

THE CAT

VOL. XL

No.6

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Short Stories - Branch and Group News - Members Corner - CAT CHAT dealing with press and other published cat papers.

Selected photos of Members' cats and kittens - notes relating to Leagues' activities and appeals

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NEXT ISSUE 1st JULY 67

LET'S CELEBRATE: Anniversaries are occasions for celebration and this month marks a great occasion, it is the League's fortieth birthday. We take the opportunity of presenting the outstanding events in our progress over the years, see pages 424-8.



DO UNTO OTHERS: In our review of the League pioneers activities we have mentioned co-operation with other organisations whose aims are compatible with those of the League. We are always glad to know of any active work being done by local societies or bodies that might benefit from what publicity we can give.



OUR FRONT PAGE CENTRE PICTURE: This is one of the first illustrations used on the League's leaflets and posters with the wording "Can you resist my pleading eyes". Can you?

We use this picture partly because it is opportune in view of our anniversary and also to enlist your support in the creation of our new Cat Week Fund Raising Image. Full details in the July number.



FOR HONORABLE MENTION: We are reviving a feature which was first introduced many years ago. On page 423 is the first "Honorable mention" of the new series, the functioning of which will be explained in a later issue.

We must apologise for the omission of stories etc. for which there is no space in this issue.

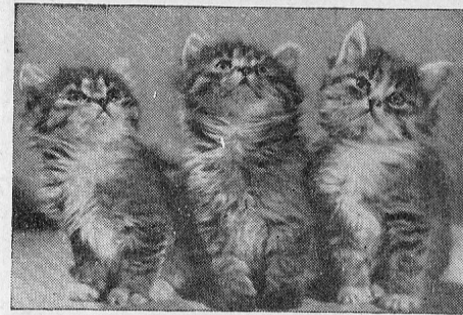
A. A. Steward.

EDITOR & GENERAL SECRETARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, July 1st 1967 at Caxton Hall

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MEMBERS CORNER

I wonder if you would warn owners of cats and kittens against the following practice? This morning I saw a notice in a shop window, offering a young tabby cat to anyone who "would give it a home, only animal lovers need apply". There was a phone number given, I rang up the owner of the cat. It appears that, as he is a year old, no longer a kitten, that he is no longer wanted. I pointed out the risk of handing over a cat to anyone who called and promised it a "good home", and then sold it to a collector of cats for laboratory use. I gave the owner C.P.L. phone numbers at Malden and North London and told her to ring up for advice. I knew one woman whose little cat had two or three families a year and who kept all the kittens. Then, when the kittens were still too young to leave their mother, the owner put a notice in a neighbouring shop window, offering to give away kittens. She gave the little things to any child who asked for one, or anyone else who came to her door took away a kitten. This went on for years. Fortunately the mother cat died. The fate of cats and dogs offered for sale in the market place at Cambridge is heartbreaking as so many are wanted by the laboratories there. Dorothy E. Wright.

I think you are doing a marvellous job and am sending you £1 0 0d. Perhaps you would be interested to hear how I collected it.

First I started a school club which I named the "Sheffield Abyssinian Cat Club" in honour of our two Abyssinians. Then I decided to write a magazine about cats and sell it for a penny minimum. People contributed a lot and after two issues I found I had 15/6d. to which I added 5/-. Katherine Heywood.

Thank you for the delightful visit the other day, and for the books. I think the Headquarters is simply wonderful - Congratulations for a lifetime of such good work. Diane Fisher. (C.P.L. Member from Canada).

We are now living in a purpose built flat on the ninth floor of a modern block of flats and have, of course, brought our cat "Winston" (T.W. 4235), with us. We did put him in kennels for a week during our "move" but have now brought him home. He seems quite happy and in good condition, but shows no inclination to leave the flat, although we feel we ought to take him out on a lead for some fresh air.

In view of his reluctance to leave the flat do you think we should try to make him go? We should be glad of your views and, indeed, the experience of any of your readers who may have had a similar problem. We are, perhaps, more curious than we need be, but when we lived in a house with a large garden, Winston went out at least once a day. Mrs. M. Gilver, 91 The Cliff, New Brighton, Cheshire.

I have heard of the Legend of how the cat learned to purr, but it doesn't end with Our Lady being able to rest because the cat soothed the Baby to sleep. It goes further, because Our Lady was so grateful, all cats have the mark of an "M" on their heads. It is only noticeable on tabbies because of the distinct markings, on other cats the mark is not seen because of the one colour: - e.g. black, white etc., all the same it is there. Alice Hall.

Thank you so much for your kind and helpful letter, and for sending the magazine.

Its a case of "all's well that ends well", as I have adopted one of your "Shelter" cats from the Caledonian Road Branch. We like each other a lot, and she has settled in amazingly well - she didn't stop purring for two days when she arrived! I enclose postal order for a toy mouse for her.

I must say I thought the cats at the Shelter seemed well cared for and contented and the lady in charge was most helpful.

I put a pound gladly into the box for the cost of spaying, and have also recommended one or two friends who are looking for kittens to go there.

I hope that'll be a small help towards such a worthwhile cause. Julia Wills.

