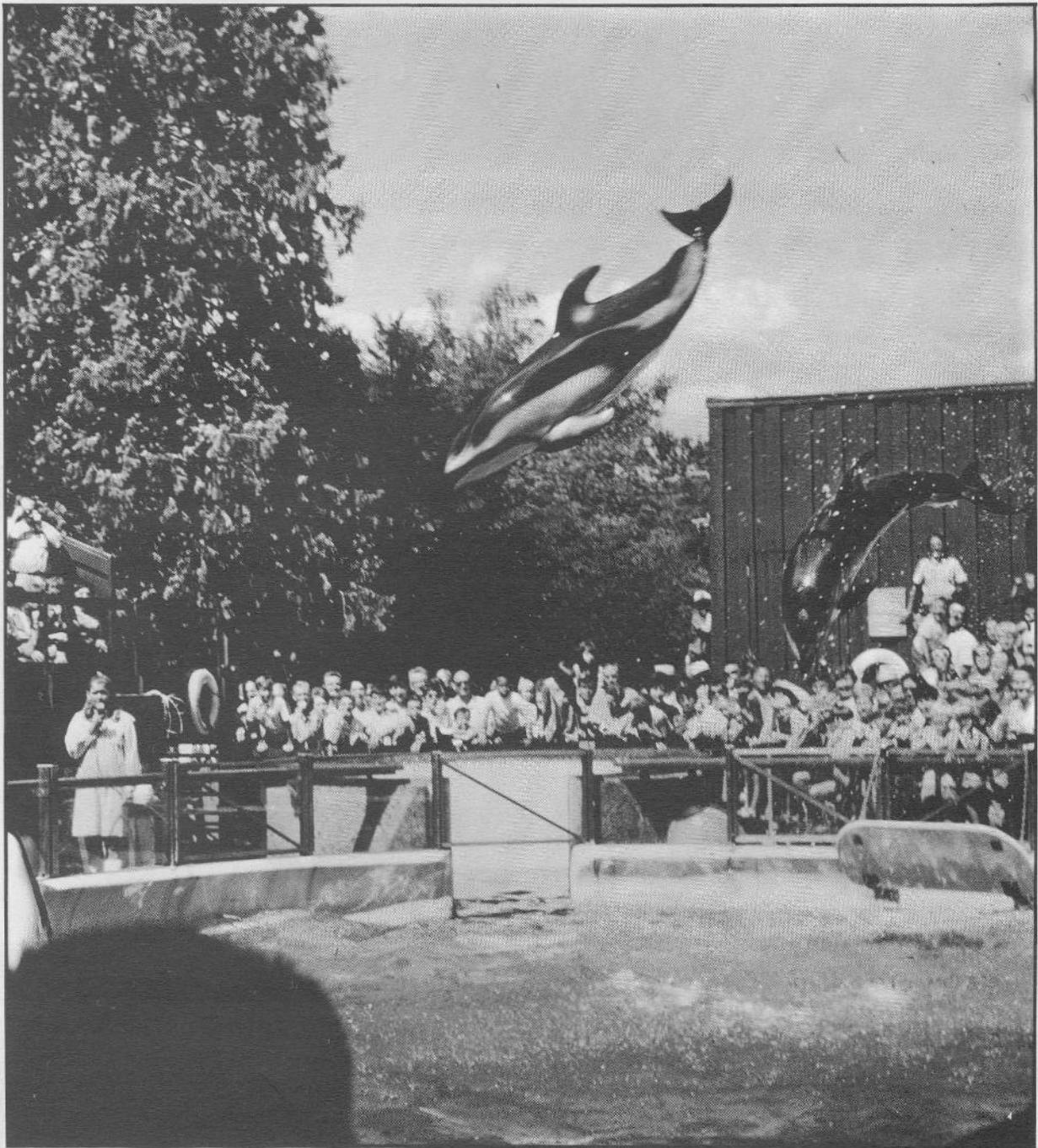


**bush  
telegraph**

oct 1968



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# BUSH

# TELEGRAPH

WOOD LANE'S CLUB MAGAZINE

Cover —

Editor

Geoff Holder

Editorial Board

Brian Tilbury  
Ernie Cave  
Mike Hagger  
Penny Hamlyn

Dolphins at The Sea Aquarium,  
Stanley Park, Vancouver.  
Photographed by Brian Tilbury.

vol. 14 no. 9

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I believe that personal opinions should not be commented on publicly by officials, only noted and considered, and an editorial is a personal opinion. Unfortunately last month's editorial contained an error of fact which I must correct.

It is not true that the question of changing the club's T.V. for a colour model received a "chilly negative" at the July council meeting. What the council did decide against was financing the hire of a colour T.V. in time for the Olympic Games. And this decision was made with regret as the Hon. Deputy Editor would have discovered if he had questioned any of the council members who were present instead of basing his remarks on an unapproved minute. In view of what was said it is regrettable that in drafting the minute into a legible scrawl for typing I left a sentence out. The full minute, with the correction underlined, is as follows:

1564 Colour Television

Several Club members had asked whether the Club could afford to hire a Colour T.V. receiver for the Olympic Games and had suggested a surcharge as a means of paying for it.

After discussion it transpired that the minimum hire-period would be one year and the cost about £90.0.0 for hire alone. The Club cannot afford it, nor would the Company pay for it. The Vice-Chairman offered to make further enquiries about costs.

(Secretary's note: If sixty members, a quarter of the Club membership, were interested they would have to subscribe sixpence each per week for one year just to hire a set. A subscription of two shillings each per week for one year would provide enough money to buy a set. Figures are approximate).

