

MNC NEWS

No 89
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"LONG JOHN? AYE,
HE'S WITH SEA-LINK NOW."



WHAT'S ON - ENTERTAINMENTS GUIDE

ABC CHATHAM

1. Up In Smoke X Sun. 4.40 : 8.20 :: Week. 1.40 : 5.20 : 8.55
2. Quadrophenia X
2. Alien X

ABC GRAVESEND

1. Up In Smoke X Sun. 5.20 : 9.00 :: Week 1.40 : 5.20 : 9.00
2. Quadrophenia X Sun. 5.30 : 8.25 :: Week 2.30 : 5.30 : 8.25
3. Alien X Sun. 5.45 : 8.35 :: Week 3.00 : 5.45 : 8.35

ODEON ROCHESTER

1. Alien X Sun. 4.00 : 6.55 :: Week 2.00 : 4.50 : 7.45
2. Kentucky Fried Movie X Sn. 5.00 : 8.15 :: Week 2.35 : 5.50 : 9.05
3. Moonraker X Sun. 4.10 : 6.55 :: Week 2.10 : 4.55 : 7.45

GRANADA WELLING

1. Kentucky Fried Movie X Sun. 4.50 : 8.00 :: Week 2.30 : 5.35 : 8.50
2. Alien X Sun. 5.00 : 7.40 :: Week 2.55 : 5.40 : 8.20
3. French Erotic Fantasies X Sun. 5.40 : 8.30 :: Week 3.40 : 6.25 : 9.20

ABC BEXLEYHEATH

1. Up In Smoke X Sun. 4.45 : 6.40 :: Week 1.30 : 3.20 : 6.55
2. Quadrophenia X Sun. 4.30 : 7.30 :: Week 1.40 : 4.35 : 7.30
3. Moonraker X Sun. 4.30 : 7.30 :: Week 1.35 : 4.35 : 7.30
4. Midnight Express X Sun. 4.45 : 7.30 :: Week 2.15 : 5.00 : 7.40

COLLEGE CINEMA - ROOM 430 - 20.00 hrs. Oct. 24th

Mother Jugs and Speed starring Raquel Welsh

Black comedy (similarities to Mash) of private ambulance outfit in L.A.

Anyone interested in JAZZ should have a look in the Dartford and Swanley Chronicle dated 11th October, on page 10.

BONFIRE PARTY, 5th November

The R.N.L.I. is organising a bonfire party for Monday 5th November down on the front near the boat-house, where such things as soup and hot dogs will be for sale.

The bonfire will be built on the weekend before, 3 - 4th November, and if anybody could lend a hand in collecting wood, etc., could they please see Brian Dickinson.

NOTE: DO NOT BRING FIREWORKS

As you know, we are right next to a paper mill, so from a safety aspect, fireworks may not be let off.

Another date you might like to put in your diaries is the 15th December, when the R.N.L.I. will be holding their Christmas bazaar.

YOU ARE INVITED to a WINTER BALL

to be held at Merchant Navy College on Friday, 23rd November 1979.

The Association of Old Worcesters are holding their annual ball here this year and have very kindly offered to staff and students at the college tickets at half price.

This is the Event of the Year. Don't miss it

Tickets available from the Library, price £5.50 (single)

FILM REVIEW

AIRPORT 80' - THE CONCORDE

Is it a bird?

Is it a plane?

No! It's Airport 80' flashing across the screen at Mach 2 just to entertain you and to give all those fine "actors" something to put in their bank accounts. This film has it all: action, tension, drama, romance, adventure, intrigue; need I say more?

Well, it all starts with this plane called Concorde and this missile chases it but the pilots outmanoeuvre it, then this jet comes and tries to shoot it down, but somehow it too misses and crashes in the sea. Then after a little rest (for some) we're off again. This time the back door falls off and the plane is out of control, but the brave and wonderful pilots (George Kennedy, Alan Delon) manage to crash them in the Alps on a ski slope that one of them just happens to know. Quick exit for all the passengers, and the plane blows up - HURRAH!

