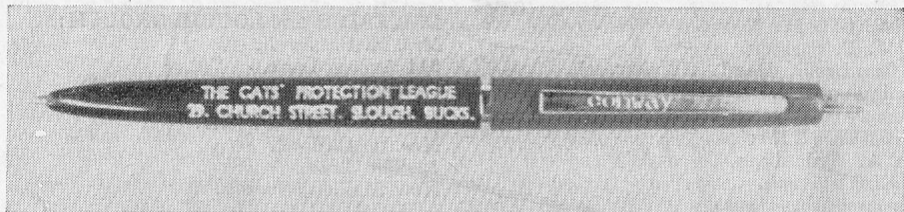


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Published Bi-monthly by the Cat's Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough and Printed by Chas Luff & Co. Ltd., Albion Close, Petersfield Avenue, Slough.

THE CAT

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



"Perhaps the most valuable gifts which the cat can give to man are its tranquility and grace and detachment, and in this distracted era of ours we were never more in need of tranquility and grace and detachment." *Compton Mackenzie.*

MAY/JUNE 1970

THE CAT Vol. XLIV No. 3 MAY/JUNE 1970

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY - FIRST OF THE MONTH

CONTENT: Short Stories — Branch and Group News — Members Letters — CAT CHAT dealing with published references to Cat Welfare and the League's activities and appeals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Selected photos of Members cats and kittens.
Literary contributions and photos welcome. NO PUBLISHING FEES PAID.

Official Organ of
THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE AND TAILWAVERS
(Founded 1927)

Registered National Charity No. 203644

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ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

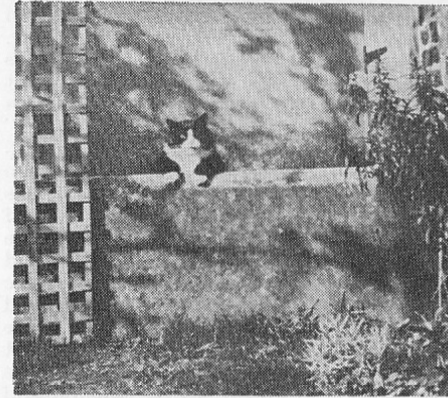
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News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

Used stamps, British Foreign and com memorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.



ROUND AND ABOUT

Report and Comments on "this and that" concerning the welfare of cats and kittens and the work of the League generally by the General Secretary/Editor.

APOLOGIES: We regret having to omit a number of Members' literary contributions from the previous issue of our magazine also for the notes of the month from Sussex following those of North London without the usual reference to the Branch. Our sincere apologies to all concerned.

BRANCH REPORTS: We aim to give as much publicity as possible to our Branches and their activities but there has to be a limit to the space we can allocate to each Branch despite the fact that some reports are much shorter than others. We have to consider Members who contribute articles or true stories or letters and also make use of news items of current interest to our readers.

WE HAVE CHANGED the layout of the magazine to meet the requirements of "today" and to ensure a fair share of "space" for all, but occasionally Branch reports are predominant, despite the use of the editorial blue pencil, and someone, somewhere is disappointed at the omission of their contribution. Unfortunately we cannot please all the people all the time, so if it should happen to you please bear with us. We are often working against time to get "copy" to the printers or building the galley proofs into page proof prior to printing. At either stage mistakes can happen and if not noticed and corrected before printing commences it is too late. It is all too easy to overlook something in a last minute rush which frequently happens due to circumstances over which we have no control.

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES ETC. ETC. This phrase is so often used in many circles as an excuse but it can be, and frequently is, true and not a "cover-up".

Time is a deciding factor on many occasions and is becoming more so every day. We are having to reorganise our office routine to meet the ever increasing correspondence demands on a small office staff. We have gradually converted basement rooms into "Paper Stores" and "Machine Room" to give more space for staff but the volume of work increases and the number of staff does not, hence the urgent need to economise on time by every method we can think up. The introduction of printed acknowledgements and other time saving correspondence innovations are unfortunately necessary but we continue to give personal attention to matters that require advice etc., though perhaps not always as quickly as we would wish.

BRANCH MATTERS IN GENERAL: Apart from publicity, through the columns of The Cat, we have given and continue to give material support. During 1969 our Branches were given financial support to a total of £8,821—this was more than in 1968. In addition to grants, goods for sale or food supplies or both were distributed as equally as possible and those who did not participate during 1969 will do so, or have already received a gift parcel, this year.

Most Branches have had neutering vouchers which relieves them of a reasonable proportion of their normal payment in this connection. A further issue will be made when the accounts for the first issue have been cleared

and if funds will permit, the idea being the furthering of our neutering project and freeing Branch funds for other purposes.

We would like to draw attention to Branch reports in general and to West Cornwall in particular. We sympathise with Mrs. Beesley, we too at H.Q. meet that kind of "enquirer" from time to time. For the sake of the good name of the C.P.L., "The customer is always right"?

AT CROSS PURPOSES? Differences of opinion cannot be avoided, in fact it would be a dull world if everyone thought alike, but sometimes opposing beliefs can cause dissatisfaction and create disturbances. We know from correspondence from Members, who are by no means extremists, there is concern over the attitude of Branches in connection with keeping adult cats for long periods pending homes being found and also

anxiety about the conditions under which they are kept. It is considered an H.Q. obligation to make quite sure everything is satisfactory from the League's policy point of view. Another point which has been raised is the keeping of "litters of kittens" when our literature on control of cat population advises the general public not to keep more than one or two (male) kittens. This we must agree is a good question and of course there is really only one answer, the policy of the League should be upheld throughout the organisation. These are important matters which will be discussed and decided at Executive level. We have been and still are as considerate and tolerant as possible where Branch activities are concerned, but we have to be realistic and face up to our responsibilities. The wind of change does not always blow kindly.

A.A.S.

HAVE A GO -

QUIZ by Michael Godfrey

No Prizes: solution next issue

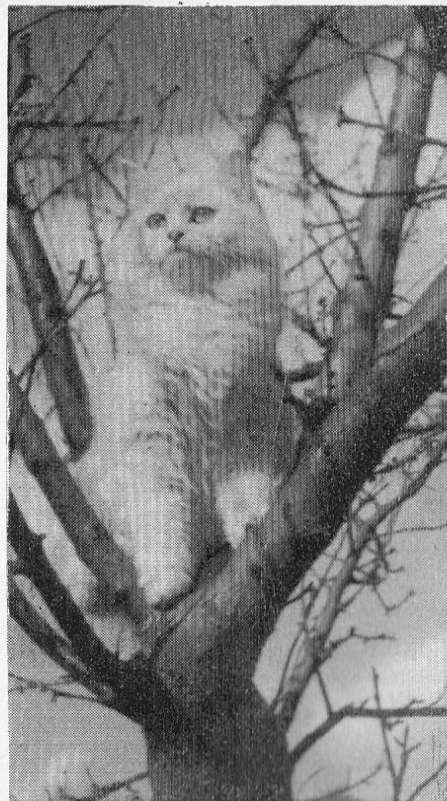
Now Mrs. John Bull has a beautiful cat,
He is not very small. He is not very fat,
He is not very big nor yet very lean,
So like neither of Newton's (A) but something
between.