Constructive criticism and suggestions are, of course, always welcome. One final point, if anyone wants to start a new section it is only polite to tell a club officer before a general enquiry among club members is made.

Yours sincerely,

B.R. Tilbury

Hon.Gen.Sec.

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*Thank You*

Postmark Fremantle,  
Western Australia.

30.8.1968

To The Editor,  
Bush Telegraph.

Dear Geoff,

I am writing this to ask if you would be kind enough to print a 'thank you' on behalf of myself in the 'Bush Telegraph'. I am afraid I didn't have time to see you about this before I left. There were many people I would have liked to have said 'good-bye' to, but being on the switch-board on my own for the last week made this impossible. If you could say something like this in the next issue, I would be grateful.

Wishing you, and the magazine, all the best in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Helen E. Harden

---

## Theatregoers -

A booking has been made to see 'Gone With The Wind' on Friday 15th November, 7 0 Clock Performance. Seats are 15/- reduced to 13/6d. Anyone interested please contact Mrs. Eileen King. (Telephone No. 233).

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# HELP...

Anyone with a spare seat in their car, travelling to and from Putney, willing to give the undersigned a lift please contact Rosemary Brogan. (Willing to pay full contribution to petrol). Tel. No. 248.

# Hockey

After a false start to the season, caused by certain climatic conditions supposedly unusual at this time of year, we managed successfully to complete our second fixture without interruption (except for half-time).

The result, a 1-1 draw, was fairly satisfactory especially as it seemed that many members of the team had forgotten not only the rules, but also the game, during the summer(?) break.

Unfortunately our long serving (suffering) umpire has decided to retire from active duty, and therefore if any club member would like to umpire hockey matches on Saturday afternoons, please contact S. Castle (280). Even if you don't know the rules, we can soon teach you!

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# Table Tennis

The 1968-69 season got off to a good start with wins at home for both teams. On Monday 23rd September in Division VII, the second team won 8-2 against Eastmans III, and on Wednesday 25th, the first team, newly promoted to Division IV, gained a morale-boosting 7-3 win over NALGO (Chiswick).

Don't forget your entry for the Wood Lane Singles Tournament. (Entry form on Page 7 of last month's B.T.).

Late Result Monday 30.9.68 (Div. IV) B.I.C.C. drew 5-5 at home with old rivals M.O.V. III.

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# Whist

The results of the last Whist Drive are as follows:

|                      |             |                      |                      |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Mrs. Gibbs       | (Towel)     | 2nd David Drayton    | (Glove Set)          |
| 2nd Mr. Condon       | (Towel)     |                      |                      |
| 1st half Mrs. Digby  | (Towel)     | 2nd half Mrs. Dawson | (Cushion Cover)      |
| Booby Mrs. D. Parkin | (Tea Towel) | Raffle Mrs. Parkin   | (Fruit)              |
|                      |             |                      | Kay Plumley (Sherry) |

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# BADMINTON

The season is now under way with club nights every Tuesday and Thursday. A men's team has been entered in the Hammersmith and District League once again and will play in Division II.

Sham Rajput is returning to his native land and has therefore relinquished the position of secretary. The new holder of this office is Dennis Groombridge (Tel. 212).

# Film Society

## CONTINUING THE HISTORY OF THE FILM SECTION

Soon after the foundation of the Film Section the film committee began attending 16 mm viewing sessions which were, and still are, organised by the Federation of Film Societies, the idea being that organisers can have opportunities of seeing films available for booking, rather than having to rely on the blurbs in the film catalogues. Apart from small regional events (the local ones being organised by the London Regional Group of the Federation) every spring sees the National 16 mm Viewing Sessions. A few words on this event are called for, if only to illustrate the efforts of the organisers to acquire the best films for their audiences. A 16 mm viewing session is like running in an Olympic marathon in hob-nailed boots. The session starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, finishes at 10 p.m. Saturday night; restarts 10 a.m. Sunday and ends at 10 p.m. Sunday night. If one is keen, a total of about thirty four films can be seen which might cover anything from digging up coal in Wales to Japanese Opera! By Sunday night even your by then square eye-balls will have square eye-balls!! It is like being marooned on a distant planet for the weekend. Still, the French Institute does have its compensations.

It was at the 1956 Viewing Session that we came across LA FETE A HENRIETTE, a film by Julien Duvivier. It was about two film directors arguing about how they would make a film about Henriette's birthday. One wanted to treat it as a romance, the other as a theme for gang warfare! The resulting film was hilarious and well received when we showed it at Wood Lane.

Throughout 1957, the shows continued with varying success and early in 1958 we decided to join forces with another social event. At that time, the Horticultural Section was in full flourish and ably supported by a hobbies and handicrafts band of enthusiasts. Together with the photographic section and some cookery experts they decided to put on a combined social event, with judging and prizes for the best entrants. The evening was to be devoted to a dance in the old canteen. The film section joined in by putting on a film show to fill in the gap between the afternoon and evening events. The film chosen was THE WAR OF THE WORLDS by H.G. Wells. With a captive audience we couldn't go wrong!

In June of that year we screened THE WILD ONE starring Marlon Brando. This was at the time when the film was banned to general audiences in this country. It was a shrewd move. We packed them in!

Reeling from this success we embarked on a very ambitious evening of films under the banner 'Foundations of the Cinema'. We collected together quite an assortment which is well worth listing.

