

SHOP WINDOW

Astrological analysis of character. Letter with date of birth, stamped addressed envelope and donation for the C.P.L. to Mr. Curtler, 5, Hill Avenue, Worcester.

Graphology (Character from handwriting), letter with signature, stamped addressed envelope and donation for my C.P.L. collecting box to Miss E. M. Jackson, 11, Clarence Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Buy your hand knitted dishcloths from Mrs. Peggie Ilves, 38, High Street, Oakham, Rutland. Price 1/9 including postage.

A Toy Mouse will provide fun and exercise for your cat or kitten. Send 2/6 to Secretary, Cat's Protection League and Tailwavers, 29 Church Street, Slough.

Aprons to order in aid of funds 6/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 38, High Street, Oakham, Rutland.

Perspex Name Brooches in various colour 1/6d. each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E to Miss P. E. George, Gilfach, Whitton Knighton, Radnorshire.

Dolls, specially old ones, bits and clothes for dolls are wanted by The Doll Club, 21, Holland Park, London, W.11.

Water Colour Portraits of Pets from a clear snapshot, 10/6 each. Snaps of pets or children Enlarged and Coloured from own negatives, £1. Please give description. Cheques should be made payable to C.P.L.— Dorothy Hall, Plemont, Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford.

Old Postally Used Picture Postcards, dated before 1920, of Britain or overseas wanted by the Revd. A. W. R. Hughes, The Vicarage, Arthog, Merionethshire. 5/- for every 100 received to the C.P.L. Sender's postage refunded.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

Review Copy of "THE WORLD OF CATS"

BEST OFFER ABOVE PUBLISHERS PRICE 25/-

ALWAYS WANTED

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable for our Bazaars.

Notification of change of address.

Linen and blanket pieces, newspapers and odd pieces of string (about 18 inches long), for use in the Clinic.

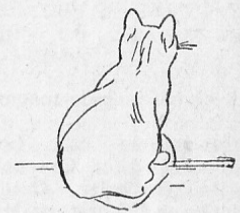
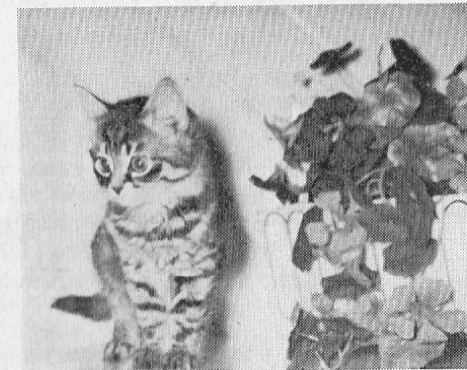
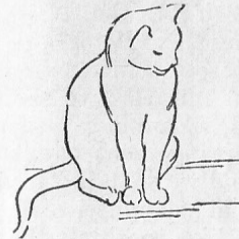
News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

Used stamps, British Foreign and commemorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.

THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
CATS AND THEIR WEL-
FARE



A CAT'S A CAT FOR A' THAT

MAY 1968

THE CAT

VOL. XLII

No 4

Official Organ of the Cats' Protection League and Tail-wavers - Founded 1927 - Registered National Charity. Prestbury Lodge, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks, England. Telephone Slough 20173

EDITOR: Mr. A. A. Steward
PUBLISHING DATE: First of the Month.
ISSUES: 10 yearly.
There are no commercial advertisements.

CONTENT

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

Literary contributions and photos welcomed, but no publishing fees paid.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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Member (Annual) £1.1.0 -\$4
(all above include magazine)

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NEXT ISSUE 1st June 68

THE MARCH OF TIME: Month by month we press on towards the fulfilment of hopes taking fetes, sales, flag days, A.G.M.'s and Cat Week's in our stride.

Year by year we plan and hope that our endeavours will meet with success. We are heartened when they do and grateful indeed to all who through the march of time so loyally support the C.P.L.'s cause.

SPRING IS AROUND THE CORNER:

With the advent of Spring we anticipate the beginning of this year's crop of kittens and unless this is the age of miracles we shall experience the usual "number" for which no satisfactory arrangement can be made regarding homes and we shall be faced with another of the annual "slaughter of the innocents". We would like to think that the present advertising campaign in which pet shops figure so prominently is the answer to this long standing problem (see Round and About).

CAT WEEK 1968: Soon, all too soon we shall be in the throes of this year's venture into the unknown. Shall we get anywhere near the unprecedented grand total of 1967? We are sure that all our supporters will agree that we battle on to do even better and not let the £60,000 legacy induce complacency.

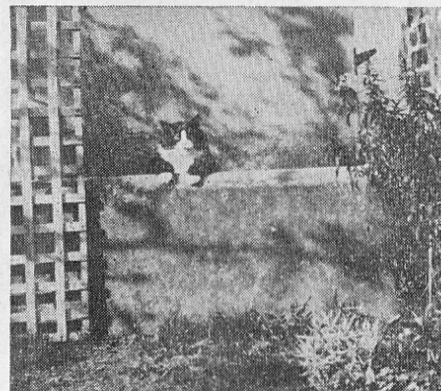
A.G.M. JULY 6th, 1968, KENT ROOM,
CAXTON HALL, LONDON, W.1.

SEE PAGE 52

"GOOD HOMES GUARANTEED"

A. A. Steward

EDITOR and GENERAL SECRETARY



ROUND AND ABOUT

The Secretary's Comments on "this and that" concerning cats and kittens and the work of the League.

THAT LEGACY:

It is not until "legacies" are "news" that their impact on the general public is realised. It has happened twice in the history of the C.P.L. In 1900 we were bequeathed £15,000 by the late Miss Constance Aston for the specific purpose of "establishing and maintaining a Clinic for cats on the Isle of Wight". On the face of it this condition should have presented no great problem but believe it or not it has been impossible to conform to the requirements of the Will in the strict letter of the Law. The why's and wherefore's are too complicated to go into now but it serves to show a large legacy can be an outsize headache unless it is unconditional.

