to be placed in a recess. Masonry pins, or wall plugs and screws can be used to fix the canopy in place.
Fig. 2 shows how the tiles are fitted. They are the very light expanded polystyrene roof tiles. Those about 6 in. square or less look best for this purpose. Before they are put in place with adhesive, a strip of wood, the same thickness as the tiles, is glued along the lower edge of the hardboard. This allows the lowest course of the tiles, which is laid first, to lie at the same angle as those above. After the adhesive is dry, the tiles are painted with emulsion paint, preferably in a colour linking them with the shelves below, and contrasting with the wall behind.

Another idea is a pelmet which is also a trough for pot plants. This unusual fitting, which is easily constructed, is shown in Fig. 3. All it consists of is a normal pelmet with the front and sides raised to a sufficient height to hide the pots placed in it, Fig. 4. The front panel can be of plywood or hardboard, but the sides and floor of the pelmet should be of wood at least $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, to take the weight of the plant pots.

After the pelmet is painted and screwed

or hooked in place, the plants can be arranged in position. Lining the trough with polythene sheeting, or slipping a plastic bag round each pot will prevent any drips from causing damage when
the plants have to be watered. Alternatively, the very real-looking plastic plants now obtainable can be used to supply the floral decoration at the window all the year round.

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# Interesting Locos-76 THE 'STARS' OF THE G.W.R. 

THE '4000' class 4 cylinder 4-6-0 express engines designed by Mr G. J. Churchward were indeed the 'Stars' of the old Great Western Railway and were probably the most noteworthy of the Ten-Wheelers to run in this country. This class originated in April 1906 when the first engine, No. 40 (later No. 4000), North Star left the Swindon erecting shop. She was originally built as a 4 cylinder 4-4-2 Atlantic type, but after a series of trials she was converted to the 4-6-0 type in 1909. As first built she did not carry a name but in September of the building year, she was given the name North Star, reviving the name carried by the old broatd-gauge 2-2-2 engine. In 1929 Mr C. B. Collett rebuilt her to the Castle class.

In designing the Star class Mr Churchward provided four simple expansion cylinders with divided drive between the two leading coupled axles. This arrangement was adopted from the 4-4-2 De-Glehn 4 cylinder Compounds which Mr Churchward obtained from France in 1903 and 1905. In 1907 North Star was followed by ten 4-6-0 sister engines from Swindon, Nos. 4001-4010 carrying the following names in the same order. Dog Star, Evening Star, Lode Star, Morning Star, Polar Star, Red Star, Rising Star, Royal Star, Shooting Star and Western Star.

No. 4003 Lode Star is now preserved at Swindon as a locomotive of historical interest. No. 4007 was renamed Swallowfield Park in 1931, whilst 4009 was rebuilt to the Castle class and renamed Lloyds, the number being altered to 100. A1.

In 1908 a further ten were built. These were numbered 4011-20 being named after various orders of knighthood.

In 1909 Nos. 4021-30 came out. These carried the names of English kings, No. 4021 King Edward being used to haul the Royal funeral train of King Edward VII.

On the introduction of Mr Colletts' King George V class in 1927 this series were renamed as Monarchs, No. 4021 being renamed British Monarch.

In 1910-11 Nos. 4031-40 appeared. These were named after Queens of England, No. 4031 being named Queen Mary.

In 1913 Nos. 4041-45 came out named after Princes No. 4041 being named Prince of Wales.

In 1914 came Nos. 4046-60 named after Princesses. Finally the last twelve, Nos. 4061-72 the Abbeys built by Mr Collett in 1922-23 making a total class of 73 engines.


Great Western Railway. 4-6-0 'Star' class locomotive No. 4046 'Princess Mary'. Built 1914, Swindon

The following leading features are representative of the class - Cylinders, 15 in . diameter and 26 in . stroke with 8 in. diameter piston valves. Wheel diameters, bogie 3 ft .2 in ., coupled 6 ft . $8 \frac{1}{2}$ in. Boiler, Swindon standard No. 1 with conical barrel having a length of 14 ft .10 in , with centre line 8 ft .6 in . from rail level. Heating surface, tubes $1,686 \cdot 6$ sq. ft. and firebox $262 \cdot 62$ sq. ft. There were 176 tubes of 2 in . diameter, and 14 superheater flues $5 \frac{1}{8} \mathrm{in}$. diameter the elements being 1 in . diameter. The
working pressure was 225 lb . per sq. in. and engine wheelbase $27 \cdot \mathrm{ft}$. 1 in. The grate area was 27 sq. ft . and engine weight in working order 75 tons 12 cwt .

The tenders at first provided, were Mr Churchward's type having a tank capacity of 3,500 gallons, but in later years some of the class were given Mr Collett's standard 4,000 gallons type. The class became extinct in 1957 when the last two survivors, Nos. 4056 Princess Margaret and 4061 Glastonbury Abbey were finally broken up. (A.J.R.)


## A NOTE PAD 'QUICKIE'



AUSEFUL article such as this simple pad and holder can be made up in minutes. It should be possible to complete several in an evening. It is an acceptable gift and could be made up for 'sales of work'.
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Clean up with glasspaper and varnish all over. Glue the pad in position and attach a small pencil. Transfers cost 2s. 3d. per sheet postage 3d. from Hobbies Ltd, Dereham, Norfolk.
(M.p.)

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