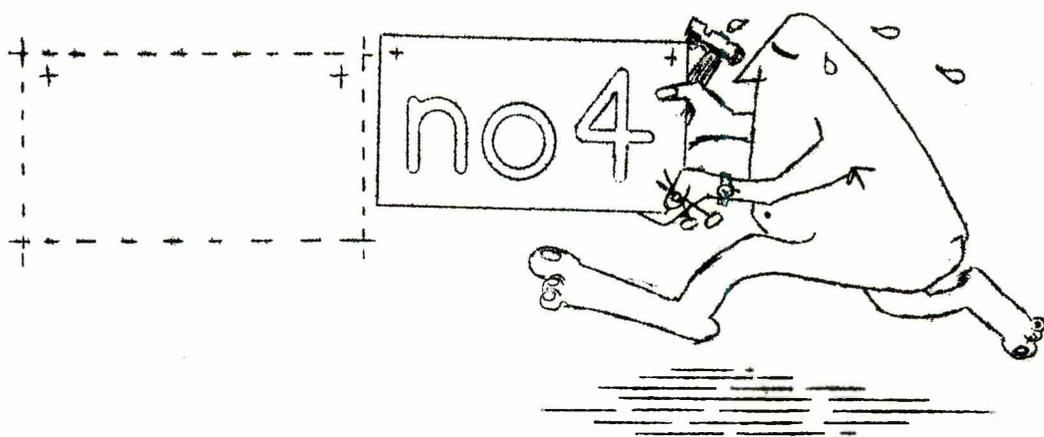
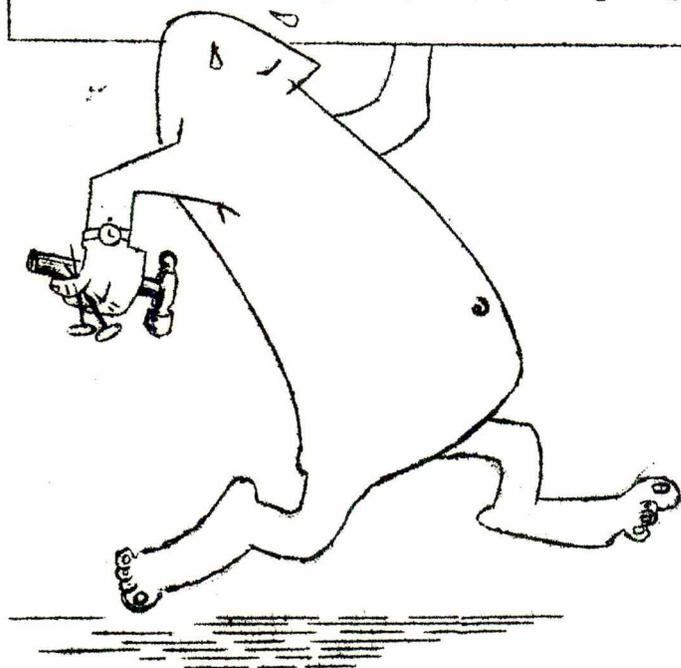


A PORRHĚTA





September '58

# A P O R R H E T A - 4

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## ARTWORK

- By Arthur Thomson
- Vinç Clarke
- Joy Clarke
- William Rotsler
- Lea Flets

With Vinç (Duplicating Without Tears) Clarke operating the Gestetner, Joy Clarke in charge of collation and food, and H.P. Sanderson, editor.

An Inchmery Fandom Ebullient Minority Down With Everything Publication obtained for exchanges, letter of comment or (if you insist) 1/- . 10/- pa

## EDITORIAL

Alright, so what are you laughing at? I guess it had to happen sooner or later.

Point is, we never did get straight after our holiday, and we are not really straight now. I had Apē 3 finished on September 21st, and according to the system I had adopted the Diary was three weeks behind. I figured that another week or so would bring me to the end of the September period and the solution was to produce two issues in one.

Apē 4 has been completed in the past week (it is now Sep 28) and no doubt it has suffered as a result. Please forgive. You get the HiFi piece missed from #3, but no Bennett as yet. You also come up-to-date on events in this household and with luck you'll stay that way. The Fandergaste column is small this time but then you can't have everything.

The two issues are stapled together because after considerable research it was discovered that was the best way to wrap them. You may unstaple and fasten each separately if you wish. Am I not Kind?

The need for material and artwork is now even greater. Please? And don't forget those letters will you? Circulation has been cut from 150 to 125 through shortage of paper. Unless I get a few more letters or fanzines or such it is liable to be cut even more for No 5. I really can't afford to turn out more than 20 pages a month for very many over 100 fans - unless you can persuade me it's worth my starving. Anyone finding an axe down here might find themselves being just that, if I don't hear from them.

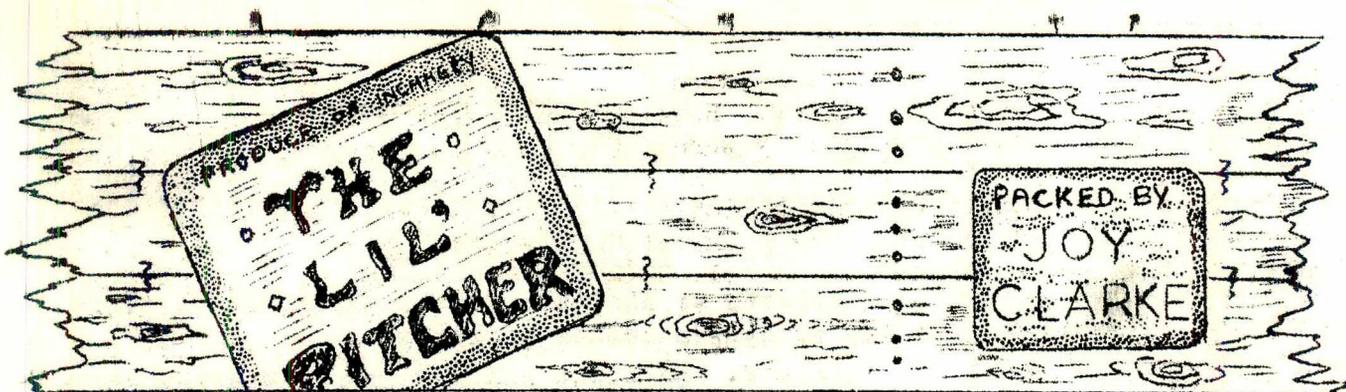
Is all I guess,



36TH SANDERSONICUS PUBLICATION

APĒ 4

7, Inchmery Rd, Catford, London, S.E.6



Why, that lowdown stinkin' son-of-an-editress sneaks in while me back's turned cooking a meal and sets two issues up in one. Goddam the man. This is getting to be a habit. Fez 3&4 were just like this too. Don't let Sandersod start another subzine whatever you do - I'll be dreading 3&4 if he does.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are looking for a new flat. Our present one is alright but it has some drawbacks. Our landlord (over 70) has Parkinson's disease which is incurable and goes to bed at the latest at 10.30 while his wife who is over 60 more often than not goes to bed before 10pm. Their bedroom is under our living room and with the floor of one room being the ceiling of another, we can't type, play music or have a party with any ease of conscience. The telephone, which is the landlord's, is right outside their bedroom too, so naturally after they've gone to bed we don't use it. At least not unless someone rings us up at 11.45pm we don't.

So now we're looking for a new flat, preferably in the SE London area. It has to have 2 bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and bathroom, be for preference over business or shop premises and be less than £5.5.-d a week furnished. We've looked at a number but so far no dice. If anyone knows of a place get in touch with us, hmm?

At the moment we are in the full throes of applebox fandom. Each week the greengrocery is delivered in a box. Around the living room and Sandy's bedroom are applebox bookshelves. The occasional tables beside all our chairs are appleboxes. So is the base for the duplicator. The attic is filled with them, and so is our bedroom. They're going to come in so handy when we move, but if we don't move soon we're going to have to build a place. With appleboxes, of course.

Another thing is that, if we can get a cheaper place, I can probably be a genuine honest-to-gawd housewife (and not work!) and find far more time to do all the professional writing I want to do. I've got such a backlog of ideas for articles and stories that I'm stumped for time to write 'em in.

\*\*\*\*\*

As some of you know, since the Family Advertiser folded I have been doing temporary work. In fact since the end of July I've been doing this, and so far have only come across two firms in my travels. I started off with a Patent Agents which, for those who really don't know, is a firm that sorts out the muddled mind of the inventor into legal English so that he can file a patent. I had been there two weeks when they said they liked my work  
4 so much they wanted me for another week. They offered me a permanent

job, but feeling this would tie me down too much at the moment, I refused but promised to contact 'em later. However they wanted me for another week. So there I was, August gone. They were fully staffed then for another fortnight so I got shunted to a tiny little solicitor's office in Carey Street. To those who are familiar with English slang, Carey Street will probably ring a bell, the bankruptcy one. The Bankruptcy Courts are situated here and the saying 'I'm on Queer Street' is simply a corruption of the name Carey and implies the person is bankrupt. The place was run by a little old lawyer, a dried-up little husk of a man getting on for 80, who was almost completely deaf in spite of wearing a deaf aid. He'd put his hand up to his ear to hear what you yelled, and had his deaf aid volume up so loud I could hear it crackling from a couple of yards off. One of the girls in the office was a youngster who looked after the switchboard, did all the copy typing and had an inordinate passion for bird pictures. None of this Elvis Presley pin-up rubbish for her. The other was a 51 year old youngster who was learning the cha-cha. Quite a girl.

Now, I'm back with the patent agents, and before very long I shall probably give in to the requests I'm getting to stay permanently. Of course, there are certain advantages such as a twice yearly bonus and a three week holiday with permission to take a fourth without pay if you wish. Right now, I'm weakening, but a desire for advertising work or publishing still holds pride of place. Ah well, we'll see.

\*\*\*\*\*

In FAPA recently, Pete Graham asked what anyone knew about oral contraceptives. For once the SatEvePost seems to have its uses, for not so long ago it was there I read an article on what I assume Pete was querying. It seems that a new form of pill (name not recollected) has been developed and widely tested. Amongst the women taking part in the tests were a large number who had been sterile for years in spite of treatment. All the patients had to do was take a tablet a day.

