

SHOP WINDOW

Aprons to order in aid of funds 6/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1, Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland.

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.

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

Aprons to order in aid of funds 6/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland.

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

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.

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.

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

Water Colour Portraits of Pets from a clear snapshot, 10/6d. 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.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER UNAVOIDABLY HELD OVER UNTIL NEXT ISSUE

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.

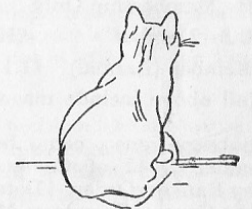
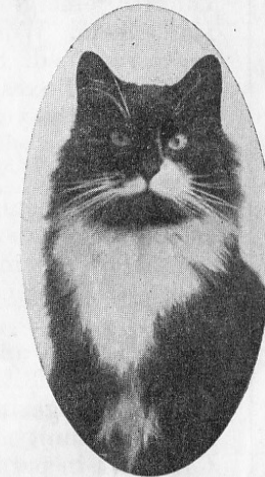
News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

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

JULY/AUGUST 1968

THE CAT

VOL. XLII

No. 6

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.

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Life Member £10 - \$30
Member (Annual) £1.1.0 - \$4
(all above include magazine)

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NEXT ISSUE 1st Sept. 68

We hope our readers were not too disappointed that the July issue was not published, but in the circumstances, of which most of you have been informed, we were helpless. However, with the advent of the long-awaited "Assistant" this should not happen again.

At this point we formally introduce Miss J. L. Runyard who, as from July 1st, 1968 is, officially Assistant to the General Secretary. Those who attended the Annual General meeting will have met her.

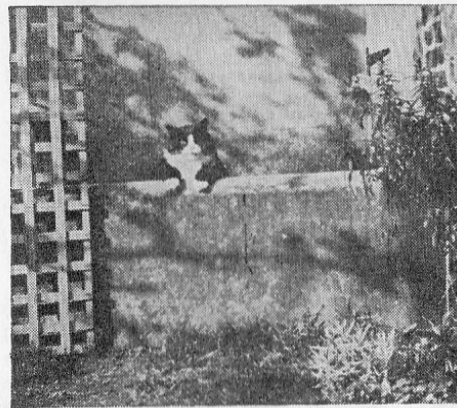
CAT WEEK 1968: We had hoped to introduce something different this year to maintain your keen interest in this annual event, and to greatly widen our field of activities. So much for the "best laid plans of etc." One cannot allow for nor satisfactorily counter emergency operations and their side effects. Work piles up and lost time is never regained. So we recourse to Cat Week Collecting Boxes as the foundation of our appeal for the year.

If perchance you have received a box and you particularly asked us not to do so please bear with us in this somewhat trying period of getting back to normal under nerve-wracking circumstances.

Our second and latest approach to fund raising is the PEN APPEAL, introduced in the June magazine. This could be a wonderful opportunity to boost the C.P.L. and Cat Week in particular. So far the response has been very encouraging and should give all round publicity and support for the C.P.L. and its work. See page 95.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS
GET WELL CARDS ETC. ABOUT
WHICH I WILL WRITE MORE
NEXT MONTH

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.

Although it has not been possible to "get around" very much since my previous notes in this column, matters which have been and still are occupying our attention are worth mentioning to bring you up to date.

THE LEGACY:

Up to the time of writing these notes the position is we have not had any of the money, the legacy is entirely in investments, and their transfer to the League will cause additional delay, and quoting from a letter dated 28th December 1967, the Solicitors said "It is not likely that all matters of tax and estate duty will be settled so that the Executors can make a distribution for at least one year". What one hasn't got one cannot spend, nor would it be wise to plan too far ahead at this stage, nor can the Trustees and Executive Committee commit themselves to any of the many requests, proposals, suggestions, etc. that have been received during the past six months, but all will be considered in due course.

ARTHUR

It is hoped that those who did not hesitate to contact the League for not doing this or that, are satisfied that we took the right attitude in dealing with what was one of the most controversial cat subjects for many years.

There are always two sides to every question and we make a point of investigating carefully before commenting or passing judgment.

Good Homes Guaranteed: What can we say that has not already been said in condemnation of a nation wide scheme that was admitted to be a commercial venture, but based on a "truth" that has been a headache and a

heartache to the C.P.L. and other A.L. Societies for years. The natural shortage of kittens at one part of the year, and the super abundance at the time when the demands for them have been met, and resulting in the destruction of thousands of kittens during what is regarded as the peak period, July, August and September. We were asked what could be done and what we were doing about it. First of all the advertisements could not be faulted legally, except that the guarantee was not as comprehensive as it should have been. So what could be done except protest and this we did all along the line. We wrote to every paper that carried the advertisement, and to every Pet Shop that was listed. We wrote to the Agency that arranged the advertisement and we interviewed the Principal. We wrote to the sponsors of the scheme, and expressed our opinion, and we made it abundantly clear that we considered the only way to deal with the problem of the surplus kittens was Animal Birth Control, and we the C.P.L. would not only continue to advocate and sponsor neutering and spaying but would intensify our efforts in this direction.

C.P.L. Voucher Service. (Neutering male and spaying female and emergency treatment). Readers will already know that this service has been in operation for a number of years, but not all of you will have heard of the unsolicited publicity we received in one of the national Sunday papers a month or so ago. The League's name was linked with that of the R.S.P.C.A. as being willing to pay for spaying if the owners could not afford the Veterinary Surgeons' fees. The amount of time and money spent on this project today is unbelievable. Requests are still being received and a full report will be given when all commitments have been met.

The Stray Cat Problem:

We have said in the past what we repeat now. It is not within the power of any one Society to solve this, the greatest of all animal welfare problems, but we hope to contribute to the solution by concentrating on what we think is the all important factor, control of the feline domestic population. We are probing and searching for ways and means of making our plans operate effectively. In the meantime we are not stinting in our help wherever it is justified.