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Come in Darling

This little piece is specially for anyone who has had a cat, only to lose it through it straying too far perhaps or on moving house. In the last 8 years we have taken in 5 cats, not particularly scruffy ones, almost fully grown and one, the last a black persian of about 3 years. None of these cats were timid or awfully thin and he, like the others, just hung around for a day or so, being friendly to anyone who would stop and stroke him and then gradually coming nearer the kitchen door. I can never say "No" to an animal who is so obviously looking for love and a warm bed and so, for the umpteenth time, I open the door wide and say "Come in darling". Then in go the adverts, notices on the gate and shop doors. No one ever comes but I just wonder how far these cats have walked and if someone somewhere is searching for them. We called the black persian who came last year Sidney. The Vet said he'd walked miles, his pads were hard and cracked but he was pretty well covered in flesh. We live a mile from the village and people had seen him on the road and one sunny morning there he was, just sitting on our path and smiling. Our other four cats went and said Hello to him and so he moved in but I do wonder who owned him once, as his lovely thick coat was not matted and he had obviously been a great one for a cuddle. So to everyone who has lost a cat I'd like to say please remember there must be other people like me, I actually know a couple myself, who will take in a stray cat and love it dearly. We never have less than four cats at a time, and they've always been strays. When it's time to say goodbye they are put down at a home and tears are shed for them, but while they live, no money would buy them. My heart breaks whenever we lose one but days go by and it mends again, ready for the next time.

This year we hope to go away for a holiday if we can find someone to live in with the cats, but Sidney, who has a very great hate for our poor dear fat Freddie, a handsome black and white, is booked for a week in kennels.

No one but their "Mum" could be expected to make certain that these two don't meet without her acting as referee. And Sidney is a tough chap and as long as he can gobble his way through a large tin of dog food a day, I'm sure he'll come home safely, fat face beaming as usual. B. McEwan.

CAT CAUGHT BY FOX

Mr. A. J. Denman, of 33 Hammer Lane, Hammer, writes: "The other morning about 1.30 a.m. my sleep was disturbed when I heard an agonising cry from a cat. The sound came nearer. Unable to withstand the noise, I went to the window and opened it.

"Below, less than ten yards away, there was a fox with a cat in its mouth. I did everything to frighten it, but to no avail. It had caught its prey and did not intend to give it up, and so on its way it went with the cat's cry growing fainter and fainter in the distance. The moonlight was very bright and the fox and its prey were very clearly seen.

"Animal-lovers (especially those who love cats) are advised to keep them in at night, as there are quite a number of foxes in this area."

On a lovely moonlight night last January I was tempted to take a walk on the promenade at St. Leonards when after a few steps I noticed I was being followed—and by a cat. He went with me all the way and in returning I hesitated before crossing the road to my hotel lest he should follow me in, but to my surprise he disappeared. Several days afterwards walking down the road in daylight he greeted me from one of the gardens. So he evidently knew me for a neighbour. Or might I have been in a former reincarnation Bubastes, the cat Goddess.

E. M. C. Harrison.

TO LITTLE PAD

Run over, November 15th 1933

How black you were, but how beloved,
How wanton and how wise,
Our hearts are very deeply moved
To close your little eyes.
Our nearest friend, by nights and days,
In country or in town:
We tended you with loving praise,
As you ran up and down.
You might have lived with us—how long?
Till we were all quite old,
But now you lie just one year young,
Inanimate and cold:
Struck down by some impending strife,
Heedless its cruel powers,
You rendered up your happy life,
And with it part of ours.

Adrian Bury.

IN MEMORIAM

Blitz 1941–1957 and his friend Mickey, 1946–1960. Never forgotten E. & A. C. Fairweather.

In loving memory of Snowy, Bella and Pussy-Willow all victims of a country road; lonely and broken hearted mistress. A.E.B.

The Enclosed donation is a token of esteem and in memory of "Omo" a beloved church cat, aged ten years; he used to lead the congregation into church. Looked after so well by Miss I. Kettle of Sunningdale, a tireless worker for many years in this village.

Our snow-white Kimmy, Tailwaver 637, who died on 25th April, 1952, aged 12½ years; and gentle Tiger, Tailwaver 2022, who died on 12th February, 1962, aged 13½ years; beloved pets of Arthur and Barbara Garry.

Jo, the son of Demi, and brother of Jill who died last August. 24.3.56–22.4.67. O.S.

In memory of our beloved "Tom kitten" who left us on April 14th 1967 after 15 years of companionship. M. Wakley.

Unusual Meeting

Because of "Ring of Bright Water" and one or two other extremely readable books, otters in the present decade acquired a greatly-improved "image". Perhaps especially as pets. They have, in a sense, put their cousins the badgers in the shade. Badgers and otters are more nearly related than most people might imagine, being members of the same weasel family.

One Westcountryman who has known two or three tame badgers is prompted to say a word for them. They practically never bring a gallon of water (in their coats) into the house, to be gradually dripped off. And they can be friendly and playful as otters if adopted young enough. But they do tend to be somnolent in most of the daylight hours, at least when they are adult.

A badger student who once took his Siamese kitten to meet a tame badger at a certain North Devon inn which has kept them for many years was mildly surprised at the lack of reaction.

Neither animal took any notice of the other and there was no hint of inquisitive wonder by either at meeting a strange beast. Both seemed indifferent, and happily without fear or aggression, to the point of boredom. The small and silky kitten made a striking contrast to the large, rough-and-tumble badger, who bounced about in play.

In Memory of "Twinkle" aged 13 years who died quite suddenly on April 12th, 1967. A very dearly loved pet. L. M. Pane.

In memory of two much-loved companions, Mutty, put to sleep on 29th March, 1967, aged 16 years 9 months and his twin sister Jemina, died from unknown cause on 16th May 1959, aged 9 years 11 months. M. Carner.