£60,000: This recently well publicised bequest has already brought its expected deluge of enquiries, requests, suggestions and proposals from all over the country, entailing a considerable amount of additional correspondence and revealing an unbelievable number of places where (stray and unwanted) cats are being fed by elderly people, a lot of them old age pensioners. The cats, a large number which are female and expecting kittens are presumed by those who feed them to be strays. Unfortunately this does not necessarily mean that amongst the cats in question there could not be a large number that actually have an owner and would obviously join the crowd if food is available.

What can be done in these cases to try and solve the problem is yet to be decided, but measures to relieve suffering are being applied wherever possible through the medium of our voucher service. We are responding to such appeals daily.

The General Impression is that we are sitting behind a table stacked with money just waiting to distribute it right left and centre, but the fact is we have not as yet got the money nor any part of it and it will be towards the end of the year before the estate has been settled.

At this stage we are unable to respond to any of the requests that have been made which link up with the legacy nor can we make any promises in this connection until the League's Executive Committee has had time to consider them all. This will take time and whatever the outcome of the Committee's deliberations we are certain that we shall be unable to satisfy everyone because of the impossibility of some of the requests. However more of this in due course.

Reactions:

We are very grateful for and appreciative of the many letters from members who have congratulated us and expressed the hope that the legacy will ease the situation both with regard to the practical work of the League and the worry that these matters entail.

We are sorry that some of our supporters think we will no longer need their help. No Charity however affluent it may seem to be can afford to depreciate the offerings of anyone whose interests are in the work that is being done by that particular organisation. The C.P.L. has always gratefully accepted the smallest donation and will continue to do so. Furthermore it will willingly devote donations to the particular purpose indicated by its supporter.

If we are to continue to expand as indeed we must in order to meet our moral obligations in the world of cat welfare, we shall need a greatly increased annual income. Whether it comes to us in pennies, shillings pounds or "thousands" makes no difference whatsoever so please do not let the munificence of the few that can contribute so handsomely to the cause overshadow your equally as acceptable smaller gift, donated with the same feeling as the larger one. Remember the grain of mustard seed.

The late Mrs. Lettice MacNeal: We at Headquarters knew and remember her as a wonderful modest person who could sit and chat about cats in the humblest surroundings with a knowledge and understanding that proved her to be a cat lover. She visited 29 Church Street each time she came to England; stayed for about an hour talking about cats, the League's work and her cats in Jamaica. At the end of her visit she would leave us with her blessing and a cheque. It seems only yesterday that she sat at the opposite side of my desk discussing the League's work in general and its plans for the future and as she said what proved to be her last goodbye

she intimated that she had remembered the League in her Will.

The extent of her generosity is still unbelievable but I am sure she knew the League would not fail her although she made no specific requests that we should do this or that. A suitable memorial will be decided when next the Committee meets.

Home Finding:

It is sometimes said and no doubt more often thought, we at Headquarters are not so responsive as we should be to home finding. If this is intended to imply that we should subscribe to the contention that homes must be found at any cost, we have given our reasons for not taking such a course and we feel justified in pursuing the adopted policy.

Our experiences at H.Q. tend to make us wary. Quite recently we were asked to find a home for a short-haired blue point spayed Siamese queen. She had been given to someone who almost immediately felt compelled to get her out of the house at once. The reasons were understandable and we took charge of the little lady. From then on we dealt with a series of applications for the little cat and one after the other these people were recommended to us as only too eager to have her. We checked and discovered that in every instance the people were taking the cat out of pity and did not really want her. What would have happened if we had not taken all the trouble to make sure before passing her on again to someone who could offer the type of home or affection that we felt she needed. She was eventually placed by us through the good offices of our Mrs. Earnshaw, a member of the Executive Committee and we and she are happy. The point I want to make is that it is absolutely essential to "make sure" and not take the line of least resistance and pass on, willy nilly, cats and kittens and especially fully grown cats that are perhaps both temperamental and nervous.

Maintaining the attitude of "a home for every cat" can be quite as bad as putting to sleep or humane destruction, whatever one wishes to call it.

Let us be realistic in this extremely important matter and in the meantime work and work and work to attain the only solution to this problem, the ABC of cat welfare, animal birth control.

Our back page special offer:

We are delighted with the response to this new idea and feel its continuance well worth while and now that we have decided this it will be a regular feature. We shall give the "results" in this column. The February/March "offer" brought in just over six pounds for the three copies of Extraordinary Cats. Watch the back page, you may find something

you want. **Note:** At the time of going to press we have had good offers for the Maundy Money.

Good Homes Guaranteed:

This advertisement in bold type appears at the foot of an eight inch by three inch display which is appearing in local newspapers in several parts of the country. Each advertisement gives the name and address of pet shops in the district. We have had many enquiries from our members, the first from Bournemouth and our immediate reaction was to write to the Editor of the paper and the pet shops and this is what we said:

DEAR SIR,

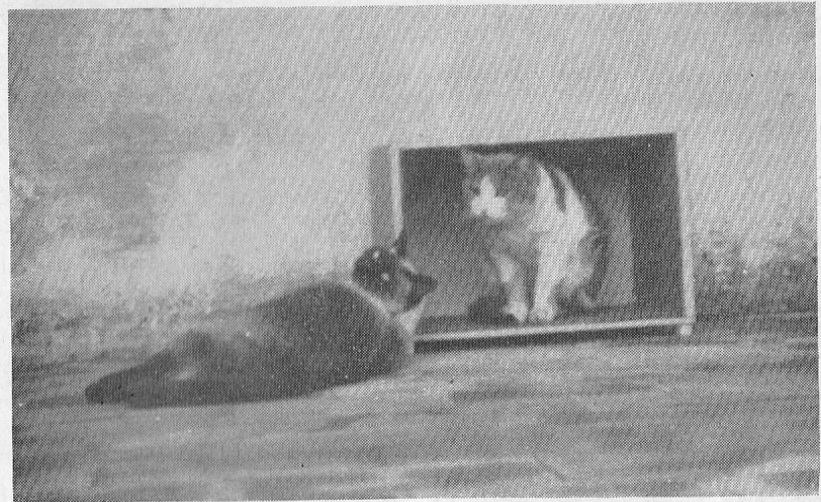
The advertisement in the Kent Messenger of April the 5th in connection with homes for kittens interests me considerably and I agree that there are far too many cats and kittens being put to sleep. From years of experience as General Secretary of the Cats' Protection League I have found that there is very often much more in finding good homes for kittens than appears on the surface. I very much like the part of the advertisement that says "good homes guaranteed" and I would like it better if this guarantee could be given in writing and an additional guarantee which we make on our special printed form that any cat or kitten handed over to the C.P.L. will not be used or allowed to be used for any research or vivisection purpose.