Cat Stealing:

Here again is a problem which causes considerable concern to all organisations that are actively in Animal Welfare, and so far nothing has turned up that has not been considered before or that offers a reasonable chance of success in application. As each spate of publicity appears the same question arises—what are the C.P.L. doing about it.

concluded on page 92

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:

Although my name appears as secretary, it is the first time I have actually written it myself. Our very able publicity secretary M. Rayner usually copes with this but she is on holiday and so I have to put pen to paper.

Life goes on as hectic as usual, as soon as one event is over the next looms up ahead. We recently had a rummage sale and now a Bargain Sale on June 8th, and our Strawberry Fair on July 6th. We would appreciate anything saleable of any description (gifts, jewellery, groceries, toys, china, etc.) for these or any other events.

Incidentally, we are still wanting used stamps, foreign or British, (please leave small margin of paper on), also milk bottle tops, silver paper etc.

We have 22 cats in the cattery awaiting homes, including a mother 3 years old and daughter 2 years old, both pure white, spayed and unfortunately completely deaf. These obviously need an extra special understanding home and of course cannot be parted. Surely the "right" person for them must be reading this now, if so, please contact me.

Recently in the cattery we had 3 tortoiseshell cats that had been living in the most unbelievable conditions. They spent their entire life with thick rope round their necks and tied to legs of chairs and tables because the odd couple who had them were scared to let them loose in case they lost them. One of our committee members managed to talk them into letting us have them and they have since gone to homes. A neighbour had called the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector in, but he said he could not do anything as they were well fed and there was no actual cruelty involved.

Readers will probably be interested to know that we have trapped twelve of the thirteen cats living wild under the sea cadets hut. Several have already tamed and gone to homes. We had just one more to catch, so set the trap and went back about an hour later and no trap! Some mean person had stolen it. Chelmsford C.I.D. have it in hand, but no success. So now we have one poor little cat living miserably on its own under the hut. It must be bewildered as to where all the others have gone. Naturally one of the committee goes every night to feed it, but we have not a hope of catching it without a trap.

Our thanks again to our good friend "Anon" of Bow for donation and also to "Cutie-Cat" of Devon. These are very appreciated.

Eight cats and three kittens went to homes during April and twelve cats and fourteen kittens during May.

The start of the holiday season seems to have slowed down activities. Apart from the two Whist Drives, the only event in Chelmsford was the Market in the Shire Hall foyer on the morning of Saturday June 8th when £20 11s. 0d. was taken on the stalls. The other event was a Coffee Evening in Witham, designed to recruit helpers and explain to those interested in the C.P.L. just what we aim to do. We hoped to have Mrs. de Clifford there to do this, but the rail go-slow prevented her making the journey and Mrs. Middlemiss, Chelmsford's Secretary, gave a short talk and answered questions, which led to an interesting "discussion evening". A Bring and Buy stall and competition and refreshments added £12 to funds.

The monthly meeting was interrupted by a 'phone call (not unusual)! but the Chairman returned chuckling—It was about some kittens at the bottom of the caller's garden, and when asked if they were old enough to leave their mother, she replied, "I should think so, they've got *fur on!*" Obviously more used to birds!

These are only a few of the spate of kittens arriving. However, 31 went to homes in June, usually a bad month for placing. Fifteen cats also were found homes during the month. Several other cats and kittens were housed from Witham. The three tiny kittens successfully reared by the Secretary have gone to homes, all as clean and neat as though they had received a mother's attention, thanks to "Tracy", the kitten-loving bitch who washed and played with them each day.

Although June has meant more work "behind the scenes" than in the public eye—but, come to think of it—isn't *most* of the C.P.L. work done in this way?

SEE PAGE 95
C.P.L. PENS
1/6 each post free

BRANCH & GROUP NEWS

DERBY:

We are pleased to announce the opening of our Branch on the 29th April 1968, when 24 friends attended. We have been busy with rescue work since that date, and we hope to increase our membership as time goes on.

GLOSSOP:

Many thanks to friends who responded so generously to our fifth birthday Maypole Appeal. Donations amounted to £92 7s. 6d. Of this £55 10s. 0d. was recorded on dark blue ribbons for general work, £31 17s. 6d. on red ribbons for food for strays and boarding of rescued cats, also special gifts for Liza which she shares with other mothers and kittens. Just one white streamer records a £5 donation for veterinary fees including speyings.

Our most generous donation and delightful letter came from a lady living in a south coast town. She writes "I am most interested to read about your Maypole Appeal and 5th Birthday. Though not born in May, my Lollipop is TAURUS, April 22nd, and he was five on his last birthday. Robertson the marmalade is May too—around May 20th (exact date not known as he was born in a hedge, and only exhibited by his mother when a few days old). He will be seven this month. I enclose cheque £15, £5 from each of us for a special streamer. Robertson would like a red streamer to match his marmaladeness, FOOD also appeals to him. Lollipop of course would like a white one—his life was saved by his vet when he was hit by a car—and Blue will do for me to complete the trio".

This month we ask you to help us to put a few more white streamers on the Maypole. Speyings cost a minimum of £2 2s. 0d. In quite a number of cases we have saved the life of a female cat whose owners would otherwise have had her 'put down', by getting her speyed. Many people will pay half of the cost, but we find that in the majority of cases we have to take the cat to and from the vet which puts up the expense.

We do very much deplore the way the public have been misled by the large adverts for kittens for pet shops appearing in newspapers. Now the pet shops, in one town at least, are turning away litters of kittens and sending the owners to us. Anyone with any knowledge of Nature at all must realise that these are the months when large numbers of unwanted kittens are produced. The only way to deal with this heartbreaking problem is to get the cats neutered.

