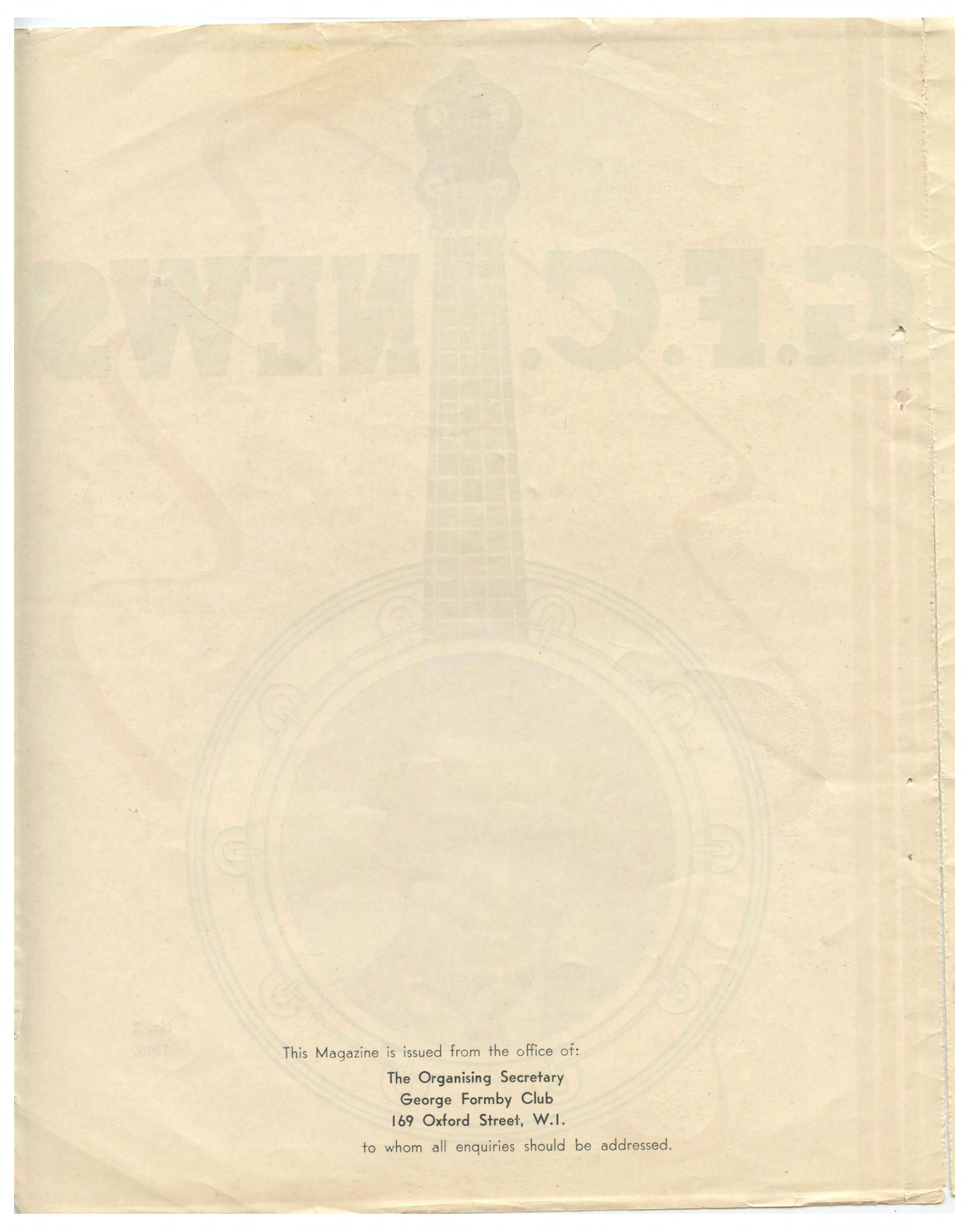


G.F.C. NEWS



No. 5
1939



This Magazine is issued from the office of:

The Organising Secretary
George Formby Club
169 Oxford Street, W.1.

to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

EDITORIAL

Members will be glad to know that this month's issue contains a personal letter from our Vice-President giving details of Mr. and Mrs. Formby's recent cruise.

PUZZLE CORNER

Several members have pointed out that our last competition was spread over three months and they will have to wait a further two months for the result. The long interval was arranged purposely to give our growing list of overseas members time to compete.