I propose to put these views to the pet shops concerned.

We shall continue to send similar letters to all the addresses that we receive at this end and we hope that there will be some replies. So far we have not heard from those to whom we have written. We suggest that our members write to their local papers stressing the points that we have made, the guarantee in writing and to include the particular point with regard to research and laboratory requirements.

Apologies:

Again we have run out of space before having dealt with other matters we did intend to include in this issue, we hope to do so in the following number. A. A. Steward.



PARIDE and MISCHA

I thought you might be amused to read the attached little monologue which I typed out at the weekend, just after taking in another cat into my flat as company for my own cat, Paride. The new cat is a big grey-and-white tom which had been making a home in a cellar beneath a block of flats in front of the row of garages where I park my car, and I had been feeding it in the mornings and evenings, when I went to fetch the car and take it back again at night. However, the owner of the block of flats objected to my feeding the cat as he said it encouraged other cats to come, which I know was true, so I thought the best thing to do was to take him home, after a visit to the Vet. for neutering, and hope that he and my cat would get on well together, after the first week or so.

Mischa, as the new arrival is called, will, I hope, become a Tailwaver in due course; I will wait a while to see how things turn out, but I expect that all will be well. Paride is, naturally, a little jealous, but he is also

very interested in Mischa, and what he is doing and follows him around like a little detective! The poor cat has no privacy at all when they are together, but I am separating them while I am out, for a week or so until I am quite sure they are going to behave well in my absence.

I was surprised and, of course, very pleased to find that Mischa used a litter-tray from the first, without having to be shown it which makes me wonder whether he has perhaps been a house cat at some time. His former owners, if owners he had, might have left for another flat in a block where pets are not allowed, and just had to leave him behind; one never knows. He is inclined to sharpen his claws on the furniture, but I am hoping he will eventually use the scratching-board in the hall, which came with Paride when I first had *him*; apart from this he is a very good cat.

JEAN McDONALD and PARIDE,
Tailwaver No. 4131.

NEXT MONTH CAT WEEK SPECIAL

BRANCH AND GROUP NEWS AND DIRECTORY

Enquiries from anyone wanting a kitten or who would adopt a cat or two are welcomed by C.P.L. Honorary representatives whose names and addresses are starred. *

But please note:— DO NOT CALL AT ANY OF THE ADDRESSES EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT: MAKE CONTACT BY LETTER OR PHONE FIRST.

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

Illness—our own relatives—and house—changes seem to have decimated “mobile” committee members and it has been more than usually difficult to find enough help and transport. However a Coffee Evening “happened”—always an informal affair with us! Cat lovers are usually tolerant—if they were not they couldn’t stand the pace! A heterogeneous collection of articles overflowed from the “Bring and Buy” stall (many “sent” not “brought”!) and these and refreshments kept visitors busy until Mr. Masefield of the Essex Naturalist’s Trust set up his projector and tape recorder and entertained us with transparencies and talks on Scotland, a Shropshire geological visit and a local walk, which was most restful and enjoyable. £9 was “totted up” at the end of the evening.

On the morning of Sat. March 16th we hired the Shire Hall foyer in the centre of the town and set up our “market”, which was much more comfortable and central than the Charity Stall in the Market. A sunny morning brought out shoppers and we added £19.16.0. to funds. Lunch hour shoppers must have been amused at four respectable (almost!) ladies wrestling with a flapping plastic sheet and jig-saw pieces dancing merrily off the roof of a red Vauxhall, where usually rests “His Lordship’s” dignified limousine during “Quarter Sessions”!!

Five more semi-wild cats from under the Sea Scout’s hut have been trapped and taken to the Cattery to tame, which has increased the numbers there, recently the lowest for a long time. Eleven cats and eight Kittens have gone to homes in March, also a mother and four 2-day old kittens, and several members have tried to help an elderly lady in Pleshey village, who wrote to the local newspaper about cats left by the death of a neighbour, but this has proved difficult, mainly because she has been living away from home and the remaining cats are very timid now.

Our thanks go to “Anon” once again and to the lady in the Seychelles for her kind donation omitted last month in error.

EDMONTON GROUP: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Walledge, 39 Oxford Road, Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

This Spring we have had quite a large number of really beautiful kittens and, fortunately, so far good homes have been found for most of them.

Our shop is still doing nicely, and when it closes we have the offer of another so please send us any unwanted items that you may have.

Besides doing our stint in the Shop, we are also very busy trapping, as wild and stray cats multiply so quickly. Also, our programme of spaying and neutering continues apace, averaging twenty per week.

One evening recently, two young lads called and asked us to come over to “The Dump” (a piece of waste land) as they had found a mother cat and her new born kittens in an abandoned derelict car. When we arrived we found the mother and her family of five on the rear seat of a rusty, windowless car, with scarcely any shelter from the elements. We rushed them back to our Sanctuary where mother feasted herself on what was probably the largest bowl of food she had ever seen in her short life. A large bowl of milk was also lapped up with great gusto, and then ‘Susie’ settled down to feeding and washing her offspring. She is so very young herself, and a beautiful black and white. She is now happy and thriving and so are her babies. The boys who found her, Tommy and Billy, have continued to take a great interest in her, and are thrilled that two of the kittens have been named after them.

