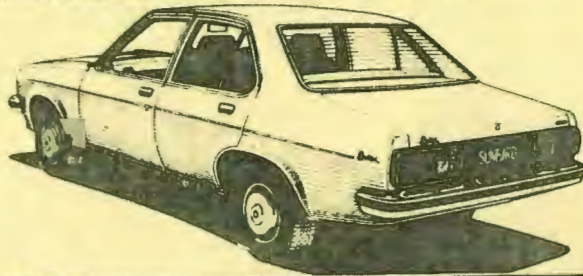


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# Editorial

A mixed reception to the first issue of Crossfire and sales have been rather disappointing, possibly because of lack of publicity given to far. It is also noticeable that very few copies have gone to Branches, other than Picton. If further support is not forthcoming and the magazine cannot pay its way then it will have to be thrown on the scrap-heap.

It is strange to find that many who find fault with and criticize R.S.A. policy and activities in Marlborough are not among those who purchased the first issue, although it was noticeable that there was plenty of borrowing of copies going on. Surely 20 cents for a copy won't break anyone, particularly when you remember the profits go to our Hospital Comforts Fund. Copies of the next issue, by the way, will be delivered free to all ex-servicemen in hospital in Blenheim and Picton.

What about buying a copy to send to an R.S.A. member you know in another district! Or even shout one for someone in Blenheim who can't afford to buy it.

PAUL BRODIE  
EDITOR.

## Letters to the Editor

### Closing Time

This magazine will be published between the 8th and 10th of each month and available from the Bar. Closing date for any contributions is by the 30th of the previous month.

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### To Advertisers

To advertisers - copy for advertisements should reach the R.S.A. office Blenheim no later than the 25th of the month preceeding issue. Advertising rates may be obtained on application.

The Editor is Paul Brodie, the sub-editor is Allan Gardiner and the magazine is printed by Gards Print Limited.

All letters to the Editor must be in by the 30th of the previous month.

---

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT OFFICIAL POINTS OF VIEW.

# Presidents Page

Our first "Cross-Fire" has been produced and all credit to Paul Brodie and Alan Gardiner for a fine effort. I urge all members to make full use of this magazine, as its continuing success depends on you.

An unfortunate boating accident early last month lost to us two valuable members. I am sure all members join with me in expressing our deepest sympathy to the next of kin of Wilf Collett and Keith Wallace. What a great loss it has been to our Rifle Club to lose two such members at one stroke. I am pleased to say Noel Healy, Gary Forman and Jim Henderson have taken the Rifle Club under their supervision so our young members will be able to carry on.

I attended a Woodbourne Officer's Club Lunch meeting on the 9th August. The guest speaker was His Excellency Mr Armistead B. Seldon Jnr, United States Ambassador to New Zealand. He gave a most interesting talk on U.S.A. - N.Z. relationships now and in the future. Most of us realise that we can no longer look to Britain for our defence, and must rely more on Uncle Sam, and we can not expect him to look after us if we deny free entry to our ports of U.S.A. Nuclear powered ships. A small price to pay.

During the month we had the judging of the local entries for the NZRSA Youth Awards. What a fine lot of girls they are. The extent of their cultural and social activities is amazing, they range from teaching I.H. children to sing, the making of beds, doing dishes etc at Bursill Home, all voluntary. The judging was very close, only 1½ points between first and second, the other three were so close that it was decided we would make it a treble dead heat for third. My most heartfelt thanks to Bob Bean, Miss Tiffen and Miss Robins for assisting with the judging.

Len's farewell was an outstanding success, just shows how high a regard he was held in. On the Sunday following, Nola and I were invited to join the staff at a dinner at the Criterion Hotel, given by them in honour of Len and Kath. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. I was also invited to a function given to Len by ex P.O.W.'s another enjoyable hour or so.

Keith and Edna Jamieson, Nola and I were invited to a Gold Star and Merit Award presentation function held at Westport R.S.A. Club rooms on 26th August. The presentation was made by N.Z. President Mr Doug Leuchars. Westport R.S.A. members gave us a very warm welcome, they just couldn't do enough for us. Westport have a very up-to-date Club rooms. Any member travelling to Westport should make sure to pay them a visit, they will be made very welcome.

I also attended the 30th birthday party of the Renwick Women's Section. This is a very strong branch of 26 members and have over the years been a tower of strength to the men. They played a very active part in raising funds for their hall. I congratulate them for putting on such a wonderful evening and on reaching their 30th anniversary. Members must be very happy with the small increase in beer prices. I must stress however, that these prices are for a trial period only, so lets hope it can be maintained. In closing I urge members to be sure and sign your guest in. K. Yealands,  
President.

# Last Post

- 70442 Tom Smith
- 34379 Ronald H. Post
- 35013 Arthur J. Gordon  
(Brisbane)
- 510361 Otto H. Schwass
- 73085 W.F.J. Collett
- 774066 D.K. Wallace
- 6/3144 L. Robinson
- 75937 A.C. Winstanley

They shall not grow old,  
As we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the year's condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.

## New Members

- No 2090032 John F. King
- No 457844 John E. Davis

## ON DECORATIONS

- CMG Call me God
- KCMG Kindly call me God
- GCMG God calls me God
- OBE Others Bloody Effort
- MBE My Bloody Effort



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## OBITUARY

Marlborough R.S.A. lost two of its members in a drowning tragedy at Port Underwood last month. Wilf Collett and Keith Wallace both keen and stalwart members of the Rifle Club lost their lives whilst on a fishing trip. At the time this was written, Keith's body had not been recovered. Keith who saw service in Korea was a keen member of the Outdoor Rifle Club as well as the small bore club, representing his Province in both sections. He also was a member of Civil Defence Police.

To his widow and family, we extend our sincere sympathy.

Wilf Collett joined the R.S.A. after service in the Pacific with the A.S.C. He was a foundation member of Marlborough R.S.A. Rifle Club and commenced coaching in 1952 and was appointed Club Captain in 1954 a position he held up to the time of his death. During that long period he was instrumental in teaching hundreds of boys and girls the basics of how to shoot, plus the correct methods of handling Fire Arms. At Provincial level he was a selector coach over many years.

When the Clubhouse was built he worked untiringly in the building of the Rifle Range. During the flooding of the nearby river he spent many long hours manning the pump, clearing the water from the basement etc. Prior to the war he played rugby for the Central Club playing at Full Back, was always steady and reliable. Although he played in the Trials, was pipped for the position by either Val Jackson or Joe Ireland. With his knowledge of Agricultural Contracting, he joined the Farmers Co-op after the war, initially in the Grain Store, then out on the road he quickly acquired a reputation for his expertise in the growing and harvesting of grain crops. His knowledge was keenly sought after by many farmers in the Province. Wilf was made a life member of Marlborough R.S.A. in 1971 and was a member of the executive 1975/76 and 1976/77. He also was a member of the Civil Defence Police.