To balance things, we are giving you this month a Puzzle Corner. The solutions can be submitted as soon as you like but we cannot accept any after June 30th.

1. A man builds 100 houses and gives instructions for numbers to be put on all front doors. How many nines are used? *12*

2. A ---- doctor was ---- to operate as there was ----.

(The missing word or words are all composed of the same)
(letters but differently arranged. Fill in the blank)
(spaces to make a complete sentence.)

3. B E E C H
B I R C H
L A R C H
T I M B E R

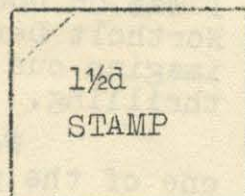
If C equals 2, what numbers would each letter represent and what would be the total?

Entry fee is only one 1½d stamp and to everyone submitting a correct solution for all puzzles a Postal Order for one shilling will be sent.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

MEMBERSHIP NO.....



1/15/52

Dear Members,

I have had several requests to write and tell you some of the little incidents that happened on our recent trip to the West Indies.

I must start off by saying we had a glorious send-off from Liverpool - quite a number of our Liverpool members coming down to the ship to wish us "Bon Voyage." It certainly gave George and I a great amount of pleasure to meet these members and to think that they thought so much of us that they went to the trouble of coming down to see us off.

We had a very uneventful crossing to Trinidad, the weather getting nicer as we went along and within four days I was more than grateful to know that George had got his voice back to full strength owing to the sunshine.

We arrived in Trinidad with the temperature about 85 degrees and it was so hot that George decided to go along into the town and do a little bit of shopping for himself, such as shorts and, might I add, very thin pullovers! We walked into one very nice store there and a little coloured boy gave one look at George and then said to me "Excuse me, are you Beryl?". You can imagine my surprise at being greeted thus. I said "Yes." He then said, "Good gracious, that must be George Formby," to which I replied, "Certainly, but tell me, how do you know so much about our appearance, being so far away from England? - and he answered, "We all do here in the shop because we have read your life story in Tit-Bits and we watch Mr. Formby's career very closely." That was our number one surprise.

We left Trinidad bound for Jamaica and on landing in Jamaica we were met by several press representatives and also a trainer of horses whom George knew when he was in the stables. It was marvellous to see George and this trainer together, talking of their old times. The following morning both George and I got up at five o'clock and went along to the Jamaica Race Course, where we both had the honour of riding two champions of Jamaica. George rode Grey Monk and I was on Double Bee. Double Bee, by the way, won the Northolt Derby before going out to Jamaica, so you can quite imagine our trip there was very interesting and also very thrilling.

We next went along to Miami in America. This was one of the prettiest places of the trip.

George and I got up again in the early hours of the morning and went upon the Bridge with the Captain and had the most glorious view of the ship going into Miami. You go along the canal which is about eight miles in length, with nothing else but cocoanut trees and palms on either side. We spent an enjoyable time in Miami visiting some of their famous places and we came away with a very good impression of the American people, who were very courteous indeed.

Now for the bad part of the story. We left Miami and for fourteen days we encountered nothing else but rough weather, the ship doing everything but turn over and my goodness, were we ill! This I know, is going to make most of our members laugh - you can all picture George looking funny, but until you have seen him seasick, you have no idea how really funny he can look!

Anyhow, we arrived back in England safe and sound, feeling the full benefit of the trip and George having fully recovered his health again, while yours truly managed to put on about ten pounds in weight.

I hope this letter has been interesting to you and should I think of anything further about the trip, believe me, I will do another letter in the next edition.

Yours sincerely,

Bart

Important Question

One brother was tall and slim,
The other chubby and short,
Teddy sat looking at them one night
Apparently lost in thought.
"Mamma" he asked at length,
"Which would you like the best:
For me to grow north and south like Dick,
Or like Harry, from east to west?"

DOROTHY HOLMES
UTTOXETER.

OUR LETTER BOX

We wish to thank those members who have written to us since the last issue of the NEWS and have pleasure in dealing with some of the letters below. Will those members who require a direct and personal reply to correspondence please enclose a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary.

"Has any member autographs or autographed photographs of Robert Taylor, Sabu, Jeannette MacDonald, Nelson Eddy, Clark Gable, Ginger Rogers, Norma Shearer, Tyrone Power, Boris Karloff, Charles Laughton, Gary Cooper and Ronald Colman? I have no autographed photos to exchange but I have several film magazines from 1931 to 1939 which I am willing to exchange." DOUGLAS JOHNSTONE. 1, PARK TERRACE, GLEBE ST. DUMFRIES. SCOTLAND.