During May we had six cats speyed, took in six cats and 11 kittens and found homes for seven cats and three kittens. We are very

sorry to report that two of these little mothers died. Heidi had a dead kitten inside her and an emergency operation failed to save her. Kitty who came in with three five weeks old kittens had an infection due to something left behind when they were born. As she failed to respond to veterinary treatment she was given a painless end to prevent further suffering.

Apart from dealing with the problem of surplus kittens it would seem that speying could prevent other troubles.

Our own little Frisky fell off the roof and cut her tongue badly but she is making a wonderful recovery.

We certainly have no dull moments. Sometimes we wish we had a little more time to observe their play and appreciate their many different characters.

A tip on homefinding—Be careful to put the right cat into the right environment.

M. WILSON.

NORTH LONDON:

Since the announcement of "the legacy" to the League, we have received very much fewer letters from our sympathisers and a very considerable decrease in donations. It is a sad state of affairs, firstly, because we understand that that the legacy is unlikely to be received by Headquarters for a very long period and, secondly, because letters and donations are good for our ego, helping to convince us that our work is well justified. How right Mr. Steward was in his editorial comment on the subject of the legacy in the May issue. We have received many rude 'phone calls and letters, demands from people that we find them flats and even one asking us to finance the founding of a private school.

With regard to advertisements which have appeared so profusely in the Press, at the instigation of a Pet Food firm guaranteeing good homes for kittens, we can only comment that during each week during the Summer, we take in an average of 80 unsold kittens from our two local pet shops. To one shop we pay one shilling per kitten because they are delivered to us, the other makes no charge because we collect. We wonder how many of those kittens taken in by us were guaranteed good homes! We are, however, glad to take in such kittens because we then know their ultimate destination. They could very easily have been sold for research purposes if we did not take them. We hasten to add that neither of the pet shops featured in the advertisements.

Our seven year old Charlie of the broken leg has now been satisfactorily neutered and earnestly hopes that he will have gone to a good home by the time this report appears. If not, he will still wait with high hopes.

North London, *cont.*

The work of the Shelter increases each year. In April 1967 we took in 122 unwanted cats. In April 1968 our intake had risen to 335. This is indicative of the general trend because of the large programme of slum clearance in our area. Unfortunately, not all owners being moved bring their cats to us, because every clearance site has its stray cat problem. We are, at present, involved with two such sites, trapping during all spare moments allowed to us.

Sad news—we have just been served with a "Dangerous Structure" notice which compels the rebuilding of a flank wall and chimney stack at the shelter. It has meant that the two ladies of the Shelter staff have had to be moved out of their rooms on the second and third floors temporarily. Fortunately, we can accommodate both within the building and one is quite happily installed on a camp bed in what we call the "Jumble Room" with 10 cats.

Lastly, we would again mention the cat who likes to travel around upside down clinging to the under-side of furniture by his claws—he now even tries to sleep hanging upside down. Obviously, he had to be re-named—"Batman".

NOTTINGHAM:

There is very little to report from the Nottingham Branch this month. Mr. Brice-Webb who has been our Chairman for the past eight years has resigned his post. Mrs. Gee from East Leake has been elected in his place.

We are placed with a problem of trying to catch two grey cats at Nottingham University, one a male and the other a female, but they are proving hard to catch at the moment. The R.S.P.C.A. will not help because if they lend cages for catching them, they will wish to destroy the two cats, which we do not want. At the moment these two cats are being fed by a very kind lady, a Mrs. Smith. If anyone has any ideas on how to catch them I would be very pleased to hear from them.

The branch has now got 24 members, with hope of getting a few more in the near future.

It is planned for next Christmas to arrange to send food parcels to Old Age Pensioners who can hardly support their cats, as a treat for them. All members have been asked to look out for deserving cases.

SUSSEX:

My report was not included in the magazine for June; in it I told how I had to have my little cat Simon put to sleep. He had very bad skin trouble for a long time, and although he was treated by several vets there seemed no permanent cure. He then developed kid-

ney trouble for which there is no remedy. In spite of treatment he became very ill, and it seemed the kindest thing to part with him. Such a heartbreak after having his company for seven years.

Sam, who left his new home and walked five miles back to the lady who had befriended him, has now settled well in another home, and according to his new owner is very happy and is great pals with her dog and the cat next door. A few weeks ago we received a letter with a postal order enclosed and a little note which read "from Cutie Cat, Devon, to Sam the Hiker". We would like to say thank you to Cutie Cat for her kind thought for Sam.

We have taken a little mother and her four babies into Shelter. They were being very cruelly treated by a child who was mentally sub normal and her mother just let her use them as playthings to keep her amused. The poor little mother cat was nearly demented trying to protect her babies.

Another little kitten was found wandering about half starved, and when we sent it up to Cat Haven it was at once adopted by the little mother cat, and she fed it with her kittens. It is now fat and happy and is going to a new home in a few days time.

Last month we had a very successful Coffee Evening and made a profit of £27 after deducting expenses. We would like to thank Mrs. Lickley and Miss Madden who kindly acted as hostesses, and also those who helped. The highlight of the evening was a beautifully iced cake representing Cat Haven, with a little model of the shelter and 10 cats, made for us to raffle by Miss Cobbett. We also had a cake very cleverly made by Miss Madden in the form of a ginger cat, which was for guessing the weight. We felt very honoured to have Mrs. Keswell from British Columbia with us. This lady was staying in St. Leonards, and had previously called on me at the office and told me how she had formed a branch of the C.P.L. 15 years ago, the only one in Canada. We had a most interesting chat.

On June 5th we had a stall at the Grand Charities Fair which is held every year on Hastings Pier. We made the sum of £9 14s. 0d. and enrolled several new members.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on June 13th; most of the Committee attended and five members.

We were invited to take part in the Bexhill Cat Club Picture Show, which we found very interesting. We enrolled nine new members.