The high esteem in which he was held within the community was indicated by the many floral tributes and the large attendance both at the Church of the Nativity and the graveside service.

To his widow Zelma and Annette, John and their families we extend our sincere sympathy.

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## **This is Your CLUB HAVE YOUR SAY**

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

Through you, I would like to congratulate the Executive on their effort to bring the affairs of the Association, and chartered club to the attention of the membership by way of Crossfire. We must join together to ensure that to quote you Sir, it doesn't go down the drain.

To obtain maximum results it is essential that the publication reaches not only those members who visit the clubrooms but also those people who rarely, if ever come along. How about a free introductory issue to all, containing an invitation to become a regular subscriber at an annual fee (postage extra).

In most Association (RSA) today, there exists a tendency, perhaps because of increasing age and personal wellbeing, for members to drift away from active participation in Association affairs; this brings me to the point of this letter.

Firstly, congratulations to the treasurer on his presentation of the annual accounts and balance sheet. A job well done again. However, I would like some clarification of some features of the Relief Account. Bearing in mind the high proportion of members getting on in years, and not forgetting the widows of deceased ex-servicemen residing in this district, I find it remarkable indeed in these difficult times, that relief grants for the year totalled only \$530.

At the same time grants totalling \$2882 were made from the general account. If the latter figure represents largely assistance to Returned servicemen/women, our widows or dependants, good; but if not, shame on us. We must indeed be a fit, affluent and ageless group if it takes only \$530 a year to fulfil our obligations as members of the Marlborough R.S.A.

While complimenting those good members who voluntarily carry out the duties of welfare, I wonder if we are doing all we can by making sufficient funds available for them to do a full job. Should we perhaps be doing more to seek out those ex-service people, or their widows who may not be finding the going so good.

The latest Association balance sheet suggests that lack of money poses no problems. A high tax free profit from club trading, and other club activities, along with a decent annual return from investments should allow an annual vote to the welfare account.

Until recent times, poppy sale receipts have looked after hospital comforts, but this too could be subsidised from time to time. It may be argued that money spent on club improvements or additions are provided for the welfare, and enjoyment of members. True, but is this helping those less fortunate people who never set foot in our clubrooms.

If for good and valid reasons increased expenditure on welfare activities is considered not on or not necessary, then I hope the Executive will display a little practical financial consideration for members supporting the club's charter, by holding the price of drinks at the present level, when the recently announced price increases are being considered.

It is interesting to note the remarks attributed to the Government spokesmen on the proposed increases. Along with the usual reasons for a liquor price increase, he says "and to achieve a reasonable level of profit". Enough said.

In conclusion Sir, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity of airing my views through "Crossfire" and wish you, your assistant editor, and the Executive every success with the publication.

QUO VADIS

FREE CIRCULATION OF "CROSSFIRE" - EDITOR REPLIES TO 'QUO VADIS'

The suggestion of an initial free issue - we agree - it's a great idea, and if all our regular Club members bought one we'd have enough in funds to pass out a free issue. The point is, let's prove it locally before trying to push sales.

BEER PRICES - IN ANSWER TO 'QUO VADIS'

Increases in rates, insurance, oil heating and wages were increasing costs taken into account when the Executive reluctantly agreed with the Charter Committee recommendation to increase beer to 70 cents per jug with corresponding increases in half jugs and glasses.

We will still be selling cheaper beer than anywhere in Blenheim and again the need will arise to police our club to ensure that it is used by members and their guests only. This is everyone's responsibility by the way - not just that of the poor old barman who happens to be on duty at the time. The prices will be reviewed after a trial period.

RELIEF ACCOUNT - IN ANSWER TO QUO VADIS  
FEATURE OF THE RELIEF ACCOUNT AND GENERAL WELFARE

The Welfare Committee try to budget so that they spend all they receive from the sale of poppies and donations from members. The donations from members over the last two years averaged \$250.00 - take out of that \$120.00 for Anzac Day, and the % per member is not high.

With the high welfare state of the country, the average pensioner is well catered for, but, should any member know of an ex servicemen or widow "in need", the Welfare Committee would like to be advised immediately. To date the Committee have dealt with every known case.

From our General Account we made the following payments - this may be of interest to members:-

Entertaining W.W.I Veterans and Widows	\$139. 00
Xmas Gift parcels to the Forces - share sent by N.Z.R.S.A.	94. 44
Sub Association Darts, I.D. Bowls etc	128. 23
Reefton Women's Section	20. 00
St John Ambulance (result of A. Gardiner's Gold Disc Award)	651. 16
Red Cross	100. 00
Boy Scouts	100. 00
Young Citizens Award	45. 00
Salvation Army Home	800. 00
Air Cadet League	157. 00
Mental Health	50. 00
	<hr/>
	\$2284. 83
	<hr/> <hr/>

I leave you with this thought:-

Next time you walk into the Club - was there an 'Old dig' you could have picked up from your neighbourhood?

---

THE DOOMSDAY BOOK

A number of R.S.A.'s throughout the country have instituted what they call a Doomsday Book. This is a register of their members arranged into the units in which the members served. Its purpose is to enable visitors to check if any of their old comrades happen to be members of that R.S.A. so that they can renew old acquaintances. We are trying to get the same sort of register operating here and if you have not already done so, please complete one of the forms available below the main notice board in the bar.

## PENSIONER PERKS

Could it be possible to have a hair cut (short back and sides) like we oldies used to call a trim, for pensioners?

This could be done in say the Bowlers Room in the Basement.

We have a returned retired hairdresser who is usually in attendance around the bar and pool table most days of the week and he does the odd job now and then.

A suggestion only - we could have a board on the notice board to give our names and say, a specified day e.g. Friday morning or early afternoon and provided the pensioners fall into line and five or six or more names, and we could be in business.

This would be for the betterment of the club and no doubt would benefit by having more of us (myself included) looking a bit more presentable and nice and tidy. There could be a charge of say, \$1.00 per head - 50 cents to the cutter and 50 cents to the comfort fund.

As the hairdressing charges by local shearers are away above our head instead of on it, I think this could be a worthwhile venture and thats what the Club is for - helping others.

Hoping others see it this way. I do and remember its only a suggestion.