In loving memory of our dearest pets, Mika who died in 1959 aged 3½ years, and Snowy who died 2 years ago aged 14, and many others before them: very much loved and terribly missed. E. S. Fisher, N. Finchley

In loving memory of our darling Stephen, Tailwaver 2286, who passed over on June 25th, 1957, aged 13 years. God is watching over you, dearest, until we are re-united for all eternity in his kingdom. Mr. & Mrs. W.F.H.

Paddy: 22nd June 1960. Beloved, and worthy of it. E.M.P., E.R. R-T.

"To Jessie and Captain": my two loyal cat friends, who gave me so much love, each of you, for 16 years. Ann Woolfson.

FOR HONOURABLE MENTION

The Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor C. J. Ross-Spencer, has presented the silver medal for gallantry of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, to a Siamese cat named Wong, who killed a snake and saved the life of his four-year-old mistress Wanda Viviers.

The cat fought the deadly 6ft. snake for an hour before he killed it. He sprang to the little girl's aid when he heard her scream as the snake reared at her.

Submitted by Miss S. Proctor and Kitty-Witty, T.W. 4285.

Remote and still the grey cat sits with a fixed unwinking stare,
Perchance remembering glimmerings of an incarnation rare,
Of Bubastis on the Nile where across the marble floor
The priestesses swayed in solemn dance your throne before;
And the suppliants prostrate scattered golden toys for your delight,
Implored a sign, a silent miaou, seeking favour in your sight.
The spell is broken, Sophie hears, in the lock her master's key,
Gone, the Goddess cat of Egypt, just my pussy on my knee. D. Unsworth.

HERE'S TO THE C.P.L.

FORTY years ago, a few devoted people scattered over the country doing their best for a few cats—then, in the extraordinary way that like interests gravitate together, these groups coalesced and the Cats Protection League was formed. No funds worth mentioning, but generosity and unselfish love of cats, produced a house and a secretary, also his wife. Slough was the place where these necessities were found, and there the C.P.L. settled and has grown and flourished for forty years. Gradually the tentacles reached out over the country taking root in various places, where some have thrived, and a few have succumbed. But the general picture must be gratifying to our members.

Centres of hard work for cats up and down the country, and a general secretary at Slough who has the knowledge and understanding of cat problems and, above all, C.P.L. problems at his fingertips. And a further most essential ingredient for continued success, a substantial backing of sound investments. The strongest thread throughout these forty years has been Mr. Steward ably and patiently backed by Mrs. Steward. It is difficult to describe what the League owes to those two who have borne the ups and downs, the heartbreaks and joys of this often thankless task. However I should like to thank them most sincerely on behalf of us all, not forgetting too, all those who labour so unselfishly in all our centres. Let them be glad, when things look hopeless, that their work is a good work and that they are earning great respect for the Cats' Protection League. Osyth Sherratt, Chairman.

THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE 1927-1967. It began like this:—On May 16th, 1927 at Caxton Hall a meeting of cat lovers was held, under the chairmanship of Miss Jessey Wade, at which it was resolved "that a society be formed to be devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of cats and that its name be The Cats' Protection League." The League's first president was Mr. William Brown, M.R.C.V.S., J.P., Chairman Miss Jessey Wade, The Honorary Treasurer Mr. Earnest Bell and the Honorary Secretary Mrs. C. B. Avery. (None of the original officers or any member of the Executive Committee are alive today.) From the start the League determined to be pioneers in matters that would benefit cats and kittens.

In September 1927 an elastic cat collar was introduced, approved and supplied to cat owners at a nominal charge and the first Cat (Welfare) Week was organised.

In November 1928 we made our first appearance at the Animals Fair and in May 1931 opened a small Shelter in Walworth. This was maintained until the premises were demolished a few years later. In January 1931 we launched the League's official organ under the title "The Cats' Mews-Sheet", and in this, the first number, mention was made to the first representative bodies, operating as Cats Clubs, and quoting from page three number one, volume one, the writer says "Cats Clubs have been formed in Slough, Ilford, Liverpool and Edinburgh", which later on became Branches but Ilford and Edinburgh have long since ceased to operate. At that date the Slough and District Cat Club had a membership of 290 and on membership figures was the most progres-

sive. It came into being in 1929 just under two years after the League was formed.

In 1933 the Slough Branch was merged into the League and the office of Organising Secretary was established, and has been held by your Secretary ever since.

In January 1934 the title of our magazine was shortened to The Cat and remains so up to the time of this review. We are proud of the continuous circulation of our little paper, it did not miss an issue all through the war. Like the League itself, it has grown up and its scope has considerably widened.

EDUCATION AND PROPAGANDA: One of the League's aims is to educate cat owners to their responsibilities and from the very beginning appropriate leaflets were compiled and distributed; this programme has been maintained and indeed the number of leaflets published has increased, covering a wide range of subjects on cat welfare.

In June 1940 we introduced the C.P.L. Tailwavers scheme, "to help relieve suffering amongst the bombed-out and starving cats and kittens in the blitzed areas": was the object of the scheme.

In January 1946 Tailwavers was adopted as the medium for raising funds for the whole of the clinic and rescue work directed from the League's Headquarters.

In 1962 "Tailwavers" was incorporated into the League's title, by the Charity Commissioner, when the C.P.L. was registered as a National Charity.