ORIGINS OF THE MOTION PICTURE (1889-1897)  
BEGINNINGS OF THE CINEMA (Britain 1896-1900)  
THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY (U.S.A. 1903)  
LT. DARING AND THE PLANS OF THE MINEFIELD (Britain 1911)  
THE MASQUERADER (U.S.A. 1914-Chaplin)  
EARLY TRICK FILMS (1895-1912)  
BEWITCHED MATCHES (U.S.A.-1913)  
PATHE COLOUR STENCIL-TINTED TRICK FILMS (France 1910)  
EARLY SOUND FILMS (U.S.A., France, Britain 1896-1926)

We still think this show was one of the most interesting that we have ever screened.

We repeated the experiment at a later date but with fewer films.

A horror programme (intentional) was screened about this time. The feature was VAMPYR and the supports THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI (extract) and DR. JEKYL AND MR. MOUSE.

We started 1959 in an interesting fashion by presenting an evening of amateur films including an only copy of THE FESTINIOG RAILWAY (1958) kindly organised by Geoff Ward and one of his colleagues.

That year we also screened such diverse films as ARSENIC AND OLD LACE (Capra), THE LONG VOYAGE HOME (Ford), SMILES OF A SUMMER NIGHT (Bergman), THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (Goldwyn) (which incidentally ran for about 2 years in the West End and collected a record number of Oscars), THE DEVIL'S GENERAL (Germany) and, for Christmas, THE ROAD TO BALI starring Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. We used to have a 'thing' about Christmas film shows. They had to be 'Christmassy' but we never really agreed what this really meant. Consequently; in 1954 it was TONY DRAWS A HORSE (about a little boy who used to draw rude pictures on the walls at home - much to the consternation of his parents); in 1955, THE PRIVATE LIFE OF HENRY VIII (?!), in 1956 BLUE SKIES (a weepy musical), in 1957 THE ROAD TO MOROCCO (same crew); and in 1959 EASY TO LOVE. See what we mean? Today, the same idea is raised - a Christmassy film for Christmas. That's progress!

And so we entered the '60s.

To be continued.

### NATIONAL FILM THEATRE PROGRAMME SUMMARY

|                |              |       |  |                 |              |  |
|----------------|--------------|-------|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
| <b>OCTOBER</b> |              |       |  | 26 Sat.         | 8.30         | Double Indemnity   |
| 7 Mon.         | 6.15         | 8.30  | The Remains Shorts   | 27 Sun.         | 3.00         | Barrabas (Programme will last approx. 8 hours with intervals for refreshments. All tickets 10/- each)  |
| 8 Tues.        | 6.15         | 8.30  | La Pointe Courte   | 28 Mon.         | 6.15         | 8.30 The Crucial Years   |
| 9 Wed.         | 6.15         |       | La Pointe Courte   | 29 Tues.        | 6.15         | 8.30 Five Girls Equal a Millstone Round the Neck   |
| 9 Wed.         |              | 8.30  | Hiroshima, Mon Amour   | 30 Wed.         | 6.15         | 8.30 The Crucial Years   |
| 10 Thurs.      | 6.15         |       | Une Aussi Longue Absence   | 31 Thurs.       | 6.15         | 8.30 Romance for Trumpet   |
| 10 Thurs.      |              | 8.30  | Hiroshima, Mon Amour   | <b>NOVEMBER</b> |              |  |
| 11 Fri.        | 6.15         |       | L'Homme du Large   | 1 Fri.          | 6.15         | 8.30 The Unfortunate Bridegroom  |
| 11 Fri.        |              | 8.30  | L'Année Dernière à Marienbad   | 2 Sat.          | 4.00         | 6.15 8.30 Report on the Party and The Guests   |
| 11 Fri.        |              | 11.00 | NEW FILMS FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL  | 3 Sun.          | 2.00         | JOHN PLAYER LECTURE—RICHARD LESTER (Full Members free; Associates & Guests 5/- each)   |
| 12 Sat.        | 2.30         |       | BFI OPEN FORUM (Admission free: Members and Associates only)   | 3 Sun.          | 4.00         | Romance for Trumpet  |
| 12 Sat.        | 6.15         | 8.30  | Le Joli Mai  | 3 Sun.          | 6.15         | The Unfortunate Bridegroom   |
| 13 Sun.        | 4.00         |       | THEATRE CLOSED   | 3 Sun.          |              | 8.30 REPORT ON THE PARTY AND THE GUESTS  |
| 13 Sun.        |              | 6.15  | L'Homme du Large   | 4 Mon.          | 6.15         | 8.30 CONCRETE FILM (II): A MISCELLANY (All seats bookable)   |
| 13 Sun.        |              | 8.30  | L'Année Dernière à Marienbad   | 5 Tues.         | 6.15         | 8.30 Sunset Boulevard  |
| 14 Mon.        | 6.15         | 8.30  | Letter From Siberia  | 6 Wed.          | 6.15         | 8.30 Ace in the Hole   |
| 15 Tues.       | 6.15         |       | La Règle du Jeu  | 7 Thurs.        | 6.15         | Stalag 17  |
| 15 Tues.       |              | 8.30  | Le Joli Mai  | 7 Thurs.        |              | 8.30 Sabrina Fair  |
| 16 Wed.        | 6.15         | 8.30  | Letter From Siberia  | 8 Fri.          | 6.15         | 8.30 Young and Innocent  |
| 17 Thurs.      | 6.15         |       | La Jetée   | 9 Sat.          | 2.30         | BFI OPEN FORUM (Admission free: Members and Associates only)   |
| 17 Thurs.      |              | 8.30  | Muriel   | 9 Sat.          | 6.00         | The Spirit of St. Louis  |
| 18 Fri.        | 6.15         |       | Le Coup de Grâce   | 9 Sat.          |              | 8.30 The Seven Year Itch   |
| 18 Fri.        |              | 8.30  | Muriel   | 10 Sun.         | 2.00         | JOHN PLAYER LECTURE—FRID ZINNEMANN (Full Members free; Associates & Guests 5/- each)   |
| 19 Sat.        | 10.00 — 8.50 |       | THE OUTSTANDING SPONSORED FILMS OF 1960 (All seats bookable, 10/- each)                              | 10 Sun.         | 4.00         | The Spirit of St. Louis  |
| 19 Sat.        | 6.30         | 8.45  | Bluebeard's Eighth Wife  | 10 Sun.         | 6.30         | 8.50 Love in the Afternoon   |
| 20 Sun.        | 2.00         |       | JOHN PLAYER LECTURE—JEAN-LUC GODARD (Full Members free; Associates & Guests 5/- each)                | 11 Mon.         | 6.15         | 8.30 Hiroshima, Mon Amour  |
| 20 Sun.        | 4.00         |       | Tih Minh (Programme will last approx. 7 hours with intervals for refreshment. All tickets 10/- each) | 12 Tues.        | 6.15         | 8.30 Witness for the Prosecution   |
| 21 Mon.        | 6.15         | 8.30  | CONCRETE FILM (I): HOMAGE TO OSCAR FISCHINGER (All seats bookable)                                   | 13 Wed.         | 6.15         | 8.30 L'Année Dernière à Marienbad  |
| 22 Tues.       | 6.15         |       | Arise My Love  | 14 Thurs.       | 6.15         | 8.30 Some Like It Hot  |
| 22 Tues.       |              | 8.40  | Midnight   | 15 Fri.         | 6.15         | 8.30 Strangers on a Train  |
| 23 Wed.        | 6.15         |       | Ball of Fire   | 16 Sat.         | 10.00 — 8.00 | FORUM: FILM AND ENVIRONMENT, a demonstration of an educational approach to film. With films, discussion, music, poetry and dramatic performance. Admission free. Open to the public. |
| 23 Wed.        |              | 8.30  | The Major and the Minor  | 16 Sat.         | 6.15         | 8.30 Muriel  |
| 24 Thurs.      | 6.15         |       | Five Graves to Cairo   | 17 Sun.         | 2.00         | JOHN PLAYER LECTURE—JACQUES TATI (Full Members free; Associates and Guests 5/- each)   |
| 24 Thurs.      |              | 8.30  | The Emperor Waltz  | 17 Sun.         | 4.00         | 6.15 8.30 La Guerre est Finie  |
| 25 Fri.        | 6.15         | 8.30  | The Lady Vanishes  |                 |              |  |
| 26 Sat.        | 4.00         |       | A Foreign Affair   |                 |              |  |
| 26 Sat.        | 6.15         |       | The Lost Weekend   |                 |              |  |