SPIKE

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## Better Than The Pill?

# FIRING SQUADS TERMINATED PREGNANCIES OF YUGOSLAV PARTISANS

One of the humorous incidents that I recall while I was a very reluctant member of one of Tito's raiding bands of partisans refers to one night's guard duty done by Norman Gosling, of Blenheim, myself and a Yugo woman partisan, during our bid to escape our late Italian "hosts" in Campo 107. At least it appears humorous now, although we did not think it so humorous at the time.

As we passed through the Alpine country of Northern Italy on the Yugoslavia border, we encountered bands (brigades they called them) of Yugos bent on shooting up as many Germans as possible, bombing troop trains, blowing up bridges, and generally deploying as many enemy troops as possible.

On entering the mountainous territory that they operated in, we were promptly conscripted into one of their "brigades" much against our desires, as we were more interested in getting back to our own lines.

We were reminded that a British soldier never runs away. Anyway, there wasn't much we could do about it and were more or less forced to acquiesce. These so called "brigades" consisted of a personnel of some twenty or so, made up of conscripted Yugoslavs of communist ideals, escaped POWs from neighbouring prison camps, five or six battle-dressed women, and led by a "Brigadeer", usually a youth of 18 or 20 years.

A Political Commissar, who had been indoctrinated in communism at some Russian University, was virtually the overall boss of the unit he was attached to. He did not actually partake in any of the raids, but in between, harangued the members with propoganda of a Marxian flavour. As

for the women members, they were outfitted in battledress, captured German boots and belts, complete with holster and pistol, and adorned with hand grenades of various origins. They were usually of Amazon-like stature, and about two axe handles across the beam certainly they wouldn't win any beauty contests.

They were non-communicative, although one of them did proudly display to me her Luger pistol which boasted six filed notches on its handle, each of which she confided, represented the demise of one Tedesci (German) at her hands. Fraternising with the male sex was strictly taboo, and pregnancy meant immediate death by firing squad. This also was the fate faced by the unfortunate devil who was responsible for her condition if he was caught.

On the night, the incident I have referred to was the result of Norman and I being selected for guard duty, patrolling a tortuous road leading from the Italian plains through the Julian Alps to Yugoslavia. The gorge was reminiscent of the Manawatu Gorge, with its river below the road, and precipitous cliffs arising on either side.

The other member of our guard was to be a woman partisan, and the one Gos. and I drew in the raffle,

Continued on Page 10

was no oil-painting and her sex appeal nil. We had been previously briefed on our duties, which consisted of two hours on and four hours off. Gos struck first trick, while Gertie and I lay on the side of the road to try and get some sleep, sharing the only blanket.

When I say sharing, I mean she occupied at least two-thirds of it, and it wasn't exactly warm. Her close proximity left me cold, in fact she didn't even raise a wrinkle on my brow, despite my enforced two years celibacy.

In fact my main worry was that she might twist and turn in her sleep and accidentally dislodge one or more of the safely pins on her hand grenades. After we had all completed our first two hour "tricks" about midnight, I was nudged by "Gertie" to do my second "trick. I didn't discover till later, that she had woken me an hour too soon, and I wasn't looking forward to another lonely two hours around midnight.

Before, we had been briefed on what action to take if anyone approached along the road. We had to challenge them by shouting "STOI" (Yugo for halt) followed by an order in Italian for one of the approaching party to advance to within ten paces with hands upraised. If these orders were not complied with the guard was to fire a shot in the air. If these orders were not complied with he had to open fire on the party concerned.

Incidentally, we had been previously armed with various types of fire-arms. I was given a rather ancient carbine, complete with long folding bayonet, of Italian design. The pistol packing Mommas that we nick-named the women partisans, were usually armed with German Mausers in addition to their other artillery.

Well, I hadn't been on my second "trick" very long when I heard some-

one approaching from the Italian end of the road. I immediately shouted "STOI" followed by the other orders, in as stentorian voice as possible, hoping I didn't betray my true fears. The result - no response.

This did not allay my fears in any way; on the contrary. However, I did manage to repeat the orders in as convincing manner as possible, at the same time releasing a shot in the air.

This must have had some effect, for I heard footsteps and discerned an approaching figure with hands aloft, and emerging through the gloom in the form of a very scared Italian priest. When I disclosed my identity, he immediately embraced me, in unbelievable relief, exclaiming "Buona Englesi".

I was able to farewell him and his companion, on their way. Scarcely ten minutes had passed, when I heard more tramping feet coming from the Yugoslav direction. It sounded like a regiment of Jerries, and I thought, "Brother this is is".

However, I again managed to bellow out the required challenge, and the column came to a halt. Their sounds of voices evidently planning a line of action, I heard one voice raised a little higher than the others, mutter the words - "German bastards".

I immediately felt a great sense of relief, as there appeared something familiar about that voice, so I yelled "come on you bloody Kiwis, get cracking". Sure enough the owner of that voice appeared at a trot followed by about a dozen escapees, mostly Kiwis. The leader was Dick Stewart, one of my platoon mates, and I knew quite a number of the others too.

Guard duty was forgotten that night and we spent the time till daylight in a very pleasant reunion and learning of each others' experiences. Norman

Gosling said old "Gertie" the "Pistol Packing Momma" had slept through all the excitement.

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲

### It Beats Jogging!

If you can't stand jogging, try snogging. It could do you just as much good.

The advice comes from a top heart surgeon who says having sex is as beneficial to health as many forms of exercise.

Making love he claims is worth 20 press ups. And it's especially good for middleaged couples who get no other form of exercise. It is also good for loosing weight.

#### REMEMBER THIS?

A bayonet is a weapon with a worker at each end. (British Pacifist Slogan)

#### TO THE LAUCHING BANDIT

When I was a lad I served my term  
As an office boy to an attorney's  
firm,  
I cleaned the windows and I swept  
the floor,  
And I polished up the handle of the  
big front door.  
I polished up that handle so  
successfully  
That now I'm the ruler of the  
Queen's Navy (In Blenheim anyhow)

(W.S. Gilbert)

#### WATCH IT MERV

Comment when advised the Legal  
profession was becoming over-  
crowded: There is always room at  
the top. (Daniel Webster)

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# THIS MONTH'S PERSONALITY



(Photo by Courtesy Marlborough Express)

One of the best-known of all RSA members is this month's personality, O. L. WATSON. Many are the number of local returned men who gained their first insight into the world of education through Les Watson, who taught for 30 years in the Marlborough district.

Les was one of the original Anzacs, being overseas from 1915 till 1919. He landed on Gallipoli on April 25, 1915 and was there until the December evacuation.