Being a well-lettered cat he will readily know
About ginger (1) and Tom (2) and the pussy
in Poe (3);
And the one owned by Richard of Lord
Mayoral fame (4),
And of those that wore boots (5) or belonged
to a Dame (6).

With the warm coated puss (7) he was also
au fait,
And with one that occurs in the "Pinnafore"
play (8)
And with she who embarked with a fowl as
a sailor (9),
And with he who crossed swords with a West
Country tailor (10),

The lone ambulator (11), he also knew that,
And the one from Melita (though hardly a
cat) (12),
And dodgeson's (13) and Seton's (14) and one
out of time (15),
Thats all I can think of, dear Reader, . . .

Now Thine?



IN MEMORIAM

May/June 1970

Ever affectionately remembered and never forgotten—ANDREW and HENRY—12th May and 18th May, 1966. D.M.B. & M.C., Worthing.

In loving memory of our dear gentle FLUFFY who passed over 26th February, 1970, aged 14 years. Goodbye till we meet again. Rose Martin.

THE DUCHESS NANA, born May 1947, died 16th May, 1960. Remembered every day. Till we meet again. E.C.

Our darling "Kiki" TW.1519 beloved little companion for 13½ years, released from illness by kindly sleep on February 28th, 1952; also dear "TIGER" TW.2039 a humble little creature, fell asleep on February 21st, 1958, aged 12. "Until we meet, little ones". A. & D. Turner.

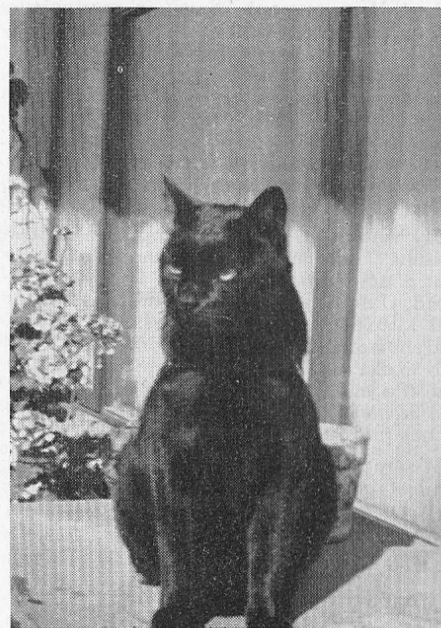
In everlasting memory of my little Siamese friend TILLY, who died October 27th, 1969, aged 15½ years. Chunki and I miss her so much. Rose O'Donoghue.

In ever loving memory of my dear old FLUFFY, affectionate and only companion for 14 years. Put to sleep 8th June 1968. Sadly missed and never forgotten. D.L.

In loving memory of BOBBY who died April 15th, 1965 and his brother MICHAEL who died May 14th, 1965, in their 16th year. They gave so much happiness for over 15 years and are so greatly missed by W. Bales.

In memory of TIGGER and WHITIE who, alas, have long since departed this life. A.B.

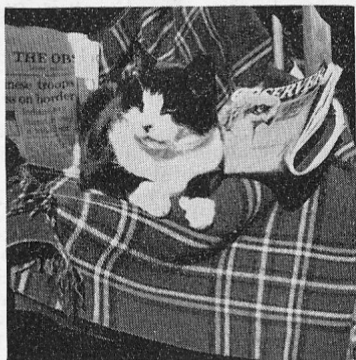
In ever loving memory of our dearest MUMSIE, CO-CO, CINDERS and FOO-FOO who passed over in April 1965. God is watching over you, our loved ones, until we are re-united in His Kingdom. Mr. & Mrs. W.F.H.



IN MEMORY OF
and
AND A TRIBUTE TO
CHOLMONDELEY TW 4647

and
THE GENEROSITY OF
HIS OWNER

Mrs. A. Z. Cunningham,
Cape Town,
SOUTH AFRICA



MEMBERS CORNER

You may be interested to hear about an Abyssinian cat named Bunny. I have boarded him at holiday time ever since 1961 and during the last few years for longer periods as his owner broke her hip and then the lower part of her leg. Since the last mis-hap she is now in a home for good as she is 87 or 88. The cat and a pedigree Blue Tabby of hers have become perpetual boarders and more or less mine except that I get 15/- each per week for them which means that this could stop at any time. Bunny was always so fierce I daren't touch him without thick gloves as he tore me to pieces. Now he has been here since November 1968, and he lived in the cat house until September 1968. Gradually he became quite sweet and would follow me all over the garden when he was let loose. He was then transferred to my room, which he still is too nervous to leave after all these months but he follows me everywhere in it and sleeps right in bed tucked down beside me. He talks a lot never purrs but will suck the end of his tail when he curls up beside me. I have come to the conclusion it was fright and want of love that made him so fierce before. Another Abyssinian living next door to his old home boards here and is even more fierce. Someone suggested they are one man cats. Do you know anything about them?

Re: LETTER FROM ANNE DODD

The letter from Anne Dodd about the cat with excema interested me very much. My 'Tizadec' suffered with excema on his back for years. I have always given my cats green stuff and some mashed potato and mashed carrot with their food, but in spite of this 'Tiz' still had his excema every spring. I changed his diet, first taking him completely off fish and tinned food with no improvement.

I finally took him completely off milk and his excema cleared up almost at once. Since then I gave him and the other cats very little milk after the kitten stage and they seem all the better. It cannot be too much stressed that a healthy cat depends on the right food. Do not overfeed your cat, do not slap down a whole tin of meat or fish because it is easier. Cats do not know what is good for them any more than children. My cats diet has always consisted of brown bread baked in the oven to make rusks, also plain corn flakes and these I mix with cooked fish, liver or other cooked meats. . . tins are only kept as a stand by. A large dish of clean water always available. I have a theory that much of the kidney trouble that so many old cats develop is caused by overfeeding and too rich feeding. Tinned pilchards are better than cat food and just as cheap if not cheaper. I find that the fishy cat foods are inclined to cause diarrhoea, but the meat ones are all right.

Small kittens must not have big meals and need three to four meals a day. If milk is liked it should not be given until an hour after food, never with food. For a kitten with diarrhoea give warm cornflower blanchmange (unsweetened), for constipation a little all bran with food is useful. Also a teaspoon of medicinal paraffin twice a week. They like this mixed with food. D. Hall.

* * *

Last May, our pet "Sam", a marmalade cat, had a bad attack of eczema. It left a bald patch on his back just below his neck about the size of a human fist. Our local veterinary surgeon gave him injections and capsules which caused "Sam" to lose his appetite. The vet told us it would be months before he grew his fur again. Poor "Sam" looked rather a sorry sight and neighbours commented on this.