Possibly there are several members who have duplicate photographs they would like to send to Douglas Johnstone in exchange for his film magazines. Why not have a hunt round and see what you can find?

"With my collection of film and stage stars, here are a few old favourites before the talkies were introduced. I have a large picture of Mary Pickford and Mary Miles Minter and a personal letter. Also, Chrissie White, Henry Edwards, Alma Taylor, Stewart Rome and Irene Vernon Castle. Have any other members any of these? I have quite a lot of foreign stamps and cigarette cards of battleships which I would be pleased to send to any boy or girl." MRS. EVA MARTIN. 90, SELWYN AVENUE. RICHMOND. S.W.
Here's a chance for some of you collectors of stamps and cigarette cards. We expect Mrs. Martin will be inundated with requests.

BLAZER BADGES

Although we are still short of the number required, we have decided to take the risk and purchase a supply of blazer badges. These are now in the course of preparation and will be ready very shortly.

They will be 2½" in size, with maroon material background, silver embroidered border and the letters G.F.C. in silver in the centre. The cost, as previously stated, will be 2/6d.

In the next issue of the NEWS we hope to be able to announce that they are in stock and request you to send your postal orders.

PEN PALS

- Terence Cronin,
P.O. Box: 3691,
Johannesburg,
South Africa.) is appealing for a pen pal somewhere
in Southern Ireland. He is Irish
himself but hasn't a pen pal in
his mother country.
- W. Brian Kenyon,
789, Manchester Road,
Over Hulton,
Bolton. Lancs.) would like a girl pen friend about
his own age (17), interested in
films and our President's activities.
- Mr. A. Allard,
91, Namu Road,
Winton,
Bournemouth. Hants.) wishes to have a girl pen pal about
18 years old who is interested in
films, ice skating and tennis.
- Mr. N. Clarke,
St. Felix School,
Grange Road,
Felixstowe. Suffolk.) would like a pen pal who collects
autographs or makes model aircraft.
- Kathleen Sadler,
29, Cumberland Road,
Lidget Green,
Bradford. Yorks.) anxious to secure pen pals both
abroad and in England. She is 18
years old and interested in walking,
climbing and all general sport.
- Ettie Hedley,
Ruebury Close,
7, Boroughbridge Road,
Knaresboro. Yorks.) would like boy or girl pen pals
aged 25-27.
- Peter Yardley,
28, Tithebarn Street,
Poulton-le-Fylde,
Blackpool. Lancs.) very much hopes to secure a pen pal
in England or abroad, aged about
11-12, interested in autographed
photographs of film stars and
footballers.
- Geoffrey Taylor,
70, Oakfield Road,
Selly Park,
Birmingham. 29.) anxious to have pen pals in South
Africa, Malta and Nigeria. He is
12 years old and interested in
tennis, rugby football and hockey.
- Miss N. Slack,
13, Lewis Street,
Alfred Street Central,
Nottingham.) makes a special appeal for pen pals.
She is an invalid and would love to
receive letters from members.

M Y . G E O R G E

. by
Beryl

Almost as soon as he'd begun I knew that he'd forgotten one vital thing. This "cod" speech needed a "feed" in the audience to carry it through and without a feed George would just have to dry up and look silly. In the excitement he'd forgotten that. There wasn't a moment to be lost. I pushed my way through the back of our temporary stage and sat down with the audience. I knew all the lines, as I'd heard the act so many times before in revue.

George had the shock of his life when he heard me acting as feed, but he played up beautifully and I managed to get my gags over, timed correctly and - so I was told afterwards - spoken perfectly. You must remember that although I'd been on the stage for several years there is a world of difference between a "dumb" act like my dancing and a speaking act - especially a comedy act with George, where often the whole success of a gag depends not only on clear enunciation, but on accurate timing.

"Ee, that was gradely done," said George afterwards. I knew he was proud of me and I was proud too, when it was suggested that I should drop half my dancing act at first and become a permanent "feed" to George. Now of course, he does his ukelele act alone and I appear with him in his comedy act. But I am always in the wings when not on the stage and standing just beside the director's chair when George is on the film set. He regards me as his lucky jinx.