But it is probably through his deeds as a teacher that most of us will remember Les. Edgar Rowe still delights in relating to visitors to the club this story . . . "See that old basket over there, well believe it or not he used to teach me at school." To which O.L. replies . . . "Yes, that old basket used to be one of my pupils, but he didn't want to learn."

Les has been retired from the teaching profession now for 22 years but the tales of his days at school are legend. Like the times he used to challenge the pupils to marbles, and more often than not ended up with a bag full. Then there were the countless times that the pupils would try to get hold of his famous leather strap. Trevor Boyce was one who felt the force of that. He recalls that at the end of each term some of the lads would try to find it, with the intention of cutting it into tiny pieces. But Les was awake to that one, he used to take it home a day or two before term ended. He still has it kicking around at home somewhere.

In the sporting sphere Les was a keen cricketer and was a useful spin bowler for the Wairau Cricket Club. He recalls that his best figures were 6 wickets for 10 runs one day, and he managed to get a highest score of 67 on one occasion. He also repped for Marlborough B at rugby, where he was a three-quarter. He remembers some great games for Central when he played against Moutere's "Daddy" Phillips. He was the schools delegate to the Marlborough Rugby Union for 18 years and is a life member of the union. In his later years Les became active in the RSA Bowling Club, and he was a committee member for many years, and also served as secretary for three years and as president for one year.

Les was also an executive member of the RSA for 18 years, including a term as president, and several years on the awards committee. He is still active as a scrutineer for the postal ballot. He has life membership of the local RSA and also of the national body, and the gold stars which go with that honour. Other life memberships include those of the Wairau Cricket Club, the Blenheim Home and School League and the Marlborough School Sports Association. For 30 years he has been a member of the Marlborough branch of the N.Z. Educational Institute, again serving terms as secretary and president. He is also patron of the Blenheim sub-centre of the N.Z. Red Cross Society, a body on which he has given 40 years of service.

Les has, naturally, a high regard for the local RSA. He considers that it is an extremely well run organisation and that members are indeed fortunate in the staff that serve them. In fact he can not think of anything that

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could be done to improve the local club, except that maybe they may like to serve free beer. Les is a daily visitor to the club, and he engages in a death or glory snooker series with his mates Roy Lockhart, Bob Robertson and Roy Beatson. "It is all very serious to an outsider, but actually we seem to take turns at winning," he says.

His leisure time is spent pottering about his garden, and he is very keen on that hobby. He also dabbles in an occasional bit of woodwork, but nothing very fancy. He enjoys his two nights a week at the housie sessions and is also a regular customer of the TAB, where he has the occasional success. Les has three married daughters, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and he likes to visit them whenever possible.

Les belies his 80-plus years and it would come as no surprise to many of our members if he could still wield that strap with all the vigour and skill that he did those many years ago when he gave many of us something to remember him by.



## ***The Court Is In Session***

Keith Jamieson failed to include the Clubhouse Committee in the list of sub-committees submitted for publication in our first issue.

Fined 50 cents for Hospital Comforts.

Paul Brodie for being late for the Executive Meeting and caught for speeding in Nelson, fined 50 cents.

Bob Gordon for being clumsy in the Clubhouse, knocking a jug over and breaking it, fined 20 cents.

Rangi Brown for testing the bowling green for bowls the other evening and putting one down on the wrong bias. As this is the first time he has done this for many years - fine 20 cents.

The Judges decision is final - all fines to be paid to Allan Gardiner or Keith Jamieson. Anyone who makes a bad blue is liable to be fined in next month's issue. All profits made from the Court as well as the magazine will be donated to Hospital Comfort Funds.

---

### **WITH APOLOGIES TO JOHNNY McFARLANE**

Is it not strange that sheep's guts should hale souls out of men's bodies?  
(William Shakespeare)

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| 13 | SEPTEMBER - POOL | SPRING CREEK AT SPRING CREEK          |
| 16 | "                | EX MALAYA ASSN SOCIAL AT PICTON       |
| 20 | "                | POOL PICTON R.S.A. AT BLENHEIM        |
| 23 | "                | PICTON BRANCH SOCIAL AND DANCE        |
| 27 | "                | POOL TERMINUS HOTEL AT CLUB           |
| 30 | "                | BUS TRIP TO WESTPORT BY PICTON R.S.A. |

### REMINDER

The following re-unions will be held:-

26th N.Z. Battalion 10/11th March 1979.

R.N.Z.A.S.C. 27/28/29th April 1979.

Ex Malayan Services Labour Weekend 1979.

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Newsletters	Labels	

## Month In Your Club

### TROTTING NEWS



#### Horses to follow this month

BY "ARAPAHO"

What a great start I had last month, one win (which was disqualified) and three seconds. Still watch the ones that missed out and here are some more.

- "Sapling" Will be about soon, should win early on.
- "Flaxton" Went a good race last start at Forbury, wont be long in winning.
- "Tremadoc" Win last start, should carry on with the good work. Worth following.
- "Wise Game" Bred for trotting, watch her closely.

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# On The Mat

Marlborough R.S.A. Annual Diggers Indoor Tournament - the inaugural contest for this very popular event took place in the Social Lounge Executive Meeting room and foyer of the then fairly new club rooms. The date August 1962. The initial winners were a rink skipped by Johnny Rose and included the late Paul Wedde, Bob Bullen and C.M.J. (Reg) Watson. The initiator of the Diggers Tournament was that well known and humorous character, one Wiff Hastilow who at the time was a member of the R.S.A. Social Club. Wiff suggested to his employers, Frank and Charlie Avery, joint owners of the then Fleetway Tyre Co, that perhaps they might like to present to the R.S.A. a shield for an annual competition among indoor bowlers. The Avery Brothers accepted the idea and duly presented the shield to be known as the Fleetway Shield.