As you have probably gathered by now I didn't really think much of the film. Well, you're wrong. I didn't think anything of the film.

The plot was thin, to say the least, and the acting Well, if I told you Silvia Kristal was one of the stars?!

You might have thought that with such a star as Miss Kristal they might have tried to salvage the film by getting her to take her clothes off, but alas (for some) this was not to be; the powers that be had decided that the thing she did best they didn't want. But what, I hear you say, of Airport 81'? Well, it sounds like a right carry-on to me (get it? - oh well).

IMPORTANT

On Wednesday, 1230, 24.10.79, a Surgery will be held in the Medical Department, as it will on every following Wednesday during term time.

Any student wishing to see the doctor must arrange an appointment, preferably on Tuesday, but certainly by 9.0 am on the Wednesday. This is in order to allow the doctor to allocate his time in conjunction with outside calls.

Any more serious medical conditions which may occur in the meantime will be dealt with 'pronto'.

SISTER

The College RUGBY TEAM
plays Poplar Engineering
College this Sunday,
Kick Off at 10.30.
Your support would be
welcome.



LEGAL TENDER

"I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of one pound." I noticed the other day - they still put that on bank notes, even the new ones, with the signature of the Chief Cashier of the Bank of England printed underneath just the prove the note, and therefore, one supposes, the promise, is genuine.

I wonder what would happen if one took the Bank of England up on this: if one stuck a bank note in an envelope and sent it off to Mr. Page with a request that he and his Governors honour their promise. There would probably be a sharp explosion of admonitions about the illegality of sending cash by unregistered post - despite the fact that a bank note is not money, just a Promisary Note, as the wording on it makes clear, but what else?

It would be pleasant to imagine a nice chink of gold or silver coins as the equivalent value in real money came back by return of post (or special liveried messenger) - but alas, that could not be - gold is no longer permitted coinage in the United Kingdom - only those silly bits of paper that still insist they are not really money either. That being the case, must one conclude that in fact we have no "money" at all in this country - just promisary notes that have been worthless for more than the lifetimes of many of us?

Unfortunately, one must. Unfortunately, because once one has fallen into the habit of making empty promises, and, even more, once others have realised this fact but have still gone on accepting them, it is the easiest thing in the World to go on making more and more as they become the convenient solution to every problem, the hardest thing to stop.

"I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of one pound". Most of us have forgotten that this is on our notes - doubtless many never even knew it was ever there. The promise has become the money; the bit of paper with the printed signature the only legal money, and the more that are printed - the more everyone can have - so long as empty promises remain generally acceptable.

The trouble is, the value of anything drops as it becomes the more easily obtained. With something like gold this could never happen, because once its price dropped below a certain level it ceased to be worth while digging it up and so the supply stopped increasing. But paper can be made and printed on endlessly at almost no expense at all. In Germany in the 1930's the end result of such a course pursued to the ultimate, where even the dullest could see that their money was worthless, was the installation of a ruthless dictator and, ultimately, the most hideous war the World has yet seen. In some present day Communist Bloc countries it is accepted officially that the currency is valueless and every means are employed to bring in foreign exchange - even to subsidising export industries to a ridiculously loss-making level in order to ensure the goods will undercut all competition abroad.

A country that does this is exporting its very substance - putting out more than it gets back, until in the end it must either beg - or take back what it has given away, for in the end it can no longer afford to buy in the materials it needs to produce its goods for export, unless it is so rarely fortunate as to have all the raw materials it needs within its own territory. This, too, happened to Germany in the 1930's.

As with Governments, so with individual employers. If a Thing costs So Much to make and sells for So Much, the What's Left is the maximum that can be shared out among the actual makers, however little this may be. If they are paid more - they have not earned it, the firm does not really have it, and the moment it gives what it does not have a firm sets off down the path to ruin and collapse just as surely as did pre-war Germany - and the ready availability of a printing press and a goodly supply of bank-note paper can do no more than conceal the disaster until it is too late.