I have a vital job to do every Monday morning when we open at a new theatre. George doesn't really like working with a microphone, but in many of the big super-cinemas it is essential to use an amplifier. There are tone controls on many of the loud-speakers and, of course, volume controls. During the Monday morning rehearsal I have to sit in the empty theatre - usually somewhere up in the circle or the "gods" - and tell the operating engineer where the tone and volume controls are to be set. I am the best judge of George's voice and if the tone controls are wrongly adjusted the pitch and timbre are made to sound artificial. The marked controls are set in the same position for the rest of the week and every now and then I go down to the front of the house and hear how the loud speakers are carrying right over to the back row of the pit.

MY GEORGE continued:

The queer thing about that ship's concert with G.H. Elliott was that while it was a lucky break for me, it was a vivid reminder to George of another liner trip which - luckily - he just didn't take. That was when he was a kid - an apprentice in training in Ireland. He's often told me how homesick he was, but then his father was so anxious to keep him away from the theatre (George never saw his father on the stage), that young George was exiled to Ireland to get experience in horses and try a new career.

Once when there was racing at Baldoyle he decided to make a bunk for it. The thought of Lancashire and the old home was too strong. He counted his coppers, found he had enough to get a tram to Kingstown and intended to jump the mail boat for Holyhead. There was just enough money left over for a cup of tea and as it would probably be the last meal he'd have for a day or more till he tramped his way home, he thought a cup of tea would go down very well. But he stayed too long over it and arrived at the Kingstown docks just in time to see the mail boat in mid-stream with people still waving farewell. Of course, he had to walk all the way back to the stables and be thrashed for playing truant.

Little did he know then that it was that cup of tea that saved his life. That mail boat was the ill-fated "Leinster," which was torpedoed in mid-channel and hundreds of lives were lost.

It was all because of George's racing enthusiasm that I learned to ride. George grew up amongst Michael Beary, Steve Donoghue, Martin Quirke, Willie Parkinson, Billy Barrett and Joe Cauty and learned tips from all of them. So naturally he was a bit impatient when I first got on a horse and he expected me to ride like an expert. It was at Newport that I first learned to ride. "We want a nice, quiet horse," said George to the man and out they brought a lovely looking animal some sixteen hands high, which, believe me, is quite a height for a beginner. I hadn't been on for more than ten minutes when George set off in a canter and my horse followed. I was scared at first but as I'd been taught how to grip and how to hold the reins I managed to keep my seat - and resisted the burning temptation to hold the front of the saddle for safety.

When we got back to the stables George had another look at my horse and said to the groom: "That's really a very nice mount." "Yes," said the groom, "he's half-brother to Sprigg, the world-famous racehorse." That scared me, but soon afterwards it was my turn to scare George.

To be continued.

"SEEING THE FORMBY FILMS"

(To be sung to the tune of "Have You Been Down
Lambeth Way?")

Have you seen "It's in the Air"?
"Yes, of course!" you all declare,
It's a joy that we can share -
Seeing the Formby films.

George is really very nice,
See him once - and you see him twice!
Don't be afraid of breaking the ice -
Seeing the Formby films.

Oh boy, what a joy
What good fun - another one -
George is ready to joke and jest
He will help you to "Feather Your Nest"!

There's a laugh - so please don't dim it
There's a joke - so please don't skim it
Go ahead - for there's "No Limit!"
Seeing the Formby films.

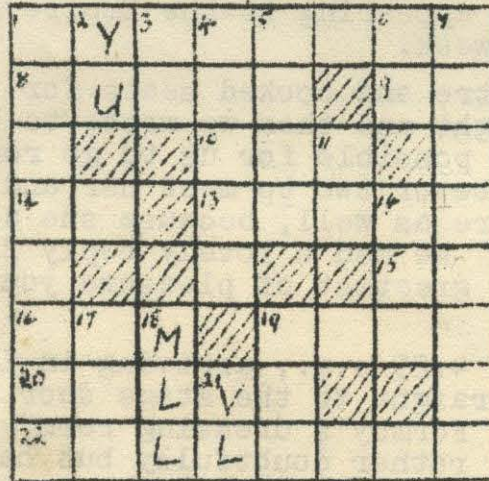
George is on the top you guess,
George is top? The answer's YES!
It's a treat again we stress -
Seeing the Formby films!

DAPHNE WASS
HERNE BAY.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to those
members who answered our last month's appeal and wrote
to Miss Slack.
She really does appreciate your kindness and your letters
have helped considerably in brightening her life.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE TOUR
COMPETITION. THE CLOSING DATE IS MONDAY, JUNE 5TH.
FULL RESULTS AND LIST OF PRIZE-WINNERS WILL BE
PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWS.