Although the Fleetway Tyre Co has long ceased to exist having been absorbed by the Goodyear Tyre Co, the name Fleetway lives on and I know that R.S.A. and Indoor Bowlers will be forever grateful to the Avery Brothers and Wiff for initiating this tournament that has increased in popularity and rink entries year by year and gives enjoyment to R.S.A. Indoor bowlers from all over Marlborough. The R.S.A. Executive of 1962 wisely, I think, asked the Committee of the mens Indoor Bowling to administer the Tournament on their behalf. The Tournament to be known as the Diggers Annual Tournament for the Fleetway Shield and that R.S.A. present Silver buttons to the winners and a trophy to runners up. The only condition on entry be that the person be a returned serviceperson residing in Marlborough. Play to take place on the first available Saturday in August each year. Conditions of play, 5 games of 7 ends, or 35 minutes, 2 points a win, 1 point a draw, 6 points to qualify for post section play. Final 12 ends no time limit. Penalties first 4 bowls, 2 points, thereafter 3 points. If bell or 7th end is killed the game is finished. Control and umpiring of the game has for a number of years been in the hands of two qualified members of M.I.B.A. and R.S.A. are very grateful for their assistance. Some names that come to mind are Dave Adams, Charlie Dunkinson, but for several years now it has been Roy Sanders and Vic Philpott. As popularity and rink entries increased it became necessary to hire the Triple Links Hall for qualifying games but post section and the final have always been played at the R.S.A. I would like to pay a tribute to and thank the ladies of the Indoor Bowling Club and Womens section who over the sixteen years the tournament has been run, have always been on hand to dispense morning and afternoon tea and of latter years light lunch. Last year executive decided to sponsor the winning rink as our official entry to the National R.S.A. Indoor Bowling Tour. This move puts Indoor Bowling in line with the policy of the Outdoor Bowling Diggers Tournament.

Last year a Picton Rink was sponsored by Marlborough and played in the National at Hawera. This years local tournament was played on Saturday, August 26th. Mr C.M.J. (Reg) Watson, president of the Mens Indoor Bowling Club introduced Mr Win Giffen Senior Vice President of

Marlborough R.S.A. who welcomed players and officially declared the 16th tournament open. Of the 22 entries, 11 qualified for post section play. In the first round of post section play the rink skipped by J. Horton defeated that of I. McDonald, J. Thorne defeated S. Robinson. J. Howe defeated J. McPherson. J. Howe defeated J. Maxwell, J. Thorne defeated J. Howe. Second section of post section play B. Croft defeated N. Phillips, C.R. Gibbons defeated S. Lucas, C.R. Gibbons defeated B. Croft. The finalists had now emerged - the Kaikoura Rink.

The last of 22 entries had played consistent team bowls all day and in the post section play had defeated such notable rinks as J. Howe & S. Robinson to reach the final. The other finalist was a local rink skipped by that outstanding draw bowler, Robbie Gibbons whose team in the morning's qualifying rounds played a mixture of good and poor bowls and just managed to qualify by winning their last game by a single point. At this point they did not look like finalists. However in the post section play they combined better to defeat the gun team of S. Lucas (S), O. Register, J. Knowles, J. Ahern. In their second game against the notable team skipped by Bert Croft who in the morning play, due to some superlative bowls by Croft had soundly defeated Gibbons rink. Gibbons rink now proceeded to reverse the morning's defeat, Gibbons again and again playing outstanding draw bowls to earn his rink a place in the final. The final proved to be a real cliffhanger nip and tuck all the way. A close hard game that seesawed by a single point for most of the game. The 12th and final end saw Gibbons leading by a single point 7 to 6. Number 3 for Kaikoura finally drew the shot with a second handy but not counting. It remained thus until Gibbons with the last bowl of the end and tournament found himself 1 down. He looked at the head and instead of conceding the head for a draw and an extra end he elected to play the remaining bowl in an endeavour to remove the shot bowl, the type of shot that Gibbons had played consistently well all day. However, this time it was not to be. His weight was fractionally astray and instead of removing the shot bowl he turned it sufficiently to give Kaikoura two shots to win the game and tournament. Hard luck Robbie and team who played so well but heartiest congratulations to R. Coulbeck, B. Smith, D. Bird, J. Thorne (S) of Kaikoura for a great win. Runner rink Garry Smith, C.M.J. (Reg) Watson, Robbie Gibbons (S), R. McLellan.

Due to the absence of the President of Marlborough R.S.A., Mr Ken Yealands, who had an R.S.A. commitment on the West Coast, Mr Win Giffen Senior Vice President made the presentations and thanked the women who had served competitors with morning and afternoon tea and lunch and the Men's Indoor Bowling Club for organising the tournament and special thanks to Tour managers, Roy Sanders and Vic Philpott.



The wife was being teased by a neighbour who'd seen her husband in the company of a fancy-looking blonde dish. The wife calmly squelched her annoyer by saying. All I know is that Joe brings home his pay cheque each week. Anything he can get for nothing at the age of fifty — he's entitled to"

By "WATS-ON"

### SIMPLE SIMON

Simple Simon the poor old soul  
Bought a book on birth control.  
But judging on his wife's condition  
It must have been a cheap edition.

CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE FOR 1978/79

Sorry for leaving you out of our last issue but here are the members who are on this committee:-

A. Bishell	Ian Moore	R. Buckley	G. Carlisle
A. Eatwell	J. Gibson	Bob Gordon	Mike Morrison
G. Panting	S. Robinson	P. Slape	J. Todd
S. Todd			

Well last month I was lucky enough to be called on to help at Housie.

What a surprise was in store for me. Housie starts at 8 p.m but the keen arrive from about 6.15 to gain their lucky seats (I guess).

I've heard its the best run housie in Marlborough. Well after helping I was very impressed and can't say enough about the efficiency of the whole show. Sid and his boys have it down to a fine art and I can see how its "Tops in Town" and a boom to our club's finances. So Sid and boys I would like to convey from the Executive and members our sincerest thanks for a great effort. Your efforts in the lounge bar raffles also appreciated, of late they seem to be harder to quit but your boys have stuck to the task.

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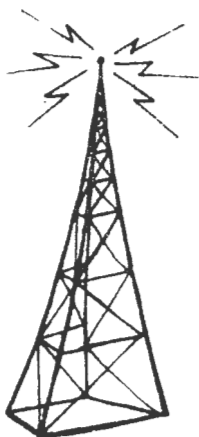
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Again Sid many thanks to your team. Effort has really been marvellous. Keep it up, we appreciate your drive and time you put into running the house committee.

FERRETT

EDITORS NOTE: Total expenditure last year was \$79368 income without clubhouse efforts \$76428 - a loss of \$2940. Profit from above efforts was \$16058 so we ended with a profit for the year of \$13118.



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## *Our Fair Ladies*

---

World War I Veterans spent another happy afternoon in August at cards and housie. George and Gwen Sutherland entertained with some lovely old songs and these were sung with great gusto and very warmly received.

Mr J. Coutts gave us some old songs on his accordion. A welcome cup of tea bought a most enjoyable afternoon to a close. The next Veterans afternoon will be held on September 18th and the Committee have decided to hold a further afternoon on October 16th.