# the FILM column

## THE FILM CENSOR SPEAKS

The Secretary of the British Board of Film Censors, John Trevelyan, took a bold step recently when he addressed a large audience of the New Cinema Club at the Festival Hall. The evening, which was arranged by Mr. Trevelyan, proved informative as to the origins and methods of the Board of Film Censors.

Particularly interesting was the fact that the Board of Film Censors originated from legal interpretation of an Act of Parliament drawn up originally to cover fire precautions in the cinema! This particular Act legally extended, enabled local authorities to be their own censors - which did not meet with the complete satisfaction of the film industry. As a result the industry set up the Board of Censors (in 1912) as a buffer between them and the local authorities. Mr. Trevelyan was keen to point out the independence of the Board (it is not a Government body) but admitted that in view of its unique position was in something of a dilemma.

Reference to the early years clearly showed the relaxation in the attitude of the BFC. Amongst scenes unfit for the general public were "derogatory comments about public figures", "female legs unclad", "scenes containing political content" (even as recently as 1936), "bed scenes" and many other sequences which today are commonplace.

Of course the main emphasis of Mr. Trevelyan's lecture was on those subjects which are censored today - sex - violence - drugs. Without any fixed terms of reference the case for cutting sequences is based on the moral climate prevailing, the public interests of the film industry (discouragement of poor quality trashy films), legal considerations (for example, the public hair issue) and the requirements of the distributors ('U', 'A' or 'X' certification). The decisions being reached by the Board (Lord Harlech (President), the Secretary, 5 Examiners and the occasional help of professional psychiatrists) being referred back to the distributors so that a compromise can be reached. As is well known, however, some local authorities do not accept the views of the Board of Censors and issue their own licences. In making what are considered necessary cuts, the Censor was careful to point out that such cuts are kept to a minimum and every attempt is made to avoid discontinuity.

To illustrate these points Mr. Trevelyan showed a number of cut sequences which he said should not be treated as a "dirty film show". These sequences included aspects of sadistic violence (becoming more prevalent in certain Japanese and Italian films) and various degrees of pornography (in increasing quantities in the U.S.A.). Both of these subjects were causing anxiety to the Board of Censors. On the films about drugs and drug-taking Mr. Trevelyan pointed out the Board took a firm line in refusing a certificate to any film depicting the subject in a favourable light. On "THE TRIP" which B.I.C.C. Film Society hopes to show during the current season, Mr. Trevelyan said he expected it would be some years before the Board would give it a certificate for public viewing.