My wife and I being readers of "Spiritual Healing" had seen an announcement in it that a Mrs. Margaret Foster of 11 Monmouth Road, Oxford, gave spiritual healing to cats and kittens. We wrote to Mrs. Foster who said she would do all she could for Sam. Within two weeks his fur began to grow and at the end of a month his coat was back to normal and he had regained his appetite. So much so he has put on a pound in weight.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Foster for what she has done for Sam and sincerely hope she may be as successful with any other cats whose owners ask for her Spiritual help.

H. J. KAYES

A.G.M. - JULY 11th

MEMBERS CORNER

RETROSPECT

I stumbled over a photograph the other day in a newspaper. It was in a Pets Column and it was a picture of a cat. Some people would jump to conclusions - what's so fascinating and an attraction to this? - to me it was everything and gave plenty of retrospection on my part.

It all started when I took up duty as a Night Nursing Assistant in a mental defective block. With these type of people they are taught to take an interest in everything and above all to show kindness. It is a hard battle for them with this handicap of low intelligence dating back from birth or early childhood.

About eighty young men are seated on chairs in a half moon circle, the lights are out and the only one showing is on the television. On the floor very much interested also was a cat with a blue ribbon round its neck. The Tower Clock outside; this being the main hall; struck the first loud boom of nine o'clock. The lights at once come on and I switched the set off. The youth's whose ages ranged from fifteen to eighteen at once in a quiet and orderly manner made their way to some stone-steps which led to the various ward sleeping quarters. After having arranged the seating space to its original position I switched the lights off and left with a youth to mount the stairs towards the ward I was on duty in.

When I reached the bedroom of the sleeping ward-quarters some had already got into bed; others helped to tuck patients in who did not know the proper and correct manner of the easy and comfortable manner of getting settled down for the night. In less than five minutes all had settled down and I fixed my reading-lamp in the point and put a green-shade over the top. After switching all the lights off I left one on which was blue, this made it easy to see them all in a kind of soothing atmosphere, the lamp which I had gave most of the effect on my desk and three small beds near it. I saw to the fire; this was of the old-fashioned variety, it had a guard round it which was fastened by a heavy padlock, as soon as the red glow appeared and the yellow bright flames appeared I at once locked the protection-screen and pulled a round oak-chair from my desk. I got my flask and put some sandwiches on a plate; this being my midnight meal. I had various magazines and papers to hand on the desk also in a small wooden-box curled round a cushion was the cat fast asleep. I started to put some tobacco into my briar and looked at the cat.

Nigger as he was called on account of its colour-jet black with sleeky and silky coat was such a lovable creature. Like most of his kind he was very independent and managed its own affairs in a very cunning way; was always the one who got it own way. He was fourteen pounds in weight and aged thirteen. To-day had been a birthday and the youth had given him the V.I.P. treatment. The young man who had come up with me brought him in the wooden-box on a cushion, this he did each evening when I was on.

Just before I called the youths up the cat used to put his head against mine and purr. I at once got a half-bottle of milk and a saucer which was always clean and ready from a small cupboard and having put the saucer of milk on the floor, the cat with its long, rough tongue soon lapped it all up. Then I got the boys up.

Yes, they loved Nigger. He never went short of food or drink. Many a morning I would put my head round the day-room ward kitchen and the cat would be drinking milk. By his side was a bowl with some half eaten fish in it, all the bones had been removed, they had the sense to know these were dangerous to the cat.

When the Charge-Nurse who supervised the day staff came on duty the cat would vanish, he always returned at meal times. Then the day staff came on duty which was time for me to be off duty.

As I walked up the drive en-route for the Male Nursing Staff quarters I would perhaps give a low whistle and as if from nowhere Nigger would appear; all animals loved to be made "a fuss of" and Nigger was no exception he knew who liked to fondle and spoil him. On this particular morning the cat was on a bough of a tree gazing down for some bird or mice in the grass. I used to love to watch him sharpening his claws on a bark of wood.

Yes! Nigger was like that cat in the photograph in the paper I had here before me. It made me reflect on the time I had one loyal and true companion who when he looked up at me as he often did I would try to puzzle out to myself what he was thinking. As a dumb animal as he was, faithful was the keyword in his particular case. I must say these youths had kindness in their favour, they all acted well towards respecting the cat and I liked them for this. I shall never forget those days.

John W. F. Chadwick

A.G.M. - See next page



TOM & GERRY

In "The Cat" I noticed that you like to receive photos of members' pets so have enclosed a snap of Tom and Gerry. They were two little strays which we were fortunate to be allowed to have through your London Branch. What joy and pleasure they do give us!

T. B. INGLEFIELD.

Your readers notes on Mr. Muffin sitting on the bedside table and knocking things off, reminds me that my big Tabby and white cat Tim, used in the early morning to sit on a box beside my bed and drop my wrist watch over his paw, then gaily toss it on the floor, knowing this was an infallible means of rousing me! I now keep the watch securely under cover.

Mrs. E. I. LISTER.

It is with great pleasure I enclose the usual cheque for the strays Xmas fund (or whatever is in direct need at the moment!) Owing to a very successful year, I am pleased to be able to send £25, and I am sure you will find it no hard task to spend it.

J.K.M.

My husband and I thought you would be interested to know how we got our cat:-

It was a Wednesday, 23rd October, 1968. My husband and I were moving into our

very first home. Before taking me to my new home my husband took me to the "Cats Home", here in Mulheim, Germany, to choose a cat. Out of all the cats, we saw, only one made friends with us. He was a tiny black and white cat and I fell in love with him right away. The lady at the home told us that he had been found in the streets. He was hungry and had been chased about by grown ups and children.

Lucky was still a bit wild, and he didn't like the journey to our flat even though we went by car.

I can remember the delight of both cat and I when we saw our new home. He nearly tripped me up several times in his excitement.

People say it is cruel to keep a cat in a flat but I don't think so. We tried to let our cat out but he sat perfectly still on the lawn and cried.

He seems to be perfectly happy with us and we have a balcony which he rather likes. He now weighs 11 lbs. and can be very lovable.

We both love our Lucky and he is wonderful company when my husband goes away on scheme.

Mrs. Wallace, B.M.A., W. Germany.

GINA

I am enclosing a cheque for £1 1s. 0d. which I would like you to have for your funds to help cats. This is in memory of our beautiful grey cat GINA, who was given to us by the late Mrs. Jane Watson. Gina was about 5 years old and lived a happy life with us for 8 years, giving to us and her home loving affection, grace and beauty. She died on Friday last, March 6th, cared for lovingly by our vet and she will never be forgotten by us and her friends.

Elsa and Geoffrey Plant.

THE A.G.M. will be held on Saturday, July 11th at the Kent Room, Caxton Hall.

THE ANNUAL REPORT will be incorporated with the July-August magazine as last year.

FULL REPORT ON NEUTERING PROJECT will be given in the Annual Report.

BRANCH REPORTS will be included if they arrive at H.Q. Office in time for publication.