Mrs Jo Allan, President of the Blenheim Womens Section and Mrs Moira Wilson were guests at the dinner to celebrate the 30th birthday of the Renwick branch. Mrs Allan congratulated the Renwick branch and conveyed best wishes to them.

Mrs J. Allan presided over a very good attendance at the monthly meeting of the Womens Section. The League of Mothers provided the entertainment, the theme of the singing was about flowers and several old songs were revived. A sales table for "Save the Children" fund was well patronised.

On November 17th the Section are to hold a shop day in the clubrooms, but we will tell you all about that in next months issue of "Crossfire"

MOIRA WILSON

### **THANKS.**

Dear Members,

Through the courtesy of our very good paper "Crossfire" I would like to thank all the very kind people who have sent me retirement cards and good wishes and gifts. Special thanks to our Marlborough R.S.A. for the very enjoyable evening they put on for me on August 16th and for drinks supplied by them. The supper was given by the very kind caterers, Bob and Jean Watson, assisted by Womens Section R.S.A. A staff dinner was held on August 20th and appeared to give pleasure to all who attended.

My thanks and good wishes to you all.

Len Biddiss

SEVEN STIRRERS sitting at a stirrers table decided that they would drink together every evening provided they could seat themselves in a different arrangement at the table every time they met. (This is one table only)

How long would they drink before exhausting all possibilities?

ANSWER: More than 13 years. There are 5,040 possible arrangements without duplication

# **GARDENING HINTS.**

## Dig With David

At this time of year there always seem to be many neurotic individuals who fuss because:-

1. There are masses of bees on their broad beans.
2. There are no bees on their broad beans.
3. If they like bees they don't like bees that perforate the base of the flower through the calyx.

It should be realised that broad beans are individuals who are quite capable of doing their own thing by themselves. Pollinators are NOT essential. However they do improve setting, especially early in the season. There are two sorts of bumble bee, short tongued and long tongued. The short one goes through the side of the flower because it can't reach the nectar through the top. It doesn't do any arm. More important in setting is the physiological stage of the plant at flowering. You've heard the old adage about beating a wife and a walnut tree to make them bear, well the broad bean is much the same. A bed reluctant to set can be encouraged by shoving a spade down one side and cutting some of the roots.

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# MEN?! — by "Who Am I"

Men! Poof! Dum idiots! Sure this one runs his own very prosperous business; this one is a foreman on that big construction job. They are all very expert in their own particular lines - but at home, they are mugs.

Take Mr Addlenut next door for instance: he is a typical example. He owns the Service Station down the road - makes a dollar or two out of it too, but wants to impress all the Big Business men who come in to the Station, so he bought that big house - on terms so tough that his wife has to work too.

She gets in at 5.30 p.m and after a quick cup of tea gets to work preparing a fairly complicated meal for four - there are only the two of them, but he regularly lobs home with a couple of his Big Business friends half an hour after dinner is normally ready. Consideration?

He's never heard the word. Goes to the pub for a few beers with the boys, straight from work; has one too many - and brings home two too many.

Does he do the dishes after dinner while his wife does some of the ironing? Like hell he does. Takes a bottle of Scotch he can't afford into the lounge- can't offer these blokes common beer - they can get that at the pub - with his cobbles and they settle down for a session. They don't bother about ash-trays - the wife will be running the cleaner over the room later - and what does it matter if that highly polished table has a few rings on it.

The evening is spent finishing off the bottle of whisky, while the three of them blow their ears off about what clever guys they are; the wife works flat out until she can hardly stand. She falls into bed at 11.30, dead beat - he falls into bed at 11.30, dead drunk! What a life for a woman.

When you come to think of it, men generally are not very bright; they get married with the deeply ingrained idea in their minds that their wives main mission in life is to make them happy - how right they are! But how many of them take five minutes a day from their work or pleasure to think out ways of making their wives happy? What makes THEM happy is the essential think in their selfish philosophy. They get frustrated by the petty annoyances of their daily work, and when they get home at night they take their temper out on their wives and children.

"If I can't be myself in my own home" they say, "where can I be" Woe betide the man who is! They can't take their infantile tantrums out on the people they work with for these people wouldn't tolerate it, but wives and children have to put up with it, until it becomes unbearable.

Continued on Page 33



**TODAY'S GREAT DRINK**

# Sub-Branch News

## PICTON BRANCH

### HISTORY OF THE R.S.A. BUILDING

While making enquiries for this article, it soon became obvious that a capable person could write a lengthy book on the subject, and a lot of editing has had to be done. The dates in some cases could be argued, but it is with considered certainty that the dates will be within six months accuracy.

The building was erected during 1878 - 79 on a site opposite what is now Grand Vue Motel, or on the Eastern boundary of the Town House. The building was erected as a Presbyterian House and commanded a splendid view of the Picton Harbour.

In 1923 a Dr Russell bought the building for removal to its present site. Some readers will be saddened by the memory of Paddy Conway, who was killed while trimming boughs off a large oak tree, which was to be felled to allow the shift. Paddy was standing on the wrong side of the branch while sawing it, and when it went unexpectedly he fell and hit his head on a brick wall.

Mr Ernie Lane, a boatbuilder, undertook the removal contract, and among his gang still living in Picton today were Messrs Clarrie and Vic Olsen, Harold Perano and Jack Peek. The building was winched off the site by means of block and tackle, and round logs were fed under the building as it was winched along. The building had to be turned 45° at the corner of Waikawa Road and Wellington Street, and it was there that industrial problems erupted. The men went on strike for one shilling a day extra, and there the building stayed for three days. The dispute resolved, the building resumed its slow but steady progress south along Wellington Street.

Tinker Smith, though only a two year old, remembers his Dad lifting him up into the building for a ride. (Now a member of the club, and it can truthfully be assumed that Tinker has been taken for many a 'ride' in the same building since that Memorable day!)

As the building was being winched up the difficult rise to its present site and winch ropes straining to almost breaking point - Wally Parfitt interupts with a memory also about "Tinker's Dad", who was a born prankster. Wally recalls it was around Guy Fawkes Day and Mr Smith put a large banger in a 4 gallon tin. When it went off, and after the expected scatter, the order of the day was for clean nickers all round.

From site to site the maneouvre took only four working days (not including the strike period) and looking back, my informant had to ponder the credibility of such a feat, which wouldn't even be contemplated today.

The building was used as a surgery by Dr Russell who in turn relinquished it to Dr Smythe. In the early 30's Dr Smythe sold the building and it became known as the "Rawhiti Guest House."