We do not claim to have revolutionised the world of cat welfare, but we have caused a minor upheaval and made considerable impact on the cat owning fraternity of this country and elsewhere. In letters from friends in the U.S.A. where we now have an ever growing following, the League has been described as, "unique, most enterprising, and highly commendable". Cat lovers in this country have said that the C.P.L. is the Society that is different.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Cat Collars have already been mentioned so we follow on with the League's "Cocks-foot grass seed service". Way back in the "dim and distant" W. Foulsham & Co. Ltd., published "Your Cat, Its Care and Treatment" by Mrs. A. de Bary-Saunders who included in her book a chapter on Fur Balling and Grass, and said, "Messrs. Sutton and Sons of Reading have generously responded to my appeal on behalf of the countless cats living in London and elsewhere and have offered to send, gratis and post free, a little packet of the right sort of seed (rough Cocks-Foot grass) to any reader who applies for it".

This arrangement continued for years, in fact until the last war: then the C.P.L. took over the free distribution of Cocks-Foot grass seed, by arrangement with Sutton and Sons and with their kind co-operation in the matter of supplying the seed in bulk (for which we pay of course) and providing the instructions for growing. The significant point is that Mrs. de Bary-Saunders was a member of the C.P.L.'s Executive Committee in the early years just after the League came into being, and was a keen supporter until she went abroad. The Cocks-Foot grass seed service still operates on its original basis but we wonder how long it

will be before someone commercialises an inspiration that was, and still is, intended to benefit cats and provide a solution to the problem facing cat owners where there is no access to grass.

Our next contribution to cat owners and their pets was a "cat door". The first serious attempt to popularise cat doors came when another member of the League's Committee presented us with a drawing and working model, which without doubt was the fore-runner of the "various doors" available today. Our pictures shows, in miniature, the C.P.L. cat door let into an ordinary door. The illustration has been used in many publications, books, magazines, and is still available on request from Headquarters.

One of the most important of our diagrammatic brochures is the sex of kitten diagram, drawn for us by an artist member. It has been reproduced in cat books, magazines etc. and is available to members of the League or cat owners generally on application. It would be impossible to estimate the value of this publication in terms of a contribution to the solving of the unwanted cat/kitten problem. In this alone the C.P.L. has given invaluable aid to the cat-owning community.

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE: To give useful advice is helpful to a point, but to provide practical assistance is often more effective. It has not been possible to establish Clinics and Shelters to the extent that one would feel it was necessary to do, so the C.P.L. has introduced what we consider to be the most comprehensive voucher scheme in this or any other country. It is intended to apply anywhere in the United Kingdom where the Veterinary Surgeons, boarding establishment proprietors and tradesmen will co-operate by accepting vouchers. The voucher system is also in operation where the League has Branches and Groups, and where these do not exist Headquarters vouchers are available.

HOME FINDING AND REHABILITATION: The League has recently introduced a very comprehensive questionnaire/agreement to ensure that whatever cats or kittens are placed in new homes through the C.P.L., are passed on only to those who will conform to the requirements put down by the League. Apart from the variety of leaflets previously mentioned and the booklet "Some Facts About Cats" the League has produced several other interesting publications including "Cat Studies" by Doctor E. Greenly but only the latter is now available. We still have a few dozen copies of this book, the publishing price was 10/6d. The second edition of "Some Facts About Cats" is at present on press. It has been much enlarged and brought up to date and when it is available mention will be made of it in "The Cat".

REFLECTION: In the life of the C.P.L. a number of Societies whose interest were mainly cats, and some cat magazines appeared and disappeared: we recall the activities of the Feline Defence League founded in 1902 by the late Miss Kate Cording, a copy of the F.D.L.'s terms of reference is on our files. It is interesting to note, that their brochure states "Our Feline Defence League is an organised attempt to deal with the stray cat problem is a practical way". It also states "Some people believe in feeding stray cats, and leaving them homeless in the streets, rather than taking them to a Shelter. By so doing, they

are feeding them up to breed, and bring other unwanted cats into the world, thus increasing the evil". That this applies today is only too true. As you will no doubt have gathered the F.D.L. no longer exists.

Another cat welfare organisation that came into being and had but a short life was the Honorable Company of Cats, its activities were centred on dispensaries in the London area but unfortunately the support was not forth-coming to enable the organisation to fulfil its aims.

Another well intentioned effort to improve the status of the cat was attempted by the Micaow Club and appeared to have been sponsored by the proprietors of a magazine called "Cat World and Cats and Kittens". The Micaow Club too lasted only a very few years.

Another organisation promoted, or attempted to do so, a Haven of Rest for Cats. In theory it was perfect; the premises they hoped to have, the use to which they were to be put were all commendable, but alas, it was one of those schemes that went astray.

We have no doubt there have been other attempts to establish Cat Welfare organisations and we know there are a number of "local" movements outside the framework of the C.P.L. that do a great deal of practical work in cat welfare. We have commented on this in the Editorial column.

Other cat magazines have come and gone, creating considerable impressions and advocating the cause of our feline friends in their respective ways. We recall 'Our Cats' and 'Cat Gossip' early in 1900 period. 'Cats and Kittens' and 'The Cats World' 1930's and 'Our Cats' of recent years but now alas out of circulation.

A LITTLE HELP: Remembering that not so very long ago the C.P.L. was one of the so called "smaller fry" in the Animal Welfare World and knowing from experience how difficult it is to get known and enlist support, we want to express our appreciation of what has been done by cat lovers for the C.P.L. by extending a helping hand to the little known organisations that are confronted with the difficulties of development. Each month or as regularly as possible according to the amount of space available in the magazine, we introduce the work of other societies etc. whose activities are in line with ours, or where their work is predominantly on behalf of cats and kittens.

In some instances it may be possible to effect an affiliation but this is just a thought at present.