THIS MONTH'S CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS:

1. Club foot.
8. Pertaining to the ear.
9. Tierce (abbrev.)
10. Ultimo (abbrev.)
12. I and others.
13. Thin.
15. Aero Club (abbrev.)
16. To beat.
19. A band.
20. Forest trees of any region collectively.
22. Modern greeks.

Submitted by:
JOHN HOLMES.
WHITCHURCH. READING.

CLUES DOWN:

1. One of George's leading ladies.
2. YU (act.)
3. Lancer (abbrev.)
4. What George makes us do.
5. A jar or urn.
6. The thing spoken of.
7. Stilts used for walking in dirty places.
11. Tuesday (abbrev.)
14. An obsolete corruption of NE HAS.
17. A vote in the affirmative.
18. MLL (act.)
19. The scottish form of SO
21. VL (act.)

SOLUTION TO BE GIVEN NEXT MONTH

This month's prize-winners are:-

DAPHNE WASS
JOHN HOLMES
MARIE HEELS

to whom autographed photographs of our President and Vice-President will be sent.

HOW TWO MEMBERS MET
GEORGE & BERYL

We live in Llandudno in North Wales. During Easter week we heard that George was appearing at the Empire Theatre, Liverpool the following week.

We wrote to the theatre and booked seats for the first performance Wednesday night and then we wrote to Beryl and asked her if it would be possible for us to go round to the dressing room for a minute or two to meet her and George. We knew she would be there as well, because she always goes everywhere with George. We had a lovely reply from her in which she said "With the greatest of pleasure you may come round."

We left Llandudno at 4.25 p.m., arriving in Liverpool at 6.25 p.m. We went straight to the stage door of the Empire and asked for Mr. Formby's dressing room. The stage door-keeper looked at us rather doubtfully but he went away and returned with Beryl.

We had been feeling rather nervous and wondering what we should say when we saw George, but we need not have worried. Beryl led the way to the dressing room and as she opened the door she said, "Here are two young ladies who want to shake hands with you, George dear." George was sitting at his dressing table signing autograph albums which had been collected at the stage door. He arose and shook hands with us and immediately put us at our ease - he was so friendly. He looked very well. He says he is quite better now, for which I am sure all club members are thankful.

Both he and Beryl signed our autograph books for us. We stayed talking with them for about ten minutes and then with another hand-shake from each of them we left them and went round to our seats, 'in front.' In the first half of the programme George and Beryl presented a very amusing sketch entitled "The Casting Office." In the second half George played his 'uke' and sang. He brought the house down, as he always does.

When we left the theatre there was a crowd round the stage door, all hoping to catch a glimpse of George. We felt proud that as club members we had been allowed to go in and see him. It was late when we got back to Llandudno and we were very tired, but we didn't mind. It had been well worth it.

MAY HARGREAVES
LLANDUDNO.

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSS-WORD
PUZZLE

ACROSS:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latin. | 13. Be. | 24. Gert. |
| 5. Ride. | 15. No. | 25. It. |
| 9. Ice. | 17. Sebundy. | 26. It. |
| 10. Emit. | 19. Snag. | 27. Do. |
| 11. Celery. | 21. R.S.A. | 28. Anna. |
| 12. Me. | 22. Est. | 29. Paper. |

DOWN:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. License. | 2. Die. | 18. Daring. |
| 2. Ace. | 8. Et. | 20. At. |
| 3. Tell. | 13. Burglar. | 23. Stop. |
| 4. Nurse. | 14. By. | 25. Ida. |
| 5. Re. | 16. Onset. | 26. Is. |
| 6. Immense. | 17. S.G. | |

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S INTELLIGENCE TEST

1. £557,750,707,053,344,041,463,074,442. 18. 7¼d,
which should run thus:-
557 quadrillions, 750,707 trillions, 53,344 billions,
41,463 millions, 74,442 pounds, 18 shillings and
7 pence 3 farthings.

2. 4,503,599,627,370,495 pins.
628,292,358 tons.

We are sure you all thoroughly enjoyed working the
questions out.

BALMY BOOKS

THE X MYSTERY by Algy Braa
THE CHANNEL ATTEMPT by Ken.E. Swimmet
LATE FOR SCHOOL by Ivan X.Cuse.
SAMSON by E.B. Strong
KNIGHTED by Watts E. Dunn
PURSUED by C. Howie Runns.