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.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER — FOR BRANCH AND GROUP HONORARY REPRESENTATIVES NAMES AND ADDRESSES

BIRMINGHAM:

We have all been working frantically to get as many cats spayed and neutered before all the unwanted kittens arrive.

I am quite certain that if readers could see some of the cases which we have investigated during the last few weeks, they too would endeavour to do all in their power to get as many cats neutered as possible.

Should anyone still have doubts about neutering, I should like to quote just three cases which members of our Branch have been called upon to deal with during the past week:— The first was a plea to help an old gentleman, who, out of kindness, had taken in 11 cats, left behind by people who had been rehoused. Now he himself was to be rehoused, and he did not know what to do about the cats, none of which was neutered. Please could we help. First, we had to get them all neutered, taking them to the vet two by two. We have promised to transport those cats he wants to keep, to his new home when he moves. The others are being advertised, and new homes found.

Case No. 2 was a lady living alone who phoned one evening. The man who lived next door to her kept getting drunk and was setting his dog onto her 8 cats. Please would we come and take all 8 away! We went. We saw the man and his dog. It appears that none of the cats was neutered, and the neighbours are grumbling because they kept multiplying. We are getting them neutered. Three have already been placed in new homes, the lady is keeping the oldest of the cats,— four to go!

Perhaps Case No. 3 was the worst. One of our members collecting two neutering cases from the vet's, overheard a lady asking for ointment for her cat's eyes. The vet explained that he must see the cat first. Our member offered to help, and eventually went with the lady to the one room which was her home. What a sight met her eyes—there were, in this one room, over 30 cats, including several tiny kittens, which were all in one wardrobe trying to feed from their respective mothers! Can you imagine looking into a wardrobe and seeing it seething with

tiny kittens—all with eye trouble—(one had lost an eye completely.)—Where does one begin faced with such a situation? Two sick cats, one with incurable dysentery, which it had had for two years, the other with an incurable s'kin disease had to be taken to be put to sleep. A basketful of kittens with eye trouble, also had to be put to sleep. Each mother cat was left with one kitten and they are receiving veterinary treatment. The owner, a kindly soul, wept when some were taken to be put to sleep, but she is now undoubtedly grateful that someone is sorting things out. These are but three cases found during one week. Amongst them they have produced over 30 cats for neutering. How many similar cases are there, that we know nothing of? And can you imagine what would have happened in these three cases if we had not stepped in and had the cats neutered?

I appeal to all local supporters not to miss an opportunity to talk about neutering. Mention it on every occasion when cats are the suppliers of conversation. This is advertising we can afford.

The average cost for females is £2 10s. and for males £1 1s.

Should any reader feel that they would like to sponsor the neutering of just one of thousands of cats still to be found in the poorer areas of a large city like Birmingham, then donations marked Neutering will be gratefully used to further this excellent and very necessary scheme.

Other news in brief: CAT SHELTER FUND—You will remember a lady in Glasgow promised us £100 if we could double it by the end of March?

I am happy to report that with your donations, and our fund-raising efforts, we reached our target!

Our next fund-raising effort is a Jumble Sale on Saturday 9th May at All Saints Church Hall, off Slade Road, Erdington at 2.30 p.m.

Our Annual General Meeting will also be held in May.—More details later.—Meanwhile—on with the neutering . . . !

CHELMSFORD:

How slowly grind the wheels of local government. At present we are in a state of suspended animation awaiting the necessary planning permission to erect our Shelter. We are trying very hard to be patient, but it looks as if it will be well into the Summer by the time our buildings can go up. "Ever-optimistic" (our motto!) we had expected to have the Shelter built by now, but we didn't appreciate the time delay factor in getting the all-important planning approval. In the meantime, we are having to spend some of our precious money on the cats in the cat boarding kennels. Although our unwanted are in and out quite rapidly during the Winter months, the numbers awaiting homes have not been fewer than 11, or more than 25, at a time. We are not, of course, spending any of the money which our truly generous friends sent us specifically for the Shelter, but nevertheless, we shall somehow have to raise some more money for the 9 'Mini-Shelters' when we get our planning permission. We shall describe the Mini-Shelters to you fully in the next issue of the magazine (by which time we shall know our fate!), and we shall ever-optimistically hope that people will endow them and have their names (or their cats' names) recorded in our Shelter, for it is entirely due to you readers that the Shelter *is* possible and we must permanently record our appreciation for the future! We will gladly send a leaflet describing the Shelter and 9 Mini-Shelters to anyone upon request.

We have been very busy since our last report. We had first of all a New Year Bazaar and Coffee Morning followed by two 'Saturday Sales' and a Rummage Sale. Then we had our Easter Fair on a bleak, cold and miserable day. Altogether these events raised £130. On April 11th we have another Coffee Morning and Mini Bazaar in Chelmsford and then two weeks later another one in Witham. We are crying out (as usual, we regret) for things to sell at our Bazaars, and for your good used clothing for our Saturday Sales. Perhaps Spring cleaning will unearth a little something or other in your drawers and cupboards! Our thanks to the friends who have already sent us parcels and also stamps, British and Foreign.

We found good homes for 89 cats during January and February and we had 52 cats neutered. In this connection we have just received a bill for £175 from one of our vets, so you can imagine what a relief it is to us now that Mr. Steward has sent us some vouchers for neutering!

GLOSSOP—7th Birthday Appeal:

We are making a very special appeal to all our friends old and new to please send us as generous a gift for our 7th Birthday as you can possibly afford.

We have reached the stage where unless we get a greatly increased income a halt must be called to our rescue of stray, abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens. The heavy bills for boarding, veterinary fees, food for old people's cats etc. have brought us to the limit of what we can afford.

Our thanks to Mrs. Hall and Mr. Knight for their help in transporting cats free of charge, normally a very expensive item. We also thank all who have helped in any way by sending donations, gifts, trading and postage stamps, shells, coins, etc.

A Sale and Coffee Morning are being arranged for sometime in May. Gifts for the stalls, new and next to new would be welcome, also pieces of blanket for the cats in our care, but please do not send these if you have had any infection among your own cats.

We have had a terrible winter. A particularly virulent type of cat flu swept through a cattery where we had a considerable number of cats boarded. In spite of veterinary attention some of them died. Prolonged boarding and treatment for the others resulted in heavy boarding and veterinary bills. This is far too often a heart-breaking job.

We now have several isolation huts with one kennel in each. We could make good use of two fibre glass kennels for emergency use and for the treatment of sick cats. £10 would cover the cost of each of these with the necessary equipment. We also need a few more carrying baskets. A good size one costs £3. Perhaps one or two of our friends would care to donate one of these in memory of a much loved cat.

At present we have 28 cats and kittens in our care. So far this year homes have been found for 35.

Miss J. Houston who runs a little lending library for us in her home in a south coast town would be pleased to receive a few more post war novels including paper backs. Her cats Janie and Sue now have a music box in which they collect unbreakable disc records for sale. Address on request.

Miss M. Thomas and her mother, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley, nr. Stockport, Cheshire, collect Green Shield and S. and H. stamps for us. A receipt will be given for a complete book.