The effect was to inhibit the production of ova. Without ova, no fertilization could take place, hence no conception. This seems to be a most efficient method and has further advantages. First, when the sterile women stopped taking the tablets, many of them conceived. In other words, the inhibition of ova-production is either counteracted by some chemical in the tablets, which takes effect after one stops taking them, or else the previously missing chemical causing the non-productivity of ova, is stimulated by the taking of these pills. Second, there appear to be no other side effects whatsoever - the inhibition of ova-production occurs only while the tablets are being taken.

With any luck these might shortly be on the market (shortly meaning within a few years). It is probably the cheapest and most efficient method of contraception ever discovered. It can have wide repercussions on world population, for the biggest drawback to contraception outside religion is its cost. I'd like more information on this too.

\*\*\*\*\*

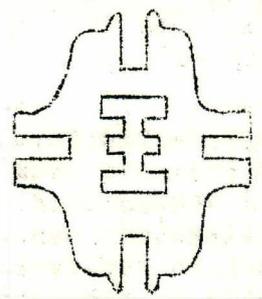
You know, I think I shall have to join the Sanderson-is-a-louse brigade. He won't let me see the originals of the Penelope Fandergaste column - dammit all I want to do is compare the type face with numerous zines -

and I'm getting all confused as to who it is. Going over points we get the following: a strong interest in collecting cigarette cards, coupled with the memory that no more were issued after 1939. Further, amongst that interest is a penchant for masculine type series. Working from there, the writer must have been a minimum of 10 in 1939, probably older, and most likely male. This seems to cut out my idea that it might have been Helen Winick coming back into fandom - besides it doesn't seem quite controversial enough for her. It must therefore be someone who's quite at home writing, for the stuff is most competently done, some male fan of over 30. I'm rather edging to the idea of Sid Birchby at the moment, for he is coming back into fanzine fandom in a big way just now - although of course it might just be Harry Turner ... mm, maybe not, not fanarchistic enough. Dammit there are so many males of the right age group. I wonder if it is a female after all. Sandy, you're a louse, sir. Come to think of it, Eric B. isn't ... couldn't ... or would he? Oh, dear.

\*\*\*\*\*

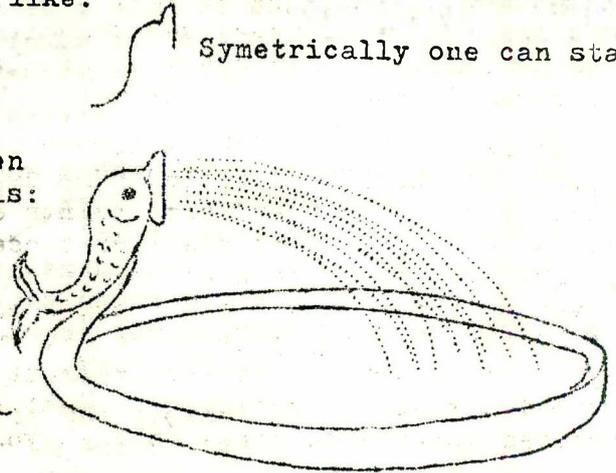
As a shorthand typist with Pitman's training, I have often noticed how shorthand outlines lend themselves to doodling. For instance in the middle of a letter I'll suddenly get something like:

enlarging on it till it begins to look something like this:



*Why, you could even kid them it's a genuine Aztec pictograph*

or even this:



In fact, if one can't really draw (and I can't) this is an ideal way of finding bits of filler illos for a zine. Of course, you'll have to spend a few weeks first genning up on shorthand, but there....everything comes to he who waits and so on, no?

\*\*\*\*\*

It's a funny thing how newspapers can get hold of garbled stories. The latest blast about Willy Ley being the inventor of the V2 and having been imported to America as reverse lease-lend, or rather as spoils of war, appeared a few weeks ago in the Daily Mail. Now to me this doesn't really matter .. it might however make a difference to Willy if he was to visit England. Part of his reception may depend on the fact that the people he meets don't consider him a lousy swine who tried to eliminate them a few years back. Why is it that we can't get it through the heads of certain newspaper writers that Willy Ley was in America before the war? And that the chap they're thinking of is Werner von Braun? But then Willy of course is a popular American, and any dirt that can be thrown his way is always

welcome to the gutter press. Sickening isn't it?

Which brings us to the BSFA, Britain's newly formed British Science Fiction Association, which should be used as a counteragent for such libels, or even minor errors of fact. Behind Ving's desire to form some type of Bureau or Club was the idea that once formed it could fight on a level with the papers and magazines to break down such prejudices against science fiction and such errors of fact as Willy's evil deeds. We don't know whether they are doing so; it would be nice to have a word from them on this.

\*\*\*\*\*

How many of you read the New Scientist? For the benefit of those who don't know this is a weekly magazine intended to present scientific achievements and discoveries to the layman. It is not written down - you certainly need at least an ASF vocabulary to cope with it - but it is intensely interesting. Here and there it descends into an almost sf atmosphere; at times it is stodgy; but most of the time it can be read with great pleasure. Its symbol is a horizontally elongated stencilled "S" in black and blue. It has been running now for 96 weeks and within a few weeks of its first publication had acquired a steady readership of 50,000. Many of these are scientists, a great number are business men who wish to keep up with scientific knowledge in their industry, and the rest are laymen like us (or laywomen, though I must admit I know of no other woman who reads it).

In issue 96 for 18th September is a 2-page article by one Ian S. Menzies, a member of the BIS, entitled "Trends in Science Fiction." This gives a good review of current sf and also points out that readers and authors tend to have far more social morals than those who don't read sf. Ian Menzies distinguishes pointedly between horror comics, slambang space opera and adult sf. He even mentions "Rosetta Stone", a novel from a fairly recent ASF which most of you will remember as one of the better novels of the last few months. Many of the stories he cites (without naming) you will place with ease. This issue of the New Scientist is a must for any sf reader in order that he may counteract sneers at 'that rubbish you read'.

If unobtainable on your bookstall by the time you read this, it can be obtained by post from Harrison, Raison and Co Ltd., Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, High Holborn, London WC1 (the publishers) or from the distributors, Vernon Holding and Partners Ltd., 43 Shoe Lane, London EC4. Cost is 1/- as stated above, but I'd suggest a PO for 1/3d since this is a fairly big issue and I don't know the exact postal charges NS make. You probably won't be able to get very early copies but we have a complete file and would be happy to give you any information you want. Anybody who can't get copies and would like to work a swap for something I want can contact me at Inchmery.

A new magazine on the market which may interest some people is a glossy historical survey type job trading under the name of 'PAST AND FUTURE', monthly at 2/-. In spite of the 'future' part of the title, I have grave doubts that it will hold much interest for me, but it is certainly a glamour job. I'll lend copy No 1 to interested parties.

The latest item to come out in the Great Pan Original Pocket Books is "ATOMIC ENERGY" by Egon Larsen (The Layman's Guide to the Nuclear Age) at 2/6d. This pb with four pages of photographs and a dozen or so line illos is precisely what it states, a Layman's Guide. It reads flowingly

and clearly. I only bought this a short while before Apē is due to be duped so I have no time to give a thorough review of it, but the main items to strike my attention are as follows:- Good, clear print making reading a pleasure. Several appendices of considerable interest - one a glossary, one on careers in Atomic Research and Engineering (from the British angle), one on books and films on Nuclear Energy. What appears to be an excellent index. Egon Larsen has written numerous books on technical subjects - most apparently for juveniles - but this one is definitely suitable for adults.

\*\*\*\*\*

Some years ago a young fan by the name of 'Triona Law wrote an article which was published in Authentic regarding the possibility of the sad state of the weather being caused by the explosion of atomic and hydrogen bombs. At that time, of course, scientific outlook scoffed - as it has done in the past before what was in their opinion an 'old wives' tale was finally proved to have more than a smidgin of truth in it. What's more, fans had closed minds too. Only J.O.Hutton who wrote 'Tornadoes and Atom Blasts' in ASF (BRE October 1954) seemed to be in step with me.

I suppose it won't be long now before it is an accepted fact, in the same way that many of the stories regarding herbs have now been discovered to be correct. Because at last a scientist has come round to my way of thinking and published his findings. Prof. William H. Parker, a 45 year old university don from Canada who is a geography teacher and a specialist in studies of world climatic changes was the one who built up a case on many of the basic details I used.

Anyone else changing horses in mid-flood?

\*\*\*\*\*

Maidenform's latest - which I haven't seen in the UK nor in any State-side publications - uses a Sputnik (Russ variety) as basis, with a cutaway in it. In this appears the model and the headline 'I dreamed I flew to the moon in my Maidenform bra'. And where was it published - Denmark!

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to Detroit for their success in getting the 59 Worldcon. Their go-ahead deserved it. Ron Bennett brought back our membership receipts and he's acting as their agent for subs. So any 7/6 or \$1.00 that you can spare will be gladly received by him at 7, Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate. The con is already nicknamed 'Detention'. I'm looking forward to their journals. The whole group is so enthusiastic the publications will probably show it, too.

\*\*\*\*\*

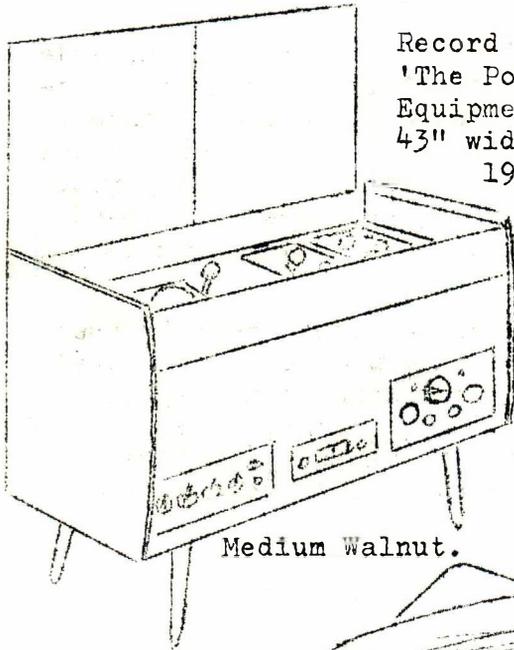
Y'know it's infuriating how fans manage to visit the Globe the very Thursday I'm not there. Archie Mercer was the latest. I'm sorry to have missed him but he sent the boys home with a postcard for me reading "Wish you were here." Many thanks, Archie - I too wish I'd been there. I liked the photo on the card - a shot of the Atomium - my Ghod, it's a fantastic thing isn't it?