With the advent of W.W.II the building was purchased by the National Patriotic Fund, and operated under the name of "RED SHEILD HOSTEL" by the Salvation Army. On 24th Nov. 1945, the Picton Branch-Marlborough R.S.A. bought the building from the National Patriotic Fund for the sum of 1350 pounds.

NEXT MONTH: HISTORY FROM 1945 ONWARDS

ACTIVITIES:

The games section once again had an enjoyable and successful month with only one visit away to Junction who also visited the club. Unfortunately Grove Tavern and Woodbourne defaulted, and a game was organised against Marl Harbour Board.

This month's activities promise a full programme, with the highlights being the trip to Marlborough R.S.A. to retrieve the '6 Ball' trophy which we "lent" to them on 5th July.

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Venues are:-	6th September	Federal	at	R.S.A.
	13th	"	Club Night	at R.S.A.
	20th	"	Marl R.S.A	at Blenheim
	27th	"	Federal	at Federal

It was disappointing to be advised that the Picton Bowling Club, in spite of adequate advice, have chosen the weekend of our Westport trip September 30th, for their opening day. This has resulted in several of our party opting out in favour of the bowling opening, and from an original 60, we are now looking for six people to fill the bus. Enquiries may be obtained from the Secretary phone 114, any day Monday to Saturday between 10.30 am and noon.

Bar Hours - Monday to Thursday - 11 a.m to noon  
 3 p.m to 10 p.m.

Friday and Saturday - 11 a.m to 11 p.m.

Good Luck to Rex and Hetty.

The Picton Branch is about to lose one of it's most valuable assets. Vice President Rex Gibb has opted for greener pastures, and has bought a tavern in Granity.

Rex needs no introduction to people who have used our club over the past few years, and his latest brainwave of a pie-warmer in the bar speaks for itself in the constant demand for pies. Similar examples of his ability are now taken for granted by the majority, as Rex makes no fuss about his achievements, nor expects any.

Rex joined the Social Committee in 1973 and has been a member since then. He was elected Chairman of the Clubhouse Social Committee at the Inaugural meeting in June 1977, and will resign from that capacity.

His resignation will also be regretfully received as Vice President of the Executive, and Vice President of the Clubhouse Committee.

Hetty, a capable exponent of a pool cue will also be missed by the games team, Social Committee, Ladies section and her services as Thursday afternoon barmaid, which have been gratefully appreciated.

The club whis to extend their very best wishes to Rex and Hetty, who in turn have expressly requested a cordial invitation be extended to all readers, who visit them at Granity.

To Rex and Hetty "Good Luck"; "God Bless"; and "Thank You"

**R.S.A. LADIES PICTON**

The August meeting of the Picton Womens' Section took a somewhat unusual form. This was a Rawleighs Party conducted by guest Mrs D. Maney. Popular winners of the competitions were two of our older members, Mrs M. Gregg and Mrs "Shorty" Wilkins.

The section's monthly raffle was won by a delighted Mrs Nessie Bolton, all her Scottish ancestry rising to the fore as she performed an impromptu Highland Fling on learning of her win.

We take the opportunity of congratulating the Renwick Womens' Section on their 30th Anniversary. Full marks for a delightful Dinner to mark the occasion.

Joan M. Taylor

## RENWICK BRANCH

### RENWICK R.S.A. LADIES SECTION REPORT

On Sunday 27th August, the Women's Section of Renwick R.S.A. celebrated their 30th Birthday with a dinner held at the Renwick Arms Hotel.

As president it was my pleasure to welcome the guests and read extracts from early meetings, much to the amusement of all. Particularly where the men had offered to help prepare the Memorial Park for Anzac Day, an offer which was accepted.

Among those present were foundation members, Mrs Moira Wilson, Mrs Gladys Newman and Mrs Connie Brydon, these three members also cut the Birthday cake.

Mrs Jo Allen represented Blenheim Women's visitors from Picton being Mr & Mrs Clive Taylor. Joan is president of Picton Women's Section, and Mr & Mrs Gordon Mattingly.

During the evening mention was made of the sterling service given to the Women's Section by Mrs Avis Newman, who has been Secretary for fifteen years. All in all a very enjoyable evening.

Nola Yealand,  
President

## NEWS FROM OTHER BRANCHES CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE

### LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

#### CROSSWORD PUZZLE 1



### BATTLE OF BRITAIN.

The 38th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain will be commemorated on Sunday 17th September in main centres in N.Z. Wreath laying at the War Memorial will be the only activity in Blenheim since the Brevet Club and Air Force Assn have gone into recess.

#### WHERE HAVE ALL THE ARTISTS GONE?

No entries have been received in the design a cover competition. What's the matter, is a bottle of gin too lowly a prize for your talents?

And it does eventually. Then these cowardly nutcases come home one night to an empty house and they wonder why. What could be more cowardly than to constantly abuse and hurt people who can't hit back. The remarkable thing about these tragedies of ineptitude is that the men get all the sympathy. "What on earth made that woman leave that nice man? He's such a polite, considerate, handsome fellow!"

## POW WIVES' LAMENT

Oh! for a handful of "Who Am I's" hair,  
For a stroke of those locks that are no longer there.  
How long since he's seen his feet on the ground?  
But don't worry "Who Am I", they're under that mound.  
Those underpants stretch 'till no band can endure,  
They must feel they've been on a round the world tour.  
Now "Who Am I" sleeps with his mouth open far,  
While his teeth spend the night in a large jelly jar.  
While he dreams of that blonde (in her mid-thirties too),  
It's amazing just what those pep pills can do.  
But God spared you to me, for that I am glad,  
For where could I find a more wonderful Dad?  
But those days are over, so let's face it mate,  
Could you cope with a woman who's just thirty-eight?

(Signed) "36-24-36".

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G. Gardiner (prop.)

# 1978 NZRSA YOUNG CITIZENS AWARD

This is a competition run by the N.Z.R.S.A with the aim of fostering good citizenship and also to promote publicity for the association's involvement with the youth of New Zealand.

The award is run at local level in its initial stage and the local winners then go forward to a regional final, with the regional winners contesting the national award.

Those who entered this year were asked to give their views on "How can a young person attain responsible citizenship?" Their views were to be expressed in their own handwriting, and limited to not more than 750 words. In addition to their essay, contestants were judged on their participation in youth activities and involvement in community work; scholastic attainment and personal achievements in other fields; their potential for personal leadership.

Five local entries were received and all were of a high standard. The winner being Miss Ann Graham, with 192½ pts, from Miss Joanne Wilks (191). Miss Graham received \$25, Miss Wilks \$15, and the other three entrants received consolation prizes of \$10 each, all prizes provided by the Marlborough RSA.