The evening was concluded by Mr. Trevelyan's successful attempt to answer a large number of questions put by the audience. Mr. Trevelyan was careful to point out that certain cuts are made by the distributors before the films reach the censor and in these cases the Board is "not guilty". One particularly witty questioner asked that if it had not been for the inclusion of certain censored film sequences could not the lecture have been held in the Purcell Room.

## FILM POLL 1968

The Film Committee wish to thank all those who returned ballot forms (25% up on last year) and who offered suggestions for films. The final selection of films was based on the results of the poll (below), availability and cost. The Committee hopes that the season's programme caters for as many tastes as possible.

The votes cast were:-

|                                   |    |                      |   |
|-----------------------------------|----|----------------------|---|
| The Pink Panther                  | 20 | Underground Films    | 8 |
| Zorba the Greek                   | 17 | The Pawnbroker       | 7 |
| M. Hulot's Holiday                | 15 | Chimes at Midnight   | 7 |
| Electra                           | 14 | M                    | 6 |
| The Train                         | 13 | Fail Safe            | 6 |
| Modesty Blaise                    | 12 | Topkapi              | 5 |
| The Red Inn                       | 12 | Onibaba              | 5 |
| The Trip                          | 11 | Lady in a Cage       | 5 |
| How to Murder Your Wife           | 11 | Yo Yo                | 4 |
| The Spy Who Came in From the Cold | 10 | Diary of Anne Frank  | 4 |
| Two Women                         | 9  | Anatomy of a Murder  | 4 |
| Live Now, Pay Later               | 8  | Bolshoi Ballet       | 4 |
| Hell's Angels                     | 8  | Les Jeux de l'Amour  | 3 |
| Seven Days in May                 | 8  | Birdman of Alcatraz  | 3 |
| The Collector                     | 8  | I Was Happy Here     | 1 |
|                                   |    | Fast and the Furious | 1 |

## NEXT FILM SHOW

The next show on Wednesday 9th October at 6.30 p.m. features the first of two films to be shown this season directed by John Frankenheimer. SEVEN DAYS IN MAY, starring Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas and Fredric March, is a possible (?) and gripping story of an attempt by the military to take over the government of the U.S.A. This is another powerful film in the same vein as Frankenheimers' MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE shown here two seasons ago. Of the three supporting short films, in addition to our own introductory film (have you seen it yet?) FIVE MINUTE THRILLER is a must for all potential murderers.

## FILM RECOMMENDATION

THE GRADUATE (Simon and Garfunkel, 'Mrs Robinson' and all) currently at the London Pavilion and on the circuits.

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# **Navigation Trial**

The navigation trial has been postponed due to insufficient entries for the proposed date. It is now considered impracticable to hold the event until the Spring of 1969 due to increasingly poor weather. We apologise to those concerned for the change in plan.



# The Page 8½ Column

A monthly miscellany.



## 31 WAYS TO KILL AN IDEA

(See B.T. August)

We can't help wondering just how it is that about 20 people suggested the same phrase for No.32. Perhaps "Leave it with me" should really have got the No.1 position in the list!

"The-Sort-of-Reply-We-Wish-We-Could-Think-of-on-the-Spur-of-the-Moment"

## Department

When Jean Harlow, the film star, visited this country, one of the people on whom she called was Lady Margot Asquith. Unfortunately, the actress kept mis-pronouncing the name - it was "Mar-got this" and "Mar-got that", until at last in exasperation, Lady Asquith told her "Look, dear, it's not Mar-got, it's Marg-oh. The T is silent. As in Harl-oh."

- Desmond Carrington, B.B.C. "Roundabout".

B.I.C.C. ATHLETIC AND SOCIAL CLUB  
(WOOD LANE)  
HALLOWE'EN DANCE

on  
FRIDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1968

MAIN HALL  
McFADZEAN LABORATORY

Dancing to the TONY DEE SHOW BAND  
8 p.m. till midnight

Sherry served 7.45 p.m.

BUFFET

BAR

Single 6/6

# *the blackboard*

Her face is blank to start the day  
That is before her chalk make-up  
Changes her and makes her  
Interesting, boring, pretty, plain.

Many times the visage changes  
First full of knowledge; now erased  
Different people, different writing  
Fascinating, irritating, simple, dull.

Black face ends the day dusk grey,  
Ghost words soon to disappear  
Importance has lost its value,  
Vanishing, reappearing, fading, gone.

Beauty is not her quality,  
She is but an instrument of means,  
An individual who stands alone,  
Versatile, adaptable, expressive, empty.

In passing years youth unimpaired,  
Never showing signs of fatigue,  
Her figure is still perfect,  
Ageless, flat, smooth, square.

Only when she is destroyed  
Will her symbol be forgotten.  
Science and the new devices,  
Rearranging, exchanging, overtake.

B.P. Smith

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**B.I.C.C. ATHLETIC AND SOCIAL CLUB**  
(WOOD LANE)

**HALLOWE'EN DANCE**

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Sherry served 7.45 p.m.

**BAR**

**Double 12/-**

**BUFFET**

# UFOS: Radar & Washington

We are departing, this month, from the strict interpretation of what we call Category II evidence to include two most interesting and revealing reports, one at some length.

It is a long held and widely quoted assumption that - "UFO's have never been picked up on radar". The following episodes will help to show otherwise.