For several months now we have had a little shop in the office which we call "Simon's Shoppe". We were able to buy some foods wholesale, and we have received quite a few gifts from friends. If any of our members would like to contribute towards Simon's

Sussex *cont.*

Shoppe by sending us suitable gifts for sale we would be very grateful.

Kittens galore! And what lovely little creatures they are. Two little ginger brothers were taken to the P.D.S.A. to be put to sleep and we were asked if we could save their lives. We found a home for them straight away in the country; the lady wanted one kitten, but when she came for him and saw the two little mites cuddled up together she couldn't bear to part them so took them both.

ULSTER:

May was a miserable month weatherwise, bitterly cold, wet and windy but we did get two lovely days and, believe it or not, they coincided with the visit to Ulster of Mrs. N de Clifford. On Wednesday, 22nd May, in brilliant sunshine with the cats basking luxuriously in the unaccustomed warmth, she declared open the Nora Wilson Isolation Unit, our tribute to the work Mrs. Wilson has done for the League over a long period and more especially since the Shelter opened. The Ceremony was attended by Committee members, guests of honour being Mrs. Wilson herself and Mr. and Mrs. Ian Parker, who did all the actual work of converting two out-houses into the beautifully finished Isolation Ward which will be such a help in the running of the Shelter. To Mr. and Mrs. Parker and also to our kennel-man, Mr. Milliken, who was their willing assistant giving up much of his free time during recent months to hammering, screwing and painting, we once again extend our warmest thanks. Flowers were presented to Mrs. de Clifford, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Parker by Patricia, Eileen and Felix Toman.

In the evening Mrs. de Clifford was the speaker at a general meeting of the Ulster Branch and a packed audience was delighted with her racy and humorous talk. When questions were invited they flowed thick and fast and a most helpful discussion ensued which was reluctantly brought to a close when tea was served by Miss Taylor and helpers. During the meeting a Transistor Wireless was presented to Mrs. Wilson, a wee bird having whispered that this was a thing she specially needed. We hope she'll enjoy listening-in as she sorts the stamps.

My suggestion that two cats are better than one has brought letters from several readers who list all the obvious advantages. Not least of these is that one is not left completely catless when an old puss comes to the end of the road (as happened to my old John in the early hours of Easter Sunday morning). So, if yours is an "only" do think about the possibility of having a companion

for it. Incidentally my plea for the older cats was taken to heart by at least one member and two of them have been happily settled in a new home.

Last month I referred to our forthcoming Catless Cat Show. The idea is that readers submit snaps of their cats, which will be returned if stamped, addressed envelopes are enclosed. The entrance fee is 2s. 6d. (at least) and final date of entry is 30th September. We hope to get entries from all over the World! There will be four sections: Colour snaps (a) Cats (b) Kittens. Black and White (c) Cats (d) Kittens. (Kittens should be up to about six months old but we won't be too strict).

A list of Stall-holders for the Annual Sale on 5th October will be given next month. Meantime keep on collecting suitable items for the Stalls. Finally—thanks to everyone for the many contributions sent for our pussies, many anonymously. We are most grateful.

LONDON COMMITTEE:

Wednesday, 11th September at the Community Centre, St. George's Road, Wimbledon, will be our next big occasion, the Autumn Bazaar. Doors will open at 1 o'clock. We hope that everyone who can get there will come, and bring their friends also. We will be glad of stock for the stalls, please send parcels to: Countess Grudzinska, 48 Home Park Road, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19. We hope to make this a big success, for it will help us to get through the winter. Please help us.

The Rescue Centre is a real centre of activity now. The J. Milton Memorial Garden has been opened, (not officially) and the stray cats who have trooped in to fill it are a real joy and interest to us all, but they do need a great deal of care and attention. Little Emma has made a splendid recovery, she is still thin, but thanks to all the kind friends who sent her help, she will soon be a big, strong cat. Will someone please help a newcomer, Jenny, who has arrived with three day-old kittens, the family is healthy, but small, and needs special foods and care. A gift of 2s. 6d. (or 5s.) now will make a great difference.

Special Notice. A lady who has a small animal boarding establishment near us has asked if we can help to find someone who would like to come and help in the running and take care of the cats. Accommodation would be provided and a pet cat or two or three would be welcome. Please write fully to Mrs. Mitchell, c/o Mrs. de Clifford, 12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey.

Curio Corner. This is the mainstay of the Rescue Centre, we are very grateful for all the lovely things that have been sent. Please will everyone continue to send us any treasure that can be spared. Anything at all over 25 years old is welcome, there is a constant demand. Indeed any little thing

that is a bit out of the ordinary has a real value now, and can mean help for a needy cat. We are very glad of all you can send. This may sound rather demanding, but has anyone anywhere a little bit of gold—no matter what, a bit of broken chain, an odd earring, or any little scrap. We are trying to get together enough gold to make a nugget, to endow one of our pens.

BRANCH and GROUP DIRECTORY

BIRMINGHAM:

Miss J. P. Scriven,
83, Cranbrook Road, Handsworth,
Birmingham 21.

BOURNEMOUTH:

Miss A. Sydenham,
59, King's Road,
Bournemouth, Hants.

CANTERBURY: Affl. to C.P.L.:

Miss M. W. Paine,
37, Beverley Road,
Canterbury, Kent.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT:

Mrs. J. Middlemiss,
335, Springfield Road,
Chelmsford, Essex.

COVENTRY:

Mrs. P. Skinner,
3, Ridgeway Avenue,
Styvechale, Coventry.

DERBY and DISTRICT:

Mrs. M. A. Norton,
24, Sevenoaks Avenue,
Mackworth Estate, Derby.

DUBLIN:

Mrs. S. Connolly,
Leicester Avenue,
Rathgar, Dublin,
Eire.