GLOSSOP—continued next page

Gifts for stalls, Tattling patterns, used postage stamps, (please leave a margin of paper all round) coins, old picture post cards should be sent to me at Cowbrook. I would send a little collapsible collecting box to any friend who would care to collect coins for us. We can get face value for coins now out of circulation, 6d. each for farthings and 3d. each for pennies prior to 1954 in any condition, also for later ones in mint condition.

We would be pleased to hear from any friends living within travelling distance who would help with a stall or refreshments at our sales, a house to house collection, transport or home visiting.

The Old Age Cats thank readers of 'The Cat' who sent them something for a few extra tit-bits which they shared with other rescued strays.

LEICESTER & LOUGHBOROUGH:

The little fluffy white cat which was left on Mrs. Gray's steps after being so cruelly injured has now been given an excellent home by Mr. and Mrs. Freer. It was solidly encrusted with mud, excretia and dried blood so near its skin that we could not cut it all off at first. Therefore we did not realise the cat was a little chappie! He eats his food like a squirrel, picking it up with both front paws and nibbling as if it were a nut. The Freers say he is a most affectionate and rewarding cat.

At the beginning of March, Mrs. Linwood Wright and Mrs. Gray fetched into our care a pretty tabby with even markings like a circus clown's. Five boys had apparently come across her as she sat on the grass verge of one of Leicester's Council estates. An elderly lady, looking out of her window, saw one boy pick up the cat by its tail and swish it round and round over his head, the other four boys taking turns in hitting the tabby with stakes as she came round. The old lady did her best to stop the boys but as she was unable to run the cat had meanwhile suffered terrible injuries. Part of her tail is dead, her hip was broken and she has had traction to enable her to walk. She now sits in Jennifer Gray's bedroom, grateful for just being able to look out of the window in peace.

We extend very sincere thanks to everyone who has sent us things of all kinds, and assure them that we will use everything to its full advantage. Mrs. Linwood Wright received £4 for a few sacks of milk-bottle tops. We also had a happy and rewarding day at the Notts. & Derby Cat Show, although Manxie, our tail-less ill-treated stray was unable to be there with her collecting box owing to having cat 'flu, from which she has now happily recovered. A great friend at Notting-

ham has printed for us, free of charge, thousands of leaflets telling about our work and we have had quite a good response. A lady in Newton Abbot, furious about the three dead kittens choked by builders' sand, wrote a letter to our local evening paper, and a really good write-up resulted, and lots of shocked readers have sent us gifts and offers of help, second-hand toys, tea aprons, tea towels and dolls which one of the helpers dresses for us, sell very well.

LONDON COMMITTEE:

Everyone must remember our important dates:

Saturday 9th May. **Mini-Bazaar**, St. Mark's Hall, Compton Road, Wimbledon. Doors open at 2 o'clock. Please send goods and offers of help for this to Countess Grudzinska.

Saturday 30th May. **The Summer Fair**, 2 o'clock. Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, S.W.1. Goods most gratefully received at 12 The Close, New Malden, or at our London depots.

There will be Bring-and-Buy Tea Parties in the homes of members:

June 14th at West Ewell (this is a Sunday) Hostess—Mrs. Manvers.

June 20th at Earls Court (a Saturday) Hostess—Miss Mavrogordato.

July 4th at Pinner (a Saturday) Hostess—Miss Doe.

August 8th at Peckham (a Saturday) Hostess—Miss Hamilton.

Members and their friends will be very welcome, please write for an invitation to 12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey.

We have two mother cats, each with a very small kitten at the Rescue Centre. Clarissa is Tortie, Tuppence is a black and white beauty, the kittens are darlings. They would all be glad of a little extra help, please mark your envelope "cats' Cradles". Grimalkin is making good progress, thanks to his many friends. Our newest arrival is a small black and white cat, who needs to have a little extra care "Denny" is friendly, but small and he will be glad of your help.

NORTH LONDON:

We regret that, through a typographical error, that part of our report in the last issue which appeared on page 30 under the heading 'North London Branch—continued' did not relate to our branch and should, no doubt, have appeared under the heading of another Branch. We mention this because the facts and figures given in the part of the report wrongly attributed to us do not agree with the facts and figures which will appear in our annual report which will shortly be sent to members.

The year 1970 still seems to be going badly for us. Mrs. Dempsey, our shelter assistant who has served us loyally for many years, had almost recovered from her fall and resultant fracture, when she had to be admitted to Moorfields Hospital for an eye operation. She does not feel that she can return to us, although how we shall be able to replace her good services we do not know. We thank her for her long and diligent service on our behalf and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Our mascot, and permanent resident 'Straykins' has recently died at the age of 19. He was a stray of great character adopted by our former good friend, Miss Kindersley. At 13 he underwent a serious operation for the removal of a growth in his middle ear. At 14 he came to us on the death of his adopter. At 16 he had an operation for the removal of all his teeth. He was mentioned in previous issues of this magazine on several occasions and many members rallied to his support, with delicacies and gifts. If he could speak, he would have said that the Shelter gave him 5 years of happiness and security. We cannot hope to save all poor strays but we can give many comfort and security in their last years and we ask your support in this worthwhile cause.

Yet another of the late Dr. Matthews cats has recently died, Ruffles, at the age of 14.

Of the 10 cats left in the care of Miss Olive Magee on the death of Dr. Matthews in 1962, there remain only two, one being Sally who will celebrate her 24th birthday very soon. The other is Sugar, who also has the company of Pickles, a dog aged 15 and a tortoise of over 30 who were also the late Doctor's pets.

A lorry driver recently found a poor old stray in the depths of the Blackwall Tunnel. He immediately turned his lorry and brought her to us. Warm towels and warm food in front of a fire quickly brought her round, since she arrived wet to the skin and shivering. In a few weeks she became sleek and happy but in spite of her good looks, we despaired of finding her a good home. However, just when she was at her sleekest and we were most despondent, a happy young couple, who were seeking just such a cat, took her into their home with another of our long standing residents.

The busy season is now on us. Cats and kittens are coming into the Shelter at the rate of twelve to eighteen each day. In addition, we are worried about our finances. Donations from sympathisers are few and amount to less than ten per cent of our costs.

Please help us. If, like us, you find money short, we would be glad to receive goods for sale at our Jumbles and Bazaars, or pink and green stamps or anything which can be turned into cash to feed our many charges.

Our next Jumble Sale is on Saturday, the 6th June at the Upper Holloway Hall, 620 Holloway Road, London, N.19. As usual, goods for sale are urgently needed.

SUSSEX:

We started 1970 well with an empty Shelter—a most unusual state of affairs. After Christmas we were offered homes for a number of cats, and then we took to Cat Haven a little brother and sister five months old which were to have been put to sleep. However, they were not with us for long, as some very kind people wanted a young cat, and when they went to Cat Haven and saw the two together they couldn't bear to separate them so went away with both.

