

When it comes to bowling, Leslie can't hit a barn door!





























LOOK-IN reporter Angus Allan finds out the facts when he spends some time . . .

IN SHOW-BUSINESS, there isn't a cornier, more overworked line than "He's the nicest guy, wish to meet. Not a touch of conceit. Totally unspoiled..." and so on, and so on. Which may it a rare pleasure to say that, in Val Doonican's case, the description happens to be absolutely to But why? What's so special about this amiable son of Waterford in Eire that makes him the mode in man with a million fans? Perhaps part of the answer can be found in Val's own





**** rsoponal family life.

While he confesses to be absolutely delighted that so much of his material is popular with the younger audience, Val admits to being kept down to earth by his own two children, Sarah (aged six) and Fiona (aged five). One of his favourite anecdotes proves the point.

"The kids were just going to bed the other night and I was coming down from my study. I had a guitar in my hand. The little one says to me 'can I play a tune, Daddy?' So she plunk-plunks on the strings and starts singing some little song they learned in school. Then she says 'you sing a song for us, Daddy.' Well, I asked them what they'd like, and started singing something or other—but half way through it they went out! You see, I'm only Daddy to them. I don't suppose they even realise that I'm an entertainer for my living!"

Success Story

Val has always been a down-to-earth sort of character. One of his great philosophies is that he never goes chasing success. When people ask him what he would really like to do in show business, he replies that he's doing exactly what he likes right now. "The man who goes striving, striving after bigger and better things," he told me, "can't ever be satisfied, and at peace with himself. How much better it is to do what you can do to the best of your ability and, if unexpected bonanzas happen to come your way, enjoy the pleasure of a delightful surprise."

It seemed likely, right from the very start, that Val's life would involve music. His boyhood home in Waterford was always full of it. Every member of his family owned some kind of stringed instrument—curiously enough with the exception of a guitar, so it was inevitable that one of Val's earliest aims was to get hold of such a thing and learn to play it.

Thanks to the help of a professional musician who lived close by, Val got his wish. After six months of hard practice he found himself playing a summer season with a quartet of local lads. From there, he went to Radio Eireann with a sponsored series, and eventually accepted an offer to join a group called 'The Four Ramblers', whose touring commitments brought him across to Britain in 1953.

McGinty's Goat & Co.

"Some of our material—you might call it Irish pop of the period, tunes like the 'Tipperary Samba'—was written by a chap called Tommy Connor, and it was Tommy who wrote 'Rafferty's Motor Car' for me in

Val the family man — with his wife and daughters Fiona and Sarah, more recent years. Now, this type of song is the kind that's most popular with younger people, and I suppose it's become one of my trademarks."

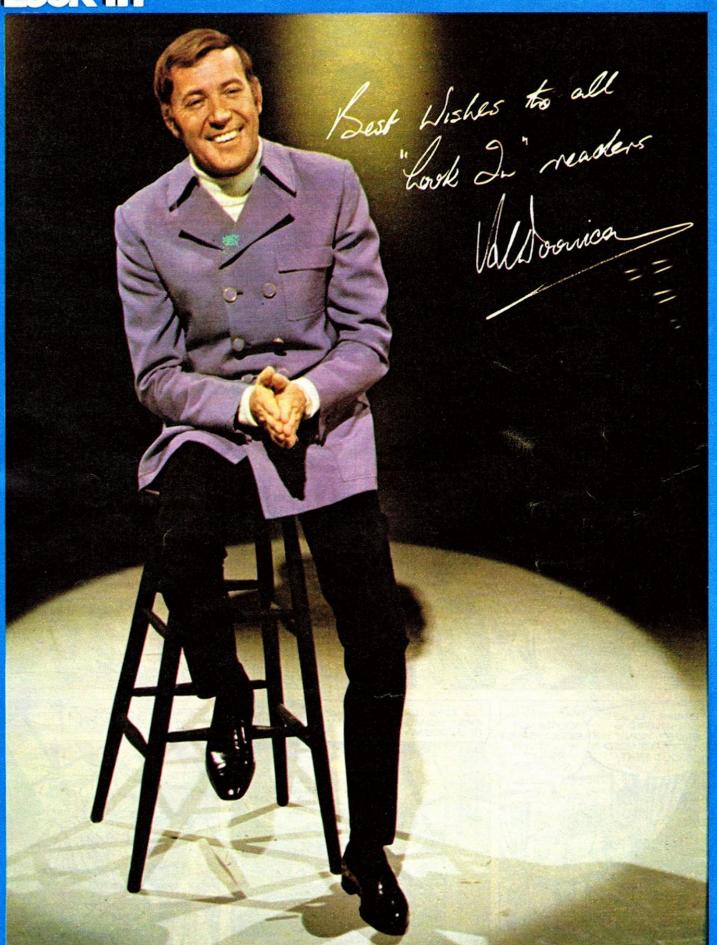
I asked Val if the crazy goings-on in the motor car song, and those in such of his numbers as 'Paddy McGinty's Goat' or 'Delaney's Donkey' had any kind of basis in fact, but of course the answer was a firm 'no'.