When the supply of gold sovereigns ran out, one had to wait until someone had gone and dug some more up.

MS

PICTURE THIS!

"Aircraft wishing to attract attention circles ship once and flies off in the direction of the other ship flapping its wings."

EARLY DAYS IN THE RADIO SERVICE by T.D.S.

Part 2 Lodgings, and First Ships

My first fortnight in the Marconi Company was devoted to learning the clerical side of the business and getting in some morse practice on real messages. The school at that time was on the seventh floor so it was rather an exhausting trip up there twice a day as we students were not allowed to use the lift. Later when I returned to complete my training the school had been moved to the basement which made life a lot easier.

I had no idea where I should find digs in London but fortunately I met one of my Manchester colleagues who took me along to where he lodged and the landlady was able to take me in too.

The ships sailing out of London at that time mostly carried only one operator so it was more or less essential to transfer me to Liverpool, from which port all the North Atlantic liners carried two men. So after my preliminary training I duly reported to the company's depot there, then situated at Seaforth.

I had no difficulty finding accommodation there as a colleague had given me an address, with the added attraction that the landlady had four daughters. Certainly when I arrived at "Baltic Villa" in Sandy Road, Seaforth, a charming young lady of about 18 welcomed me in and I was made very comfortable by her mother, Mrs. Pinel. The other three daughters turned out to be aged 14 downwards.

My parents came to see me off on my first trip and also stayed at "Baltic Villa", but unfortunately discovered the landlady and some of the senior men imbibing stout and considered this to be no place for me to stay. But "Baltic Villa" was a popular place with radio men and I made it my home when in Liverpool up to the start of the First World War.

My first appointment was to the DEVONIAN, of the new extinct Leyland Line, for a voyage to Boston and back. I remember she was a notorious roller, but mal de mer affected me little and I enjoyed my first taste of the sea.

The ship's main transmitter consisted to two 10 in. induction coils with the standard multiple tuner and magnetic detector receiver and the daylight range with this equipment was about 200 miles, though ships with tall masts and a larger aerial might have exceeded this a little. But two fast liners each doing about 25 knots passing each other did not have more than a few hours to exchange messages before they were out of range again.

We have all heard of the "fish liar" who catches 4 ft. salmon with a bent pin, and it was about this time that the "radio liar" came into being. Whenever a group of radio men got together some tall stories were told of the great ranges each man had achieved. Doubtless with a bit of "freaking" contacts were made over many hundreds of miles, especially at night in southern waters and the Indian Ocean.

My second voyage was in the Cunard liner FRANCONIA to New York and back and on that ship we did achieve some greater radio distances as she was one of the few ships carrying a 5 k.w. fixed spark transmitter. In addition to the standard receiver there was also a Fleming valve receiver used by my chief, Albert Cobham, for copying Poldhu press and I was not allowed to touch it.

Mr. Cobham rarely helped me out of any difficulties, saying that if I did not learn then, I never would. So I plodded along and certainly left that ship a little more experienced.

In addition to Mr. Cobham there were some grand old timers who had joined Marconi company in its very early days and who subsequently became inspectors and in some cases depot managers. A few names I recall were Billy Davies, for years in the first MAURETANIA, Billy McGhee in the CELTIC, Balfour of the BALTIC and Bob Leith, then in the CARONIA and subsequently in the LUSITANIA when she was torpedoed. All these old timers are mostly passed on now but they were all experts on the key and the standard of telegraphy was of a very high order.