Miss Graham went on to take part in the Seddon Shield district finals and we are pleased to be able to report that she was successful in winning that final, and took out the first prize of \$50. She will now contest the national final, and has the prospect of winning the \$400 first prize. Prizes for the district and national winners are given by the NZRSA.

We are sure that Miss Graham will be a worthy representative of Marlborough and wish her every success in the national final.

Our secretary-manager was delighted to receive the following letter from one of our local entrants, who although unsuccessful, has shown her involvement in the contest has broadened her interest in her role in society.

Dear Mr Jamieson,

As an entrant of the 1978 Young Citizen's Award, I would like to express my appreciation to your association for making such an award possible. I feel that I have learnt something about myself that will help me to be a better citizen in future years. This was because it was the first time that I had seriously considered such a subject. If not for such an award, I fear that I may never have taken the time to consider my role in society.

On behalf of all the entrants I would like to thank you and the panel for making this possible. I would be grateful if you would pass our thanks to the panel also.

Yours faithfully,  
Marie Gibson.

# Cue Points

By Jigger

Since last in print we have played four games for four wins. Good going specially two good games against the strong Woodbourne Tavern Club.

Championship games well under way and a good game is ensured in the final between Geoff Hogg and the Winner of the Elvy - Rarity Match. Hard luck Morry in missing the black in a pairs game.

Heard of a very good left handed player who couldn't handle a bike. Three crashes on the way home from a certain Tavern but fortunately only a few bruises and abrasions. More fortunate two flagons still intact.

Hope Errol Sanford (one of our newer members) is mending nicely. You can't push a stationary car off the road with a pop-bike Errol!!

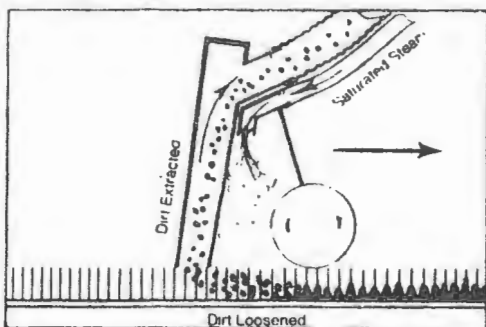
Does dangerous Dan know how many fence posts there are between here and the Woodbourne Tavern.

Believe Kerry is starting a Down Trou School with Jim L in support.

## LEN LAW'S FIRST MODEL (And still running)

There were no handles to a horse, but the 1910 model has a string to each side of its face for turning its head when there is something you want it to see. (Stephen Leacock)

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The dirt is then immediately extracted by powerful suction

**REDUCES FREQUENCY OF REPEAT CLEANING** - because the deep steam process is so thorough there is no sub-surface soil remaining to work its way upward. You can actually see the hidden dirt in suspension as it is removed - including that left behind from previous shampooing.

**CUTS DRYING TIME TO A MINIMUM** - from the usual eight to ten hours to a much more acceptable one to three hours.

**ADDS YEARS OF USE AND GOOD LOOKS** - because the grinding wear resulting in telltale traffic patterns is minimized by removal of grit and grime from the base of the fibers. Furniture marks disappear as gentle steaming action fluffs fibers back to their original appearance.

**RESTORES DEEPER LUSTER AND COLOR** - because simultaneous cleansing and extracting action penetrates to full depth of the fibers - not just the surface ends

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# crossword puzzle 2

Answers to this crossword will be in the next issue.

## ACROSS

1. Hodgepodge
5. Choose
8. Food fish
12. Region
13. Farm implement
14. Bulrush
15. French royal d'or
16. Lawyer
18. Lopes
20. Containers
21. Greek letter
22. Bar offering
23. June star
26. Enrages

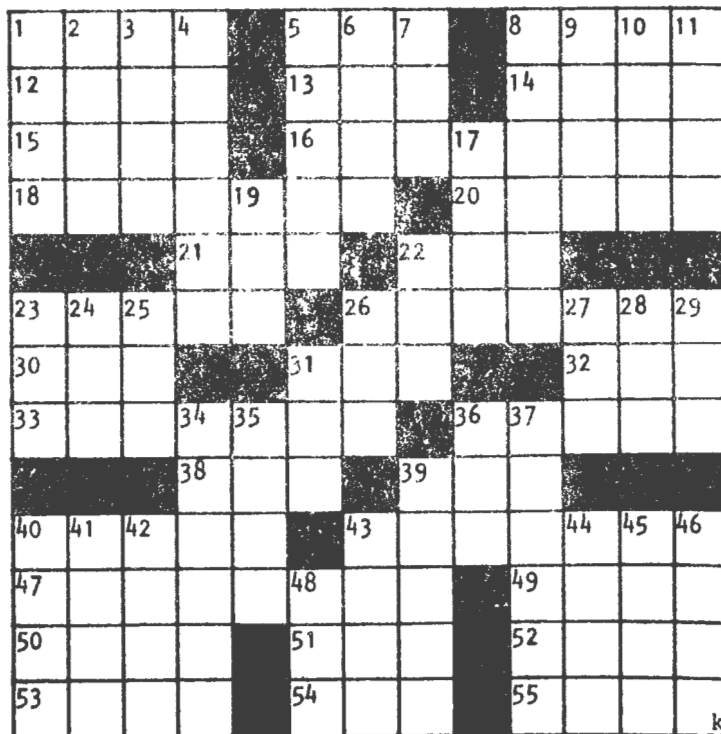
30. Youth
31. Marten
32. Turmeric
33. Longed
36. Size of type
38. Female fowl
39. Duct
40. Scoff
43. Honest
47. Associates
49. Winglike
50. Aleutian island
51. Torrid
52. Throe
53. New Mexican county

54. Former government agency
55. Concludes

## DOWN

1. Refuse of grapes
2. Assam silkworm
3. O'Casey
4. Seasoned
5. Contemporary novelist
6. Kitchen utensils
7. Asian festival
8. Shore

9. Attila's subjects
10. To the sheltered side
11. Tunisian rulers
17. Roman poet
19. French season
22. Fish
23. Nelly —
24. Scottish explorer
25. Girl's name
26. Mire
27. Epoch
28. Biblical name
29. Girl of song
31. Marsh
34. Indian macaque
35. Famous fiddler
36. Give a bad review
37. Get away free
39. Mental view
40. Begone!
41. — bene
42. Inner (comb. form)
43. Road sign
44. Ardor
45. Contemporary novelist
46. Work units
48. Greek letter



(Answer on Page 87)



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