EDMONTON:

Mrs. C. Walledge,
39, Oxford Road,
Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

GLOSSOP and DISTRICT:

Miss Wilson,
Cowbrook, Glossop,
Derbyshire.

GREAT AMWELL and DISTRICT:

Mrs. M. Jones,
376, Ware Road,
Hailey, Hertford.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

Mrs. Kent,
Cheviott Cottage,
St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight.

LEICESTER and OAKHAM:

(temporary news writer),
Mrs. G. Garner,
39, Marydene Drive,
Evington, Leicester.

LONDON COMMITTEE:

Mrs. de Clifford,
12, The Close,
New Malden, Surrey.

MANCHESTER:

Mr. C. W. Cadley,
89, Northen Grove,
Manchester 20.

NEWBURY and DISTRICT:

Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw,
Curridge,
Newbury, Berks.

NORTH LONDON:

Mrs. M. Davies,
435, Caledonian Road,
London, N.7.

NOTTINGHAM:

Miss P. C. Brabyn,
25b, Newcastle Drive,
The Park,
Nottingham, NG7 1AA.

SOUTHAMPTON:

Miss B. M. L. Sayce,
79, Portswood Road,
Southampton, Hampshire.

SUSSEX:

Mrs. H. G. Perry,
35, Pevensey Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

ULSTER:

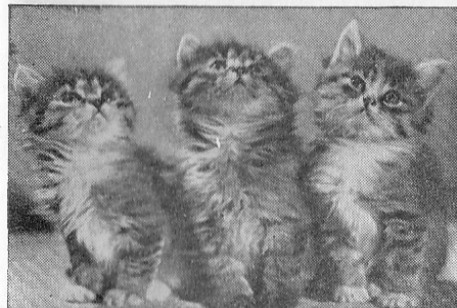
Miss E. R. McKee,
92a, Earlswood Road,
Belfast 4, Ireland.

WALSALL:

Miss R. Nash,
25, Wolverhampton Street,
Walsall, Staffs.

WEST CORNWALL:

Cusgarne Catteries,
Cathlowen,
St. Day,
Redruth, Cornwall.



MEMBERS CORNER

We have four cats, one 16 years old, one 14 years old, one five years and we have this week acquired a ten week old kitten. We had a pure Siamese two years old, but unfortunately a car knocked it down and killed it.

Despite the fact that we have these cats we have a large garden which is well kept, as we leave spaces between the plants for the cats to use, and also have trays filled with Catlitta which they seem to prefer. One of the cats, the 14 year old is a ginger and white fluffy one, and has a very fastidious way of refusing to walk on the lawn or garden, but walks in and out on the paths or the low bricks that are in the garden. She keeps herself spotlessly clean, and seems to dislike putting her paws on anything dirty. The names in order of age are Susie, Sally, Nanki-Poo and the kitten is Dandi. A.J.H.

Control of Cats

Whenever two or three people concerned with animal welfare are gathered together, the subject always comes up—what can be done about so many unwanted cats?

R.S.P.C.A. Officers and veterinary surgeons who day after day have to destroy them (newly born kittens are bad enough, but the older the animal the more heartbreaking the task), and those who are fighting a losing battle in saving and finding homes for cats of all ages, are dismayed and disheartened that so few owners have their female cats spayed. This is a safe simple and inexpensive operation, and the misery saved, to all concerned, is incalculable, for as well as the animals being destroyed there are countless others, thin, hungry and desperate, driven away from every door they go to, who from birth to death know only wretchedness.

Mrs. A. M. COOKSON,

Herewith my cheque for £10 in memory of my dear pussy who died two years ago today, in the hope that it will help one who is in need. I also enclose £2 copper fund.

V. CLIFTON.

My cat has been spayed, and she is very well. I am writing this note to thank you for all your help, because if it had not been for your organisation, she would by now probably be expecting another litter. She was spayed last Wednesday and she seems to stay in more than she used to, and plays about the house with pieces of string like a little kitten. I wish once more to thank you, and with this note I am sending a 10s. postal order to go towards the cost of her operation. Sorry I never sent it on Friday last as I said.

Miss HAMMOND.

Thank you very much for all the care and attention you recently gave to my cat during the two weeks he was a patient in your hospital.

It is beautiful the way the cats are attended to when under your care. The rascal has quite recovered and chases up the apple trees as nimbly as ever; also the poor birds are falling a prey to his quickness.

Mrs. N. LEPPARD.

I am writing these few lines to thank you and your staff most sincerely for the wonderful way you have looked after my cat these past months.

She is now completely clear of the skin disease she had and is at the moment in tip-top condition. I would also like to thank the girl who came and collected her week after week and then brought her back, we do appreciate your kindness and consideration. Again many, many thanks.

Mrs. D. BURTON, Slough.

Owing to the devaluation of the pound I am enclosing a cheque for £2 2s. 0d. instead of the usual £1 1s. 0d.

Miss N. A. FARMER.

CLARA THE CAT

British Overseas Airways Corporation has presented a 15-year service pin to Clara the cat in recognition of her sterling work as a mouser in the carrier's number 9 hangar at Heathrow airport.

Travel Trade Gazette, May 10th.

Bembridge Cat comes of Age

Smudge, a black and white half-Siamese cat, celebrated her 21st birthday at Bembridge on Easter Sunday. She has been with Mrs. D. Orchard and family at Cranleigh, Foreland Road, since she was a kitten. In spite of her age, Smudge is very active, eats well, and can still climb trees. Her favourite spot for sitting in the sun is the roof of the garden shed.

I.O.W. County Press.

MEMBERS CORNER—cont.

TIMMY

During August 1967 a large tabby cat who had been about here for some time and had been lost or left by his owners, came to live with us. He appears to have a little Siamese in him the way he "meows" and other funny ways. He has a habit of catching us round the ankles with his paws, no claws out, and he likes to sit on high places, such as the top of the T.V. set.