The first incident is related by Dr. J.H. Hynek, chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University. He was for some years the consultant to the United States Air Force on UFO's, that is, his job was to try to explain away in conventional terms UFO sightings. In his own words - "I have no trouble explaining the vast majority of the reported sightings, but I cannot explain them all ... one in 25 are bewildering." We will be returning to Dr. Hynek in a later issue, since he is a key figure in the study of UFO's; but his story of radar tracking of UFO's is reproduced here.

On 25th August 1966 in North Dakota, a USAF missile crew's radar transmission was interrupted by static. They were 60 ft below ground in a bunker but other Air Force personnel on the surface reported seeing a UFO, with a bright red light and it appeared to be alternately climbing and descending. Simultaneously a ground radar crew picked up the UFO at 100,000 ft.

"When the UFO climbed the static stopped", stated the report made by the base's director of operations. "The UFO began to descend and appeared to land about 15 miles south. Missile control sent a team to check but when they were 10 miles out static disrupted radio contact. About 5 minutes later the UFO took off. Another was visually sighted and confirmed by radar; the one that was first sighted then passed beneath the second. Radar also confirmed this. The first made for altitude northwards, the second seemed to disappear with a red glow".

No wonder Dr. Hynek was bewildered. Try explaining that in terms of known phenomena.

Now a lengthy report of an episode which took place near Washington National Airport which is equally bewildering and is a first class example of corroborated eyewitness accounts with radar evidence. This was reported by E.J. Ruppelt, the former head of the United States Air Force Project Blue Book (a special project set up to investigate UFO reports and to which Dr. Hynek was consultant), in his "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects".

In his own words "No flying saucer report in the history of the UFO ever won more world acclaim than the Washington National Sightings".

## THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL SIGHTINGS

Very detailed information is available on these sightings but of necessity only the broad outlines can be given here. The incidents occurred in July 1956.

To set the scene it is necessary to have a mental picture of the location of the radar set-up around Washington. Washington National Airport, which is located about three miles south of the heart of the city, had two radars. One was a long-range radar in the Air Route Traffic Control section. This radar had 100-mile range and was used to control all air traffic approaching Washington. It was known as the ARTC radar. The control tower at National Airport had a shorter range radar that it used to control aircraft in the immediate vicinity of the airport. Bolling Air Force Base was located just east of National Airport. Ten miles further east, in almost a direct line, with National and Bolling, was Andrews Air Force Base. It also had a short-range radar. All of these airfields were linked together by an intercom system.

The events can be categorized into two sets of sightings.

### First Sightings

On July 10th the crew of a National Airlines plane reported a light "too bright to be a lighted balloon and too slow to be a big meteor" while they were flying south at 2000 ft near Quantico, Virginia, just south of Washington.

Three nights later another airline crew reported that when they were sixty miles south west of Washington, at 11,000 feet, they saw a light below them. It came up to their level, hovered off to the left for several minutes and then took off in a fast steep climb when the pilot turned on his landing lights.

The next night the crew of a Pan-Am airliner reported eight UFO's, about 130 miles south of Washington.

Two nights later there was yet another sighting, but this time from the ground, the witnesses including a high ranking civilian scientist from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics Laboratory at Langley Air Force Base.

These sightings were all preliminaries to the first big flap.

According to the Civil Aeronautics Authority log book the first major incident started at the airport at 11.40 p.m. on July 19th when two radars at National Airport picked up eight unidentified targets east and south of Andrews AFB. These targets were not airplanes because they would cruise along at 100 to 130 miles an hour, then suddenly accelerate to "fantastically high speeds" and leave the area. During the night the crews of several aircraft saw mysterious lights in the same location that the radars showed the targets. Tower Operators also saw the lights, and jet fighters were brought in. The senior traffic controller and other radar men witnessed these targets on radar. An immediate check of the radar equipment showed it to be functioning normally. The senior controller then called the control tower at National Airport. They reported that they also had the targets on their scopes, so did Andrews. The variable speed behaviour was also confirmed. One target was clocked at 7,000 miles an hour. By now the targets had moved into every sector of the scope and had flown through the prohibited flying areas over the White House and the Capitol.

A definite link-up was established between some airline crews who reported lights in certain positions which were confirmed on the radar scope.

The most startling event occurred in the early hours of the morning when an ARTC traffic controller called the tower at Andrews AFB and told the tower operators that ARTC had a target just south of their tower, directly over Andrews Radio range station. The tower operators looked and there was a "huge fiery-orange sphere" hovering in the sky directly over their range station. Air force interceptors (F-94's) were called in but arrived too late.

### The Second Sightings

It might be suggested (as was) that "temperature-inversions" might cause false targets (this can happen) but consensus of intelligence officers in the Pentagon was that a good radar operator could spot such false targets. These men were experts whose interpretation of the radar screens governed the lives of many people every day of the year. They told the Bolling AFB intelligence officer that the targets they saw were caused by radar waves bouncing off hard solid objects.

The second sightings came along a week to the hour from the first one.

At about 10.30 p.m. on July 26th the same radar operators picked up several of the same slow moving objects. This time the targets were spread out in an arc around Washington. This time there was no hesitation in following the targets. The minute they appeared on the big 24 inch radar scope one of the controllers placed a plastic marker near each blip. When all the targets had been carefully marked, one of the controllers called the tower and the radar station at Andrews AFB - they also had the unknown targets.

By 11.30 p.m. four or five of the targets were continually being tracked at all times, so once again a call went out for jet interception. After another delay two F-94's were airborne and heading south. The reporters and photographers were asked to leave the radar room on the pretext that classified radar frequencies and procedures were being used in vectoring the interceptors. All civilian air traffic was cleared out of the area as the jets moved in. But just as the jets arrived in the area the targets disappeared from the radar scopes. After vectoring into the areas, the jets stayed for a few minutes and then returned to base, having seen nothing.