One of our permanent residents, Nicholas aged 18 years, recently underwent an operation for the removal of an external tumour. Later that same day he was both eating and drinking, and the dear old chap is quite untroubled by his stitches. He appears to have suffered no ill effects what so ever, and our heartfelt gratitude goes to our Veterinary Surgeon for his devotion and skill. Nicholas is very partial to chicken, so please can you send him something towards the cost of his favourite meal? Please mark your donation ‘Nicholas’, and he will willingly share any surplus with our other O.A.P. cats.

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

As it is sometime since I was able to get in touch with our friends through the columns of “The Cat”, I will try to give new readers some idea of who we are and what we are trying to do.

Five years ago, being very much concerned about the hopeless plight of stray cats in the district I decided to form a C.P.L. group here.

With the help of my sister Miss Kathleen Wilson I am responsible for most of the work. Our present Committee share our concern for strays and reverence for life, Miss Prescott of Buxworth, Mrs. Cherrill of Whaley Bridge, Mrs. Rands a Londoner now living in Hyde and Mrs Swinden of Bamford arrange coffee mornings etc., from time to time. Our President Miss Margot Bryant (Minnie Caldwell of Coronation Street) visits us on very special occasions.

Miss Margaret Thomas and her mother collect Green Shield and S and H stamps to exchange for goods for our stalls. Address, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley, Nr. Stockport, Cheshire.

Miss J. Houston runs a little lending library for us in a south coast town. If any friends have an interesting book, or two to spare, including paper backs and educational books I would be pleased to supply her address. Please *do not* send them here.

Our area includes the Northern part of the Peak District of Derbyshire and the industrial towns between Glossop and Manchester.

We must help the most needy cats brought to our notice but with more funds at our disposal there is much more we could do. We have no investments and no regular income. Recently my sister and I have had to dip deeply into our savings to pay heavy bills for food, boarding and veterinary fees and have reached the limit of what we can afford. We depend on your continued and increasing help to enable us to carry on.

At present we have twenty cats boarded out, some privately, others in registered catteries.

Would any friends care to send Liza a little extra? Three weeks ago, thin and hungry, she strayed into a Stalybridge factory. Now the proud mother of two lovely kittens she is living very contentedly in one of the comfortable indoor kennels with runs donated by readers of “The Cat”. **SPECIAL 5th, BIRTHDAY APPEAL, Target £500.**

We are setting up a **MAYPOLE**. Each donation received during May will be recorded on one of the streamers. **Red** for food for rescued strays (including boarding fees), and

old peoples cats. **White** for speyings and other veterinary fees, and **Blue** for general work, including the other two.

Please send us as generous a gift as possible, perhaps five shillings or five sixpences or a multiple of five. For each donation of £5 we will put on your own special streamer.

As Dr. A. Schwetzer said when speaking of suffering, “Each one of us can do a little to bring some of it to an end”.

On behalf of all the needy ones we ask you to do just this.

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

Saturday 8th June is our June Fair at the Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambroseden Avenue, Victoria, S.W.1. (by Ashley Gardens). Doors will open at 2.30. We hope very much that all our friends will come. We plan to have a really big “do”, with stalls of all kinds, and tea served all the afternoon. We will be glad of stock to sell, please send anything you can spare.

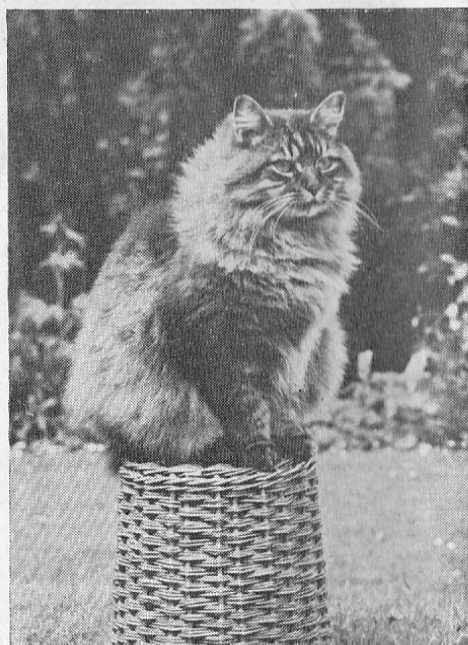
Wednesday 11th September will be the date for our Autumn Fair at the Community Centre Wimbledon, it may seem rather far in the future, but we want all our supporters to make a note of this date, it will be an important day.

The Rescue Centre cats are all well, and, I hope, grateful for all the help they have been sent. They certainly enjoy the extras. but most cats seem to think that the best is just good enough. Our most worrying case is Emma who was found covered in dirt and oil, with a broken jaw just going to have kittens in the road. We could not save the kittens, but Emma is making a splendid recovery, she is eating soft food and has cleaned herself with a little help. Even when her treatment is uncomfortable, she purrs. Any friends who would like to send her 2/6 will be giving real help to a deserving puss. **Curio Corner.** We have been asked for several things, one collector wants tapestry or wool-work or bead-work of any kind and another has asked for a rose-bowl, or one of the small vases made to take just one rose, which used to be popular. We have been given an old doll-house, it is unfurnished, if anyone should happen to have any dolls-house furniture put away, we would be glad of it, for a furnished house is much more valuable. Anything, just anything over 25 years old, and the older the better can be turned into funds for the poor cats. Please go through all your drawers and cupboards and find us something.