"The 'stage' Irishman is a sort of musichall institution," he said. "Nothing more. Often enough, those sort of songs aren't even written by Irishmen. Delaney's Donkey' for example, was from the pen of a Liverpool comedian named Bill Hargreaves. He wrote it in 1912."

How did Val first come to sing that kind of material? "It was during the radio programmes I had over here in 1961 or thereabouts," he said. "Just to break up the full orchestral ballads a bit, I began throwing in the occasional comedy number, accompanying myself on my own guitar. It was an early show, and I began receiving a lot of fanmail from housewives and their children, saying how much they liked them. I suppose they caught on because I happened to be the only person singing them at the time."

'Fun' is possibly the key-word to Val Doonican's whole personality. As a boy, he got it by making his own kind of music, along with likeminded friends, at any old time to suit themselves. These days, despite the high pressure, organisation and timing of top-flight radio, film and television presentations, he does exactly the same. Val is an entertainer who enjoys himself as much as his audience . . . and it shows.

Look-in



VAL DOONICAN







































'A patchwork quilt of fields far below . . . an empty pit in your stomach as you wait for the 'chute to open.' This week Magpie looks at life-saving parachutes and the men who use them.

HE put-putting noise of the little USAF Dakota's engines echoed off the fog-shrouded mountain peaks just two thousand feet below.

Ace fighter pilot Tom Smith looked out with the other eight passengers and thought of the mountainclimbing holiday that was taking him to this dangerous place.

Suddenly, the little plane was gripped by a crazy, unseen hand -a wild quirk of the atmosphere that made it stand on its tail, then its nose, and then fall like a rock towards the craggy mountains below.

The wind scamened and Smith saw a great jagd at strip torn out of the fuselage as the rollcloudtwo hurricanes going in opposite directions-tore the little plane to pieces.

There was a loud explosion and he found himself somersaulting through space—the plane had split in two just where he was sitting.

Seconds To Live

He plunged through the clouds at a hundred and twenty mph, already certain he was dead. After a stomach-sickening fall of over two thousand feet he crashed into the upper slopes of the mountain below, sending a cascade of soft snow in all directions. He lost consciousness, woke up, and tried to understand he was still alive.

Tom Smith was quite a rarity -most people use a parachute when they bale out of a plane.

Since Andre Garnerin stepped out of the basket of his hot-air balloon in 1797 and floated gently to earth with only a giant silken umbrella for company, millions of lives have been saved by parachutes.

For parachutes don't only save the lives of people dangling on the end of them. Millions of pounds' worth of food-stocks have been dropped to famine areas by 'chute, and the Second World War was shortened by the dropping of guns and other weapons to the resistance fighters in occupied Europe.

In 1947 three Russian airmen



broke a world record or two when they dropped eight miles from the stratosphere by para-

Nightmare Dive

Robert Tuck was a long, long way short of eight miles when his RAF plane smashed into another above the south of England. One pilot was killed. and Tuck wished he had been too as the mangled remains of his plane howled earthwards with him trapped hopelessly inside. Violently he tore at the cockpit canopy: it was jammed. He knew the end must be near.

Then, after what seemed hours, the wind pressure whipped away one side of the wrecked cockpit. Tuck fell out. He saw the green fields of Sussex, horrifyingly close, at first above, then below, then above him, as he somersaulted through the air. It was too late: the 'chute would never open in time!