Our good friend Miss Mark has again helped us out by taking into her home a young cat in kitten, a stray that had been taken to the P.D.S.A. to be put to sleep. We hope it will have some nice kittens as we have so many people wanting them. They didn't seem to realize that this is the wrong time of the year.

Miss Mark kept one of the three little kittens she was looking after, and one had to be destroyed as it had a lung complaint. The third went to a home in the country.

Recently I had a phone call from a lady who had taken in a little stray about six months old, but was unable to keep it. Previously a gentleman had called wanting a kitten, and when I phoned him about the stray he thought it would be too old for him. However, I managed to persuade him to see the little cat, and the lady took it to his home. I heard afterwards that when she opened the basket it immediately jumped up on the settee and settled down in the corner purring its contentment. He picked it up and it snuggled up to him and rubbed its little head against his face, and of course—that was that! The cat was his, and settled in right away as if it had lived there all its life.

At our last Committee Meeting we discussed ways and means of heating our Shelter, and have decided to have this improvement carried out before next winter, and also to have the fibre-glass roofing extended over the existing run which is to be enlarged.

continued next page

On March 21st we held a very successful Coffee Evening at which we made a profit of £38 6s. 0d. We thank Miss Mack and Mrs. Eldridge who kindly acted as Hostesses on this occasion, and also those who helped on the Bring and Buy stall and with the raffles, etc.

Thank you all who answered my appeal for trading stamps. More please!

ULSTER:

It was encouraging to see such a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting and I would like to thank all who came along to what is often a rather dull occasion. This year, however, it was brightened up by the Film, made and shown by Miss Mollie McClelland which included shots of Stitchie and Darkie (the Shelter cats she adopted), and of the Cattery itself. We also enjoyed the lovely colour slides shown by Mr. Parker.

Now here is an announcement—will everyone please note that our new Honorary Treasurer is: Mrs. K. Livingstone, 10 Wynchurch Terrace, Belfast, 6. In future all subscriptions, donations and queries regarding matters financial should go to her. By the way, she asks me to say that at the A.G.M. someone handed her £2 2s. 0d. (towards a Memorial cage, she thinks) and she somehow or other mislaid the name in the confusion following the first few moments in her new job. Please will the person concerned contact her as soon as possible—Phone 648040.

Another request—this time from our Magazine Secretary, Mrs. Jackson. She needs masses of envelopes suitable for sending out "The Cat". She told me the vast number she uses in a year but I can't remember it at the moment. Anyway please save all possible envelopes for her—it's not so easy now that most are sealed, but Mrs. Jackson tells me she has a "doctoring service" for slightly damaged envelopes. They can be sent to her direct at 30, Ladas Drive, Belfast, 6 or left at Cliftonpark Avenue or with me. It would be an enormous expense if we had to buy new envelopes for sending out the Magazines.

I am happy to report that we have recently recruited a number of new voluntary helpers and we are most appreciative of their assistance. Some take to the work "like a duck to water"—others pick up the routine more slowly. May I just make this point regarding voluntary help—it has to be regular and reliable. If you have promised to do Shelter duty on a certain night the cats are dependent on you and if for any reason you have to opt out, do please try to send a substitute or arrange to "swap nights" with another helper. If thirty/forty cats are counting on you for their supper

milk and you don't arrive—thirty/forty cats are going to be disappointed. Now sure you wouldn't want to disappoint the wee creatures? Incidentally, on the subject of the Cattery—we continue to have a full house. Homes seem hard to find these days—really first-class homes are few and far between. True we have recently found delightful new families for a few of our cats but far too many remain in the Cattery for far too long. If you can help in this connection we'd appreciate it enormously.

Still talking about the Cattery—many improvements have been made and we hope you will come along to inspect them when we have our Open Day in June, combined with Coffee Party and Bring and Buy Sale. A final word—many thanks for the parcel of articles for Sales, and for all the stamps, old nylons and tinfoil which you continue to send.

WEST CORNWALL:

It comes as a surprise to most people when I bitterly complain that it is impossible to obtain voluntary help or even paid assistants. The public conception of our activities varies, but we are amused to discover that a good many people imagine us to be cosy elderly ladies placidly nursing our dear little cats, preparing pussy dinners and quietly answering phone calls day and night glad to enjoy a nice little cat chat. This would be a cattery heaven—it is far from reality as our life is a mad world of perpetual motion, cleaning, painting (NOT pictures) cooking, cat delivering and collecting, vet visiting, preparing pet meals, nursing sick cats to mention a very small number of routine jobs, the phone rings continually and often requires lengthy conversations to solve cat problems, often emotional. Advertising, writing letters, distributing propaganda, visiting cats who were once with us all takes precious time, then on top of these daily tasks we usually have "incidents" such as the two I will describe.

As many disappointed callers discover we have large gates, kept locked with notices requesting that appointments be made. The other Sunday I visited a friend in hospital and left our two long suffering voluntary assistants in charge. Peter decided to exercise the guard dogs and forgot to lock the big gates after him. Brutus was upstairs in the house coping with some cat clerical work when he was disturbed by strange noises in the house and he went down to investigate and discovered a well dressed stranger in the kitchen. The man was complaining that he couldn't make anyone hear and had been round to all the doors and windows to try to attract attention. He just could not

understand why we ran catteries and weren't open at all hours to the public. Brutus a sensitive fellow attempted to explain the nature of our work and that we needed some privacy and peace to keep our health and sanity and this was met with abuse. We live in an isolated part and this encounter became frightening and on my return I was met by an irate Brutus who was declaring he could think of better ways of working without pay and darkly hinted he might do just this. I am happy to say he is still with us . . .

This Sunday it was Peter who encountered trouble. We were washing up Sunday lunch things when the bell rang and Peter answered as we were expecting friends. A man and his family stood at the gate "I want a cat"

he demanded. Peter asked him if he would make an appointment in the usual way. "No he wouldn't" and he declared he had adopted his last cat without an appointment and he would go elsewhere. He then hurled a string of insults at our dumbstruck Peter and drove off in his car still shouting at the cheerful voluntary helper who was left wondering if his vocation had been one big mistake. These happenings are not isolated cases and it will prove that we have to be tough, unemotional, thick skinned and mentally and physically healthy to endure it, and it isn't always easy to find helpers equipped with these qualifications. But what about the cats? Are they not a lot of trouble? Bless you the cats are completely trouble free I would dearly love half an hour's peace to sit down and nurse them . . .

LOST

On the 8th February from 40, Chertsey Road, E. Twickenham, Large, Speyed, Female Cat. Unusual colouring — Tabby with hints of ginger. Sweet natured and friendly. Previously a stray during December at Clapham Junction Station, where she arrived by train. Any news of cat or original owner welcomed at above address or by Franklin, 2 Sangora Road, London, S.W.11.



CATS (Press) COLUMN

THE UNINVITED GUEST AT TWO WEDDINGS

Cindy the cat was an uninvited guest at two weddings at Quinton Parish Church on Saturday.