A few minutes after leaving the area the unidentified targets were back on the scope. What was not realized at the time was that a few minutes after the targets left the radar scopes in Washington people in the area of Langley AFB began to call Langley Tower to report that they were looking at weird bright lights that were rotating and giving off alternating colours. The tower operators themselves saw the same or similar lights and called for an interceptor. An F-94 in the area was contacted and visually vectored to the light by the tower operators. The F-94 pilot saw the light and started toward it, but it suddenly went out. The F-94 crew continued their run and soon got a radar lock-on, but it was broken in a few seconds as the target apparently sped away. The fighter stayed in the area for several more minutes and got two more lock-ons, only to have them broken after a few seconds.

With the targets back at Washington the Traffic controller again called Air Defense Command and once again two F-94's raced to Washington. This time the targets stayed on the scopes when the planes arrived.

The controllers vectored the jets towards group after group of targets, but each time, before the jets could get close enough to see

anything more than just a light, the targets had sped away. Then one stayed put. The pilot saw the light right where the ARTC radar said a target was located; he cut in the F-94's after-burner and went after it, but just like the others, the light disappeared. All during the chase the radar operator in the F-94 was trying to get the target on his set but he had no luck.

Prior to the Washington sightings radar experts had continually pointed out that maybe all of the radar UFO pick ups were caused by freak weather conditions. "If people had just seen a light, or an object, near where the radar showed the UFO target to be, you would have a lot more to worry about" radar technicians had stated many times.

Now people were seeing the same targets that the radars were picking up.

To be continued.

## **WANTED LADYBIRDS preferably alive**

The London Natural History Society, to which the Animal Life Section is affiliated, is conducting a survey of ladybirds in the London area, with two main objectives.

1. To map the distribution of six common species.
2. To investigate whether these species have preferences for particular plant.

If you find any ladybirds please report them to Ron Hall (255) with the following details.

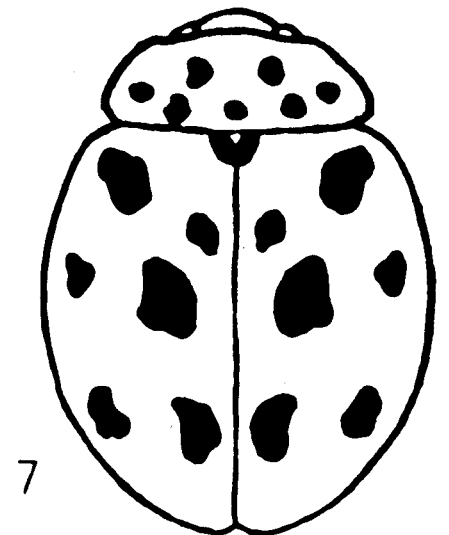
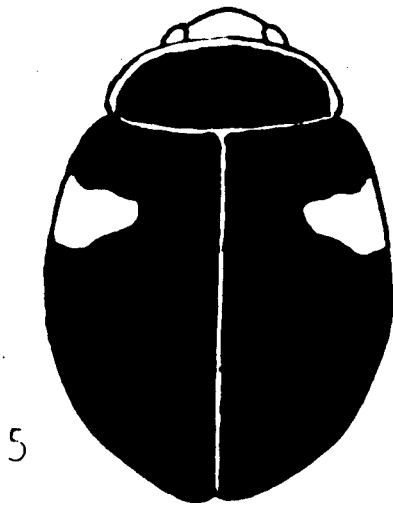
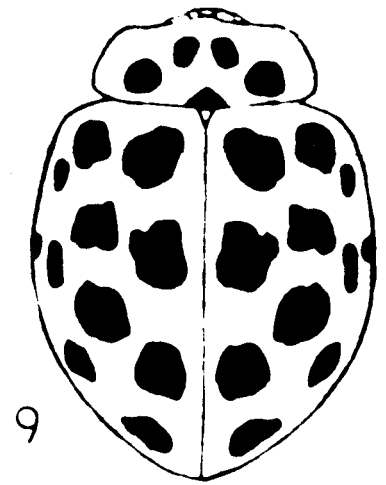
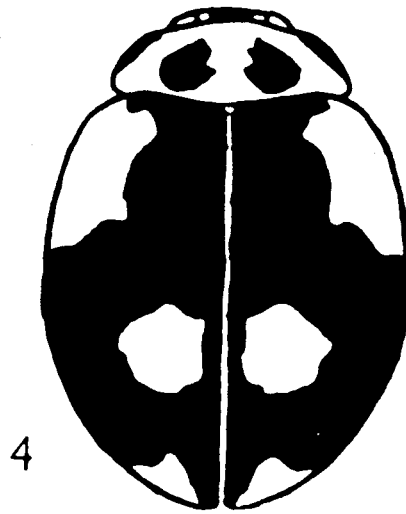
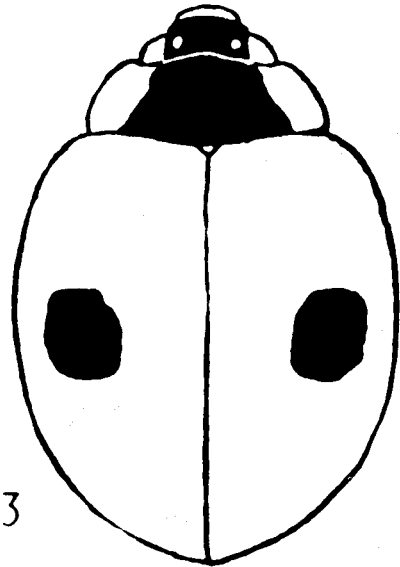
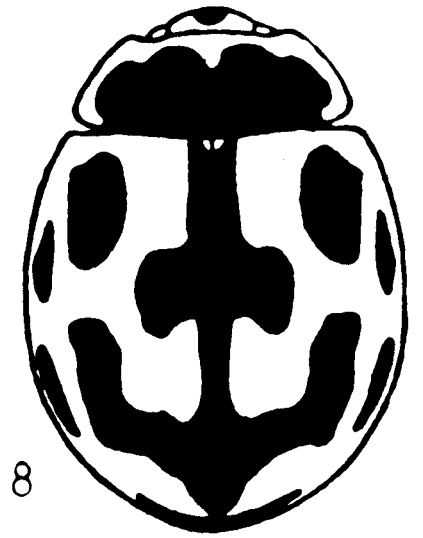
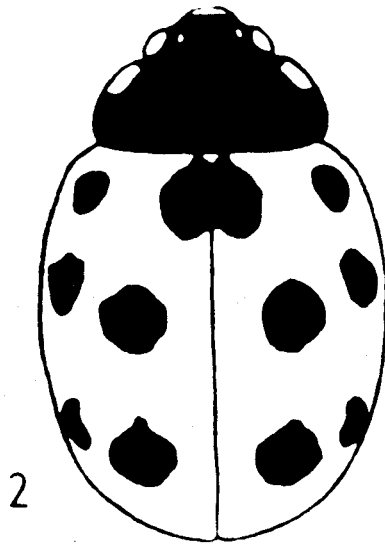
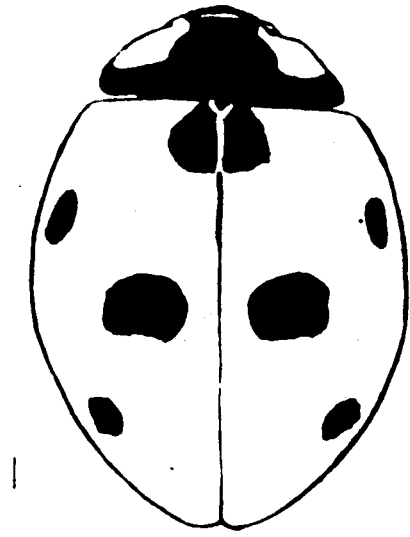
1. Species of ladybird, aided if necessary by the following key. If you cannot identify it, capture it live and bring it along.
2. Locality precise enough to be plotted on a half-inch map-give a four figure grid reference if possible.
3. Name of plant on which the ladybird was found, or other circumstances of occurrence.
4. Number of specimens in group.
5. Date of observation.