Then that gentle plop! that

every parachutist knows and he was floating peacefully down at a steady ten mph. Tuck was to live another day after all-as over thirty German pilots were to find to their cost at the hands of one of the greatest aces of all

What does it take to become a member of the Red Devils-the British Army's famous parachuting regiment nicknamed by the Germans because of the great daring of the red-bereted sky-soldiers?

A new book, called Action Man-Parachutist, shows just how tough the training is. Join Action Man as he signs on . . .

New recruits hardly see a 'chute in their early training days -they are too busy on assault courses, battle training, mapreading. It's a hard course, but after walking across slippery poles fifty feet up in the air you come out of it with a definite head for heights.

Next comes a training course,

then a couple of drops from a practice balloon-and then the big day. The first drop from a real plane.

It's frightening, sitting there listening to the endless drone of the engines and looking at that great empty draughty hole in the side of the plane through which you are about to go.

One...Two...

Now! Throu lummet -a patchwork que fields far below . . . an en olumling in the pit of your stoma fieu wait for the 'chute to op hur's
But it always does, a second

or two after tugging that ripcord.

Of course, some people don't want their parachutes to open. They prefer to leave it a while, linking hands with up to nineteen others as they plunge through clouds and blue sky, twisting and turning their bodies to send them this way or thatany direction apart from upwards is said to be possible-



until at the very last moment they tug the 'cord and land spot-on in the middle of a small target painted on the ground.

The sport is called skydiving. the men who do it, brave.

The army's Red Devils skydiving team is an amazing sight to see, with the coloured-smoke canisters strapped to the divers' boots sending wild-patterned doodles in red, green or blue all over the sky.

But there isn't just a visual thrill for the spectators watching the skydivers. The Red Devils display team give a running commentary of their demonstrations through helmet-mounted microphones. So their twentysecond plunge can be heard as well as seen!



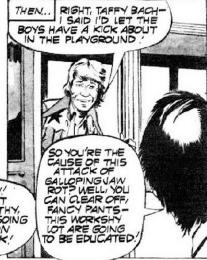
Pricey gets tough with his pupils' teeth!



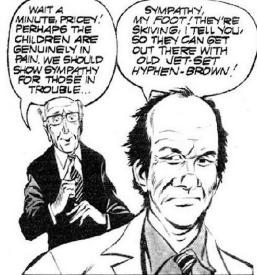
















WAITA



Paper chase chaos for Cromwell, next week!



For all of you who've asked for information about the new Paul McCartney record, we wind at last to inform you that and at as Wings Wild Life'. The record by glad at most this month, was celebrated by a as Wingous ball held in the Empire Lnew 1 this Leicester Square. Top artised at or Elton John and Led Zeppelin Wininvited—so were Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

This is Paul's third solo album since the Beatles broke up. The first, simply called 'McCartney' featured himself and his wife, a very domestic affair recorded at home, on a variety of instruments including a toy xylophone and . . . a bow and arrow! Then came 'Ram' earlier this year, again made with wife Linda's help—she co-wrote, produced and played on the record. Now his third record introduces a new group, Paul and



Linda, plus guitarist Denny Laine and drummer Denny Seiwell.

Paul is now the father of three girls, Heather, Mary and Stella. Most of the time he and his family live in an elegant house in central London, but they love to spend their holidays on their sheep farm in Argyllshire. There they continue to lead their quiet life, planting vegetables, walking, and watching the animals. Perhaps this explains the title of his latest record. I'm sure Paul's album will be a great success. I hope so.

See you next week.

Bye for now.

Tick which one you want for Christmas



YOUR VIEW

Stephen Lewis, who plays 'Blakey' in 'On The Buses' selects this week's winning entries from the LOOK-IN Postbag—including the £2 Star Letter...



STARLETTER



Someone near us had found a badger. She was only eight weeks old and nearly dead as her mother had been killed. She was brought to us since we are well-known as animal lovers. Sometimes badgers carry fleas so first mummy gave her a good bath. We fed and loved her very much and called her 'Snuffles'. She used to play with our dog 'Flash'—they became great friends, eating out of the same bowl, even sharing bones, although our cat 'Tom' always treated her with disdain. As she grew older I used to take her for walks on a lead. We live in a pub and if the cellar door was open she would go and drink the beer from the drip-trays. Our customers loved her and cuddled her. One day when I came home from school, my mummy said Snuffles had gone out and I knew she had gone to find a husband and have babies of her own. I felt very sad, but mummy said she would be very happy—she'd had a good home, and lots of love. We miss her very much.