GEOFFREY TAYLOR
SELLY PARK. BIRMINGHAM.

FAREWELL TO BAND-WAGGON

Most people have a radio
In this modern stage
Much enjoyment it supplies
For every style and age

A great favourite was Band-Waggon
But now that's off the air
It really seems a pity
But it does no good to care

It's produced by "Bishop" Pepper
And also Gordon Crier
Who pays some visits to the "flat"
Then the fat IS in the fire.

First there's pal Syd Walker
"Good evening, chums" says he
And playmate of old "Stinker"
"Big Hearted Arthur, that's me."

Miff Ferrie and the Jackdauz
Are always found "in song"
With soprano Betty Bucknelle
Thing's simply can't go wrong.

Phil Cardew is the maestro
The music he supplies
And Charles Smart at the organ
Helps to harmonize.

One item's "Chestnut Corner"
With jokes both new and old
But "Bishop's" round the corner
So they're doing as they're told.

Now I like Arthur's "Bee Song"
Beat it if you can
He sings it "oh! so sweetly"
The "silly little man."

We go with "Big" and "Stinker"
For a visit to the "flat"
"Lewis," "Basil" and "Lucy"
Have made a mess of that.

Then there's darling "Nausea"
A "girl" most "up-to-date"
When she gets to the microphone
She always seems to faint

Her "mother", "Mrs. Bagwash"
Is a very useful person
When there's not Arthur's "combs" to wash
She's char for Sandy Macpherson

Arthur ends the programme
With little song and ditty
"I thank yaeow", "bye-bye playmates,"
I think is very pretty

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I LIKE MORE
THAN HEARING THIS, WITH GLEE;
AND THAT IS LISTENING TO OUR GEORGE
THE ONE GREAT GEORGE FORMBY.

MARIE HEELS
ALLHALLOWS. NR. ROCHESTER.

"Where were you boys when I called for you to help me
an hour ago?" said Farmer Jones at the supper table..
"I was in the barn settin' a hen" said one
"And I was in the loft settin' a saw" said another.
"I was in gran'ma's room settin' the clock," came from
the third boy.
"You're a fine set," remarked the farmer.
"And where were you?" he asked, turning to the youngest.
"I was on the doorstep settin' still," was the reply.

TERENCE CRONIN
JOHANNESBURG
SOUTH AFRICA

"PARADISE FOUND"

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| A charwoman's Paradise | - | Charing Cross |
| A schoolmaster's | " | Much Birch (Hereford) |
| A beggar's | " | Tattersalls |
| A brewer's | " | Beer (Devon) |
| A cook's | " | Bakewell (Derby) |
| A wax chandler's | " | Wicklow |
| A mariner's | " | Square & Compass (Cornwall) |
| A farmer's | " | Hay (Brecon) |
| A soldier's | " | March (Cambridge) |
| A dromedary's | " | Bacup (Lancs) |
| A Formby fan's | " | Formby (Lancs) |

JOHN HOLMES
WHITCHURCH. READING

Pompous Uncle (To nephew home from school):
"Well James, I suppose you are acquainted with Shakespeare?"
James: "You can't catch me uncle. He's dead."

Steward (To passenger somewhat affected by the rolling of the ship): "Can I get you anything sir?"
Passenger: "No thanks, unless you can get me a little island."

Purchaser: "You said that this horse you sold me was a jumper."
Dealer: "That's right: so it is."
Purchaser: "Then he must have come unknit."

Excited Passenger: "Can I catch the five-thirty train?"
Porter: "Depends on how fast you can run sir. It left five minutes ago!"

Farmer Oats: "That horse I bought from you died this morning."
Farmer Rye: "Why, that's funny. He never did that before!"

Teacher: "If you were an inventor, Nat, what would you invent?"
Nat: "A machine to do my homework by pressing a button."
Teacher: "You lazy boy! Ralph, what would you invent?"
Ralph: "A machine to press the button of Nat's machine."

TOO BUSY TO GROW

A small office boy, who had been in the same position for two years on a salary of twelve shillings a week, finally plucked up enough courage to ask for an increase in wages. "How much more would you like to have?", enquired his employer.
"Well", answered the lad, "I don't think eight shillings more a week would be too much."
"Well, you seem to be a rather small boy to be earning a pound a week," remarked his employer.
"I suppose I do. I know I'm small for my age," the boy explained, "but I haven't had time to grow."
He got the rise.

DOROTHY HOLMES
UMTOXETER.

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