8 The Quiz - oh no you don't. Next mailing, not this one. Just to see how many of you are as bright as I'm always claiming. Is all JKC

# LIKE, IT'S KINDA HIFI

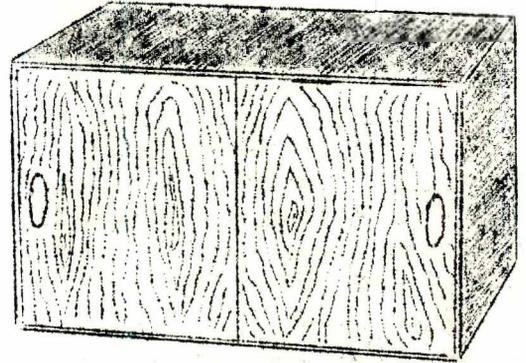
## (i) the equipment

Names and brief technical specifications.



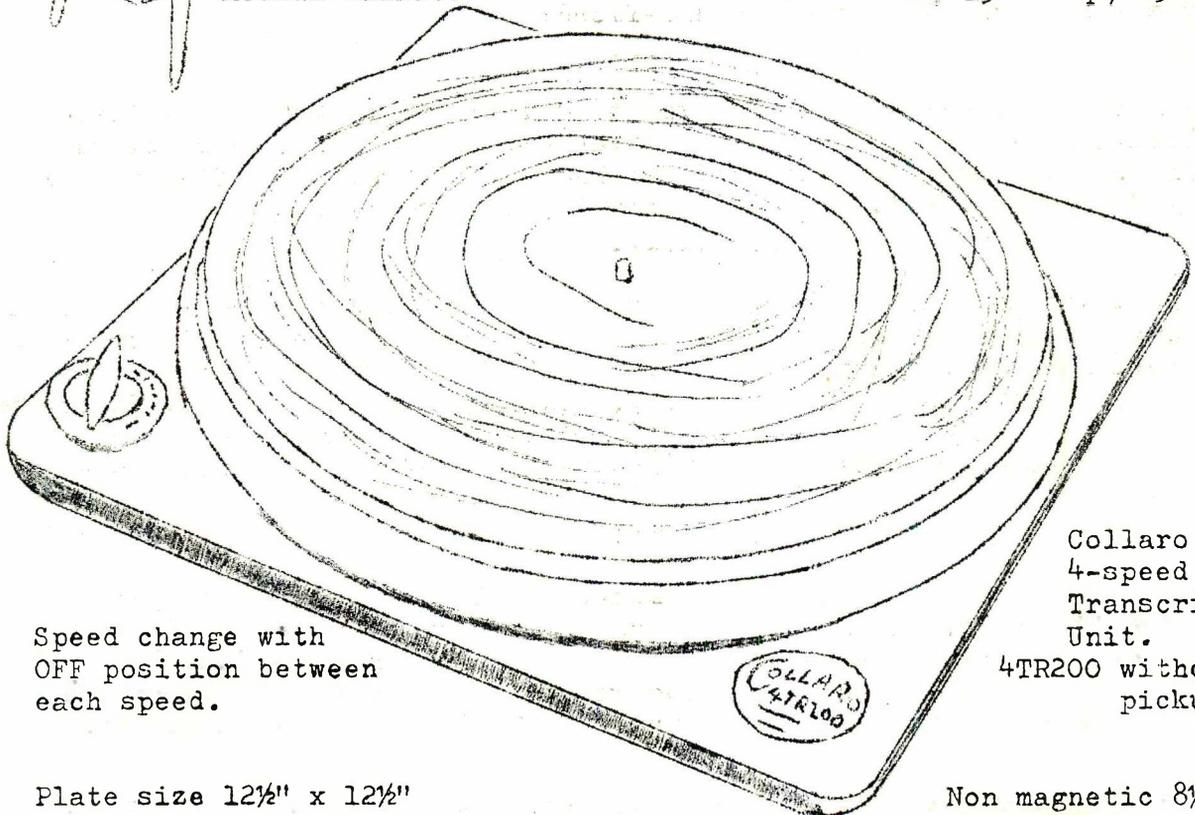
Record Housing  
'The Polonaise'  
Equipment Cabinet  
43" wide; 18" deep;  
19" high plus  
9" legs.

Medium Walnut.



Record Housing  
Libretto Record Storage  
Cabinet. Capacity 300  
Records.

Two sliding wooden doors.  
24" wide; 15" deep; 15" high.



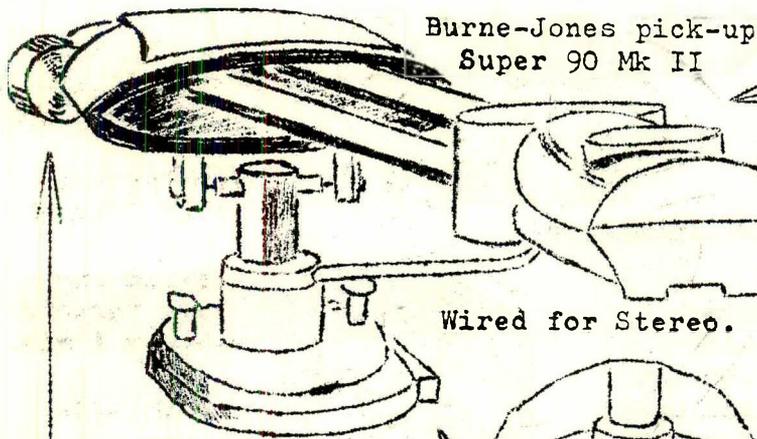
Speed change with  
OFF position between  
each speed.

Plate size 12½" x 12½"

Collaro  
4-speed  
Transcription  
Unit.

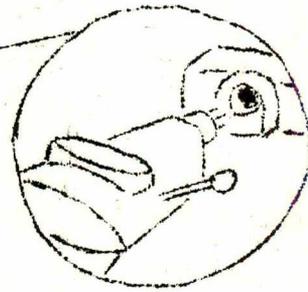
4TR200 without  
pickup

Non magnetic 8½lb  
12" turntable.

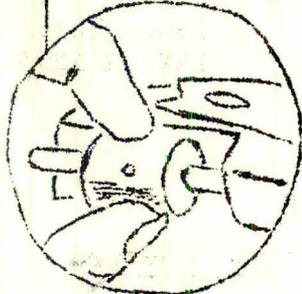


Burne-Jones pick-up  
Super 90 Mk II

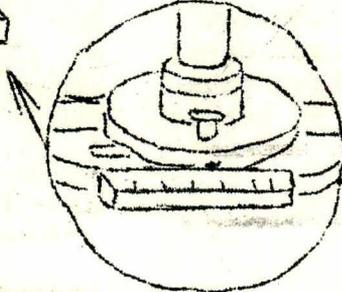
Wired for Stereo.



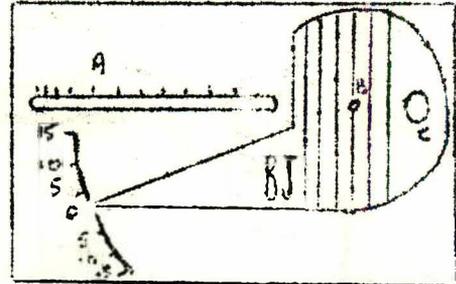
Plug-in head shell



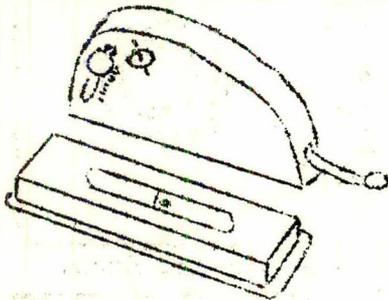
Counterweight system  
Finger adjustment upto 8 grammes.



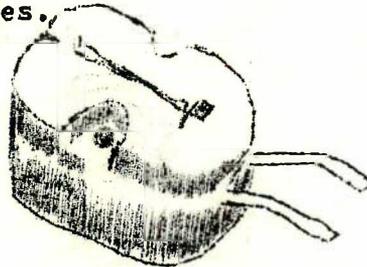
Calibrated Pedestal for  
adjustment of stylus tip  
from turntable spindle



Burne-Jones Alignment  
Protractor.



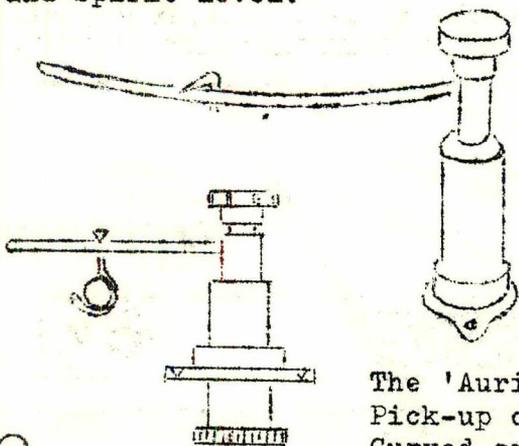
Garrard Stylus Pressure Gauge  
and spirit level.



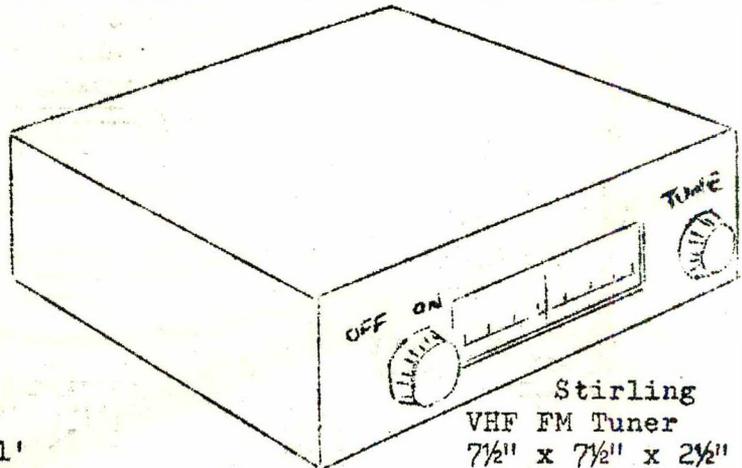
Tannoy single stylus  
"Variluctance" cart-  
ridge.