Huard Fontaine, Chepstow Mon.

★ Don't be sad. You know that Snuffles will make a good mother to lots of little Snuffles, like the cubs in the picture. Thank you for writing, Huard.

RING TREE

For the past few months I have been collecting rings as my hobby. I started off with seven and now have thirty of them. I used to keep them on a small ornamental tray, but they used to get brushed onto the floor. Then I had an idea. I went outside and broke off a twiggy branch of a tree. I then anchored it in a pot of plaster and decorated the outside with sea shells that I painted with nail varnish. Now my rings hang very prettily from their tree.

Kim Guyatt, Gillingham, Kent.

★ Sounds a very good idea, Kim like an all-year-round Christmas tree. Collecting sea-shells is another interesting hobby.



Jeffrey Brewster, Histon, Cambs.

KING OF THE RING

When we visited London recently, we went ondon unch in a restaurant looking in London the back entrance of The unium. Suddenly a crowd of of them were cliff Richard of them were cliff Richard Olivia Newton-John. I watched them having their photographs taken and they seemed very nice, pleasant people. As if that wasn't enough, I turned my head to look down the street and there was the unbelievable Cassius Clay striding along towards us. What a lucky day!

Christine Richardson, Croydon, Surrey.

Thought you might like this photo of Muhammad Ali (as he prefers to be called) snarling with rage, after a fight with Jimmy Ellis. He's been visiting England for a few days, so you were lucky to spot him.

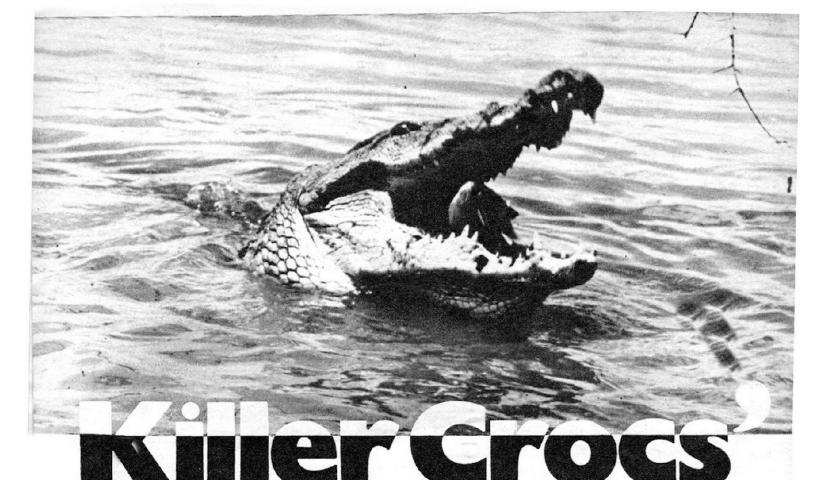


Win £2 for the Star Letter, £1 for any other letter or joke, plus a special signed photograph of the Your View star. Write to Your View, LOOK-IN, 247 Tottenham Court Road, London WIP OAU. Remember when you write to include a list of your six favourite features in order of preference.





A desperate rescue bid, next week! 15



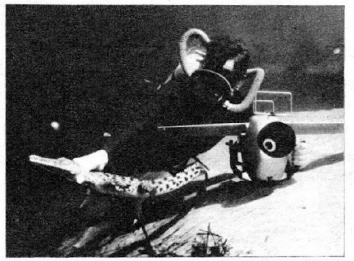
Colin Willock talks about the deadliest animals in the Okavango . . .

Well, I actually made it. To reach the heart of the Okavango Swamp, a watery world as big as Wales in Botswana, southern Africa, we had to use a special vehicle called a 'Unimog'. Nothing else will cope with the deep ruts along hundreds of miles of bush tracks, let alone the treacherous swamp itself. The Unimog has enormous tyres and six forward gears that will get it out of almost any trouble.

We're camped right beside one of the thousands of clear water channels that compose the swamp. Today, my colleague, cameraman Dieter Plage has been filming crocodiles—underwater.