When I am in the garden he follows me and sits and watches what I am doing. When he wants to go out or wants his meal he scratches on the back of a certain chair to let me know. Sometimes he sits on the flap of my writing desk and proceeds to remove papers from the divisions and the back of the desk with his paws.

So far he has not been any trouble to get in at night and he has tried most of the chairs and beds in the house to sleep on. He is very playful both in the house and garden. I have never heard him spit and he is most interested in everything that goes on and shows much affection and appreciation.

When we lost our cat after 12½ years we said we would not have another, but this one came and needed a home, so as cat lovers what could we do? He has certainly given us great pleasure and as the Vet says he is about three years old we hope he will be with us for many years.

W.A.R.L. Bournemouth.

HOW NOT TO MAKE A CAT'S CRADLE

Twiggy, my multi-coloured cat has jumped through the bed-room window to help (?) me make my bed. She appears most days when she hears me pull my bed away from the wall, and this is how she helps.

Lying on her back on the opened bed, paws curled, pink tongue slightly protruding; she waits to have her tummy rubbed.

Rooting vigorously and pouncing amongst the bed clothes thrown over the bed foot; she makes sure there isn't a mouse there.

As I move around the bed, she keeps catching at my overall and I have to pause often to disentangle her claws.

A soft hump undulates from side to side under the top sheet, and I can't resist stopping to pat the hump to see what the reactions are.

Mysterious thumpings come from under the bed and on investigating I find it is Twiggy playing with the carcass of a mouse. I remove the Mouse outside by its tail; putting it in a place where I sincerely hope it will not be re-discovered.

The electric light suddenly comes on. Yes, it's Twiggy again, climbing on the pillows

and pulling on the acorn at the end of the electric light cord.

At last the bed is made, taking three times as long as it should. Twiggy subsides on the eiderdown with an ecstatic sigh; just remarking over her shoulder as she drops to sleep "I'll be alright here, Mum, until the next meal time—fish preferably".

Confidentially, I enjoy this bit of fun, just as much as Twiggy.

C. M. FREEMAN.

Although I had to have my own darling cats "put to sleep" I still seem to get involved with cats.

I was in the post-office a fortnight ago, and I was telling the girl there (whom I know, and who loves cats) about Arthur the Television Cat, which you mentioned in the June Magazine.

There was an elderly lady standing next to me who was listening to what I was saying. She then spoke to me and said "I can see you love cats and wondered if you can help me." She then went on to say, the owners of a sweet shop which backed on to her flat, had sold the shop and left behind a Tom cat and a lady cat. These poor cats had been strays for three months and the lady cat had got four kittens (two ladies and two toms) and boys were chasing the poor mother with sticks. She had climbed up a high wall with the kittens in her mouth on to a roof.

This lady said she would have the mother if she were doctored, but couldn't afford to pay £2 2s. 0d. for the doctoring. Anyway, I said I would take the mother to my Vets to have her doctored and perhaps she could pay a little towards it.

Homes were then found for the two baby toms, but for several days we couldn't find the two lady kittens. Eventually we found them but I couldn't find homes for them, so I had the unhappy task of taking them to the Vets to have them "put to sleep" which upset me quite a lot as they were so like my late Jenny. They were all ginger cats and so pretty.

My story has ended happily for the mother cat, as she had a wonderful home. She is like a musical box and never leaves off purring.

SYDNET COMPTON.

★ ★ ★

Gentleman required with car. Fond of cats, goats (2) and dogs (3) to help in garden and house. Very light duties. Please state salary. Very good home.

Apply: Johnson, Pen Rose Cottage, St. Treward, Bodwin, Cornwall. 'Phone St. Trudy 349.

SEE PAGE 95



With apologies to 'Pepe'

ARE ALL CATS THIEVES, I WONDER?

Whatever we may think, here is a true story about a little black half-Siamese, who left us not so very long ago. I know he would like it to be told, if only to show that even a half-Siamese has his pride! But, first, I would like to tell you about him,

When I fetched him from the "Home", he was reputed a year-old stray, hungry and enterprising and—need I add?—very intelligent! I took him home and he was soon bouncing with "joie-de-vivre". He had complete confidence in himself and none whatever in anyone else. It must be admitted he was rather conceited. At first, although he was prepared to be friendly to all the world, he would brook no advances. Everything, to his mind, called for defence; at the slightest pretext or, it seemed to us, often without any reason at all, his very sharp teeth flashed into instant action. In spite of that he was a real "charmer" and when we came to understand each other better, to me he was a loyal friend, in fact, he came to consider me his special care. It became increasingly clear that his rather unstable temper and most probably also, a disordered digestion, were in part, if not entirely, due to a very chequered upbringing of the love-me-once and kick-me-twice variety and as, at first, he appeared to look on every party of children who passed our gate as his lost family, I think we weren't far wrong in guessing that he had been a "toy" for children. In every respect his manners were perfect. Now: Wazzy had a conscience and he never stole! In support of that state-

ment, here is his story which I will tell in the way he himself would have told it:

"Do you know the SHE who gives me my food? You do? She's not really a bad sort, in fact she feeds me quite well but of course I'm not expected to help myself from the larder; not even to go through the door, unless there's a mouse in there; she doesn't seem to care about mice, I'm allowed to take them. At other times she makes it only too plain that I'm not even to sniff round—and that really is hard, specially when there is something unusually tempting. You see, the larder door leads off my bedroom. But, what do you think she did the other night? She left that door wide open! Well, I ask you!—and the things in there! Ooh! meat, fish—Shall I? I thought, the shelf's quite low—well—perhaps? No! decidedly not; I am a cat of character, I will not be tempted. But then... if there's anything missing in the morning, or she thinks there is?—She'll blame me. Most unfair. But I soon decided what to do. I sat down on the floor with my paws folded under me, as is proper when one is waiting, exactly opposite the larder door where I could see into it, but across on the far side of the room, facing the door, from the corridor, into my bedroom.