She caused havoc at the first ceremony when she climbed inside the organ. At the second she found herself a vantage point behind the altar.

She was captured only after determined efforts by choir-boys.

Last night Cindy who has been missing for two weeks was at home with her owner. Mrs. Margeret Rose, who has a wine shop in Hagley Road West not far from the Church.

When Cindy got herself mixed up in the wires and strings inside the organ, the organist, Mr. A. R. Tunnicliff, was worried that he might have to abandon playing and take over on the piano.

But Cindy's wandering inside the organ did not interfere with his playing.

Mr. Tunnicliff said afterwards: "I have managed to repair most of the damage. The organ builders will be in tomorrow to finish the job."

Mrs. Helen Horton, of Kingsway, Quinton, a church-member who helps at weddings, described Cindy's next move.

"In the hour between the first and the second service frantic efforts were made to catch the cat. They even got the back off the organ".

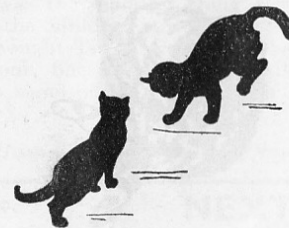
"But the cat ran from inside the organ and went behind the altar."

Before the second service the rector, the Rev. A. P. Clark, warned the congregation that there might be interruptions during the ceremony.

But all went well. After the service three choirboys were recruited to catch the elusive Cindy.

They lifted the altar and as Cindy came out the smallest choirboy grabbed her. They put her over a nearby wall and she found her way home.

Birmingham Post 12/1/70



CARING FOR PETS

Like hundreds of others I read with compassion the story of the kitten who was so badly injured.

However, what seems to me to be even more sad was the great response received after the request for a home for this kitten. Surely all those who so readily offered a home could, in fact, give a home to another unfortunate animal.

Perhaps they could have offered a home to one of the many pets that were put to sleep because no-one wanted them.

Later I read of a dog who, through the death of his owner, was in need of a home. No doubt a similar situation arose with hundreds of homes being offered.

How many of these sympathetic people will go to the 'Dogs Home' and select another animal?

It seems that in order for many of the animals held by the R.S.P.C.A. to get good homes it is necessary for members of the public to read first a heartrending story.

Linda Court. *Evening Mail* 31st January, 1970.

TAKING A PAW TO A DOG'S DINNER

REMUS THE CAT—really does think he is the cat's whiskers and he takes a perfect picture.

He lives pretty much a paw to mouth existence at the expense of Ken and Gwen Speed of the Mare and Foal Inn, Yeoford, near Crediton, where he entertains the customers by imitating Arthur, the famous television cat.

Although Remus's eating habits do rather resemble those of Arthur's he cannot be called a copy cat.

You see, he eats dog meat with his paws, chum, not just cat food. He has even been known to drink his milk this way as well, so Arthur could be knocked off his top cat spot if the advertising boys hear of this.

Remus did not learn to eat Arthur's way just for the glory of it, however, but because he is a thief at heart.

His habit was discovered one morning by Mr. Speed who caught him red-pawed, as you might say, scraping the goodies out of the dog meat can.

But, thief though the cat undoubtedly is, Mr. Speed says he has never caught Remus with his head in the till or should I say "paw in the kitty."

Express & Echo, Thursday, January 22, 1970.

CATS (Press) COLUMN

continued

CHESHIRE CAT CAMPAIGN

The first applicant for the title of "grinning Cheshire Cat" is Marmaduke. The nine months old ginger tom, currently lapping up the role in the Gateway theatre, Chester production of Alice in Wonderland which ends on January 17.

Marmaduke's owner Miss Lea Darding of Wester-avenue, Blacon, Chester, who is employed in the Gateway box office, said, "He's a born theatrical cat and loves to be in the limelight".

The nationwide campaign to find a typical Wonderland cat has been launched by the Lewis Carroll Society which was founded in London during 1969.

The Society is determined to preserve the Cheshire cat for all time as there might never be such a character again if the county, as we know it, disappears from the map in the seventies. Under the Royal Commission Maud Report—a blueprint for a new type of local government—most of Cheshire would be swallowed up by two great metropolitan authorities; one based in Manchester and the other centred on Liverpool. South Cheshire would be absorbed by Stoke-on-Trent.

Mrs. Anne Clark, secretary of the Lewis Carroll Society and an employee of Greater London Council, commented: "We delight in a grin without a cat (as in Alice in Wonderland) but a cat without a home is awful to think about!

The campaign is being organised by another member, cat-lover Mrs. Eileen Day, of Blue Grass Cottage, Little Leigh, near Northwich, Cheshire. "I will be pleased to send details to anyone who forwards a stamped addressed envelope", she said, adding: "I have six cats of my own but they're barred from being put forward!"

The selected cat—chosen from photographs—will be "adopted" by the Society and invited (its owners can go too!) as guests-of-honour to all future events. Those will be particularly significant in 1971; the one hundredth anniversary of the publishing of *Through The Looking Glass*.

MISPLACED KINDNESS

Sir—May I ask residents of the Barnwood Road/Ebor Road, area to stop feeding and harbouring other people's cats?

My black cat appears illfed and maltreated due to a non-infectious skin complaint needing life-long, periodic attention from the vet.

Bimbo is, if anything, over-weight, is in good general health and was accustomed to a home with other animals. Now she is almost completely estranged, and a situation is arising where dogless houses and non-medicated meals are preferred, rendering visits to the vet and regular treatment almost impossible.

A direct approach has been made in certain cases, but my enquiries suggest that there may be other residents involved, and that this is a problem and a form of cruelty affecting the interests of animal lovers throughout the city and country. Even if there is no collar and address, comparing the weight will reveal whether a cat with little fur is in need of food or warmth.

The Citezen. 17th October, 1969.

LOVE FOR A LOST CAT COSTS £80

Almost every night for ten months a couple and their two teenage children take it in turns to sit by their telephone.

When it rings, they set off on a mission which so far has taken them 1,000 miles in search for a cat.

Since January 11 this year, when Silky, their long-haired all-white cat, disappeared from their home in Upland road, Bexley Heath, Kent, Mr. and Mrs. Barrymore Williamson have spent nearly £80 on advertisements in local papers.

REWARD

They offered £10 reward for the cat's return. They have had scores of letters and calls from all over South-East London and Kent from people who have claimed either to have seen Silky or to have found her. But each time they found either the wrong cat or no sign of her.

Mrs. Eileen Williamson, who is 38, said: "We have looked round derelict buildings, explored factories and even searched for her in a blinding snowstorm.

"People think we are mad spending so much time and money looking for her. But nothing could replace her.

The couple have contacted 90 vivisectionists, but no-one has seen Silky.



FREDDIE THE CAT THINKS IT'S GREAT TO BE AT COLLEGE

Christmas Eve 1969 was rather happier than the last one for "Freddie," the cat adopted by the Charlotte Mason Teacher's Training College, Ambleside.

A year ago a small, very thin ginger cat pressed against the window of the kitchen at the college for shelter. It was bitterly cold and raining heavily.