Output lp 10-12 mV  
78 18-20 mV  
Range 20-16,000 cps  
± 2dB

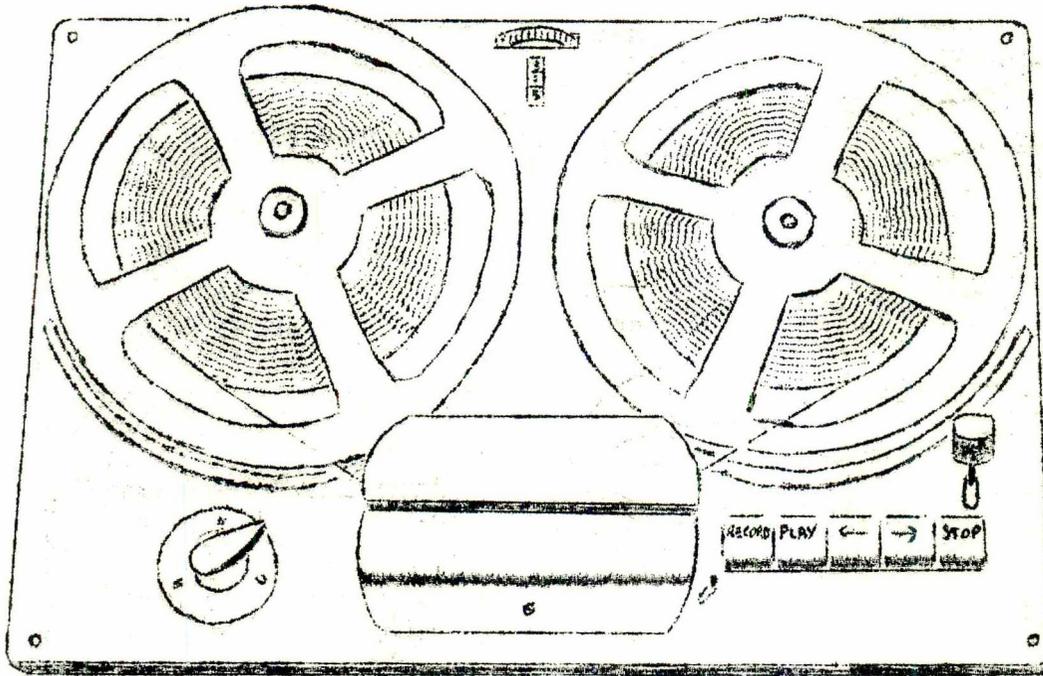
D.P. 5-6 grammes. Load impedance 50,000ohms  
Diamond Stylus.



The 'Aerial'  
Pick-up control  
Curved arm serrated and  
graduated for groove location.



Stirling  
VHF FM Tuner  
7½" x 7½" x 2½"



Motek K9 Tape Deck. 7" spools  
7½, 3¾, 1⅞ ips

Rev Counter  
Pause Control

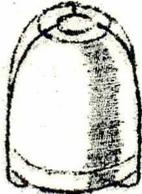
Rewind and  
Fast Forward  
approx 1 min.

3 motors.

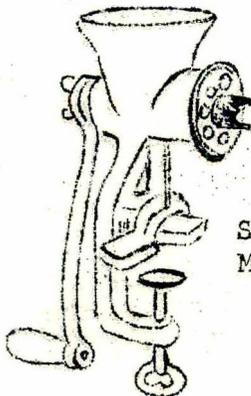
Base Plate  
14¾" x 10¾"

Motek Record/Play and Erase heads - high impedance - half track - Record head gap .0005".

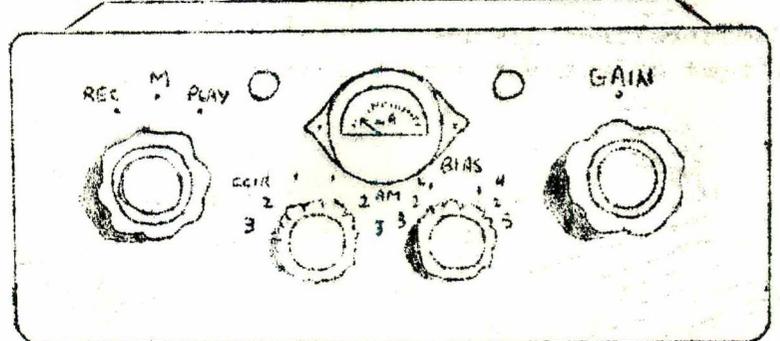
Wearite defluxer.



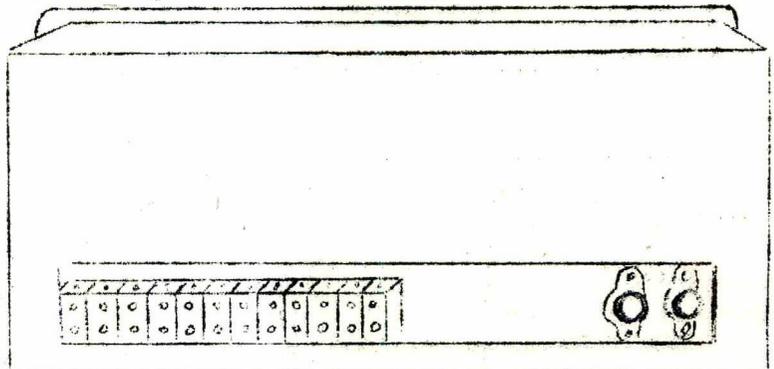
Lustrette LD/61 ZC  
Moving Coil Mic. Condenser.



Sponge  
Mincer.

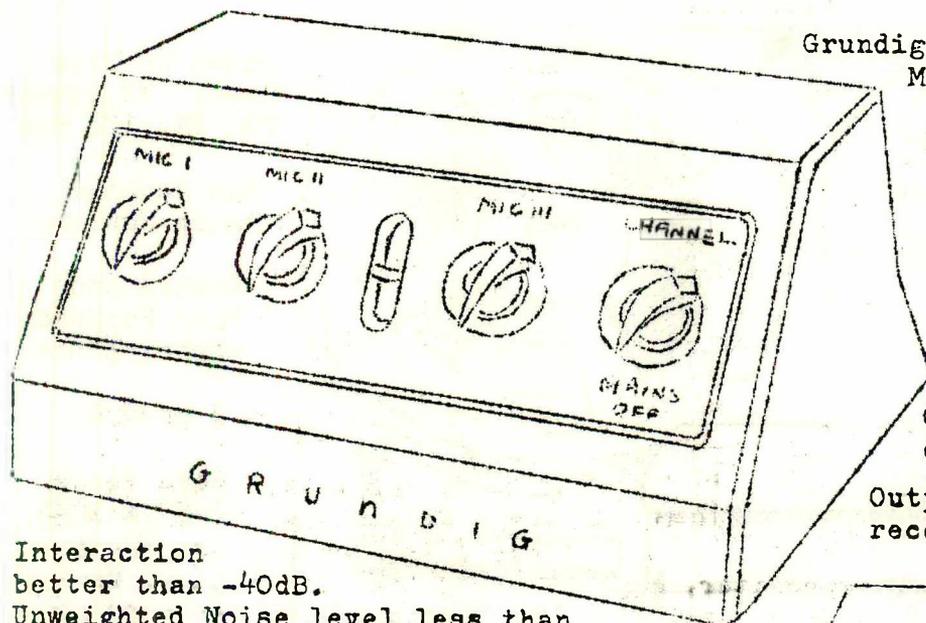


Sound Sales A-Z Precord - Front and Back.  
Tape compensated to CCIR and AMPEX characteristic for speeds 15, 7½ and 3¾ ips. Bias variable for 8-10-12 and 45-50-55 volts according to heads in use. Output 400 mV.



Input Mic 1.4mV 2 Megohm  
Other 50 mV ½ Megohm

Grundig GMU 3 Electronic Mixer Unit.

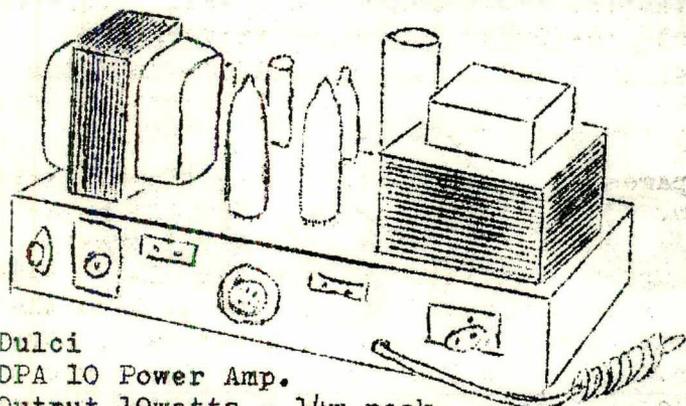


Inputs Mic I 1.2mV  
100 K ohms  
Mic II/III 4mV  
100 K ohms  
polarised 100V  
Channel 300mV  
500 K ohms.

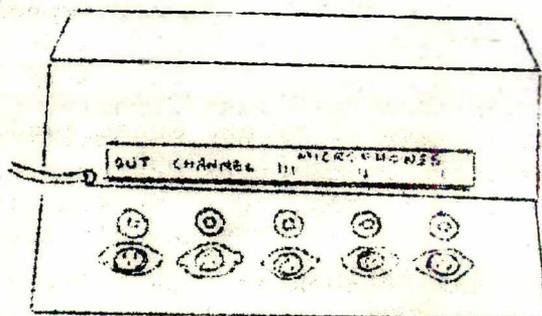
Output impedance 1000 ohms approx.

Output Level 65mV for full recording.