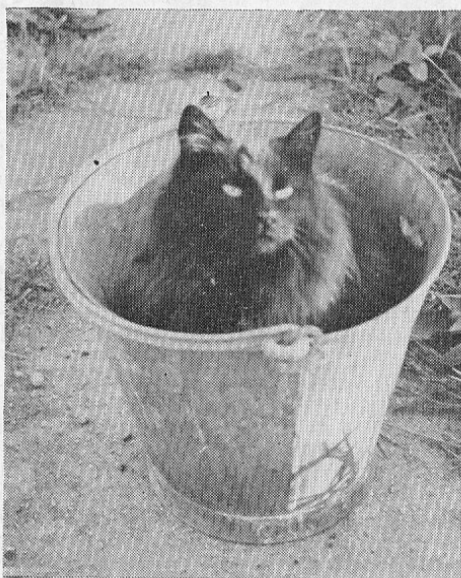
Branch & Group News—continued page 57



IN



OUT



IN



IN

LEICESTER AND OAKHAM BRANCHS
Hon. Sec., Mr. S. W. Spencer, 11 Ullswater
Street, Leicester.

It does not seem ten years since I started with this Branch as Treasurer a role which lasted over seven years and then to Secretary for another two and a half years. Events have sometimes been very stormy but always my association has seemed pleasant. Maybe you will wonder why the reflection! purely and simply that my resignation from this Branch has caused this mood, we had a very bad year in 1967 but that in itself had no bearing on my decision, after all it has been a very hard struggle over the past five or six years. Quite frankly it might be hard to explain but the decision was brought about by an argument quite stormy with two members. It left me with a state of mind that was quite devoid of any urge to carry on. After days of thought I still could not put back what had existed before, in this condition I shall be a millstone to the Branch rather than an asset. Having had such a bad year, we had more financial aid from H.Q. than ever before. It may prove beneficial to the Branch only time will tell, the committee are very experienced, sufficiently I feel to deal with most problems. I have quite truthfully as you will have learnt from my previous writings enjoyed my term of office. I shall always feel very deeply grateful for the support given to me from friends derived through the medium of The Cat, the letters I have received from places as far distant as Monte Carlo, Newton Abbot, Frensham, Market Deeping and London. To all these people that I have come to hold such regard for that should you at any time feel you would like to write a letter to me I shall be most pleased to answer as a private individual, I shall in any case always remain a member of this wonderful association the C.P.L., and do my darndest to attend all A.G.M.'s. I should like to thank Mr. Steward and Mrs. Sherratt for the wonderful support they have always given me and I am sure the League will go from success to success. My kindest regards to all and everyone, elsewhere.

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

Our Jumble sale in March was a very successful one and we are most grateful to all those who helped us; those who send us goods for sale and donations, and those who did the lifting, carrying, sorting and selling.

This month has been a bumper one for our long standing residents. Eight of those who have been with us for more than six months have gone to good homes including "Frenchie" so called because he was brought from

France, spent six months in quarantine and then brought to us because of his owners' housing problems. He will enjoy the freedom of his new home all the more after six months in quarantine and eight months with us.

Our meeting on the 23rd March was also a great success, and the Bring and Buy stall raised a very useful sum to help the running of the Branch. We were entertained with a short film of the work of the Shelter and some beautiful slides of three generations of cats belonging to our member, Mr. Francis Mott.

Our kitten season now fast approaches, and we have taken many in during March. Paddy was among them, brought in from a building site by an Irish labourer. He has already gone to a home and, with typical Irish blarney, has already acquired the position of 'boss'.

In case you should be puzzled by the names, we should explain that all our inmates are all christened by Daisy, our Shelter assistant.

Our annual report has been sent to our helpers and sympathisers, who will have read of Lulu, found abandoned in a local park, in a terrible condition. She has now been restored to good health, though her eyes are permanently affected. You may have read her story in the London 'Evening Standard'. We are very delighted to report that she has now gone to a very good home with one of our helpers. Lulu, and we, will always be grateful to Mrs. Clarke for giving her happiness after so much misery.

Our next Jumble sale is in June and goods for sale will be most welcome.

SUSSEX BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. H. G. Perry, 35, Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

This month has been quieter than usual, but we have had a number of people wanting kittens and we have no kittens yet.

It is pleasing to hear news of cats after we have placed them in new homes, but very few of the new owners take the trouble to let us know how they have settled in or if they are pleased with their new pet. We were very happy when Mrs. Hood, who kindly answered an advertisement and gave a home to the six year old, telephoned us to say how pleased she was with him, and that he seemed so happy and settled. He follows her everywhere like a little dog and seems to understand everything she says to him, and talks to her in his own way. He is the perfect companion and she no longer feels lonely living on her own.

The little ginger cat, who nearly had her kittens in the snow, has gone to a good home after having been neutered.

continued next page

Sam's story is different. He had a good home until his owners adopted two large dogs, and poor Sam felt unwanted and wouldn't go in the house. A neighbour took pity on him and gave him food and a bed in her shed, but couldn't have him indoors because she had a budgie. Finally she appealed to us to take him, and he went to our shelter. There he stayed for several weeks until we found him a home in the country. Several weeks later the lady who had befriended him phoned to tell us that Sam had come back to her. He had somehow found his way and had walked about six miles. And so back to the shelter for Sam until we can find him another home where we hope he will settle down.

We must thank Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Bennett and their helpers for a very successful coffee evening which Mrs. Grant kindly held at her home. About eighty members came along and we had the usual Bring and Buy stall, raffles, and guessing the weight of a cake, kindly made for us by Miss Cobbett. The proceeds which amounted to £33.5.0, after deducting expenses, went towards the upkeep of cat Haven, our home for strays and unwanted cats.

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

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20th March and while we concede that business meetings can be rather dull we would, nevertheless, have liked to see more members present. After twelve years of enthusiastic, efficient and tireless work as Honorary Treasurer Mr. J. King Carson has decided to take a well-earned rest from writing receipts and coping with "the books". However we took good care not to let him slip through our fingers for we quickly voted him President, which office has been vacant for some time.

To our new Honorary Treasurer, Mr. James Montgomery, who has undertaken the somewhat formidable task of following Mr. Carson, we give a sincere welcome and I hope we can assure him that we will try to keep him as busy as we kept his predecessor.