The college was deserted except for the principal, Miss M. Boulton. "While I was in the kitchen I heard a cat crying pitifully outside the window", she told the Gazette.

The cat looked as if it had been treated badly and was frightened. Several attempts to catch the cat failed and so Miss Boulton opened the window and left a cardboard box with cloth, a hot water bottle, bowl of milk and meat, nearby. She left and returned later to see the cat had made short work of the food.

From that day the cat returned and soon became the college cat, "Freddie"—although a female. During the past twelve months the kitchen staff have ensured that "Freddie" is fed regularly and now, although still wary of most humans, is a fat cat.

She has had four kittens and three of them have been found homes with people attached to the college and the other has become a second college cat. "Lottie" (named after the founder of the college).

FIRE DANGER BUT HE WENT BACK FOR THE CAT:

Bystanders watched a dramatic rescue as a small grocer's shop was completely gutted by fire on Wednesday. As flames swept through the shop, 28, Cornfield Terrace, destroying the entire stock and fanned by strong winds, an onlooker noticed a cat inside, and signalled the shop owner, Mr. Ian Wray.

Without a moment's hesitation Mr. Wray dashed back into the burning room and emerged a moment later with Tinker, the family pet.

Later Mr. Wray, who is married with four children, told an 'Observer' reporter, "It was the maddest thing I've ever done, but the children are happy". He added, "I thought Tinker was dead when I brought her out, but after a little while there was some signs of life. She's with a neighbour now.

Hastings & St. Leonards Observer 21/3/70.



WHICH cat can claim to be the oldest in the Bournemouth area? In with a chance must be tabbies Tinker and Tim, who have both reached the venerable age of 22. And for old 'uns, they're in remarkably good condition.

Tinker is the pet of Mrs. I. Matthews, of Bransgore Gardens, Bransgore, and he can probably expect an extra tin of cat food coming his way shortly for he'll be celebrating his 23rd birthday at Easter.

Tim, 22 last Sunday, is owned by Mrs. F. Short, of Braidswood Road, Poole.

Mind you, they've both got a long way to go before they reach 36, the age of the oldest cat ever recorded in Britain according to the Guinness Book of Records.

This was also a tabby who lived in North Devon and died in 1939.

The oldest living cat recorded in the current edition of the book was one from Bedfordshire, who on September 30th, 1965, was 25.

Tinker has had a good life, only exhausting a few of his nine lives. One day he got stuck up a tree for a couple of days, then went missing and was found in a drawer of all places.

At his age, Tinker can afford to be fussy. Despite central heating, he still insists on the electric fire being switched on and will not settle down until this is done.

Tim, who has a good appetite and enjoys excellent sight and hearing, also likes his home comforts, although the cat which doesn't has yet to be born.

He enjoys the fire, hates the wet and has become a bit kinky in his old age in that he won't settle down until he has a drink of water from a teapot dripping over a bowl.

Evening Echo, Bournemouth 5/3/70

NEXT ISSUE - JULY/AUG.

BUNNY'S A COOL CAT WITH A MUSICAL EAR—*Evening Mail*, March 24th, 1970:

Bunny, the black-and-tan cat, likes nothing better after her dinner of fish than a little good music.

Which is why she's showing so much affection for her master Mr. Henry Snapes, 73. He is playing her favourite tune, Edelweiss on his harmonica.

"She's definitely got an ear for a good tune", says Mr. Snapes, who has been blind all his life. "I used to play the harmonica years ago, then dropped it.

"A few weeks ago I thought I'd try it again, and we found Bunny loves it".

Mr. Snapes and his wife, Alice, 65, who is partially blind, also have a dog, Molly, and a budgie, Billy.

"Molly's not too struck with the harmonica", says Mrs. Snapes. "And all Billy can find to say about it is "Glory be".

Next to fish and music, Bunny likes television. "She watches it for hours", says Mr. Snapes. "She's a character. Knows what she enjoys and lets us know it. If anything displeases her she howls".

The Snapes, who live in Granville Road, Slough, are members of the Blind Association, and Mrs. Snapes is a bell-ringer in the percussion band.

"We've been members since just before we were married—that's 35 years ago". They attend meetings regularly for basket making and other handicrafts.

Their son, Richard, and his wife, are both deaf and dumb.

(G. COLESHILL).

* * * *

THE TRUE STORY OF A BOB-TAILED CAT

Many years ago when my sister and I were living near Guildford, a bob-tailed tabby Persian tom cat used to visit us regularly between 12 and 1 p.m. We thought he was a stray and gave him a large plate of grub in the garage. Our own cats would not allow him in the house. Having sat a bit and cleaned his whiskers, he then trotted off. Eventually we discovered he had a good home about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away. To come to us he had to cross two busy roads and down a long lane. I can see him now on one very snowy morning, trotting along with his bob tail bobbing and turning determinedly into our gateway. A time came when we went away for 6 months, lending our house to two friends. During our absence our friends told us that *no* cat was seen on the place. The morning after our return the bob tail was sitting in our hall. He was so pleased to see us. It is a mystery why he never appeared in our absence and yet knew when we had returned. I went to see his owner and asked whether we might adopt him. She agreed to this and said his name was Peter and that he was 8 years old. Peter settled down at once and made no attempt to go back to his old home. He lived with us till his 20th year, when he passed to the "Fields Elysian", where he will have met many old friends. I conclude with lines from a favourite song of the last war—

I know not how and know not when

But I know we'll meet again one sunny day.

D. V. DURELL, 40 Shoreham Road, Hove, Sussex.

C IS FOR CAT

By Frank Manonlson—Handy size, 7 in. x 4½ in.—220 pages—
Art paper covers—5s. 6d. including postage. From Cats Protection League, Prestbury Lodge, 29, Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

NOTE—All proceeds from the sales of the above will be devoted to our neutering project. *Editor.*

BRANCH and GROUP DIRECTORY

BIRMINGHAM: *

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

BOURNEMOUTH:

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

GLOSSOP and DISTRICT: *

Miss Wilson,
Cowbrook, Glossop,
Derbyshire.

GREAT AMWELL and DISTRICT:

Mrs. B. Cox,
42, St. Leonards Road,
Bengeo, Hertford.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

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

LEICESTER and LOUGHBOROUGH:

Mrs. M. Bakewell,
211 Anstey Lane,
Leicester.

LONDON COMMITTEE: *

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

MANCHESTER:

Mr. A. Thompson,
13 Gawsorth Avenue,
East Didsbury,
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 M. J. Marriott,
Risewood,
Debdale Lane, Keyworth,
Notts., NG12 5HZ.

OAKHAM AND DISTRICT:

Mrs. P. Ilves,
1, Penn Street,
Oakham, Rutland.

SOUTHAMPTON: *

Mrs. Picot,
22 Cobden Crescent,
Bitterne Park,
Southampton.

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: *

Mrs. K. Beesley,
Cathlowena,
Cusgarne Catteries,
Cusgarne,
Truro, Cornwall.