Interaction better than -40dB.  
Unweighted Noise level less than .5mV

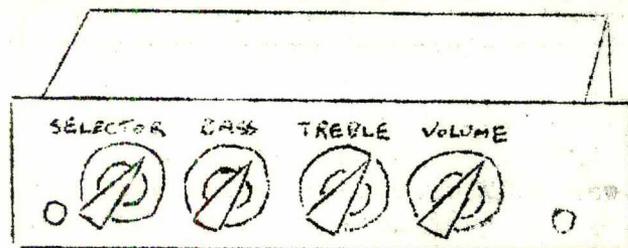


Dulci  
DPA 10 Power Amp.  
Output 10watts - 14w peak.  
Output Imp. 3-16 ohms switchable.  
Hum and noise -75dB below 10watts  
Negative feedback 26dB at 1 kc/s switched to suit setting of output impedance



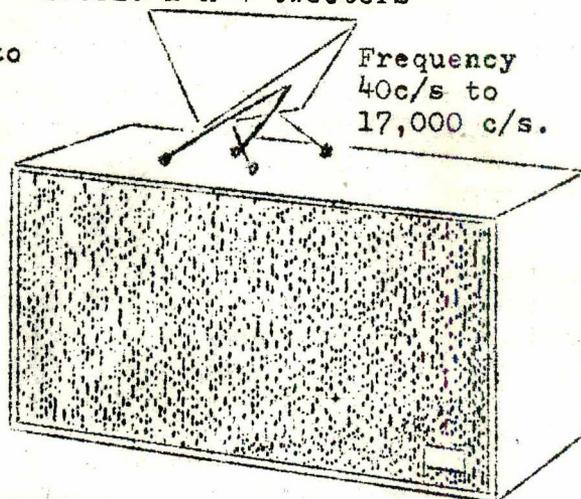
Amplification figures Mic I - +34dB  
Mic II/III - +24dB  
Channel -12dB. all  $\pm$ 1dB.

CQ Reproducer and Tetraq.  
Base 9" x 5" elliptic  
Treble 2 x 4" tweeters



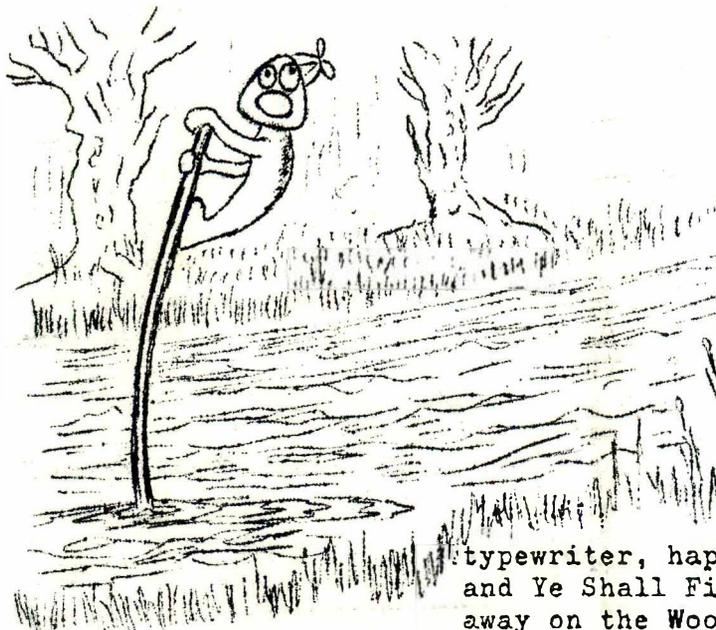
Pre-amplifier. Inputs Mic 1.5mV 2Megohms;  
Tape replay 100mV 100,000 ohms; Radio 1  
100mV 100,000 ohms; Radio 2 300mV 560,000 ohms; Pick-up 6mV 56,000 ohms.

Response Radio and Tape: well within 1dB 30c/s to 20 kc/s.



Frequency  
40c/s to  
17,000 c/s.

a country column of city life.....



## The Old Mill Stream

Penelope  
Fandergaste

Fandergaste, the envy of every fan columnist, that's me. Here I am, banging away on the typewriter, happily using the old Biblical Seek and Ye Shall Find Two Finger Method and puffing away on the Woodbines. But that doesn't necessarily make me different from the other fanzine hacks about the place. There's old Phoenix for instance, writing about pre-first fandom and there's the whole crowd who write for Hyphen. They just don't realise what march I can steal over them. Why, do you know that they have to use sheer ingenuity in their columns? They haven't found out the easy way yet.

Take a look at Grue. Pages and pages of interesting Grennellian comment on news items. That's the way, y'know. Take a butchers at a few old newspapers and you're sitting pretty. Alan Dodd has got the Method off pretty well pat, too, but Fandergaste is one up on even these stalwarts. All I have to do to get cracking on the old four or five sides for Sandy is go into the back room, open the cupboard and pick up what falls out. A never fail, sure fire way of beginning a fanzine column. I've had boxes of cigarette cards fall on my head, and last time there was a pile of a couple of hundred copies of the Reader's Digest. This time it was an old mop bucket, but the thought of writing about that just appalled me, so I dug back a little and came out covered in cobwebs but triumphantly carrying old copies of Lilliput.

There was a magazine for you. Keep your Wild West Weeklies and Doc Savages. I prefer variety, and Lilliput, before it began advertising itself as 'A Man's Magazine' had just that. It certainly had enough about it to interest science fiction fans.

For instance we can look at the thirty-second issue of this, 'The Pocket Magazine for Everyone', for February 1940. We turn the Trier cover with a little sorrow at the realisation that war is indeed upon us and that Things Will Never Be The Same Again -- Lilliput had just gone up from 6d to 7d. Yes, we turn that Trier cover and we see that among the contributors are John Pudney, Vic Oliver, James Hanley and one C.S.Youd. Well, well! Sam had written 'For Love Of a Country', a story of the irony of a young German pilot who dies mistakenly bombing a camouflaged munitions factory. This story won Lilliput's £10 prize for the best new war story of the month. Which is understandable.

If we skip a few years, to Lilliput No 92, February 1945, we come to an issue which contains an article of great interest to me. This is the department of horror's "Photographing a Suicide", by Sammy Schulman. Schulman was the American news photographer who covered the Armistice in Europe. I almost met him. He had relatives in the same street where I lived and he came to visit them. I wonder what became of him. At one time he was rated as Roosevelt's favourite photographer. F.D.R. used to ask "Where's Sammy?" and Schulman wrote a book under that title. The Lilliput article is a chapter in that book, in which the photos also appear. "Then came Wardle. There was no wild flipping and turning in his awful descent. He plunged head first in a limp, grotesque swan dive, the spluttering flares and the searchlights illuminating his garish white shirt. A mighty gasp went up from thousands of throats - a half uttered scream and a roar of 'There he goes...' I got him about thirty feet before he hit the glass and steel marquee that reaches over the hotel's (The Hotel Gotham, New York) main entrance..." That's a book I'd like to read again. If anyone has a copy they'd like to sell.....

I like the advert that Mullard's Wireless Service used to run in those days at the end of the war. The headline to a full page spread is "Here is the news - and this is Daddy seeing it." The ad. continues "Can I see the news please, Daddy? What Johnny means is, will his father allow him to look at the ELECTRONIC TELEPRINTER NEWS RECEIVER which Mr Futura carries on his right wrist..." Ah, those happy days before teevee.

In the March 1948 issue, Margot Bennett surveys the science fiction scene in a light hearted who-is-going-to-take-this-muck-seriously vein. All science fiction stories, says Miss Bennett, have a hero who saves the Galaxy "after a stiff fight against man eating mud, cosmic envelopes, or scheming icicles." She continues to say that "One of the finest exponents of this admonitory plot is a Mr. Rice Ackman." Huh? The writer also mentions robots mutants and telepathy. She says that Astounding Science Fiction does not differ notably from New Worlds, and analyses an Astounding story in which "Two planets are in disagreement about extra-galactic trade and Jemal has a high belligerency index until an ex-professor of peace makes and sells toys imbued with a kind of static telepathic fear of war." I like the moral at the end, that "this scientific pulp seems to be to keep the future with its fatal exaggeration of the present away from your door." I wonder what all that means.

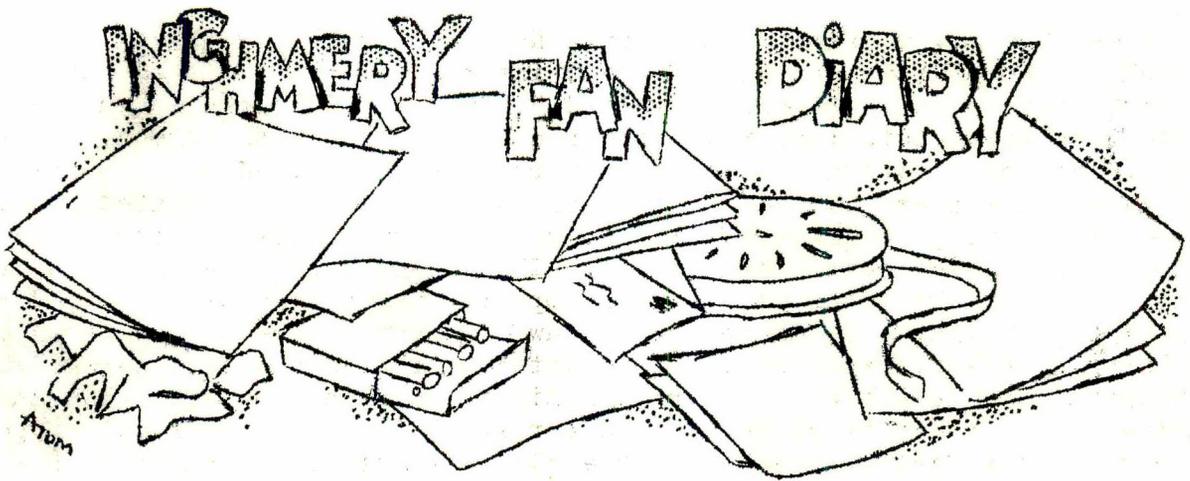
The "Traveller's Special" issue of July 1950 had a serious and constructive article on artificial satellites, "Islands in the Sky", by Arthur Clarke. Who else, with a title like that?

Arthur also contributed to the February 1951 Lilliput with a nice story called "The Men in the Flying Saucer". The "White Hart" gets a mention, and illustrations are courtesy Gerard Hoffnung.