This month I would like to thank the anonymous donor of a number of books of trading stamps, some completely filled and others still needing a few stamps, which we hope will soon be forthcoming. If anyone has any Green Shield, Gold Bond, King Korn or S. and H. stamps to spare we'd be delighted to have them.

It looks as if May and June are going to be busy months. We are collecting White Elephants for a Sale which will probably take place early in May (can you let us have any

odds and ends for this effort?) Then there is the General Meeting which I mentioned last month—the date has not yet been settled but notices will be sent out in the usual way and as it is to be a rather special occasion I hope you will try very hard to come along. There may be another Jumble Sale in June if enough stuff comes in so please keep collecting.

Finally, I want to specially mention the Ballot which is being organized again by Mr. and Mrs. McBride, and will take place this year towards the end of June. I understand lots of lovely prizes are being offered and we are planning to combine the Draw with a social evening and open night at Cliftonpark Avenue. I hope you will support this effort as well as you did last year—we are most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. McBride for undertaking this big task.

Now just a brief word about cats for after all, that's what it's all about! Kittens are already beginning to stream in. Four found in a cardboard box quickly got good homes but this is just the beginning. We appeal to our members to remember the bigger cats—they need homes as much as the kittens but of course they can only be given to people prepared to have a little extra patience during the settling-in process. Recently we took in a ten-year-old Persian whose elderly owner had gone into hospital and would not be able to care for him again. He is now happily settled in a new home where he can live out the rest of his days in comfort. There was no difficulty at all with him as he took to his new family immediately. If you have only one cat won't you consider trying a second? Two's company. Myself—I've got four!

WEST CORNWALL BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. K. Beesley, "Cathlowena," Cusgarne Catteries, St. Day, Redruth. Phone number St. Day 586.

Entries for the Competition to guess the meaning of the name Cathlowena have been arriving steadily. Thank you all very much, and we particularly enjoyed some of the howlers which we have filed to be used for rainy days when a good chuckle is needed. First correct entry was sent by Bella Powell a delightful tabby adopted from us several years ago, her family who live at Perranporth will be presented with a Fish Sefton cat picture. Another picture will be sent to Smokey Mackintosh of Penryn whose letter was written in Cornish and we think sums up the name perfectly. The English translation reads as follows:—

continued next page

Translation

'I am a grey cat born in Cornwall. Smokey is my name. Perhaps I understand the Cornish Language better than English and for that reason I am sure that the meaning of Cathlowena in English is "Cats' joy, bliss pleasure or happiness" Really it's enough to make a cat laugh. . . .'

Clever Smokey . . . we loved your letter. Other prize winners are Mrs. Ballard of Kent, Mrs. Maskell of Falmouth, and Dr. and Mrs. Turk of Cambourne. "Cathlowena" Cat Happiness, like it?

Parcels, money gifts and words of encouragement are still arriving and we are truly grateful. We are still very busy on the catteries, and hope to have our shop ready for stocking in a few weeks. The large stable which we have converted will be called "Cats Bazaar" and the loft above will be "Cats Own Gallery" and will house our collection of Fish Sefton pictures, antiques

and valuable items needing special care. The Bazaar will be stocked with fancy goods, jewellery, new clothes, stationery, plants, toys, games and anything else we can collect, so we are anticipating big business this season for we desperately need to replenish our dwindling funds.

The cats seem more than happy with their new hotel, and live it up in grand style, we have already a full house and a waiting list of unwanted cats eager to be cared for until homes are found. Amber and her retinue are all set to welcome visitors, and already we have had many callers, mostly they have spent hours trying to find us and arrive footsore and weary. We do our best for them, but isn't it easier to phone first and receive directions, and allow time to be reserved for a warm welcome? We do hope many of you will write or phone and call and see us, and of course patronise Cats' Bazaar. You will enjoy a real "catty welcome".

BRANCH and GROUP DIRECTORY

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss J. P. Seriven, 83 Cranbrook Road, Wanworth, Birmingham 21.

BOURNEMOUTH GROUP: Hon. Sec., Miss A. Sydenham, 59 King's Road, Bournemouth. Phone 50165.*

CANTERBURY CAT SOCIETY: Hon. Sec., Miss M. W. Paine, 37 Beverley Road, Canterbury, Kent.

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

DUBLIN BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. S. Connolly, 11 Leicester Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin.

GREAT AMWELL & DISTRICT GROUP: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Jones, 376 Ware Road, Hailey, Hertford.

ISLE OF WIGHT: Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. Kent, Cheviot Cottage, St. Lawrence, I.O.W.

MANCHESTER BRANCH: Sec., Mr. C. Cadley, 89 Northen Grove, West Didsbury, Manchester.

NEWBURY AND DISTRICT BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw, "Heather-pine", Curridge, Nr. Newbury, Berks.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss B. M. L. Sayce, "Dungarvan", 79 Portswood Road, Southampton. Phone 57212.*

Where names and addresses only are given Branch—Group news had not been received at time of going to press.—Editor.

**TO SAVE CONFUSION WE PROPOSE TO GIVE A
COMPLETE BRANCH AND GROUP DIRECTORY
AS FROM NEXT MONTH**



THE STORY OF THREE CATS

I write this story in grateful memory of three cats, who gave their friendship and comfort unsparringly.

My friend Gladys and I worked much in the country, nursing and caring for old people. Into our lives one day came two lovely kittens a black and white one we named Panda, and a silver grey tabby we named Dinky. These two kittens were brothers born of a grey Chinchilla Persian mother and an ordinary black farm cat father. The kittens were delightful and gave us so much pleasure in their early years. They were devoted brothers and played many games together.

Panda and Dinky had a happy time, hunting field mice and sometimes rabbits, we could hear these young cats calling for a long time, before they reached the house, for us to go out and see the treasure, they had caught. On one occasion it was the smallest mouse I have ever seen. Panda has caught this and was so proud. Panda and Dinky were rewarded with an extra piece of fish. We were at this time living in a place called Gawcott-Buckingham. After a few months we moved on to a place near Oxford-Headington, to another house where our work lay.