While it is late in the year for ladybird hunting, the survey is attempting to establish statistical correlations, and all records are useful. In the past two weeks at Wood Lane, three separate species have been found.

AIDS to the identification of the six species to be studied.

Coccinella 7-punctata L. (7 spot ladybird) see Fig. 1.

A large ladybird, length 5.5-7.5 mm (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch). Wing cases are red with 7 black spots, the central one being common to each wing-case. Thorax is black with white spots at each front corner. This species does not vary much in colour. Legs black.



1. Coccinella 7-punctata 2. Coccinella 11-punctata 3, 4. Adalia bipunctata 5, 6, 7. Adalia 10-punctata  
8. Propylea 14-punctata 9. Thea 22-punctata

Coccinella 11-punctata L. (11 spot ladybird) see Fig. 2.

Medium sized, length 3.5-4.5 mm (about 3/16 inch). Wing cases are normally red with 11 black spots, the central one being common to each wing-case. Thorax is black with front corners white. Colouring fairly constant. Legs black.

Adalia bipunctata L. (2 spot ladybird) see Figs. 3 and 4.

Medium sized, length 3.5-4.5 mm. Very common. Variable in colouring and especially pattern, the typical form having a single black spot on each of the wing cases which are red. Often, however, the amount of black is much greater than this, sometimes almost covering the wing-case. The dark legs seem to be a constant character.

Adalia 10-punctata L. (10 spot ladybird) see Figs. 5, 6 and 7.

Medium sized, length 3-4 mm. Very common and even more variable than the last, with which it can sometimes be confused. The yellow legs will usually suffice to distinguish this species from bipunctata. The wing cases tend to be yellowish in colour.

Propylea 14-punctata L. (14 spot ladybird) see Fig. 8.

Medium sized, length 3-4 mm. Variable, but less so than in the two previous species. Colour is yellow with the black spots running together to give a characteristic appearance. There is usually black along the edges of the two wing cases where they come together. A typical form is shown. Note the "anchor" shape in the pattern. Some people can see in it a fanciful resemblance to a face. Yellow legs.

Thea 22-punctata L. (22 spot ladybird) see Fig. 9.

A small species, length 2-4 mm (about 1/8 inch). Bright yellow with a large number of small black spots, often 22 in number if those on thorax are counted. Does not vary much. Yellow legs.

The London Natural History Society is interested in recording and conserving the wild flora and fauna in the area within a 20 mile radius of Charing Cross. It organises field expeditions and indoor meetings which members of the Animal Life section may attend, and circulates bulletins. If you are interested, contact Ron Hall (255).

---

**P.T.O.**



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