Far be it for me to suggest that this is anything other than coincidental. I daresay there were a thousand and one reasons why I stopped taking Lilliput after that, but the June-July 1953 issue, the latest I have, re-printed Van Vogt's "Dear Pen Pal".

PENELOPE FANDERGASTE.

\*\*\*\*\*



September 1958

3rd. LOCO 2. Don Allen, 34a Cumberland Street, Gateshead 8, Co. Durham. Irregular. Free. This used to be Don's OMPazine before he had to drop out to answer his country's call. This issue is being put out to fill the gap between issues of Satellite (No 8 is due during the second half of October). Limericks, chatty news and an excellent Cawthorn illo. Good.

4th. Card from Ron Bennett posted in Los Angeles. "Las Vegas in 61 - Wish you were here." Signed Boyd Raeburn, Terry Carr (Brandon), Ted White, Jerry De Muth and Jim Caughran. Brother, you can say that again.

Archie Mercer made one of his rare visits to the Globe. Ted Tubb reported to have resigned from editorship of Vector, journal of the BSFA. I assume the reason given is pressure of work.

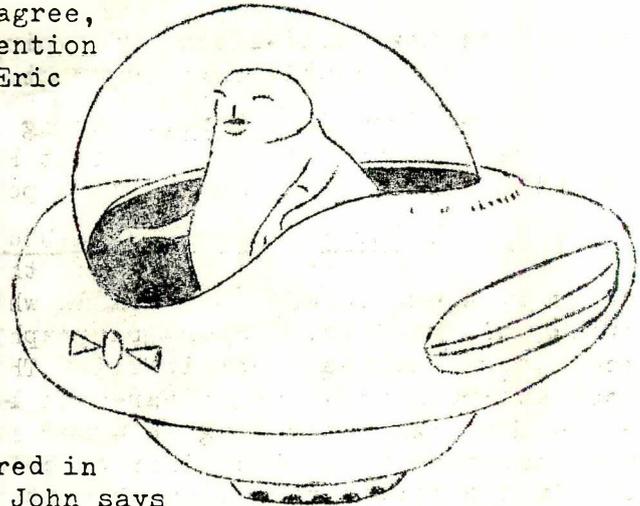
6th. Letter from Ron Bennett giving the news that he'd shaken hands with Bradbury six times. So far. Detroit won the 1959 Con 125 to 45 with one abstention (guess who, says Ron) one no comment and one blank paper. Bennett taught Sylvia Dees brag. She won a dollar seventy. And, quote:- "Ellis Mills objects to Penelope what'shername using his title. Seems he ran a column in an early OMPazine under the Mill Stream name. This makes me think he is Penelope. Is he?"

Went to the pictures to see Brando in 'Tea House of the August Moon' (these days we are always way behind everyone else with our films) The 2nd feature was a period costume drama entitled 'The King's Thief' with Purdom, Ann Blyth, George Saunders and David Niven. How fallen are the mighty.

8th. Card from Belle and Frank Dietz from Las Vegas - view of Fremont Street. Card from same and George Nims Raybin from St George, Utah where they were travelling through in a leisurely return from the Solacon.

Letter from Bryan Welham. (Apē 2). "I think A (I can't be bothered to put Apē) could go down very well. I found it so much more interesting than the hundreds of zines floating around now which have nothing in them hardly at all worth reading. A has some pleasant material, intelligently written and very interesting. Only thing that displeases me slightly is the continual mentioning of Bentcliffe, Kyle and Yngvi. Enough has been

said already about this I think. (€ I agree, and with luck there should be no more mention of such things again..hps ꞑ) Although Eric Bentcliffe himself is in no different category really. You criticised him fairly and completely in Ploy. This was either true or false, I wouldn't know, though I have some views of my own. In your article about him you did it in intelligent terms, but the latest Triodes are pretty rude and revolting to the extreme. (€ Since I haven't received copies of the latest Triodes I can't comment on this..hps ꞑ)

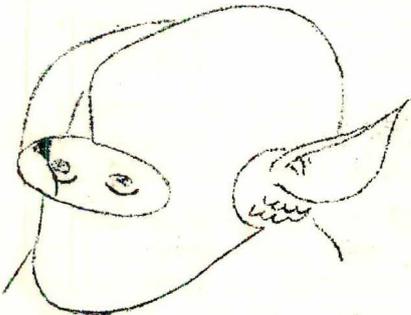


Crude comments like the one which appeared in 'Pun My Soul' by Berry and Bentcliffe. John says he didn't write that in so... It was a worthless story anyhow. When I first read your crit in Ploy I was horrified that such a thing could come to be, and disgusted with you for writing it and Ron for publishing it. Nowadays I'm not so sure of that. Eric Bentcliffe has shown, with his comments in Triode, that he is not all he could - or should - be. I disagree completely with the way he has answered you in your criticising of him, which could prove that some of the things you said about him might be true. I met Eric at Kettering and got on well with him, finding him a very nice person, but his written comments in Triode don't seem to agree with how he appeared to me at Kettering. It is as though there are two Bentcliffes - and I know the one I like best. (€ I think you realise my article was concerned with the fanzine-type Bentcliffe - all the references bore relationship to fanzine fandom..hps ꞑ)

9th. Letter from Ron Bennett. "...we went over to Bjo Wells and went walking about in the Pacific (which I'd already seen courtesy Charles D. Hornig - a very nice guy) and played brag with Ron Ellik in the back of the car and finally four of us set out across the Mojave Desert in a temperature DOWN to 97. Like wow. We went through Vegas and on to Salt Lake City where we looked up Calkins (pronounced Coll-kins) and had a great time there...."

Card from Belle Dietz from the Hoover Dam - an interesting place but hot, she says. Temperature 115 Fahrenheit, humidity 5%.

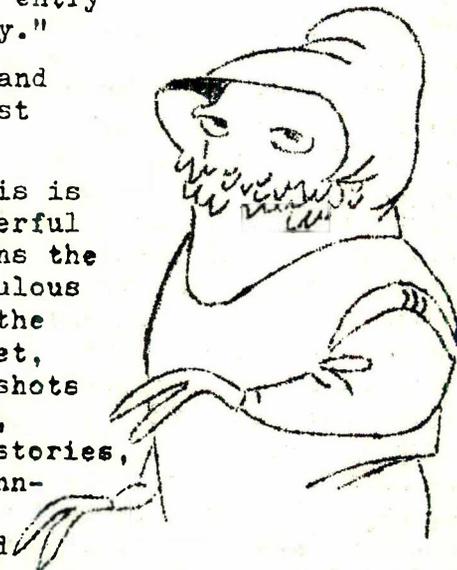
Card from Dick Eney on the convention news. "Detroit won the 1959 con with ease, which means that Washington DC has a pretty good chance of making the grade for 1960. (€ Yes, Washington in 1960! ꞑ). Bob Madle informs that there won't be enuf in the TAFF kitty to take a faaan Englandwards till 1960, meaning, dammit, that we won't be electing one of you to come over here that year. (€ Maybe it's just as well. To date there has been no news of any con scheduled for 1959 over here..hps ꞑ). Roughdraft of Fancyclopaedia II now completed. I made a recording for



Speer with the sound-effect of typing up the last entry ("ZAP-GUN"). Smooth-draft begun at once, nacherly."

Letter from John Berry, saying that the GDA and RET index was on the way, and that RET 11 is almost all stencilled. And, in the same post....

GDA AND RETRIBUTION INDEX (1956 - 1958). This is a 'must' for all the followers of the Goon. Wonderful cover by Atom, forward by John in which he explains the origin of the Goon, a short biography of that fabulous character, and the index itself. This lists all the Goon material that has appeared in 10 issues of Ret, as well as that appearing in other fanzines, one-shots and what-have-you. One minor quibble here - John, who is far better than I am when it comes to fan stories, has slipped up with his system. All stories beginning 'The....' are indexed under 'T'. Strictly speaking, of course, they should have been indexed under the second word. Like 'Cedric Affair, The' and Goon and Sixpence, The'. Like I say though, this is a minor matter.



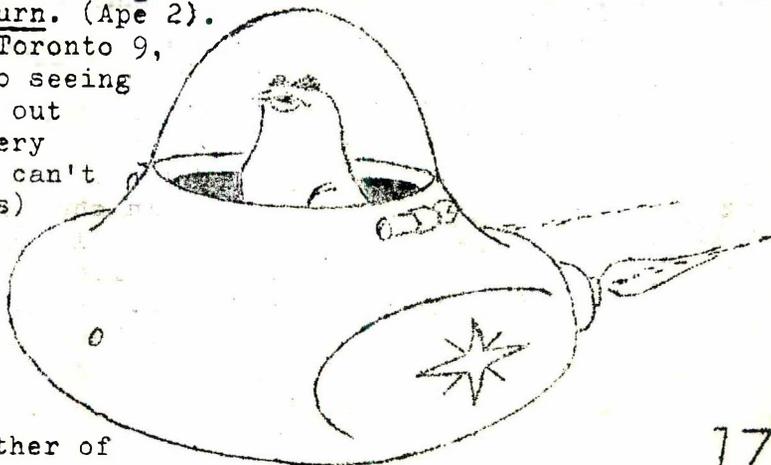
10th. Card from Walt Willis giving convention news. And Yah! to you, Willis - we had lots of sources of information this year. It was a nice idea tho' all the same. Thanks.

Letter from Sid Birchby. (Ape 2). "If I had to pick and choose, I'd say that for interest, your Inchmery Fan Diary comes first. Don't you think that diaries often do? I wonder why .. is it because they give one the feeling of peering through the keyhole into someone else's room? ## This fag-card lark seems to be getting dead sercon. Cartophily, indeed! Who are you codologising? Next thing we know, Ron Bennett will be calling himself a philatelist and getting himself accused of trifling with a gel's affections. Quite falsely. ## I have a bigger search on than one for strawberry ice. On one occasion only I bought a delicious type of ice that was water-ice on the outside and cream ice in the middle. This was at a lakeside cafe at Hatchmere .. you know Hatchmere? .. and I can't get it anywhere else. I refuse to cross half of Cheshire every time I want an ice. ## The Old Mill Stream is something to look forward to. Improving rapidly."