He had one nasty encounter just before I arrived here. A six-foot croc' swam straight at his camera and bit the underwater housing.

I'm quite happy to watch these reptiles (and there are plenty around our camp) from the safety of the bank!



Above: Dieter Plage grabs a young Croc' during filming.



Crocodiles are fascinating if rather horrible creatures. Did you know that they are one of the most successful animals on earth? That is, they've hardly changed their form in a hundred-and-fifty million years. Not many of nature's designs last that long.

Dieter doesn't seem to be worried about them. One point about the Okavango crocs' is that they have plenty of fish to feed on. Wherever there are fish to be caught, crocodiles seem to prefer them to anything else.

Probably when they attack humans they mistake them for moving fish. It's a comforting thought!

Yesterday, I watched a large croc' eating a dead antelope that we'd put into the water to attract it. It seized hold of an entire leg of the antelope and spun itself round and round in the water. Eventually it tore the limb right off. Bearing that in mind, I think even the intrepid Dieter will be glad when he's finished his underwater filming in the swamp.



BUT ! ASSURE YOU! WE ONLY SELL THE BEST! MEANWHILE, FRANKIE R NORTON, TO ADD TO THE CHAOS. ABBOTT, DRIED OUT, HAS RETURNED TO ARCHIE GOT YOU, YOU LITTLE WRETCH DREW'S ENQUIRY AGENCY. HANK ABBOTT REPORTING FOR DUTY AGAIN, CHIEF GOTA LEAD ON THAT CAT-NAPPER.

THEN ...

OY, FRANK! YOU'D
BETTER COME QUICK!
DENNIS HAS GOT
'IMSELF INTO A REAL
OLD BARNEY WITH
THEM CATS O'
YOURS! THERE ISN'T ONE. THOSE CATS REPORTED MISSING HAVE TURNED UP.
THEY WERE IN
FARADAY'S FISHERY
COLD STORE.

LUMME! I...

THINK WE GOT PROBLEMS,

ARCH'

YOU AIN'

EVENTUALLY, IT'S SORTED OUT NORTON IS A PUR SALESMAN, BUT THE CATS ARE HIS OWN **PETS...**







THAT'S RIGHT, MISSUS, YOU GIVE IT 'IM! HE'S BEEN BUYIN' THOSE MOGGIES FROM OLD NORTON

TAKE THAT! YOU DESERVE IT!

Esmonde and Bob Larbey

John 64

and

@ 1971 Esmonde Larbey Ltd.



Air-freight operators Sam Turner and his son Scott are hired in Bangkok by a man called Lai Wong, to fly a load of tractor spares to Calcutta. But the crates really contain three men and some filming equipment. And after an hour in the air...



MOR

And here we go into Christmas month!

Time really goes quickly when you're working hard and/or enjoying yourself, doesn't it? Just think, school will be over soon (what a shame) and you'll be able to blow all that money you've saved for Christmas presents. I've suggested a few ideas to you already—the Magpie and Stewpot Annuals and the Airfix Construction Kits, for instance-and then you've probably seen Alan Bali's (the king) soccer game Soccerama.

They'll keep you occupied on those long winter evenings if you're an Evertonian. If you support Blackburn, then Tony-the-Teeth has a great game about the pop business called Chart Buster which shows you how to become a pennyless D.J.like me!

But, seriously-do you like reading? The Editor sent me a parcel by ********************







carrier pigeon (the poor thing was so exhausted it could hardly say 'coo') and a message which said: Suggest you read these and tell your readers how interesting they are. Otherwise you're FIRED! Funny I thought, he's not getting the Christmas spirit at all. Then I realised he wrote one of them, but I'll tell you about that next week. *****

In Rules of the Game you'll spend hours reading about sports you've never even dreamed of playing. I mean, do you know what 'in hand'

*********************** means in billiards? Oh! You don't know what billiards are. You'll find out in Rules of the Game and if that's not all, there are seventeen other chapters from volleyball and football to netball and basketball. And you'll be able to catch your dad out on any rule you like:

You: "Dad, what's a bird?"

Answer: "Well, my boy, it's a thing that sits in trees and sings, and your mother likes to wear their feathers in her hat."

You (as if you knew all the time anyway): "No it's not, it's an alternative name for the shuttle in badminton."

Fifteen love!