We have found it true that one half of the Animal Welfare World knows nothing or very little of how the other half exists. Whilst we cannot undertake to put this right we can at least lead the way and indeed we feel it incumbent on us to do so.

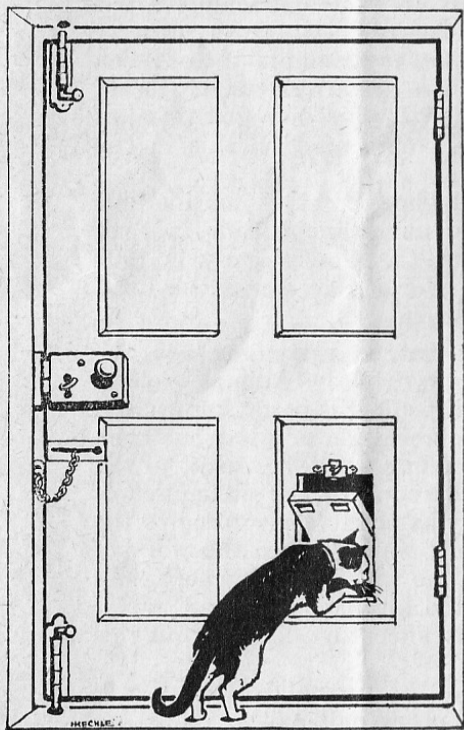
We have given space in The Cat to the work of some of the struggling societies and we have included the efforts of individuals at home and abroad who, in our opinion should be supported. In some instances aid has been given from Headquarters' funds. Every care is taken to ensure any action we take is justified and that the particular cause is Bona fide in every respect.

ANCIENT AND MODERN IS THERE A LINK? We wonder, did the cat gods of ancient Egypt favour the advent of the C.P.L. and have

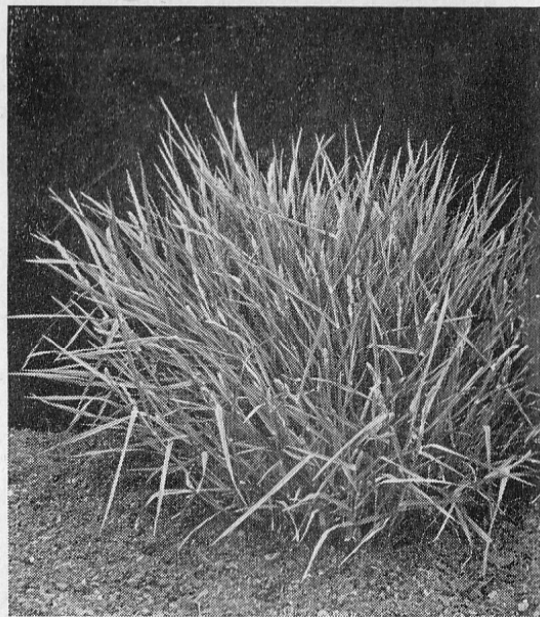
Bast, Pasht and Ra kept a kindly eye on the organisation that aims "to raise the status of cats"?

Whether or not we enjoy the over-riding favour of the gods we have had tremendous success, due to the loyal support of cat lovers, who we feel sure will want to share in the celebration of our Fortieth Anniversary.

We are convinced, that the future will provide opportunities, "fresh fields to conquer" and with your invaluable support we will do just that. With this in mind we feel it necessary and opportune to create a new image in fund raising, the preliminaries of which have already appeared in previous issues of The Cat, and more will follow in the July number. A. A. Steward.



CATS NEED GRASS



CAT WEEK 1967

October 1st to the 8th inclusive

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FULL SCHEME FOR THIS YEAR WILL BE INTRODUCED SHORTLY



BRANCH & GROUP NEWS



CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT GROUP:
Hon. Sec. Mrs. J. Middlemiss, 335, Springfield, Road, Chelmsford.

A "postscript" to the sad story of our "Hospital Kittens"—the gentleman who was so concerned for them has since died. Truly "Ships that pass in the night".

Our evening Jumble Sale at the Cathedral Hall on April 4th raised £17 and a considerable amount of "better than jumble" articles to be sold through other channels.

The five kittens have gone to good homes—there being a shortage at the moment! However they were soon replaced by six more! An "S.O.S." from a lady—"I have two strays with kittens" brought speedy action, only to find that the two mothers were sisters, kittens of a stray who disappeared last year and fed by the lady since last September. One was a placid Tabby and the other a "nervy" black and white who had her kittens on the bare garden, from where they had been moved to shelter with the other four. The latter went quite wild and bit her "collector" through glove and thumbnail, which wasn't surprising, as the poor creature had another kitten, born dead, after being transferred to the cattery? The lady is not likely to repeat her misplaced "kindness"!

Albert, known to his family as "Put-put," arrived safely at Los Angeles Airport, and once at home, stepped from his box as fit as the proverbial flea. He purred like a maniac butted everyone and rubbed round legs.

The press cameras were in evidence at the airport, but that was just a coincidence—David Niven was on the same plane! "Put-put" promises a picture as soon as possible. Surely one of the best feline "rags to riches" stories of the year? Credit must be given to Spratts Livestock Shipping Service, who arranged his transport to America.

Six cats and six kittens have gone to homes in April. A quiet month for fund raising but more is planned shortly, including a return visit of Mrs. Colville with her "T.V." cats at a Coffee Evening on May 16th. Anything for the "Bring or Buy" stall will be welcomed. Mrs. Marjorie Raynes, 417, Bad-dow Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

COVENTRY BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. C. Bloomfield, 32 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry. Tel.: 21907.