11th. Letter from Boyd Reaburn. (Ape 2).

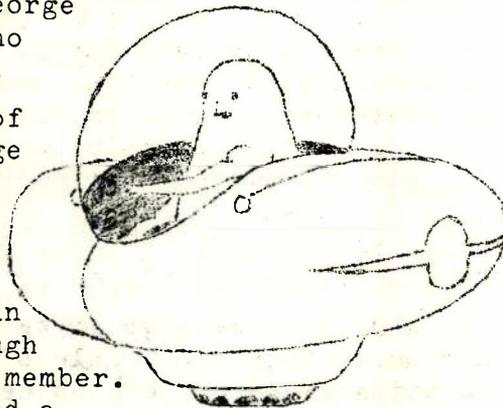
9, Glenvalley Drive, Toronto 9, Canada. "I'm looking forward to seeing Bennett's con report. Who puts out Perihelion? The name rings a very large bell, but at the moment I can't identify it." (€ Boyd (of A Bas) meet Bryan Welham (of PH). The PH address is given in Ape 3 †)

As it happened, Bryan turned up at the Globe with Barry Hall on the same evening as Boyd's letter arrived, and I mentioned it to them. Just another of the many Ape services.



12th. Surprise visit from Ivor Mayne and George Locke, two youngish Globe regulars who are becoming more interested in fanzine fandom.

13th. Report in today's issue of the Times of interest to all fans. Titled 'Strange World of Science Fiction' it is "From Our Special Correspondent". Said special correspondent is obviously a fan since the item is written from a fan angle and includes words such as 'fanzine' without any attempt to explain them. At a guess I'd say Brian Aldiss - although one can't rule out Ted Tubb or some other BSFA member. The Association gets a mention tho' it is called a Society (as Vinø said, had an outsider been writing this from a handout he would have copied the word Association - but amongst ourselves it has been referred to frequently as a Society). The article is short, concise, and shows modern sf in a good light. Whoever wrote it deserves congratulations.

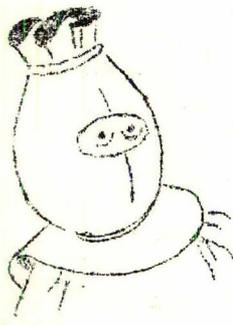


STUPEFYING STORIES.<sup>†</sup> Dick Eney. († 38). Short fanzine reviews and a page of letters. Notable Item is a squib on an idea from Harry Warner that non-Jazz-fans should use classicfantype talk in opposition. This household is in favour.

Went to the pictures to see 'Vertigo' with Kim Novak and James Stewart. Novak is closer to being an actress in this than she has ever been before, but don't rush - she still has a long way to go. The film was good but was spoiled by an unnecessary and premature flashback. The second feature - 'Secrets of the Reef' was much more interesting -- marine life with some excellent underwater photography.

15th. Letter from Rick Sneary. "The Con was a great success as a fannish Convention, though it was very small. Only a little over 320 actually signed up - though a probable 50 or more were there at one time or another. The thing that did it all was the way we advertised - or didn't. We had good write up in the pro-mags, and lots of talk in fanzines. But from past West-ercon experence we desided not to go all out on local publisty in the press and TV. We only got what we could with out strine. Result was low local attence, but a awfully high ratio of real fans. It seemed that I knew about 70% of the people there - and others agreed with me. The real fans weren't deluted by an aray of mere readers or on-lookers. So they had a better time.

(I only wish I could have seen more of it - and spent less time in or waiting for elevators.) The effect did change some of the things we had planed. We tryed for a well rounded programme, and tryed for things to entertain the 'mere readers'. So, when they didn't show up, a few of our ideas feal a little flat. Happyly they were not things we had programed and so the 'fans' didn't notice a thing. Infact, we were tearbly lucky, and produced everything we advertised. Even if in a somewhat different form than we had imagined. The Committee will bring out a final report withen a month, reporting how we did, what we did officially, and re-printing Matheson's speech. Well, remember SOUTH GATE AGAIN IN 2010!" (€ Congratulations, Rick. A good Con †)



Letter from Ron Bennett, forwarding a photo of this household taken by Bob Madle when he stayed here. "We rolled into Washington at 2 this morning and after dropping Sylvia (Dees) and Ted (White) off at Tuckahoe, we looked around at the White House and what have you and came along here where we sat around and talked to Bob (Pavlat's) family until around four. Up at 1.30, breakfast and here we go. TAFF for 1960 has been inaugurated. Nominations in by 31st December this year with the whole of 1959 for the voting. Candidates need a five dollar bond of good faith, a declaration of willingness to travel if elected and five nominators, three from the States and two from over there." (€ BOB PAVLAT FOR TAFF - 1960.....hps ‡) PS from Ron on the back of the envelope "Am flying home. See you Monday or Tuesday."

And the same evening he phoned from Victoria - no American accent. Ron came over to stay a couple of days and brought many strange gifts with him, including the book-matches mentioned by Joy and a receipt for our Detention memberships. Mine is for Member 63 and is signed 'Noreen Falasca (Hi!)'. And Hi! right back, Noreen. If any of you lesser mortals join the Detention your receipts will merely be signed by one of the normal Detroit mob, but disappointing though this might be to you, please don't let it stop you supporting a worthy cause. Send 7/6 to Ron Bennett now for Detroit in 1959. Naturally Ron had a lot to tell us and naturally we stayed up late and listened to him, but I'm not going to anticipate his report by passing anything that he said on to you. It wouldn't be fair to him.

16th. Letter from Larry Ginn. "'Search For Strawberry Ice' is the best thing in the issue and I'm sure I speak for the bigger part of US fans when I say that your account is certainly not boring (as you seem to fear), but informative, fannish, and with just the right amount of humorous touches. I'm looking forward to reading the conclusion. Thanks for mentioning QUIRK. One minor mistake: QUIRK is dittoed not hectoed. Hectoing is taboo as far as I'm concerned." (€ My apologies.....hps ‡)

17th. Ron Bennett left for home this morning. Pity because we could easily have listened to him for another week. Still, he had to go home sooner or later.

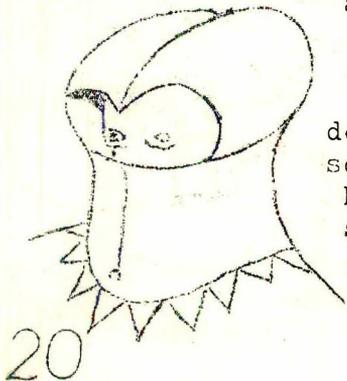
BEM 6. Mal Ashworth. You remember Bem? This is the Annish and the Final Issue. Mal has been talking of publishing No 6 as his last for some time now, and it has finally come to be. This is a great pity because Bem was always a good fanzine. The current issue suffers somewhat from the time lag (No 5 was published in September 1955) but it is still a worthy representative of the title. There are reprints by Tom White (original co-editor), Sam Youd on a visit to Festus Pragnell, a story by the two (unrelated) Lindsays, Paul Enever, Gregg Calkins, Vernon Ashworth, Mal himself, and the final part of Vinç's 'The Nineteenth Eye From The Left' which this time concerns itself with the story of Operation Shamrookie. This is a must for anyone who wishes to be well informed on the London Circle and Irish Fandom, and the subtle lengths to which either side will go to achieve their aims. Get BEM if you can.



18th. Letter from John Koning. "What do you mean, 'Decided I wouldn't take Apē 1 to Belfast on account of it was too heavy..' Myghod Sandy, I hope you meant the whole bundle of Apē 1's.... ## I like your Fan Diary. More than just a column. You can cover most everything that happens and yet keep it on a semi-personal level. But then, sometimes the personal approach is not the best." (⋈ Please put Inchmery down in the DWE ... hps⋈)

Letter from Bob Tucker. "Apē #1 and #2 cheerfully acknowledged, with profound thanks for two issues well-done, and entertaining. What greater mark can you want in this life? Do you want to be a BNF or something? ## I'm looking forward to part two of Bennett's account of his journey thru the colonies (I'm even looking forward to part one), for I met him briefly a few weeks ago on his mad, sleepless dash across country. A caravan of perhaps five cars and twenty five people had left Chicago before dawn, and at about eight o'clock stopped near Bloomington for breakfast. I caught them there and spent a delightful 45 minutes or so with Bennett, before he was stuffed back into one of the cars and whisked off across country. Someone had propped open his eyelids with toothpicks so that he might see the countryside (which in Illinois is depressingly flat) and see the fans (who, in Illinois, are not all square). I'm pleased to say that TAFF picked a winner. ## Perhaps you've heard by this time that at the convention, Raybin resigned as legal officer, and the assembly adopted a resolution directing the officers to dissolve the corporation. I believe this may have been for the best, because no one seemed able to straighten out corporate matters to a majority's satisfaction. Now, unfettered, they can if they wish re-incorporate with cleaner clearer rules and lines of command. Personally, if they do re-incorporate, I would prefer to see the convention committee act as corporate officers in complete charge of the society from year to year. The spectacle of two confused commands negating each other was ... well, a spectacle. (According to the grapevine, Detroit, which won the bid, intends to incorporate **itself** only, and not the body of fandom as a whole. Thus the host city-club would be protecting (?) itself while the fans are free to do as they please.) We'll see. ## Please continue Inchmery Fan Diary, the bright spot of each issue. (I should have said the brightest spot.)"

Bob also mentions the 'surname' discussion. He refers to Bloch, Willis and Grennell because he thinks of them that way. "In the beginning you were Sandy to me, for I knew of no other, and I was quite confused when a second Sandy was introduced without proper differentiation. Eventually...they became Sanderson and Sandfield. They are likely to remain so, unless one of them does something startling (like stealing the Crown jewels) and thus gains a distinctive nickname which will forever afterward label him clearly." However, he considers I shouldn't be annoyed if anyone calls me Mr Sanderson, merely surprised that there are fans with manners. I think it really depends on the person who says it. Naturally if it is someone new than no insult can be intended. On the other hand, if someone has known you for a long time and he suddenly becomes extraordinarily polite, then chances are he is at least being sarcastic. No? I like to be known as Sandy, but that isn't enough these days in the zine field because of confusion. So I prefer Sanderson, but no 'mr'. Not that I'd fight a duel over it, of course.