What's fifteen love? Ah well, it's a score in tennis and you'll have to buy Rules of the Game for a fuller explanation. From your favourite ironmongers or hot-dog stand, price £1.05p. Very good value.

****** Sometimes, of course, you buy people books they've already got -but how are you to know?

Here's an example. Last week, I told you about my brother, who's o

writer and works for a publisher. Well, a couple of Christmasses ago, I bought him a book on South "America (where he works a lot written by Charles himself), Darwin.

When he pulled it out of his Christmas stocking he said: "Thanks, Ed. We've sold twothousand copies in Argentina, alone, and I've four-hundred more sitting on my desk, spare!"



Get your skates

on

- * Double ball-bearing
- * Tyres replaceable
- * Self-Guiding



Jacobs Roller Skates Limited, "Jaco Works" Crawley Rd., Wood Green N.22

The Look-in Crossword



Across

- 1. This week's star strip man, pictured here, plays Jason King (5,8).
- Tennis game between pairs; stand-ins for actors.
- 8. Your television is one.
- Fenn Street Gang regular played by Leon Vitali.
- Freewheelers character, popular name for a microphone.
- 12. Represented by PC Poppy in Tottering Towers.
- A group of experts like our How team.
- 16. Mix-up.
- 17. A doctor in short.
- 18. Nickname of 6 down.
- The kind of jockey 6 down is.
- Robert—our origami expert.
- 22. Blakey, the inspector in On the Buses.

Down

- Troops who jump from aeroplanes—2 down is one.
- Soldier who wears the red beret, seen on our Magpie page this week (3,5).
- 3.... View, on our letters page.
- Actress who was Follyfoot's Dora.
- Iris is Jean Skinner in Timeslip.
- Pictured LOOK-IN regular (2,7).
- First name of actor playing Jonathan Flaxton.
- 14. A letter often dropped.
- Prime Minister Heath or actor and singer Woodward.
- 17. Mum from On the Buses.
- 18. Steam ship abbreviation.
- 20. Please Sir's Mr. Price ends with what you can skate on.

Answers

Pictured: Peter Wyngarde; Ed Stewart

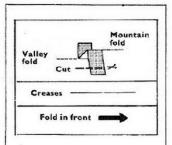
Across: I. Peter Wyngarde; 7. Doubles; 8. Set; 9. Craven; I. Mike; I.Z. Law; I.S. Panel; 16. Tangle; 17. Dr.; 18. Stewpot; 19. Disc; 21. Harbin; 22. Stephen. Down: I. Parachutists; 2. Red Devil; 3. Your; 4. Gillian; 5. Russell; 6. Ed. Stewart; 10. Alan; 14. Aitch; 15. Edward; 17. Doris; 18. SS; 20. Ice.

ANNOUNCEMENT :

You can win £1!

If you feel you can invent a new Origami model, write down the details (together with your own name and address) and send them to Do - It - Yourself Origami, LOOK-IN, Junior TVTimes, 247 Tottenham Court Road, Lon-

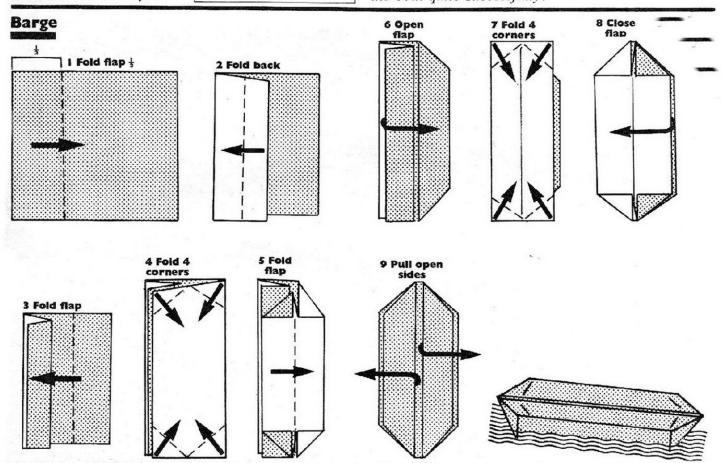
don W1P OAU. I will send a £1 prize for any item I select to publish.



Many of you will know that the Japanese have, for centuries, been experts in the art of paper-folding, so I thought that this week you would like to make this model of a traditional Japanese barge.