The old lady of this house owned a Siamese cat called Cleo, a very beautiful creature, very dignified, so proud with the most lovely blue eyes. We did not think when we first saw her, that this sleek pointed seal heart,

was to the end of her sixteen years of life to be a constant companion and friend, and indeed she made us her slave. every whim, a chair she fancied, or a cushion had to be given up to her until she tired, and wanted something fresh.

Now the owner of Cleo died and she became ours and she was well adopted by her foster brothers, Dinky became her willing slave to the end of his life of eleven years.

Panda was more of a hunter of wild life such as catching rats and mice and sometimes birds unhappily. He would return to the house after a hard day hunting and join Dinky and Cleo, no doubt telling them of his adventures. These were happy days with these two human animals. Time went on and Gladys and I moved on once again to another post near Oxford, where there were many things for the cats to see and do, such as climbing trees, lying out on the green lawns in the sun, finding new walks. They would accompany us on our black-berrying days, enjoying themselves to the full, all returning with us tired out, but well satisfied, feeling I am sure, that they thought what protection they had given us on these lonely walks in the fields, Cleo loved nothing better than to go in the orchard with me and play with small apples, which I would throw to her, she would often catch one in her mouth and bring it back for me to throw again. Sometimes she would take an apple or two and hide in her basket.

Panda, Dinky and Cleo played much together and when on one occasion, Dinky and Panda were playing, Cleo suddenly jumped from the chair she had been sitting on and slapped Panda's face, thinking perhaps that they were fighting and her beloved Dinky would get hurt. This was too much for Panda, lovely creature that he was, that for the next few weeks he took not the slightest notice of her, this hurt Cleo's pride very much for she was born of Aristocratic Siamese parents. However, after a time they became fairly good friends again.

One day Cleo disappeared for some hours, we were not too worried, because there were many places she could go, it was summer time. Until it got late afternoon, no sign of her, now the hunt was on, everywhere in our small cottage was searched, garden, sheds, no sign of her in any of these places, then we thought that lanes and roads must be considered. I put my coat on and started off, I had not gone far, for before me in the distance was Cleo's little figure, leading a herd of cows home to a farm nearby. We were terrified, until she was safely in our garden

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again, she so easily could have been stamped on by one of the cows. She had, we think, been into one of the fields and when the cows started to come back to the farm to be milked she came with them. Panda and Dinky were delighted to have her with them again. After this episode Panda went off for hours, we did not worry unduly about him, for he was a very big cat and could take care of himself.

Gladys and I were sitting quietly by the fire Dinky and Cleo lying on the hearth rug, when suddenly there was a bang at the window, we looked up and there was our darling Panda, with the largest water rat in his mouth, he had brought it back to show us. We had, however, to get a neighbour to take it from him and throw it back in the river. Hardly a play thing for the cottage. He was greatly praised for his feat.

We lived near Oxford for a few more years and then moved on to a village in Essex, where again there were lovely fields and a garden for the cats. Here they had an added joy, there were two horses and a very delightful old donkey, called Kim. The cats became good friends with these animals and had many races with them.

One afternoon, however, Panda came home from his usual jaunt and flopped on the kitchen floor, Gladys and I could see there was something wrong with him and at once



sent for a vet who came very soon after he was called. He told us that Panda had been infected by a dead rat and that Panda had bitten it and had caught yellow jaundice from it. Dear Panda was nursed night and day by Gladys and me for three weeks, but alas he died, just seven years old. We were very sad at his death as indeed Dinky and Cleo were. They went about the house and garden calling and looking for him for some long time. A loyal friend had left us. Still, life must go on without him and after a time Dinky and Cleo accepted it. They were now two and would do their best to comfort Gladys and me which they did to the full. Dinky always seemed a happy cat and everything he did such as going for a walk with Cleo, or alone, lying in the sun, or hunting mice was enjoyment to him. Cleo was not in the least bit a hunter. Gladys and I thought Dinky sensed this, for one afternoon Dinky brought in a very small mouse and laid it between Cleo's paws, wanting Gladys and me to think that she had caught it, Dinky looked so happy when he did this, Cleo looked up at Dinky with eyes that seemed to say "thanks pal". Cleo and he were very good friends, although sometimes they did not see eye to eye, such as on an occasion Cleo was not well, Dinky took on the task of nursing and washing her. In his opinion this illness was lasting too long (she led him up the garden path a bit) so one morning as he was washing her and Cleo still acting the invalid, he gave her a smack across her face, as much as to say I have had enough of this. She soon recovered and was herself again.

Once again we moved on, but on this occasion my dear friend had an illness and her doctor said she would not work again. So we went to Surrey and stayed with my sister. Dinky and Cleo settled down very well although they had a garden to play in there were no fields nearby. Life went on fairly happily when one day Dinky was taken ill.

The vet was called and said there was nothing that could be done for him. Gladys and I did all we could for him to some weeks, then one afternoon he died, after eleven very happy years for him and us. The miss of Dinky is hard to describe. Cleo was most unhappy and it was some weeks before she got over this loss. Now Cleo is alone, we must comfort her and she us, which indeed she did in every way. It must have been very dull for her, no play-mate to have games with. Four more years passed when to our great sorrow Gladys died and Cleo and I were left alone.

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It took us months to get over this great loss, all the time Cleo seemed to come closer to me purring more and following me about everywhere in the house, and if a room door was shut she would knock with her paws for it to be opened to let her in. She shared my bedroom at night until one day she bit my hand rather badly, it was not her fault, I had frightened her picking her up suddenly.

IF YOU WANT TO AVOID HEART TROUBLE—LIVE LIKE A CAT

by Robert Chapman

New evidence that taking it easy helps to avoid heart trouble came yesterday—from cats.