Next week - "London Digs"

'ORRIBLE CROSSWORD

Clues Across

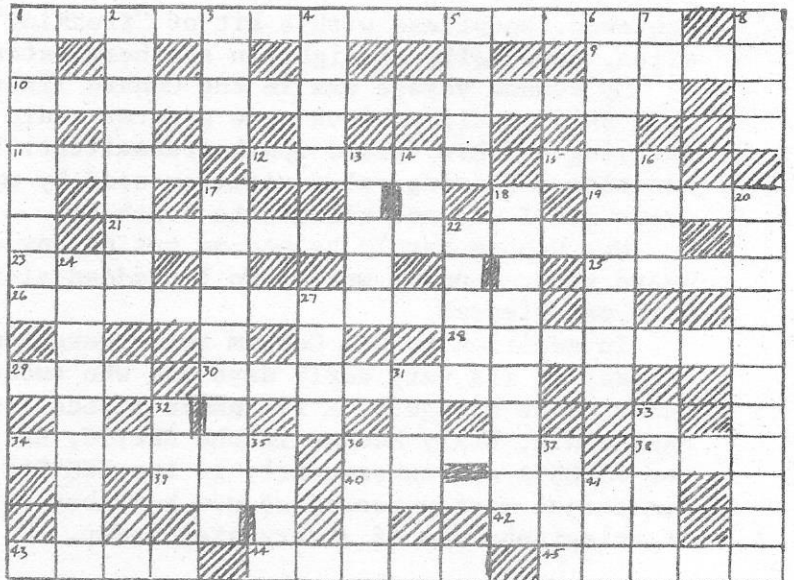
1. (6,3,5) Where infiltrators operate with hidden meaning.
9. (4) Mid-day.
10. (4,10) Call a halt to spending when these show red!
11. (4) Diving bird, or lad.
12. (5) Gives way to grief, like the willow tree.
15. (3) Curve, could be sparking.
19. (4) Last place on Earth to rest -
21. (12) - or a desert hotel.
23. (3) Commands 'all the King's men' in Turkey.
25. (4) CAN I arrange to be Peruvian Indian?
26. (7,4) Refuse, where to put it.
28. (4,3) Should be no dead wood on this tree!
29. (3) Unrefined, but not necessarily base.
30. (4,3) Came in with the field.
34. (2,4) Making a journey - ready to go.
36. (5) From August often with verve.
38. (3) Old ship in the clock.
39. (3) Rocky moor.
40. (7) Regret concerning code.
42. (4) Not the word for open-handed.
43. (4) Sour apple shows up poor oarsman.
44. (5) Submarine hunter put another way IS CAD.
45. (5) Dampness, caused, no doubt, by these clues!

Clues Down

1. (6,3) Inflated transport?
2. (6,3) Sounds good-looking vehicle Homes used.
3. (4) Place for little birds to agree.
4. (5) Deal for profit.
5. (5) Tibetan monks burdened in Peru?
6. (11) Good for a laugh?
7. (1,1,1) Briefly - help!
8. (4) Bargain cut.
13. (5) African antelope could be country of Rising Sun.
14. (3) Literary instrument for confinement.
16. (4) I in CON? Must be counterfeit!
17. (10) Giving orders - to follow the Cross.
18. (7,3) Curious cat who saw what he shouldn't.
20. (8,3) Fainting, learner in reverse.
22. (5) Place in the hills to spend an Indian Summer.
24. (3,6) Arms smuggler in a hurry!
27. (4) In it has found a stew.
31. (4) Describes Casanova!
32. (3) RAT prepared for the Louvre.
33. (5) Stage setting for 6D.
35. (4) Boat to sail in Malaya.
36. (4) A national one spreads power around, and is handy for map reading.
37. (4) More of 29A.
41. (3) Wise saying with cutting edge.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

T E N T S T I T C H A S I D E
 E O H A C N V
 L R O P L A N C H E T T E
 L M P I I D I E N
 A T A L L S T O R Y N I N E
 L N I C S M O G D F
 I C F O H N A S L
 E O T A S N A P P Y Y
 K N E E N N N A B
 A Q R E D L E T T E R D A Y
 D R U M T E E K N
 J E E O U Z E L O N I
 U P S I D E S Y O L I N G
 N T G S T P L U G H
 C E R E A G E N T
 T A K E S I D E S D R



In each case below, find the letters that go with the ones given to make complete words.

H
L
ST

H
D
S

R
M
C

D
H
L (. . .)