You will need a square of paper, coloured on one side. If you use glossy paper, you will be able to float

the boat quite successfully.



Look out for next week's Lookin

* The fun is fast and furious when Look-in takes Mike and Bernie Winters on a visit to the zoo.

* Attention Origami fans. Robert Harbin tells you how to make your own Christmas decorations.

* Also next week - Eric Duffy gets rich quick in a hilarious new Fenn Street Gang adventure.

It's all in next week's lookin order your copy now!



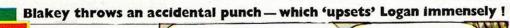
The cloaked figure clears the tall gates with a mighty bound!













DURING AN OBSTACLE-GOLF MATCH WITH STAN, INSPECTOR BLAKE HAS A ROW WITH LEFTY LOGAN, ROW WITH LETT LUGAN, AN EX-PROFESSIONAL BOXER WHO HAS FORCED HIM INTO A BOXING BOUT IN THE HIGH STREET GYM THE NEXT DAY...



SO THE FOLLOWING MORNING ...



AS BLAKEY CLIMBS INTO THE RING... OOOH! I'M LOSING MY BALANCE ! WATCH IT, LEFTY! HE'S ATTACKING!



SWIPE ME FROM THE BACK WOULD 'E! WHERE IS HE? I'LL PUMMEL 'IM THROUGH THE FLOOR!

IT'S ALL A MISUNDER-STANDING-SOMEONE TELL HIM!



BLAKEY STRIKES AGAIN, EH, STAN? IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, MATE. COME ON, WE'D EXPLAIN!



WHAT'S

I DON'T KNOW
WHY WE SHOULD
BOTHER — BUT
YOU SEARCH
DOWN THERE
AND I'LL LOOK
THIS WAY!

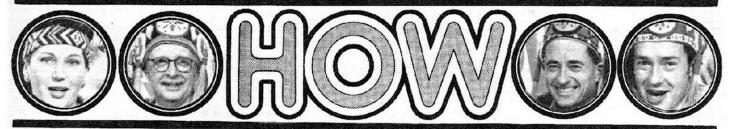
MATE, I'LL STILL BE YOUR SECOND TOMORROW— AND YOU CAN





HE'S STILL AFTER
ME—AND HE'S NASTIER
THAN YOU ARE. I'LL
GET YOU FOR THIS,
BUTLER—SO HELP
ME, YOU SEE IF
I DON'T!





were rockets invented, and by whom? Dale Leahy, Aldershot Hants.

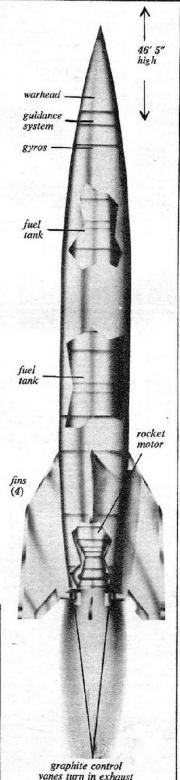
The first rockets were almost certainly made in China. They may have been used in action as early as A.D.994 at the siege of Tzu T'ung, when the defending general sent 'arrows of flying fire' scorching towards his enemies. Again, in the 1230s, there are references to rockets being used in China. The earlier ones may be merely been arrows tipped with something inflammable. But the later ones seem to have been rockets propelled by gunpowder, which was invented in China. They were tubes of black powder attached to arrows. The arrow feathers were later left off when the firers realised that the rockets still flew straight after the feathers had been burnt off by the exhaust of the rockets. Soon the new weapons were being used in Europe as well.

These early inventors had stumbled on the basic principle of the rocket—that it is a device containing fuel and oxygen which, when they are burnt, create a backward gas jet that thrusts the rocket forward. Gunpowder was the 'propellant' of rockets for many years, as it still is in fireworks. And though better propellants now enable men to reach the Moon, the principle of this back thrust remains the same.

Mo do you get 'pins and needles'?

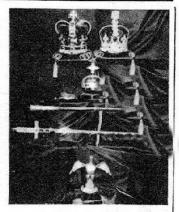
Louise Brown, Peverell, Devon.

From 'messages' or impulses, which pass through the body to the brain via the nervous system. They can happen because the flow of blood to an arm or a leg is limited, or almost stopped, which affects the nerves, but they can also start when there is pressure on a nerve.