A JUMBLE SALE will be held on Saturday 10th June at 2.30 p.m. at Cheylesmore Community Centre. Helpers and jumble will again be needed in quantity to make the Sale a success—and remember—we will have your jumble at any time—not only just before Sale.

A STRAWBERRY TEA will be held on Saturday July 1st at 48 The Riddings at 3 p.m. We hope to see a good crowd at this very popular annual event—and do bring friends along with you—all will be welcome.

A BRING & BUY afternoon will be held at 20 Lupton Avenue, 2.30 p.m. onwards on Saturday 15th July at the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Humphries.

The Committee have planned this programme for your enjoyment and to raise the money urgently needed for our work, so do give us your full support.

Looking ahead to the end of the year we have our usual stalls at the Animal Fair in Birmingham and this year we shall also be having our own Christmas Market in Coventry, when goods of all sorts will be wanted for sale—so please start making and collecting items for us now—it is not too soon to start!

EDMONTON GROUP: Hon. Organiser, Mrs. C. Walledge, Hon. Sec., Mrs. S. L. Brown, 39 Oxford Road, Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

Readers who remember our report re The Lady Who Owns 17 cats and 9 kittens, will be pleased to know that we have been successful in getting all the adult cats spayed or neutered and the kittens are also going to be done. Much cajoling was needed to stop this indiscriminate breeding, but we are very happy to have succeeded in this direction.

(continued next page)

Branch and Group News—Cont.

It has been our unhappy lot recently to be called upon (often late at night) to an increasing number of fatal road accidents involving cats. A high percentage of these cats have been undoctored and probably out courting. It would seem that this is another sound reason for advocating spaying and neutering.

One cat, which we named Goldie, was the victim of an accident during the usual Saturday rush, when the local football team were playing at home. She has a tabby front and black and gold on her back. She appears to be spayed and she is beautiful. She was more fortunate than most as the Driver stopped and telephoned for help. We took her to a Veterinary Surgeon who confirmed that she had a fractured upper jaw; not too serious, and she is now doing quite well. Extensive advertising has so far failed to trace her owner. If anyone would like to send a little something towards Goldie's support, we shall be most grateful, as expenses are high and funds low. Which brings us to our Flag Day efforts, although we will not receive this money until later in the year, we have raised £200. Much of the credit for this is due to our Organiser, Mrs. Walledge; her efforts in this direction have been both untiring and magnificent. So, a big "Thank You", Mrs. Walledge.

To end this report, a poem by our valued Assistant, Miss Avery.

A Stray Cat's Prayer

A home that is warm, loving and kind,
A basket that's mine all cosily lined,
No more to plod my weary way searching
for my food each day.
Someone to nurse me if I am ill
who doesn't begrudge the doctor's bill,
Never again to have to face cruel members
of the human race too selfish ever to have
a care
how a poor stray cat will fare.
Food and warmth and love each day,
That's all I ask for when I pray.

GLOSSOP & DISTRICT GROUP: Hon. Sec., Miss M. Wilson, Cowbrook, Glossop, Derbyshire.

This will have to be a brief report as we are busy preparing for our Fourth Birthday Sale.

We hope that many people will come along to buy the lovely things which have been sent for the stalls. Many thanks to all who sent us gifts or donations.

Two more cats with kittens have come in also three more expecting kittens. Would any friend care to send a few shillings for a

little extra for these? We cannot afford to keep them, but we could not leave them to stray or have such lovely cats put down.

Dusky and her little one have found a good home.

We need two very special homes, one for Cindy an elderly Persian beautiful tortoiseshell cat, and her delicate ginger and white female kitten. Perhaps someone could give us Cindy's correct age. She was born when we won the Ashes, around fourteen years ago.

Bunty also needs a quiet home with a garden if possible. She has made a wonderful recovery from feline enteritis and is now quite friendly though still rather timid.

It is time the remaining eight young cats in the caravans on the hill farm found homes. They need love and individual attention. All are neutered and friendly. Could any cat lover make room for just one more cat?

Would any friend or little group of friends care to hold a coffee morning or evening for us, to help to pay for food for these and other needy cats we are helping to feed?

We would provide things for a stall.

Miss M. Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley, Nr. Stockport, Cheshire, collects Green Shield and S. and H. stamps to exchange for goods for our sales.

Mrs. Richardson and her daughter Anne do hand knitting for us. Their address is 238, Chase Road, Burntwood, Nr. Walsall, Staffs. Lending Library address on request.

Many thanks to all who have sent blankets and to the friend who sent the eiderdown cover for the caravan cats.

A Word of warning. Please look out for Gin traps, destroy any found, and report anyone seen setting them. Their use is illegal.

Imp, one of our little cats, was recently caught in one. Fortunately she was found the same night but she was extremely shocked, and had to spend a week at the vet's recovering from a badly injured paw, raw to the bone and with the muscles badly pulled.

Tibby sends his love. As usual he is on my table helping me to write this.

LONDON COMMITTEE: Hon. Organiser, Mrs. N. de Clifford, 12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey.

We have had a most successful April Market in Earls Court. Full particulars have been sent to the people interested in getting it ready, and if anyone would like to know more—please write and ask.

Now we are preparing our Autumn Bazaar, which will be in Wimbledon on 20th of September, at the Community Centre St. George's Road. This is being organised by Mrs. Grudzinska, 48 Home Park Road,

LONDON COMMITTEE—cont.