For although cats suffer many of the ills of humanity including cancer and kidney disease, they rarely have heart attacks.

And the probable reason is that they know how to relax. Mr. Barry Griffiths, a Birmingham vet told the British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

It was clear, he said that cats suffered less from stress than their owners.

A survey of more than 600 pet cats over the age of eight treated by vets in the Midlands showed that heart attacks were rarely the cause of death.

It also showed that older cats developed a remarkably good road sense. Only one per cent died as a result of road injuries.

Cats, on the whole, lived longer than dogs. Some survived until 21 or 22 but dogs seldom lived beyond 16.

The survey, the first of its kind, was aimed at finding out more about Britain's cats with a view to developing new ideas on their care and attention.

After that I thought it safer for her to sleep in a room alone at night. She was a wonderful companion and friend. After three more years of her loyalty and devotion, she became ill and after a week's illness, died at the great age of nearly sixteen years.

So ends the story of the lives of three beautiful, loyal and wonderful friends. Written by their owner, Beatrice Corke.

"*Woman's Realm*" July 15th, 1967.

OPEN HOUSE

My husband fitted a cat's door to allow our handsome tom cat to get in and out without disturbing us. For the first few days it worked perfectly, then one night I was disturbed by a terrible din downstairs.

I woke my husband and we crept downstairs brandising pokers. We opened the door to find—not a burglar breaking into the house, but eleven female tabbies guarding our cat door on the inside. Outside was our poor tom.

I am enclosing £1 towards the funds.

I have recently lost my husband who was also a great animal lover like myself, and we had talked the matter over, and both agreed that we should not wish our friends to send any flowers, we put in the Obituary Notice that by special request in lieu of flowers, people could if they wished send a donation to a list of Animal Societies and gave their addresses.

Some friends sent the money to me, so I have distributed it, and have pleasure in sending £1 to the C.P.L.—M.P.B.

BOOKS

The Complete book of **The Siamese Cat**. Sidney & Helen Denham. ARCO Publications. 36/-

Anything and everything about Siamese cats is interesting to those who breed them and those who have them as pets. One never ceases to admire and love a "Siamese". It is obvious then that one wants to know all there is to be known about them and what better way could there be than through the lifetime experiences of the authors of this enchanting and invaluable publication. Take advice from those who know, and who know better than Sidney and Helen Denham?

The World of Cats: John Montgomery, Paul Hamlyn, 25/-.

Just how fascinating cats and kittens can be is shown throughout the 140 pages of one of the best devised portrayals of cat life, of this century. The colour pictures are outstanding, the art of photography never better expressed, the text is admirable and expertly introduced and makes enjoyable reading to add to the pleasure of "viewing".

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IN MEMORIAM

In memory of KAI, my darling Siamese. Put gently to sleep on 20th March, 1968, in her 17th year. K.Uhl.

Our white Kimmy, TW. 637, who died on 25th April 1952, aged 12½ years: Gentle Tiger, TW. 2022, who died on 12th Feb. 1962, aged 13½ years, and little black and white Pushkin, who died on 7th Aug. 1967, aged about 15 years: Beloved pets of Arthur and Barbara Garry.

In memory of our dear "Jillie" aged 15 years. A most lovable cat who is sadly missed and never to be forgotten.—Mrs. I. D. Pratt.

In loving memory of Bobby and Michael who died April 15th, 1965 and May 14th, 1965 in their sixteenth year. Such lovable and intelligent little brothers who gave so much happiness and are so greatly missed by W. Bales.

In loving memory of "Snowball" an abandoned 7-year old white cat that I found in a terrible state. He was put to sleep on Friday 1st March, 1968. Till we meet again in God's kingdom. John Murphy, Glasgow.

In ever-loving memory of "Cleopatra" aged 5½ months who died March 2nd, 1968.—Mrs. E. Turgel.

In loving memory of our beloved Pussies, aged 14 years missing from home on Sept. 6th, 1964: and Bettina who passed away on March 9th, 1964, also Misty Heather aged 14 died on May 14th, 1967. "Resting where no shadows fall" from Aunties Maude and Ada and other friends who loved them.

ANDREW and HENRY, faithful companions and friends who left us May 12th and May 18th, 1966.—D.M.B. and M. C. Worthing.

In ever loving memory of our darling Bunny, who passed peacefully away in her old age on January 21st. A dear and treasured companion for over twenty years. Also enshrined in loving memory her mother, Daphne, and sister Fuffy. Our lives were enriched by them.—Rev. Lewis and Frances Jefferson, Cross House, Loddiswell, Devon. Ever remembered and always in our thoughts,

The Duchess Nana, 1947-1960, beloved unforgetten companion. Till we meet again. E.C.

HOMES WANTED

Ginger cat six months old. Pretty face, very thick fur coat, with long bushy tail, short legs. Happy with other pussies. Black and White six months old. Lovely black coat, long bushy tail, small face. Very affectionate, short legs, likes nursing indoors, and likes to be made a fuss of, will greet you when hearing voices.—Mrs. R. E. Scott, 53, Binyalow, High Road, Soulbury, Nr. Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

Good Loving homes wanted for Whiskas; Black and White; very affectionate. Toto Tabby and White, 2 years old, and Sammy; Ginger and White; 1 year old, very beautiful. All are neutered males. Apply: Pussywillow Cattery, Bartlow, Cambridge, Linton 631.

LOST

£10 (ten pounds) reward to finder:

MISSING SINCE MIDDAY ON SUNDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, BLUE-GREY SHORT HAIR FEMALE CAT. CROSS SIAMESE/RUSSIAN BLUE. "BENNY".

This cat was last seen being chased away by another. She (it) may be lying up by day in a shed or barn, only coming out to hunt and feed at night, and may not be seen for a while until she has found somewhere to settle.

Any information would be welcome: Mr. J. C. Harvey, Lancarffe, Devon Tors Road, Yelverton, Devon. Tele: Yelverton 2656.