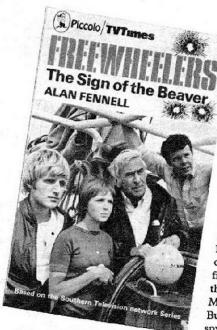
to act as rudders

old are the Crown Jewels? Lynn Marren, Bolton, Lancs. If you mean the 'regalia' as a whole, Lynn, which includes crowns, orbs, sceptres etc., then most of them only date back at the earliest to Charles II's reign in the 17th century. Oliver Cromwell, who had had Charles's father's head cut off, had most of the existing treasures melted down or sold. The crown used for the actual crowning ceremony was made for Charles II's coronation in 1661.



But some of the actual jewels are much older. One magnificent ruby in the Charles II crown was worn by Henry V at Agincourt in 1415, having been given to Edward the Black Prince in 1367 by the King of Castile. And a sapphire in the cross on the top of the crown comes from the coronation ring of Edward the Confessor, who came to the throne in 1016. The oldest piece of regalia, a spoon into which anointing oil is poured, may date back to 1199.

Diplomats kidnapped . .



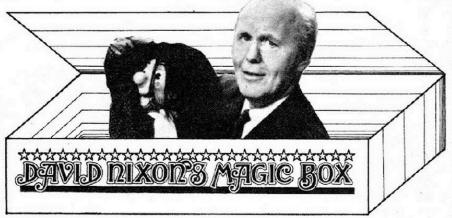
The audacious kidnapping of top diplomats from all over the world signals the start of an exciting adventure for the Freewheelers and their friends in MI.6.

"The Sign of the Beaver", a Piccolo/ TVTimes paperback by LOOK-IN editor Alan Fennell, leads the Freewheelers on a trail of danger from Salisbury Plain to the Persian Gulf. Iim. Mike, Sue and Col. Buchan in their latest spy chase.

On sale at bookshops—20p.

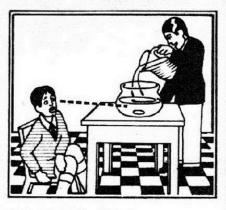
on your ITV programmes this week: Dec 4- Dec 10





Phantom Coin

For this amazing optical illusion you need a clear glass bowl—like a gold-fish bowl—a coin and a jug of water. Place the bowl on the table with the coin in the centre. Now get your victim to sit on a low chair a few feet away—so that his eyes are level with the table top. Due to his angle of vision he will be unable to see the coin. Then pour the water very carefully into the bowl, and he will be amazed to see the coin appear right before his eyes like a mirage. Try it and see for yourself.



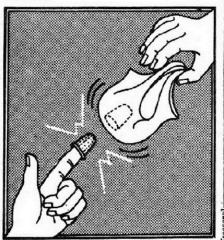
Counting Catch

Ask your friends to count from 1 to 10. 'Easy!' they will say: '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10'. Now ask them to count from 10 to 1 backwards. Unless they are very sharp they will say '10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.' But this time they are wrong, because 10 to 1 backwards is really the same as 1 to 10—in other words—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

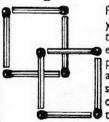
Nimble Thimble

Here's a clever trick that looks like sleight-of-hand. You will need a hand-kerchief and two thimbles, one of which is small enough to fit inside the other one—and out of sight. Place both thimbles together on your left fore-finger (so that your audience can see only one) and cover them with your handkerchief. Now reach under the

handkerchief, remove the larger thimble and put it on again over the handkerchief. Gather the corn hand him he handkerchief together, and the hand large thimble off your finger. If the friends will be surprised to see him he there is still a thimble on your fingant it will appear that the thimble hand penetrated right through the handkerchief.

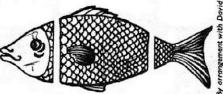


GEASER, GIME



For last week's teaser you had to make three squares with eight matches. The picture shows the answer. Two large squares, and one small one where the other two overlap.

Your new brain-twister concerns a prize fish caught by an angling friend of mine. Its head was ten inches long. The tail was as long as the head plus half the back, and the back was as long as the tail and head put together. How long was the fish?



ent with David Nixon. Based on the Thames TV programme. [Illustr

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