Well, she came down in the morning and she saw me there; then she saw the larder door was wide open—and you should have seen her face! She looked at me and she looked at the larder door—and back at me. I just gave her one glance—a most expressive one, I assure you, then I turned my eyes towards the larder and back again to her and with a look of deep reproach and disapproval, I said: "I don't suppose you'll believe me, you'll just be suspicious, but you can see quite plainly that I have not been in there and nothing would make me go in. If there's anything missing, I haven't taken it."

It was quite true, nothing had been touched!

Are cats thieves? Does it not sometimes depend on how well and wisely we feed them; on how understanding we are and whether we expect them to be the same?

Although some experts on matters (feline) do consider cats born thieves I think that, in all fairness, it should be recorded that among our many cats, only once did one of them take food that was not hers. On another occasion a cat of ours jumped onto the table where our food was always prepared and ate a dishful of cooked fish, but I had been telling him, repeatedly, that it was for his dinner and I am certain that he understood perfectly what I had been saying. Normally, when he had done anything wrong his

continued next page

behaviour afterwards invariably gave him away; on this occasion, he showed hardly any sign of having a guilty conscience. He had every opportunity to take our food, for the table under which he sat and waited for his, was quite low. If left alone, he never abused our trust, however long he sat waiting with an appetising odour immediately above his head.

In this particular case, it was the cat's self-imposed control; save that once, he never took anything—and he was a "stray", not a kitten, brought up by us.

FELINE FELLOWSHIP by Gordon Sadler

It is often necessary to correct the notion that cats are selfish, comfort-seeking and indifferent to all that goes on around them. Cats are generally more observant, certainly more sensitive and always in spite of their casual demeanour, far more alert than other domestic animals. Though there are times when they prefer solitude and seclusion even from their human friends, they frequently take more than a passing interest in the lives of others.

In the case of birds the interest is rarely friendly although there are known exceptions. I knew a canary who was quite fearless of the family cat, the two were brought together when young. A Welsh friend's cat had as companion a lively budgerigar, who chattered to Puss and even perched on his head, while a country tabby reared near a bird sanctuary, mingled amiably with thrushes, blackbirds and tits who were not afraid. Cat-dog friendships are not exceptional especially when the animals are brought up together, and cats' fondness for horses is taken for granted among country folk, the cat often sleeps for winter warmth on the horse's back.

Some cats are fascinated by other animals. Pretty white-coated Sheba, with pink eyes, made friends with a domestic rabbit of the same hue, the two often sat together on the lawn or could be found in the long grass at play. Yet stranger was the case of our Tabby, who after a careful period of watchfulness accepted the friendship of a hedgehog. The first shyness over, the two were seen eating from the same dish and the hedgehog gained admission to the house several times.

Recently I was witness to a charming, unique friendship between cat and tortoise. The cat's early playfulness and curiosity changed to a kind of guardianship as the two became familiar, they would meet in mid-lawn, wander around the garden or sit enjoying the sun. Tortoise loved the warm rainy weather and made excursions into the rough ground at the end of the garden, while

I have always looked upon the average cat as a dignified animal, who does not grab from others, still less from human friends of whom he is fond. He appears to recognize their rights and although independent, he expects and demands the same in return.

We always found it easy to teach our cats to share a plate at meal times. We divided the food into portions, one for each cat, and they never stole from each other.

Our cats were not always models of behaviour, but they certainly could not be thieves.

Puss watched from the comfort of a dry wall. One morning, the cat's strange behaviour showed something amiss. He paced the wall excitedly, sprang down and repeated his antics and jumped to the window sill to attract attention. The astonished housewife followed him and discovered the tortoise trapped in netting and weeds quite unable to move. After the rescue garden life was again normal, the cat sat watching his friend with closed eyes.

The cat is naturally quiet and shrinks from discord, that is why he chooses unobtrusive friends, who conform to his way of life. These strange affinities reveal some mysterious form of communication between the animals of which we are unaware. How is the horse-cat relationship established, and how did the tortoise transmit his appeal for help? It does seem that cats, perhaps more than other creatures, are discriminating in their friendships with a gift for choosing those with the same philosophical way of life as their own.

ROUND & ABOUT *concluded*

What can we say except we have heard it all before. We have weighed the pro's and cons and still come up against the stone wall of impracticability, plus the all too common indifference of the general public. So we go round and round and come out where we started.

We are fully aware of our obligations and we are constantly reviewing the situation, but please remember that other Societies wealthier and with more influence than the C.P.L. share our responsibility, and we would be the first to congratulate any organisation that found the answer to this problem, and our co-operation would only too willingly be given to any practical proposition.

A. A. STEWARD.

C.P.L. PENS 1/6 each
post free



BLOT STANDS IN FOR SOOTY BAYLEY

In 1959, my wife and I had a flat overlooking Clapham Common in London. In the middle of one of those foggy and chilly nights we were awakened by the meowing of a cat. At first we thought a kitten had been abandoned on the Common, but we saw by the light of the street lamp a large cat sitting on the gate post and assumed he must be courting. However, on the following cheerless morning he was in the front garden and was quite friendly. We saw that he was all black, fully grown and neutered, and although rather thin we imagined that he must have a home in the vicinity. But for two more days he remained in the garden, refusing warm milk, but accepting a little raw meat. The third day brought heavy rain, so naturally Sooty, as he came to be known, was brought indoors and he was to remain with us as our devoted companion for the next eight years. He never did drink milk.

It wasn't until September 1963 that we could afford a holiday out of London, when we had a week's Caravan holiday in rural Sussex. The caravan was peacefully situated in an orchard and in the neighbouring orchard lived a donkey, which was to hold Sooty enthralled for the whole week. He was absolutely fascinated by the donkey and hardly had time to notice the scores of birds in the hedgerows. He proved a good car traveller and we took him to see the Channel, little dreaming that seven months later we would all be flying over it to a new life in Africa.