Bob and Sadie Shaw turned up on the way back from the Solacon to Belfast. Went to the Globe with them and as Joy has said, many almost-strangers turned up that night.

19th. Chuck Harris came over to see Bob and Sadie and discuss Hyphen.

20th. Saw the Shaws off from Waterloo Station.

21st. Arthur Thomson's turn to visit - he really came to see Bob and Sadie but stayed to discuss Apē covers and illos and stuff like that.

22nd. Letter from Betty Kujawa, who I think, got hold of the wrong end of the stick regarding the Empire Loyalists piece in Apē 2. The league wants the Empire maintained at all costs. Penelope was saying either keep it or let it go (and I think she favours the latter course, as I do) but either way don't carry on the way the league does. "As for Joy's query as to where that Mencken quote can be found - I, too, recall it well - but alas outside of Alistair Cooke's The Vintage Mencken all my enjoyment of HL was during University days and thru the courtesy of the college library. Have asked my neighbour - an absolute fiend on Mencken - he says you can find it in HL's own anthology A Mencken Chrestomathy - this I can't vouch for myself - but it might be right."

25th. Letter from Ted Carnell. "Herewith, as promised, cheque for £27: 13:-d, being a donation to the London Circle Funds from the Midwestcon and Cincinatti Fantasy Group. This, in part, to make up for the money the Circle loaned to the 15th Worldcon and did not receive back. ## Will you let me have a receipt from the London Circle (rather than from yourself personally) so that I may send it to Don Ford. ## Money was obtained partly from raffles (¢ Ted donated some New Worlds covers..hps ¢) and donations at this year's Midwestcon and partly contributed from the funds of the CFG. You might have this publicised far and wide in fanzines - I think it is a magnificent gesture on their part." (¢ The official receipt has been sent, but I hope Don Ford and his associates will accept this as a sign of the appreciation felt by myself and the members of the London Circle. The money could not have come at a better time. The response to Vinç's idea of a club room for the Circle has, almost without exception, been favourable. With this cash we will be able to pay rent in advance to gain security of tenure, and recover it weekly from attending members. Many thanks.

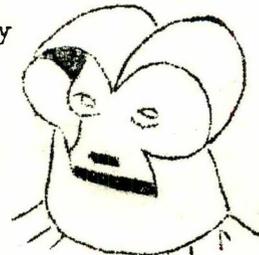
Joy picked up Nebula 34. This has an atrocious cover - very disappointing to me in view of an article I recently wrote for John Berry. Willis has a piece relating to a Ploy column of mine - no, not that one. He shows that it really takes a Willis to develop the idea fully.

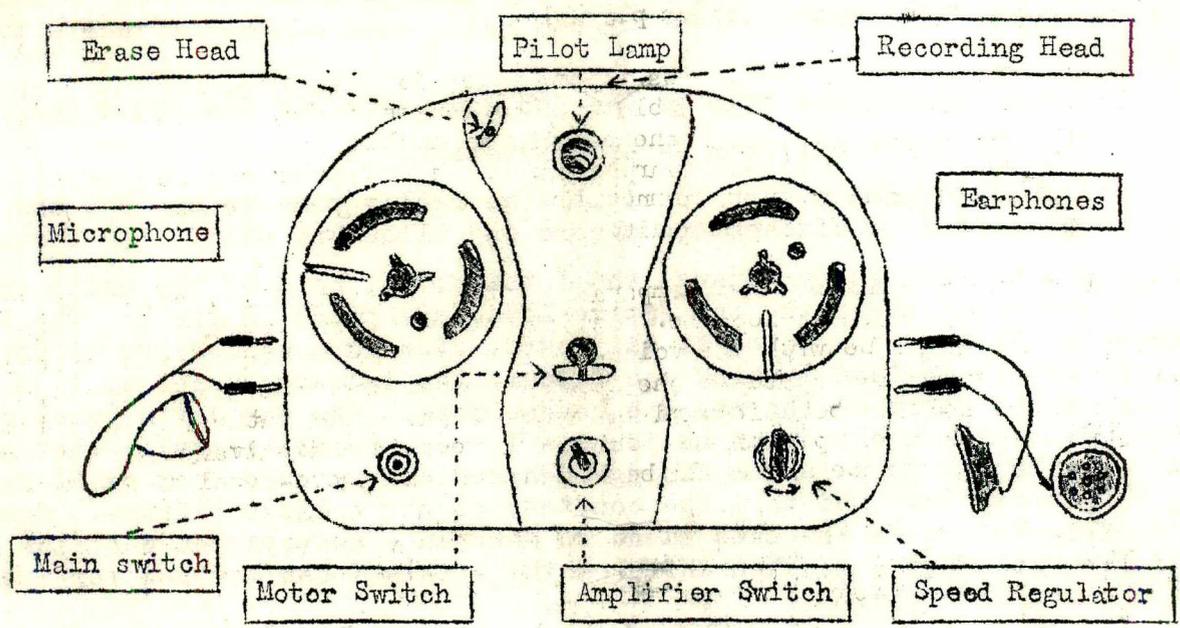
26th. FANAC 24. Carr & Ellik. Brief Con report and news and views.

Letter from Ron Bennett to say that he got home safely to find 18 inches of mail waiting for him. Ah well, back to normal. Sort of.

27th. Library: 'Races and People' Boyd & Asimov: 'Three Plays' Thornton Wilder: 'Britain' 1958 Official Handbook: 'The Frightened Giant' Cedric Belfrage.

Went to John Brunner's birthday party. Present were the Bulmers, Buckmasters, Hammetts, other O'ites and non-fans. Good.





THE VOXETTE TRANSISTORISED TAPE RECORDER Available from Headquarters & General Supplies, Ltd., 196 - 200 Coldharbour Lane, Loughborough Junction, London, SE 5.

Price: £11-19-6d complete with microphone and headphones, or £4 deposit and 18 monthly payments of 10/10d, carriage 5/-. ( Amplifier for speaker available from same source at £7-19-6d.) Six months guarantee.

The price of tape-recorders is gradually decreasing, and the average of £60-70 per set of 4-5 years ago has now dropped to the £30 region. There are, in fact, at least three recorders under that sum. However, the appearance in the "small-ad" column of the Voxette recorder at approximately £12 was a distinct shock, and called for some investigation. We therefore sent APORRHETA's Technical Reporter along to Loughborough Junction to check on the Voxette's possibilities, instead of relying solely on the literature. He states:

"I don't quite know what I expected, but the appearance of the VOXETTE was still a surprise. It's so small that it could be put, suitably wrapped, into a overcoat packet; the actual size is 8½" x 6½" x 2¼", and it weighs approximately 2 lbs. This smallness is achieved by the use of transistors, batteries, and the junking of most of the refinements of larger sets. It is, for instance, single-track playing, as opposed to the now-common double-track.

"There doesn't seem to be any technical specifications available, but considering the cheapness of the recorder this is understandable; the nearest analogy, when comparing the Voxette with more expensive machines, is that of the anonymous-lensed box-camera with an expensive 35mm. apparatus. A 17-Qtto page duplicated booklet available with the machine gives the reproduction range as "up to 4000 cycles" (this, for the non-technical, is about the note produced by a whistling kettle at full blast), but that's all.

"The speed is variable through a glide-control, and ranges from about 1 7/8ths ips. to about twice that amount. Unfortunately, the test tape I took along was recorded at 3 3/4 ips double-track, and wasn't intelligible with both tracks playing at once on this single track machine, but I had the impression that the more

common 3 3/4ips. speed might just be playable.

23

"On single-track, the 1 7/8ths ips. speed gives 16 minutes playing time on the 3" spools available. It is impossible to play larger reels, but the mechanically minded reader could probably alter the machine to double track without too much trouble. Reproduction is through earphones, or the recorder can be played through a radio's amplifying system. It cannot be played through a speaker directly, without the use of an amplifier circuit.

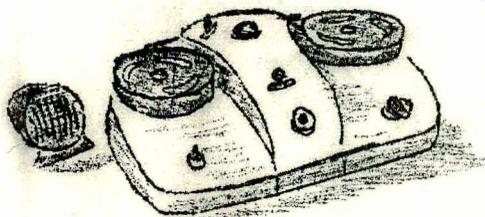
"Reproduction is naturally not comparable with larger machines, but it reproduces voices better than, say, a telephone. Music does not come through at all well, and its best use would be with the voice. Some difficulty might be experienced in matching the reproduction speed to the speed at which the tape was recorded, as the same control is used for both forward and rewind, and would naturally have its setting altered for each operation. This, however, is a disadvantage that could be conquered by experience, as could be the lack of a record-level indicator.

"The power source for the recorder is 4 Vidor V0011 small batteries, which fit into sockets in the base of the machine; it cannot be used on mains supply. The motor batteries can be used for approximately 50 hrs.

"An interesting feature is that, although the erase head is powered when the machine is recording, and automatically wipes any previous recording before the tape passes the record-head again, it can be swung away mechanically. A dubbed-in recording can therefore be made, on top of a previous impression, without the latter being wiped. Another idea, used to prevent spillage of tapes when braking, is that a slight impulse is fed to the spool that is unwinding, causing it to reverse direction under power and therefore take up any slack.

"A small microphone is included with the recorder; no details are available, but it appears to work to the standard of the rest of the apparatus.

"Summing up, this is a surprising technical achievement, and of great interest to those of us who could often make use of a portable recorder but who can't manage for one reason or another to haul around the standard so-called 'portable', which can weigh up to 40lbs. However, by virtue of the very smallness and cheapness of the Voxette one should not expect too much from it; it would be an excellent buy for anyone who wants to communicate without bothering about the aesthetic side of the reproduction, and its portability would make it ideal for short on-the-spot recordings at Conventions, etc. However, the slow speed means that only a certain proportion of normal machines will be able to play back tapes made on the Voxette, and this should be kept well in mind.



"Its use for the reproduction of music is not recommended for anyone with a liking for music.

"The manufacturers are carefully anonymous, but a printed leaflet extra to the aforementioned booklet contains handling instructions in German, English and French. It's assumed the source is Germany. The distributors are a well known London ex-Government surplus equipment and general stores, who do most of their business by mail."

10 of