Wimbledon Park, S.W.19., and she will be glad to hear from prospective helpers, and to receive any stock you can send. A feature of our bazaars is the Boutique, of really nice clothes.

Please remember our Curio Corner, for which we are glad to have any old bits or pieces we can get. Anything 25 years old and older is included, we specially like old silver, trinkets toys and fans.

The Rescue Centre. Mum sends thanks for the extra bits of chicken which are adding interest to meal times for her. The cats in the next pen are getting a bit affronted, as they point out, she is not the only cat who can enjoy chicken. "Black Prince" is still with us, unclaimed. We have nine new arrivals, kittens, eight of them born on the same day (to different mothers), when these notes appear, they will just be ready to go out into the world. They come in all colours, but tabby and black are in the majority, please remember us if you should hear of a home. Our most "urgent case" is red tabby, very handsome, clean and affectionate, but not very brave! He needs a very kind home. We have twin half-Siamese who are very active, they would be glad of any extra "treats" for which anyone who likes might send them a few shillings. Their names are Roberta and Frederica, known as Freddie and Bobbie-socks.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Davies, 435 Caledonian Road, London, N.7.

The Committee wish to send their sincere thanks to all members who supported the Branch Annual General Meeting—either by attendance, on the part of those who live locally; or by means of goodwill letters and cash or items for Sale. Without our many, many well-wishers hundreds of cats each year would be forced to lead lives of want and fear. May we hope for similar support at our Jumble Sale on June 3rd?

Transport, as all Branches and members well know, is vital to the useful maintenance of intensive Branch work. We are very happy to report that we now, have a new "Mini" van, thanks to the good offices of our Honorary Auditor, Mr. King-Farlow.

Work at the Shelter goes on apace and is clearly building up to a very busy season.

Two more of our older cats, Penny and Ringo, have just accompanied each other to a lovely home in a Rectory with three acres of ground.

Daisy, one of our two very hardworking Shelter helpers, asked if we could leave a little space for one, Tiger, to tell his story. Always happy to oblige, we put a couple of news items into cold storage till next month and invited Tiger to "take the floor".

"My name was Tiger before I became a stray; after that, though, I seemed to be called by many impolite names.

I was sitting in a shop doorway early one morning when a lady opened the door behind me. As she did so, beautiful smells of cooking fish wafted through to the street. So I dashed in as fast as I could, barely giving the time of day as I passed. I charged into the kitchen at the rear and then shot back into the shop again. The warmth was wonderful and, full of joy, I raced round and round the shop and kitchen until I was tired!

I wonder why all the humans here call me "Speedy"? I often sit down in the middle of the floor and try to puzzle it out—that is, any time I'm not racing round and round the shop and kitchen.

Since my arrival I've adopted a five-week old kitten, much to its mother's disgust. Still, she does have three more and so shouldn't begrudge me one. What do you think?

I am very happy, now and my only worry is what my future will be. Any offers of a good home for a fast-moving but loving and loveable cat will be most carefully considered.

D. T. Malfatti.

SUSSEX BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mr. G. M. Holmes, 35 Pevensy Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

You remember Benny, of course? He has the flat above our office, although he has sublet part of it to the Misses Cobbett and Morris. Completely black he is, and handsome too, with gentle yellow eyes and a coat like silk, and the complete gentleman.

And like all gentlemen, his tastes are of the simplest. In fact, he shares the sentiments of Oscar Wilde that the best is good enough for him. A little caviare daily, a spot of lemon sole, the cream of the milk. These are all he asks. Grade A milk of course.,

He has just one weakness. He is very concerned about his figure, and insists on daily massage. Harmless? Of course. But a little disquieting if you don't know Benny.

I mean, you open the garden gate and you immediately see a small black cat lying on his back, his four paws pointing to heaven. Reverently in the present of death, you remove your hat. And then he twitches. Not dead. A religious ritual, perhaps? No: wrong again. Just Benny, inviting you to rub his stummick! And the harder you rub

it, the more he writhes in ecstasy. I have thought of getting some sandpaper.

What a contrast to that cad, Simon! Ever since he was appointed the official branch cat, he considers it a favour to sneer at you. And his tongue! Caustic? Well, really!

I observed to Mrs. Perry, my co-secretary, that I had failed to pass my driving test. There was a remark from the direction of the easy chair in the office, occupied, as usual, by Simon.

I turned to him sharply, "What did you say?"

He yawned. "Oh, nothing really. I just remarked that you couldn't pass a stationary pram."

"Is that so?," I said, a little tartly. "Let me tell you....."

I beg your pardon?"

"I just said, not if it was going backwards," he observed.

Before I could think of a suitably crushing retort, he curled up and went to sleep. That is one of his infuriating habits. He makes a wisecrack and before you can react, he is asleep. Or pretends to be. Several times, I have caught him with one eye open and a complacent smirk on his face.

Perhaps I oughtn't to call him a cad. It's probably hereditary. I expect his father was a cad and his mother a caddess.

WEST CORNWALL BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. K. Beesley, Carclew Catteries, Trewinnard Road, Perran-ar-Worthal, Nr. Truro, Cornwall.

A recent letter from a reader enquired after the welfare of the family cats. Since Yum-Yum died, they seem to have retired into the background and are rarely mentioned in these notes. This is a pity because our own animals play such an important role in our C.P.L. work. Most of the cats are getting on in years, but they are always happy and alert to greet visitors and act as escorts, lap warmers, or feather boas. Tina the fluffy tortie specialises in leaping onto shoulders and singing into human ears. Ginger Rusty, sometimes known as Goatface, who began his career in Petticoat Lane was obviously deprived of maternal love at too early an age and now eagerly snuggles up to anyone wearing a cosy jumper and sucks the wool ectatically. This causes some embarrassment, although real cat worshippers politely

ULSTER BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss E. R. McKee, 92A Earlswood Road, Belfast, 4.