Came Africa, 1964, however, and my work took me to West Africa. Before the month was out, the three of us were in Liberia. Sooty acclimatised very well to the tropical climate, except in one respect and this was in his annual moult. He still had his thick winter coat in what was winter in England, the equivalent here being the hottest time of the year. Therefore, for the first three months of each year, he was usually prostrate and spent his days (and nights) stretched full length in front of the electric fan.

During the next four years he had many adventures. He liked going for walks, but there was always a hazard of snakes and scorpions, so we had to accompany him on his sojourns into the bush. Then he had to share his home with several species of birds and animals, including owls, doves, buzzards, antelope, mongooses, genets and civit cats. Although sharing his home with these other pets, he wouldn't "fraternise" and while the donkey in Sussex had held him spellbound, he displayed not the slightest interest in African fauna. His motto seemed to be—"ignore the lot of them". He made no attempt to catch the birds which had the freedom of the house and when some of the smaller animals tried to make friends they were soon discouraged by "black looks" and hisses.

As age began to creep up on him, Sooty became slower. His walks became less frequent, he no longer sharpened his claws on his favourite trees, with the result that his claws became overgrown and had to be clipped. He lost some of his teeth, but his gleaming fur remained as lustrous as ever. Then, as January of this year arrived and with it the hot weather, he again became prostrate and for once began to eat less.

On the morning of 6th January, Twelfth Night, he was suddenly taken ill. His breathing became laboured and his lovely eyes were too bright. Within three hours he collapsed and died.

What a tremendous loss his death has been to us. He now lies at rest under a perpetually flowering thevetia bush, whose bright yellow blossoms fall onto his grave and whose branches shelter sun-birds. The memory of him is evergreen.

A. C. M. BAYLEY, Liberia, W.A.

C.P.L. PENS

WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE FAULTS
BUT ANY NOT SATISFACTORY
WILL BE REPLACED FREE

IN MEMORIAM

Nicky, beloved companion of Rita and Gladys. Put to sleep 20th May, 1968, after kidney trouble. Aged 14½ years. Sadly missed.

Remembering with love my Roger (T.W. 1437) who died July 27th, 1964, aged 17 years 2 months. Still missed so much. Gwen Woolgar.

In loving memory of Moo (June 1932-May 31st, 1950) and Leo (May 1950-May 8th, 1968). Always in our hearts. K. and D. Henry Maidenhead.

In loving memory of my darling white cat "Peter", 1945-1956. "Only au revoir". D. M. Sutton.

Panda, Tailwaver 2332. To the everlasting memory of my dear yellow and white cat who died 10 years ago; aged 10¼ years—July 3rd, 1958. "Time passes but memory stays." Also Ruffles, a tired homeless cat, who adopted us and settled down happily for 18 months. He was last seen alive March 10th, 1961. Auf wiedersehen, Ruffles. Muriel A. Julian, Sheffield 10.

In loving memory of sweet and gentle Tiger, who died on the 15th of May 1968. Aged 2 years. So brave in his suffering. Tiger, Tiger. Burning bright in the forest of the night. Oh what human hand or eye could frame such (lovely) symmetry.—Blake. E. Johnson.

In memory of my darling Lucy, T.W. 4329, killed by a car, May 20th, 1968. Aged 7 years. Very sadly missed by Barbara Prescott.

In loving memory of my beloved Fluff, who was put to sleep 8th June, 1968, following a year of heart weakness and a final severe heart attack. So sad and lonely without you. D. E. Lorden.

Dear little "Suzie Cuddlepudd", put to sleep June 13th, 1968, aged 14 years and 3 months, after a very happy life. Greatly loved by Mrs. Summerfield and M. Telfer.

"In loving memory of my little Blot, always loved and remembered". Miss M. G. Ken naugh.

In memory of Kaew, aged 14 years 7 months, put to sleep April 15th, 1968, after a long illness. Kaew of the loving nature, truly a gem, the meaning of his Siamese name. Harold, Renee, Deidre and Raymond Lee.

HOMES WANTED

Home urgently needed for two sisters, three years old, one tabby one white and maralade, spayed. Owner going to New Zealand in October. The cats have never been separated and would like to stay together.—Miss N. M. Harding, 39B Cambridge Park, Twickenham, Middlesex. Pop. 2349.

Homes wanted for black and white tom kittens born end of May. Lively, handsome and house-trained. Particulars from Mrs. K. Lake, 34A Ongar Road, Fulham, S.W.6. Tel: FUL 7951.

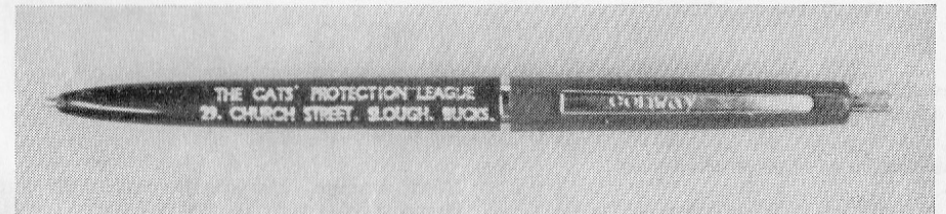
Homes wanted for black short furred tom kitten and two black short furred females (spayed) approximately one year old. The cats are very gentle, having been used to handling by young girls. Please ring, between 6-8 p.m. only, Gillingham, Dorset 294. Miss M. Baker, Milton-on-Stour, Gillingham, Dorset.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

WE TOO HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS

YOUR CO-OPERATION WILL HELP
FULFIL THEM



MAKE ALL YOUR FRIENDS 'PEN FRIENDS'