Money-raising functions are in full swing again. Recently we had a White Elephant Sale which raised £15. Eventually we plan to hold this type of sale regularly, provided we can get an adequate supply of suitable goods. We find that household effects will sell just as well as clothes—indeed that stall is always the first empty—so please keep us in mind if you are changing the curtains or the teapot or anything. All kinds of jumble is useful and can be left at 147 Cliftonpark Avenue any time. And, by the way, don't forget about used postage stamps. Mrs. Wilson is still anxious to get as many as possible. They can be sent to her direct at her new address—14, Quay Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. If it is more convenient for you to leave them at the shelter I'll see they reach her in due course.

A date to remember—the annual Sale of Work will take place on Saturday, 7th October, starting at 11 a.m. We aim to have a record sum raised—our target is £200 plus after expenses are paid. This will mean hard work but I think we can do it. I suggest we start now to make, beg and hoard the articles that will grace the stalls. I keep a box under my bed and add various items to it as I make them or otherwise acquire them. They accumulate slowly but surely.

Meantime, however, we have the holiday months to face and extra help will be needed in the Cattery. Please consider this a personal request to YOU and offer to lend a hand if you can. My phone No. is 653844.

pretend that nothing is happening as their woolies become sodden with pussy saliva. Chi-Chi, the elderly Siamese views the world from the Aga Cooker, how she has escaped being burnt alive I can't imagine, her singed fur often presents a tatty picture, but she is always ready to converse in her funny croaky voice to kitchen callers. Tio the other Siamese who was sent in as unwanted (due to change of decor) is completely round the bend. He is always on his imaginary soap box, and yells abuse at all and sundry if doors are shut, food dishes empty, or fires are unlit. His favourite retreat is in human beds, and his main hobby is chopping up the humans with his long claws, executed in the friendliest way possible. Mouche the Russian Blue who originally came from Mrs. de Clifford chats happily with everyone, and the four dogs mix in cheerfully tripping up all and sundry. It is common to find several dogs and most of the cats peacefully curled up in a large basket a pot-pourri of assorted fur,

paws, ears, tails and the rest... would the human race follow this contented example.

Last but not least there is Toshitata. Young, handsome and blue coated. Toshi was born the first day we moved in, to our wild cat Katie who had spent her life on the cattery roof and was installed in a pen until she had settled here, where she made for the roof again (after we had succeeded in getting her spayed,) and is there still. Toshi was the only kitten she ever produced in nine years and we kept him for luck. His mother slung him out of the nest before it was possible to wean him so Melissa our obliging cavalier bitch raised him with her family of pups. She still fusses over him and he thinks he is a kind of superior dog. He walks with

the dogs, bosses the cats, rides in the car, visits the neighbours, helps clean the catteries (dishes are his speciality). He is an expert thief, is adored by all the animals, a peace-maker, a riotous comic and a general dogs-body. Toshitata indeed is a cat and a half, and we shall follow his adventures from time to time.

Whilst on the subject of family cats, I must tell you that I lunched with Chang-Shi the twin brother of Yum-Yum the other day. I was received with dignity befitting his almost fifteen years. So like Yum-Yum to look at, but more robust and larger, he rules his estate and family with an iron paw. His devoted slave, Mrs. Crossley-Meates our President, humours his every whim, and the things we could tell you about Master Chang.. but that's another tale.....

ROOM 8. SCHOOL CAT

Four Hundred and Seventy Children at Elysian Heights Elementary School, 1562 Baxter Street, Los Angeles, greeted Room 8, the school cat, as he returned to start his fourteenth straight year as a school cat.

Room 8 was born in 1947, in Los Angeles. In the beginning he wandered down from the hills when the school bell rang in September spent each day at school, left when school was out each day, and vanished into the hills when school was out in June and was not seen again until September. He soon became the school mascot, prefers children to adults, and likes to sleep on desks beside children. Now that he has become so famous he is watched over by the community people who are concerned about his health and well being. He poses with the A6 children in their class picture, his pawprints are imprinted in cement on the sidewalk, his portrait painted by a former student hangs in the library, the school bookplate was designed around Room "8", he has appeared on a national television programme, and in a national magazine. A book about his life as a school cat, A cat Called Room 8, was published earlier this year by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

"Room 8" spent the summer at the George Nakano home. Mrs. Nakano said he stayed close to her home eating, sleeping inside at night, and visiting neighbours for a snack. He had many visitors who dropped in to see him and take his picture. The Nakano children Brenda, Virginia, and Wayne answered many letters that came for him during the summer.

There is no doubt "Room 8" misses school and his hundreds of friends because he often reported there during summer and spent the morning in the school library which was open and filled with children, according to Mrs. Jesse Baker and Mrs. Cesar Gabonia, librarians, and Mr. Samuel Ross, school custodian, who escorted him back to the Nakano home after the library closed.

Like most school children, "Room 8" had his pre-school physical examination and had his teeth cleaned by Dr. Ted Haskell, in Los Angeles.

The sixth grade children in Room 8 will elect a cat feeder and three secretaries who will handle the ever increasing amount of correspondence the now famous cat receives. Recently he added Ginger, Winston Churchill's cat in England, to his mailing list.

We have borrowed the Ways and Means page for this issue.